

法律 CUHK
LAW

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
香 港 中 文 大 學

FACULTY OF **LAW**

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS (PCLL)

2025-26





Table of Contents

2	Message from the Dean
3	Message from the Programme Directors
4	Summary of Key Facts
5	Teaching
6	Course Descriptions
10	Facilities and Resources
11	Broader Education and Student Activities at CUHK
11	Career Success & Careers Facilities
12	Comments from the Professions
13	Comments from CUHK PCLL Graduates
15	Admission Requirements
16	Tuition Fees
16	When and How to Apply
16	Contact Us

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 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, CUHK 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, 6 group study rooms and 2 online interview 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, 105 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 and other branches free of charge. The 105 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.



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 2022-23 academic year:

• Trainee Solicitors	83.7%
• Pupil Barristers	6.1%
• Further Studies	3.1%
• Legal Employment	2.0%
• Department of Justice	1.0%
• Others	4.1%

* These figures comprise 98 student responses out of 145 graduates of the 2022-23 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, SBS, 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-structured to prepare students for their upcoming training contracts or pupillages. Besides compulsory subjects in the first semester, students are offered a variety of electives in the second semester. These electives help students develop different skill sets, ranging from commercial awareness to trial advocacy. I find this arrangement particularly helpful, as students could tailor their studies based on personal interests and requirements for future employment."

The purpose of studying PCLL, from my perspective, was to gain practical experience before embarking on my journey as a legal professional. After reading black-letter law at the undergraduate level, students may find it challenging to translate such knowledge into practice. Studying PCLL at the CUHK greatly helps with such a transition. The majority of subjects are intended to equip students with practical skills such as drafting documents and interviewing clients. I am sure students will find such training immensely rewarding."

The CUHK fosters a very supportive learning environment as well. The faculty are passionate about teaching and are responsive to questions in and out of class. Students on the PCLL programme are assigned to small group sessions (SGSs), where one teacher leads discussions with approximately ten students. Such a student-to-teacher ratio allows in-depth conversations during which students can clarify any misunderstandings they may have. Participation in SGSs also requires prior preparation as the teacher is merely a facilitator. Such preparation is meaningful as at the same time we develop our research and problem-solving skills, which are indispensable in legal practice."

Having been on the programme myself, I highly recommend it to any law students seeking to qualify as lawyers in Hong Kong. I am certain that the quality of education at the CUHK will help lay a solid foundation for your legal career"

Xavier Ko
PCLL graduate 2023-24
Clifford Chance



"The CUHK PCLL programme is an excellent bridge between legal studies and real-life practice. It provides a wide array of courses that equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to become a lawyer. The small group sessions are highly interactive and allow students to work on tasks that closely resemble those they will encounter in the real world. The course instructors would also share their professional experience and provide feedback on our work."

Another great aspect of the CUHK PCLL programme is the opportunity to develop advocacy and writing skills outside the classroom. I had the honour of representing CUHK at the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, in which I met and competed against law students from around the world. This experience enabled me to expand my horizons and network."

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at CUHK PCLL and I am grateful to all my classmates and faculty staff for providing such a supportive and friendly learning environment. I highly recommend this programme to law graduates."

Fontane Wong
PCLL graduate 2023-24
LLM student at University College London



"The PCLL programme at CUHK is structured in a way that facilitates a smooth transition from studying law to practicing law. Having interned at major law firms and chambers, I can say that the courses offered on our PCLL programme are highly practical. The tasks assigned to us throughout the academic year mirror those given to trainee solicitors and pupil barristers. This pragmatic approach allows us to make mistakes in an affordable way, and to learn from them through constructive comments made by experienced tutors and lecturers."

Outside the classroom, CUHK LAW also offers ample opportunities for us to "learn by doing". Besides attending classes, I served as the team leader of the New Venture Legal Team, where my team and I worked with real start-up companies and applied our legal research skills to support their businesses. Working with these entrepreneurs not only developed our business senses but also improved our transactional skills. Additionally, I benefited from the rich resources organised by CUHK LAW to support students participating in international moot competitions. My advocacy skills were honed through serving as the oralist at the 15th Leiden-Sarin International Air Law Moot Court Competition. With the support from CUHK LAW, my team and I won the championship at the competition."

All in all, the PCLL programme at CUHK emphasizes practicality thereby ensuring that we are prepared to meet the standard of work expected of us in the real world. I hope you will benefit from CUHK PCLL programme as much as we did."

Brian Poon
PCLL graduate 2023-24
Legal Trainee (Barrister) at
the Department of Justice



"Joining the CUHK PCLL Programme after graduating from the CUHK JD Programme was a fortunate opportunity for the continuation of my legal studies. I highly recommend CUHK PCLL to all law students who wish to pursue a career in this profession. It works as a bridge that connects academic knowledge and legal practice, preparing students for future practical challenges."

The CUHK PCLL Programme is well-designed. All the compulsory courses in the first semester set a solid foundation for practice. These courses not only help students review and consolidate the academic knowledge they have acquired but also supplement useful practical skills and experience. For example, the Commercial Practice course is not a simple repetition of the Company Law course but provides us with a thorough grounding in basic commercial transactions. In addition, CUHK PCLL provides a wide range of elective courses in the second semester. Students have the freedom to tailor their studies according to personal interests and career plans. No matter which career path you are going to take, you can always find relevant courses that perfectly suit your needs."

All the professors are kind and helpful. They devote themselves to teaching and try their best to deliver both the large group lectures and small group sessions. Most of the teachers have had years of professional experience. Whenever we encounter a problem, they are always willing to help. Under their guidance, I accumulated great knowledge and developed lots of useful skills during this one-year learning period."

Furthermore, the CUHK PCLL Programme provides me with an excellent platform to meet classmates with diverse educational backgrounds. All the students here are hardworking and smart. In small group sessions, we got the chance to have deeper communication and learn from each other. I enjoyed working with them and even formed lasting friendships with many of them."

Overall, I am grateful for the education I received on the CUHK PCLL Programme. It equipped me with the necessary professional skills and prepared me for future legal practice."

Gu Tianqi
PCLL graduate 2023-24
Haldanes



"Law is a beast. It is complex, arcane, contradictory and necessary. It is simultaneously disgusting and beautiful, like mayonnaise! The CUHK PCLL programme deftly guides its students through the subject without shying away from this truth.

CUHK's PCLL programme is a well-designed follow-up to an initial legal education. I really enjoyed further developing my legal understanding by learning from the experienced practitioners at CUHK. The programme helped me develop a basic sense of how to practically implement substantive legal knowledge as a lawyer, which is an important skill to bridge legal education and practice.

Although it is at times intensive and demanding, the programme is equally rewarding. I have learned many important practical skills, including drafting documents, conducting interviews, and—most valuably—researching into and educating myself on unfamiliar areas of law. There are ample resources available to students, and instructors demonstrate genuine interest in ensuring the students develop core competence in important legal skills. I am grateful for the opportunity to have learned from them all.

A significant element of my PCLL experience was the small group sessions, which provided me interactive opportunities to engage with material with greater individual attention and feedback from instructors. It was also highly conducive to helping me meet many of my diverse and brilliant peers. It was a privilege to mutually learn with and from them.

Notably, the programme is flexible. There is a vast range of different elective courses, all of which are updated for and relevant to modern Hong Kong practice. Students may choose five of these, which means that students have greater freedom to tailor their education to their personal and professional interests.

I can confidently recommend CUHK's programme to all prospective legal professionals seeking to obtain their PCLL qualifications. It was a terrific experience, and I have no doubts that all of you who are passionate about the law will thrive here."

Kevin Tsai
PCLL graduate 2023-24
Davis Polk



"The PCLL programme at CUHK is renowned for its intensity and practical focus, making it an invaluable continuation of my legal education as a JD graduate from CUHK. This programme bridges the gap between academic study and professional practice, equipping me with essential legal skills crucial for my future career.

One of the strengths of the PCLL programme lies in its diverse range of courses. During the second semester, I opted for courses in commercial law, which not only enhanced my understanding but also provided practical skills in drafting legal documents and negotiating contracts. Additionally, participating in the CUHK Vis Moot team, which competed in Vienna, allowed me to develop my oral advocacy skills in an international setting.

The faculty and staff of the PCLL programme have been instrumental in my learning journey. The professors are highly knowledgeable and approachable, always willing to clarify doubts and provide guidance. Moreover, the administrative staff efficiently handle all logistical matters, ensuring a smooth and productive experience.

Completing the PCLL programme marks the end of my seven-year journey at CUHK. I am immensely grateful to the programme for enriching my legal education and preparing me comprehensively for the challenges ahead in my future career."

Feng Yixin
PCLL graduate 2023-24
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius



"I was very fortunate to continue my legal studies on the CUHK PCLL Programme after graduating from the LLB Programme. The course was thoroughly intensive yet immensely enjoyable, and it was a valuable learning experience for me.

I feel the focus on the technical and procedural aspects of legal practice are what make the PCLL programme so worthwhile. In particular, I found the legal drafting and oral advocacy exercises in both Criminal and Civil Litigation Practice to be extremely useful, providing me with the applicable skills in professional practice. Similarly, the Trial Advocacy elective was a tremendous opportunity to develop and practice the art of public speaking as a legal advocate. Lastly, the small group sessions for each class fostered a collaborative and supportive environment, which I found to be pleasant.

Finally, I am very grateful to the CUHK community. Both the teachers and the students were very welcoming and open, and I will remember it as a wonderful experience."

Edén Tsang
PCLL graduate 2023-24
LLM student at University College London



"The CUHK PCLL programme has been an incredible journey for me, paving the way to professional legal practice. The curriculum is both comprehensive and flexible, offering compulsory courses along with a wide selection of electives. This structure allowed me to build a solid foundation in core legal areas while also customising my studies to match my career aspirations.

What I found particularly enriching was the programme's structure, which ensures a thorough understanding of both theoretical and practical aspects of law. I deeply appreciate the interactive small group sessions, which facilitated in-depth discussions and fostered an engaging learning environment. Working through real-world scenarios such as legal drafting, client pitching, and developing commercial awareness, all the while receiving valuable feedback from experienced professors, was crucial in giving me a holistic perspective on legal practice.

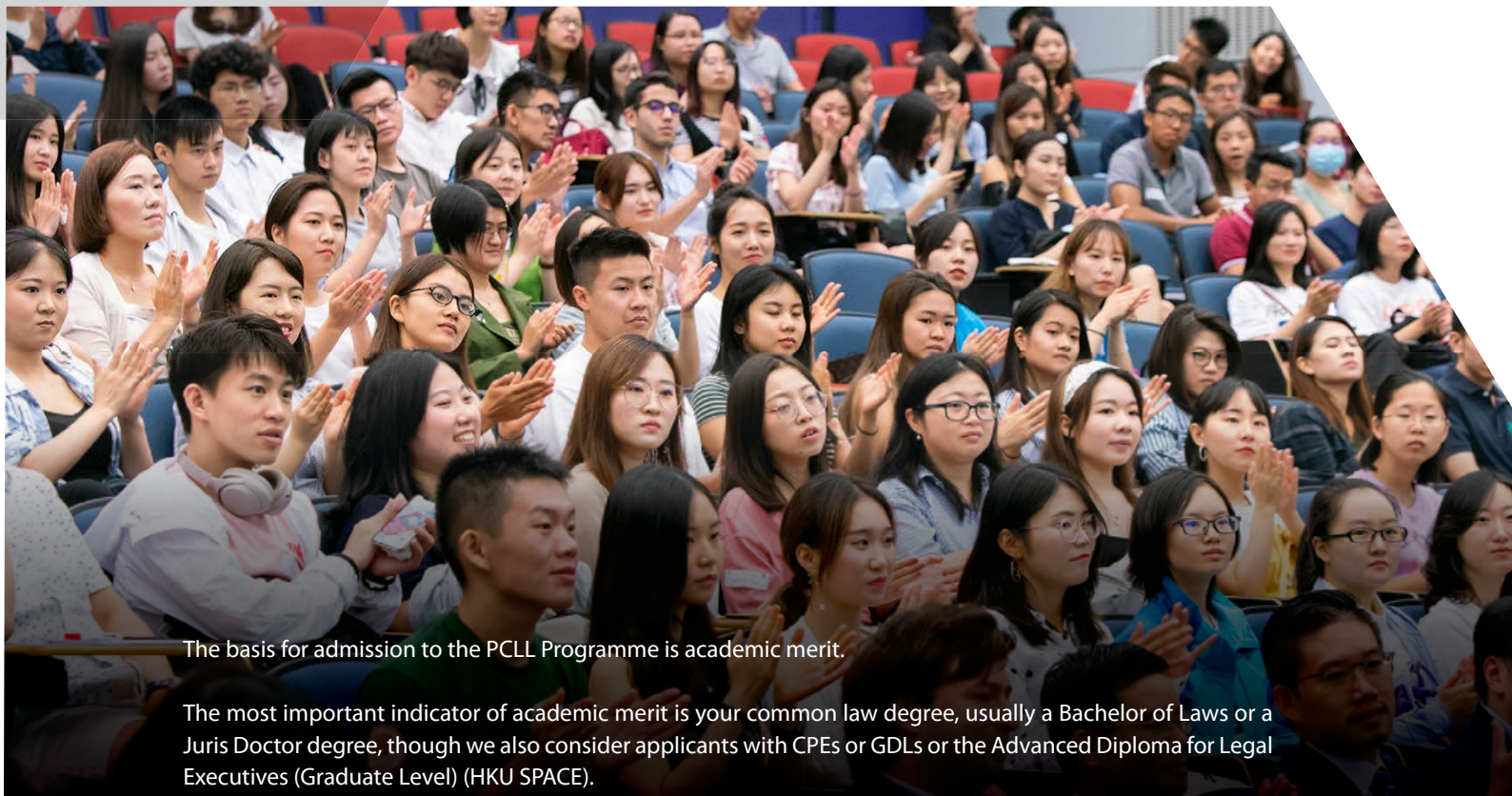
My time at CUHK has been immensely enjoyable and fulfilling, thanks to the supportive and collaborative atmosphere created by the faculty and my fellow classmates. Although the programme can be intense and requires a high level of dedication, it equipped me with the essential knowledge and skills needed to transition smoothly into my role as a trainee solicitor and prepared me well for the challenges ahead.

For anyone aspiring to a successful legal career, this programme offers excellent preparation. I highly recommend CUHK PCLL to all law graduates seeking a rigorous and enriching legal education experience."

Chloe Tao
PCLL graduate 2023-24
Zhong Lun Law Firm LLP



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 or the Advanced Diploma for Legal Executives (Graduate Level) (HKU SPACE).

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 (in a single sitting) 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 |

Fee levels for the 2025-26 academic year are to be announced.

* 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

Telephone: (852) 3943 4313
Fax: (852) 2994 2505
E-mail: pcll.law@link.cuhk.edu.hk

Address: PCLL Programme
Faculty of Law
6/F., Lee Shau Kee Building
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Shatin, New Territories
Hong Kong

Website: <http://www.law.cuhk.edu.hk>



This brochure contains information as at August 2024. 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