



法律 CUHK
LAW
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
香港中文大學

FACULTY OF **LAW**

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS (PCLL)

2024-25





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Message from the Dean

Lutz-Christian Wolff



The Faculty of Law of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK LAW) was established in 2004. With an emphasis on very practice-oriented programmes delivered by first-class professors from over 20 different jurisdictions, the adoption of innovative teaching methods and last but not least the recruitment of a highly qualified student body, CUHK LAW has moved from strength to strength. The outstanding quality of our taught programmes is globally acknowledged and evidenced by collaborations with many leading law schools in the world. The research conducted by our professors and by our research students meets the highest standards and generates significant impact. We are proud that CUHK LAW is on a regular basis ranked amongst the top law schools in the world. We are providing a truly global learning environment. In 2018 CUHK LAW was ranked by the Times Higher Education (THE) ranking exercise the most international law school worldwide.

Our PCLL programme is delivered by highly qualified teachers with many years of experience in private practice and in legal education. We focus on topical issues of great practical relevance so as to prepare our PCLL students for successful legal careers in the increasingly globalized and digitized legal arena. Highly interactive skills training modules, which incorporate drafting, negotiation, presentation and alternative dispute settlement exercises ensure that students get a real on-the-job experience. We are constantly updating our PCLL courses and teaching patterns in order to respond swiftly to the latest developments. PCLL students are able to take advantage of a sophisticated career development scheme which allows them to identify, assess and exploit career options with great success. Our PCLL graduates are in high demand and many have joined top international and local law firms or have assumed leadership positions in business organizations, government agencies or other entities.

We are CUHK LAW! Join our PCLL programme if you are ready for an elite legal training scheme to get qualified in Hong Kong.

Professor Lutz-Christian Wolff
Wei Lun Professor of Law
Dean, Faculty of Law

Message from the Programme Directors



Dennis Hie

The PCLL is the vocational stage of your legal education and training before you embark on your path as a trainee solicitor or a pupil barrister. The programme facilitates the transition from your academic qualification to practice of law. In your law degree, you have learnt the legal principles as an academic subject. During the PCLL, you will learn how to apply relevant legal principles in a practical setting. The tasks you are going to carry out during the PCLL look very much like the tasks that would be performed by a trainee solicitor or pupil barrister. Our programme is designed to enable you to acquire transferable skills and the ability to self-learn. These attributes will prepare you for an increasingly demanding and fast changing legal practice.

The PCLL emphasises the acquisition of the skills you need for practice, so that you have the opportunity to "learn by doing". You will role play client interviews, make applications to court, draft letters of advice and various legal documents and agreements. The opportunity to practise these skills in a classroom setting - where you can learn from your mistake in a friendly and supportive learning environment - is invaluable. Your performance will be reviewed in an impartial and constructive way.

The PCLL cohort at CUHK is a diverse group and the diversity ensures our discussions in the small group sessions are rich and lively. Our dedicated and highly experienced teachers promote and facilitate student participation. We encourage students to share their thoughts in class and help everyone feel valued.

I have had the pleasure of teaching CUHK PCLL programme since its inception and take pride in its success. I look forward to welcoming you to our programme. Join us at CUHK LAW, Hong Kong's most vibrant and dynamic Faculty of Law.

Professor Dennis Hie
Programme Director of Postgraduate Certificate in Laws Programme

The best mindset to have for students taking our PCLL programme is "This is the first year of my professional life." This reflects the fact that the objective of the course is to prepare you for a life in practice whether as a solicitor or a barrister. This will mean that you will be well prepared to cope from day one when you start a training contract or a pupillage.

You must be prepared for the fact that the PCLL will be very different from your academic studies! While there will be some large group sessions to introduce you to key legal principles that you have not previously studied, the core of the course will be the small group sessions where you will carry out tasks that you would be expected to perform during your early years in practice. These small group sessions will make you aware of the different skill sets required to be a successful practitioner as compared to a good law student and crucially assist you in developing the fundamental skills required to be a good lawyer. These fundamental skills include not just knowing what the law is but how you can use this law in an effective commonsense way to assist your client in achieving the best outcome. This change of approach is quite challenging for most students who have been mainly used to learning and understanding the law and applying it to hypothetical and often unrealistic problem situations in their academic studies. In the small group sessions who will be provided with real life situations taken from practice (this makes the course very interesting!) and will be required to make judgment calls as to the best way to use your legal knowledge for the benefit of the client. Often you will hear your tutor say, "Yes you are correct in theory, but would this be a sensible and cost-efficient course of action to take on behalf of your client?"

I have had long experience of involvement in professional courses in England - I was formerly the Manchester Bar Vocational Course Director and when I joined CUHK I was immediately impressed not just with the structure of the CUHK PCLL but most importantly by the high quality of the teaching and in particular the empathy my fellow teachers show to the students on the course. They appreciate that learning non-academic legal skills may be challenging for some students and they provide students with a supportive environment to assist them in correcting inevitable mistakes.

Finally, could I emphasise that we expect our students to act professionally in their approach to the course. This means being punctual, meeting deadlines for all tasks set and participating fully in classes. The course is very much about learning by doing!

We are CUHK LAW! Join us and let our PCLL programme be the gateway to your future success in your legal career.

Professor Alan Gibb
Deputy Programme Director of Postgraduate Certificate in Laws Programme



Alan Gibb

Summary of Key Facts

Our PCLL programme is a rigorous and innovative skills-based course that complements the traditional legal education you have thus far received. We design and teach the PCLL to give you a thorough and relevant working knowledge of the substantive and procedural law and skills that will serve you in practice.

Some key facts about the PCLL:

- Our PCLL is a one-year full-time programme.
- You will read for the PCLL in the Graduate Law Centre in the Bank of America Tower in the heart of Hong Kong's central business district.
- We will offer UGC and Distinguished Scholarship places to the most meritorious applicants.
- You will study a number of compulsory subjects and get to choose from a broad selection of elective subjects.



The focus of the PCLL is on equipping you with the skills with which you can apply your knowledge of substantive law.

On the PCLL we teach via Large Group Sessions (LGSs) and Small Group Sessions (SGSs). The main purpose of LGSs is to introduce to you the legal principles and skills in each subject. LGSs tend to be, though are not exclusively, teacher-led. In the small groups (SGSs) students go over material from their preparatory reading and LGSs. They also do SGS exercises on which teachers question students and give feedback. SGSs are heavily student-focused.

We employ various innovative methods to train and test students. On Trial Advocacy, for instance, invited "Judges" preside over the final mini-trial assessment: these have included CFA Judges, the Chief Judge of the High Court, and very senior practitioners. On Civil and Criminal Litigation Practice we assess not only on paper but also by getting students on their feet to make applications. We frequently have guest speakers visit, from the professions and the judiciary, to teach particular techniques or principles, or to speak generally on their areas of expertise.

We have adopted on the PCLL a policy of continuous assessment. Among other benefits, this helps students to develop incrementally and gives teachers another tool to monitor and assess students' progress.

The Law Society of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Bar Association, a number of law firms and others have donated prizes for students who attain top marks in various subjects.

Teaching

On the PCLL you will receive instruction from an accomplished pool of teachers. They hold legal qualifications from a number of jurisdictions, including Hong Kong, the UK, Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Nearly all have practised, and in some cases held senior positions in leading law firms, or barristers' chambers. Many have multi-jurisdictional experience; some across a broad range of practice areas. Several are still practising law as solicitors or barristers. They have substantial teaching experience, both of substantive law and on professional courses, in various jurisdictions including Hong Kong and the UK. You will find the curricula vitae of our teachers on our website at:

<https://www.law.cuhk.edu.hk/app/people/>



Course Descriptions

⬡ *In Term 1 of the PCLL students read compulsory subjects. These form the bedrock of their training for practice.*

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

A sound knowledge of the principles of professional practice is essential for all lawyers. The public will not have confidence in the legal profession unless they know that every barrister and solicitor is bound by strict codes of professional conduct which, when necessary, will be enforced by disciplinary proceedings.

In this course, students study both the Code of Conduct of the Bar and the Solicitors' Guide to Professional Conduct. They consider realistic practical problems involving ethical issues that lawyers are likely to encounter in practice. They then apply the principles of proper professional conduct in working out for themselves, how to resolve those problems.

Solicitors regularly handle substantial sums of clients' money, for transactions such as the sale and purchase of real estate. To prepare students for the special responsibilities involved, this course also has a separate compulsory module on Solicitors' Accounts and Understanding Financial Statements.

CIVIL LITIGATION PRACTICE

In Civil Litigation Practice you will see how what you studied in Civil Procedure operates in the real world. You will come out of the course knowing how in practice to conduct civil litigation from first instructions to trial, how to draft correctly the various documents you will need along the way, and how to conduct the various types of application you may encounter.

CRIMINAL LITIGATION PRACTICE

As a junior lawyer working in the field of criminal law in Hong Kong you will be expected to demonstrate various practical skills, whether as a solicitor or barrister. In this course you will begin to learn those skills by following two criminal cases from start to finish. Along the way you will be required to perform both oral and written tasks, which demonstrate your practical abilities and build upon your existing knowledge of both criminal law and procedure.

PROPERTY AND PROBATE PRACTICE

This course teaches you to represent clients in property and probate matters. You will learn to draft a will, advise on intestacy, administer an estate, buy, sell and mortgage a flat and enter into a lease. Through a series of practical tasks, you will learn to conduct transactions and develop your professional skills and experience.

COMMERCIAL PRACTICE

The important role of commercial lawyers in Hong Kong cannot be overstated. This course is designed to serve as a foundation course for would-be trainee solicitors and pupil barristers. It will cover the law and practice of basic commercial transactions that are most likely to be handled by junior lawyers.

⬡ *In Term 2 / Summer Term students read 5 elective subjects. Students choose electives according to their preferences, their career path (e.g. solicitor or barrister) and their firms' or chambers' requirements (if any).*

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Alternative Dispute Resolution is becoming an increasingly important and technical area of practice, particularly in Hong Kong since the Civil Justice Reforms were implemented in 2009. Whether you intend to practise as a dispute resolution lawyer or as a transactional lawyer, this course will be useful to you in introducing the ADR legal framework in Hong Kong, as well as the skills involved in negotiation, mediation and arbitration.

CHINA PRACTICE

China practice has become one of the important practice areas in most major law firms and we recommend this course if you plan a career in such a firm. You will learn practical aspects relating to the latest developments in China's foreign investment and mergers & acquisitions regime.

CONFERENCE SKILLS AND OPINION WRITING

All lawyers meet with clients in conferences. Lawyers, particularly dispute resolution practitioners, give legal opinions. In practice the skills of the two disciplines are closely related. Sometimes you use your case analysis, questioning and advising skills in conferences with clients before you prepare an opinion based on what you learned and discussed in conference. At other times you write preliminary opinions based on, say, documents before meeting your clients to discuss your initial advice and to find out more about their matters. This course prepares you for these situations.



CORPORATE FINANCE

Hong Kong has in recent years overtaken New York and London as the world's top initial public offering (IPO) destination and is the key offshore capital-raising centre for Chinese companies. Corporate finance is, and will continue to be, a major area of practice in Hong Kong law firms. In this course, through examining case studies of real IPOs that made newspaper headlines, you will learn how to draft a prospectus and what insider dealing and market manipulation are. Most importantly, you will gain commercial awareness of the Hong Kong equity capital markets essential for a successful career as a corporate lawyer. At the end of the course, you will be equipped with drafting, project management and client-handling skills – and be confident that you are ready for a corporate training seat!

LENDING AND FINANCE

Lending and Finance focuses on matters of concern to transactions involving money including various forms of loan and facility agreements, real securities and quasi-securities, the terms of the relevant contracts, and the obligations, duties and powers of the parties. Background matters, which interact with the topics in this course, include contract law, property law, equity and trusts, company law, and insolvency. The course will also look at new forms of transactions and developments in the law relevant to maintaining Hong Kong's position as a leading international centre for financial transactions.

PERSONAL INJURIES PRACTICE

Personal Injuries Practice accounts for a significant proportion of civil claims filed in the courts of the Hong Kong SAR. It is an important area of practice for many barristers and solicitors. However, the procedures differ from those of civil litigation generally. The courts have a separate Practice Direction for personal injury cases as well as a specialist Personal Injury List. This means that all claims for personal injuries will be placed in the Personal Injury List and those trials will be before a judge with special expertise and experience in personal injury law and practice.

Civil Litigation Practice is a compulsory course during Term 1 of the PCLL Programme. It provides an introduction to civil litigation generally. It does not cover the specialist topics required by a solicitor or barrister to handle personal injury litigation.

This course is taught by a practitioner with extensive experience in acting for both plaintiffs and defendants in fatal and non-fatal cases. Students will study the special procedures relating to this area of litigation and will acquire practical knowledge of how to pursue and defend personal injury claims.

FAMILY LAW PRACTICE

The course will be taught by way of Large Group Sessions where substantive and procedural requirements for each topic will be delivered, along with Small Group Sessions where students will be able to consolidate learning on substantive and procedural issues. The Small Group Sessions will also have an emphasis on students being able to practice skills that are relevant to family practice in a supervised manner and in a supportive environment.

In terms of content, the course will focus on the legal and procedural requirements for entering into marriage and for terminating a marriage in Hong Kong. Matters ancillary to terminating a marriage, such as domestic violence, children's issues and financial issues will also be covered in detail.

TRIAL ADVOCACY (Taught over an intensive 2 weeks in the Summer Term)

Whether you become a litigation solicitor or a barrister, developing as a trial lawyer is a rewarding but arduous lifelong endeavour. In this course we teach you the fundamentals. The techniques and secrets of case preparation, opening and closing speeches, direct examination and cross examination are yours for the taking. The final assessment is a mini-trial in courtrooms in the High Court before real judges, senior barristers and solicitors.

WRITING AND DRAFTING COMMERCIAL DOCUMENTS

Remember that a badly drafted agreement or slavish reliance on precedents could get your client into trouble! It is one of the most important attributes of a commercial lawyer to be proficient at drafting commercial agreements. The course will endeavour to develop the skills necessary to achieve this in the context of joint venture, sale and purchase and guarantee agreements.

WRITING AND DRAFTING COMMERCIAL DOCUMENTS (IN CHINESE)

The ability to draft commercial documents in Chinese is a great asset for lawyers. This course provides intensive and skills-focused practical training in this respect. To cater for its unique nature which involves the application of both legal skills and Chinese language skills, the course will be taught by two teachers (one from CUHK LAW and the other from the Department of Chinese Language and Literature).

WRITING AND DRAFTING LITIGATION DOCUMENTS

This course is divided into 2 modules, Civil and Criminal. You will undertake class exercises designed to teach you those written skills which you will need in order to confront some of the drafting tasks you will face upon entering practice. In the Civil module you will build upon the drafting skills already developed in Civil Litigation Practice in Term 1 by tackling more complex and challenging documents, different areas of law and different drafting techniques. In the Criminal module you will learn how to draft indictments, skeleton arguments and grounds of appeal, as well as learn how to prepare more general structured submissions.

WRITING AND DRAFTING LITIGATION DOCUMENTS (IN CHINESE)

This course will provide practical training in writing and drafting litigation documents in Chinese in civil and in criminal proceedings. In light of the growing use of Chinese in litigation, in particular in cases involving litigants in person, this course will provide you with a good solid foundation in the use of Chinese in drafting litigation documents for your future professional development.

LEGAL PRACTICE AND TECHNOLOGY

This course is designed as the touchpoint between law and technology for future lawyers. It is divided into two parts - the first part examines how legal technologies are transforming conventional legal work (such as automated contract generation, robotic process automation for complex commercial transactions, and e-discovery for dispute resolution), while the second part investigates the application of law to novel situations involving the use of technology (such as data privacy in the context of virtual banks, online contracts and electronic signatures, and professional advisers' liabilities for artificial intelligence systems).

This is a practical course which cultivates in future lawyers the mentality to embrace technology in their legal practice, and equips them with the building blocks to analyse legal problems nuanced with evolving technologies. It serves to train future lawyers to speak confidently about technology and familiarize them the situations where they will encounter technology during the course of legal practice. This course is suitable for students with no prerequisite knowledge in technology.



We deliver the PCLL in the CUHK Graduate Law Centre (GLC) located on the second floor of the Bank of America Tower in Central. The GLC is in the heart of Hong Kong's central business district. It is thus in amongst its major law firms and companies, and a stone's throw from the High Court. The GLC is equipped with facilities designed to optimise your learning experience. It has, for instance:

- the Warren Chan Moot Court, in which students practise advocacy skills.
- interactive lecture theatres and classrooms. These are all equipped with state-of-the-art facilities.
- an open student common area and a computer laboratory with online PCs for student use.
- breakout rooms for student study and discussion.
- Wifi internet access.

In addition, CUHK LAW has substantial resources on its main campus in Shatin. The facilities on the main campus are similar to those of the GLC. The main campus also houses the Lee Quo Wei Law Library, which PCLL students are welcome to use. The Lee Quo Wei Law Library contains one of the fastest-growing law collections in Asia. It has around 124,600 volumes of books, bound periodicals and other materials on law and law-related subjects. The Lee Quo Wei Law Library provides seating for students in a mix of individual study desks, open plan tables and 8 group study rooms. The Lee Quo Wei Law Library also contains 38 PC's and a fully wireless network for use by students with their own laptops. This collection is complemented by a growing array of online sources,

over 6,000 e-journal titles, 108 law databases, as well as the interdisciplinary collections housed by the Chinese University of Hong Kong Library. The Learning Garden, located at LG/F of the University Library opens 24 x 7 for most of the year. The Research Commons at 1/F of the University Library is an area for research and collaborative activities for postgraduate students.

PCLL students will also have access to the Legal Resources Centre (LRC). The LRC is a service point of the Lee Quo Wei Law Library. It serves the legal information needs of the students and teachers at the GLC. It contains multiple copies of essential texts for courses run at the GLC, a small reference collection and various sets of case law and legislation. The essential texts are drawn from the main collection of the Lee Quo Wei Law Library and rotate in and out of the LRC according to the courses offered at the GLC each term. Students may request delivery of other books from the Lee Quo Wei Law Library free of charge. The 108 law databases for student use can be accessed from the PC facilities at the GLC, LRC, on campus and from home or other locations.

Library resources aside, PCLL students are also entitled to use the University sports facilities on campus and the University Health Service.

Facilities and Resources

Broader Education and Student Activities at CUHK

While studying at the Graduate Law Centre in Central, you may use the sporting and recreational facilities at the main campus in Shatin. You will also have the opportunity to join in a wide range of activities at the GLC itself.

You may attend various talks that are given on a variety of subjects outside the scope of the PCLL Programme. In particular, there are many career talks given throughout the year by leading law firms and barristers' chambers.

Mooting has always been a popular activity among PCLL students. They have plenty of opportunities to participate in a variety of mooting competitions.

At the end of the course, PCLL students arrange a graduation party, at a venue of their choice. This popular event marks the successful completion of a demanding but rewarding course.



Career Success & Careers Facilities



Mr. Paul Mitchard KC
Director of Career Planning and Professionalism

After graduating from the PCLL, most of our students move on to careers in legal practice, many in top law firms and barristers' chambers. Some graduates choose to go into government or industry. Others remain in academia. Their achievements are testimony to their hard work and the quality of their education.

The vast majority of those students who sit the PCLL move on to careers in legal practice, many in top law firms and barristers' chambers, with some choosing to take legal positions in government or industry. Others move into areas where a law degree can give them a useful advantage – such as regulatory compliance, investment banking or financial services, with a number choosing to remain in academia. In all cases their achievements are testimony to their hard work and the quality of their education.

LAW STUDENT CAREERS OFFICE The Careers Programme

The Faculty's Law Student Careers Office provides students with guidance on career choices, applications and interviews as well as assistance with career preparation and professional development. The Director, Mr. Paul Mitchard KC, has prepared a programme of seminars on career and professionalism topics which includes presentations by representatives of law firms, barristers' chambers and other prospective employers.

Virtual Careers Resource Centre

The Law Student Careers Office also maintains the Virtual Careers Resource Centre (VCRC) which serves as a contact point for prospective employers, teaching faculty members and students. The VCRC contains a Legal Careers Directory with up-to-date information on law firms and chambers, including on their internships, training contract and pupillage/mini pupillage policies and application procedures. The VCRC website (<https://www.law.cuhk.edu.hk/app/student-careers/>) also notifies job opportunities and forthcoming careers seminars and other events. It also provides students with information on matters such as job applications and CV preparation and with a wide range of other career-related resources designed to ensure that CUHK LAW students are fully informed and equipped for entering into what today is a challenging and rapidly-changing jobs market.

E-mentoring

The Careers Office also supports an e-mentoring programme through which students may connect with CUHK LAW alumni in their chosen field for career guidance and help with achieving the level of 'employability' and professionalism which many employers require.

Summary of employment status of PCLL graduates in the 2021-22 academic year:

• Trainee Solicitors	79.8%
• Pupil Barristers	8.5%
• Department of Justice	3.2%
• Legal Employment	3.2%
• Further Studies	1.1%
• Other Sectors	2.1%
• Others	2.1%

* These figures comprise 94 student responses out of 138 graduates of the 2021-22 cohort.

Comments from the Professions

"PCLL is a very important stage of the legal training process leading to entry to the legal profession. As President of the Law Society and an External Examiner on the PCLL course, I maintain regular contact with PCLL students at CUHK. My general impression on them can be summarized in 3 Cs – Courteous, Confident and Competitive."

Huen Wong, BBS, JP
Past President
The Law Society of Hong Kong

"I have had the pleasure of being the mentor for a number of Chinese U PCLL and JD students and I have also participated from time to time in the University's advocacy examinations. I have also been fortunate enough to have some of their graduates as my pupils."

I can say at once, that the standard of those I have come across is extremely high and is a tribute to the quality of the instruction that they receive at Chinese University."

Clive Grossman KC, SC

Comments from CUHK PCLL Graduates

We hope our students' association with CUHK LAW lasts well beyond their education. It is important that their memory of their time with us is both lasting and pleasurable. Some of the comments we have received from graduates after they have left us are:



"The CUHK PCLL Programme is well designed as a forum for students to put their legal knowledge into practice. It provides a more realistic view of areas of law that you have studied in your legal academic education and how they are relevant to real life. All the compulsory and elective courses place stress on areas that help you become a prepared trainee / pupil barrister and equip you with the necessary technical and soft skills to build a solid foundation for when you start working in the legal world."

While requiring some working knowledge of the law, the programme focuses more on your drafting and advocacy skills so that no matter which professional route you will choose, you will be well prepared.

I am grateful to all the teaching staff at CUHK PCLL who have definitely put their heart and soul into delivering the large group sessions while giving constructive criticisms in the small group sessions. In the small group sessions by learning from our mistakes we were able to enhance our legal skills. There was a great mix of students from various countries and academic backgrounds such as LLB and JD etc. This allowed us to learn from different perspectives and to interact in a wide range of social groups.

Finally, I would recommend CUHK PCLL to all students who are considering a career in this profession. This programme will provide you with everything you need for a bright legal career ahead.

I am a proud CUHK PCLL graduate and I hope it will be the same for you!"

Chiu Chi Kan
PCLL graduate 2022-23
King & Wood Mallesons



"As a CUHK LLB graduate, I had the fortunate opportunity to continue my legal studies in the CUHK PCLL Programme which well-equipped me for the challenges of legal practice."

One of my favorite classes was the Drafting Commercial Documents class. Through a series of practical tutorial exercises, I learned how to draft documents commonly used in commercial transactions such as guarantee agreements and sale and purchase agreements. The class was highly interactive and provided me with hands-on experience and a glimpse into the reality of a solicitor.

Another great aspect of the PCLL programme was the opportunity to meet diverse classmates and passionate professors, many of whom have taught me a lot.

Overall, the CUHK PCLL provided me with a well-rounded legal education that prepared me for the demands of legal practice while also being the platform that introduced me to bright-minded peers with whom I have formed lasting friendships. I am grateful for the education that I received at CUHK."

Cherie Chung
PCLL graduate 2022-23
Pinsent Masons



"Studying the PCLL at CUHK has been immensely rewarding. I appreciated the programme's focus on practice and practicality, an ethos that is deeply embodied in its courses. For example, the Commercial Practice course weaves Company Law into the wider context of forming, managing and acquiring companies. Furthermore, the wide range of elective courses allows students to tailor their education to suit their future legal career. Through my electives, I learned how to interview clients, draft legal opinions and conduct mediations, all of which will come in useful at the Bar."

The quality of instruction was excellent. As many faculty members are past or current practitioners, lessons were often enlivened with interesting anecdotes and practical advice that stemmed from a wellspring of experience. Furthermore, when the fifth wave of COVID necessitated a switch to online learning halfway through the programme, CUHK's staff and faculty laboured to make the transition as smooth as possible. Many of my teachers even arranged extra lessons and invited questions by email so that students would not fall behind.

Finally, I am very grateful to the student community for being so warm and welcoming. As an international student, I was readily accepted by my peers and made some very good friends on the course. Overall, I enjoyed my time at CUHK and will remember it fondly for years to come."

Lim Han Sheng
PCLL graduate 2021-22
Des Voeux Chambers



"The CUHK PCLL programme is an intellectually stimulating and practically enriching experience that I would highly recommend to any law student looking for the perfect bridge from academic legal studies to the professional practice of law."

The programme is well designed to ensure that students are equipped with fundamental skills as lawyers. Not only did we learn how to apply legal knowledge, legal writing and drafting skills, but also soft skills such as client management.

In addition to the compulsory courses, the programme also offers a wide array of electives. This caters to different students' interests and ambitions, allowing them to gain exposure in various practice areas and be better prepared for their own career paths.

My favourite elective was Trial Advocacy, an intensive course that enhanced our advocacy skills extensively through highly interactive classes and insightful individual feedback. In two weeks, we learned how to conduct a trial: from case preparation, delivering submissions to examining witnesses.

My journey with the CUHK PCLL programme has been nothing short of exceptional. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn in this highly supportive and friendly environment.

My thanks to all CUHK LAW members and classmates."

Stephanie Kong
PCLL graduate 2021-22
Department of Justice



"The CUHK PCLL programme provides law graduates with a well-designed curriculum that bridges the gap between theoretical legal education and real-life legal practice. The first semester equips students with a solid foundation in essential practice areas while the second semester allows students to focus on areas of their personal interests. In particular, the small group sessions foster a conducive learning environment for students to consolidate and apply their legal knowledge. The low student-to-teacher ratio in these sessions ensures that students can receive personalized feedback, which is particularly helpful in courses such as document drafting and trial advocacy.

Moreover, the PCLL programme is taught by leading academics and practitioners who are approachable and eager to share their experiences. Students can develop commercial awareness and practical skills through exercises that simulate real-life legal practice, including client pitching and negotiations. Most importantly, CUHK offers valuable mooting opportunities like the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. By participating in these events, students can hone their advocacy skills and connect with legal professionals from around the globe.

In summary, the CUHK PCLL programme delivers a comprehensive education that prepares students for a successful legal career. With its interactive teaching methods, supportive faculty, and diverse extracurricular opportunities, CUHK stands out as an exceptional choice for aspiring legal practitioners. I am grateful for my experience with the programme and highly recommend it to anyone seeking to pursue a career in law."

Sunny Liu
PCLL graduate 2022-23
Dentons



"As Sir Robert Megarry, the former English Vice-Chancellor remarked in 1981, the law as taught and the law as practised are very different. A successful practitioner will need both. You have learned the legal principles in your LLB or JD degree. It is time for you to become skilful in practising them.

The CUHK PCLL Programme helpfully facilitates such transition. Here, first and foremost, we learnt the ethical codes that are essential for the future members of this honourable profession. We also received hands-on experience in drafting legal documents, conducting conferences with clients, and advocating before the court. More importantly, it is the change of mindset that matters. We will have to step into the clients' shoes and understand their true objectives. This was the most valuable skill I learnt on the CUHK PCLL.

After the challenging years with COVID, we were able to see our teachers and colleagues face to face again. The interactive small group settings enabled us to exchange views with each other and obtain individual feedback. I am grateful to have benefited from the generous support of the teaching staff and the fruitful discussions with my fellow colleagues."

Oscar Leong
PCLL graduate 2022-23
LLM student at the University of Cambridge



"The CUHK PCLL Programme is a well-designed programme to bridge the gap between studying for law courses and becoming future legal practitioners.

The programme is taught by professionals with vast experience in legal practice who have lots of insights to offer students. Professors and lecturers gave countless practical advice and were willing to share their personal experiences working in the legal field when they were trainee solicitors and barristers. As persons who have been through the same process as all PCLL students, they can understand better our worries and help us build a solid foundation for a head-start in the legal industry by developing skills like managing client expectations, advising clients, negotiation and pitching.

The interactive small group sessions are fantastic opportunities for students to incorporate legal knowledge learned in lectures into practical tasks like contract reviewing, pitching, form filling and drafting, all designed to resemble real-life tasks a lawyer would receive. Drafting is a crucial skill for legal practitioners and I was grateful for the opportunity to enhance my drafting skills during the small group sessions where I received comments from my instructors who were more than willing to provide feedback on how I could improve the drafting work I had submitted.

Thus, the CUHK PCLL programme is a fruitful journey for me. I am grateful to depart with the necessary skills, knowledge and tips to strive on in the legal industry."

Kristen Lai
PCLL graduate 2022-23
Morrison & Foerster



"The CUHK PCLL Programme has taken me through an immensely enriching and transformative journey. By placing a heavy emphasis on the development of practical legal skills within the backdrop of professionalism and pragmatism, the Programme is well-crafted in providing aspiring barristers and solicitors with the solid foundations required to transition from the academic study of law to professional practice.

During my time on the Programme, it has been a privilege to be taught and trained by experienced academics and practitioners who are all dedicated to imparting their wealth of practical knowledge and professional experience. In particular, I am grateful for the tutors' invariable commitment in facilitating a conducive and interactive learning environment during small group sessions. These interactive sessions provide excellent opportunities for students to put theory into practice by participating in simulated legal exercises such as courtroom advocacy, client interviewing and legal drafting, all of which closely resemble real-life legal work. Along the way, students learn to think more sophisticatedly and comprehensively about legal problems and come to appreciate the importance of offering pragmatic advice that meets client expectations and commercial realities.

All in all, I am thankful for the all-round preparation the Programme has given me for the steep learning curve ahead as I embark on a new chapter as a trainee solicitor. I highly recommend the CUHK PCLL Programme to all graduating law students who seek to enter the legal profession."

Ian Chow
PCLL graduate 2022-23
Ashurst



Admission Requirements



The basis for admission to the PCLL Programme is academic merit.

The most important indicator of academic merit is your common law degree, usually a Bachelor of Laws or a Juris Doctor degree, though we also consider applicants with CPEs or GDLs.

Your law qualification will be assessed by reference to the classification, including grades, marks or other indicators of academic merit.

A limited number of PCLL places may be offered to candidates who have a law qualification and law-related working experience (not including internships and mini-pupillages) of not less than two years' continuous duration. Such working experience must be evidenced by supporting documents.

Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the PCLL set out in the statement issued by the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training (available at <http://www.pcea.com.hk>). They must also hold a valid International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Certificate (academic module) from a test taken at the IELTS test centre with an overall score of 7 or above taken on a date which is not earlier than three years preceding the closing date for applications in the academic year in which applicants are seeking entry to the PCLL.

Tuition Fees*

For the 2024-25 academic year, tuition fee levels are as follows:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| • UGC-funded places and Distinguished Scholarship places (for local students): | HK\$42,100 |
| • UGC-funded places and Distinguished Scholarship places (for non-local students): | HK\$145,000 |
| • Self-financed places: | HK\$219,580 |

* Subject to annual review

When and How to Apply

Competition for entry into the PCLL is intense. The application period closes on 30 April every year. We only accept online applications.

Before submitting an application, please visit our website <http://www.law.cuhk.edu.hk> for details of the application procedure.

Please note in particular the following two links on that page:

- How to make your application.
- Important notes to applicants.

To submit an application, please use our online application process at the University's Graduate School webpage (<http://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/>).

Contact Us

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This brochure contains information as at August 2023. The University has the right to change its rules, regulations and procedures at any time.



香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

