

FACULTY OF **LAW**

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN LAWS
MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN LAWS

2025-26



法律 CUHK
LAW

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

MESSAGE from the Dean



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.

The CUHK LAW research postgraduate (RPg) programmes are designed for top students who wish to pursue MPhil or PhD degrees. Our RPg students are admitted after a rigorous and highly competitive selection process. Supervised by top experts in their respective fields they are trained to conduct legal research at the highest level. Their postgraduate stipend comes with a travel grant to present research output at international conferences. Our RPg students produce cutting-edge and often award-winning research which allows them to set their mark in the very early years of their careers. Many of our past RPg students have assumed prestigious positions in academia or legal practice around the world.

We are CUHK LAW! Join us if you are committed to excellence in legal research and if you are ready to enter an elite RPg programme!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lutz-Christian Wolff'.

Professor Lutz-Christian Wolff
Wei Lun Professor of Law
Dean, CUHK LAW

MESSAGE from the Programme Director

The CUHK LAW PhD and MPhil in Laws Programmes offer two of the great opportunities in legal education. You will, if accepted, spend two to four years researching and writing about a topic you are passionate about while getting all the support you will need for such a major intellectual endeavor.

With our funding scheme, you will be supported generously enough that you can live comfortably without having to work for additional remuneration while you earn your PhD or MPhil in Laws. At the same time, you will have committed, research-active professors as supervisors; many of whom have some of the most distinguished research records in their respective fields of interest.

You will have fellow students from around the world to inspire you in what is a close-knit community with their own dedicated space in the Faculty. Our student-friendly support framework provides you with the formal guidance and encouragement which you will need. This will include multiple opportunities each year to present your work to other professors and peers, classroom support (with seminars on research and thesis writing) and also a team of two supervisors who will check in with you regularly in order to sustain your research momentum.

Your experience with our programmes will unfold in different stages. Following admission, our students have opportunities to apply for scholarships for research and study outside of Hong Kong, as well as access to some of the best library resources in Asia. After graduation our degree will empower you and give you the confidence to seek out careers in academia, legal practice, in the commercial world as well as in public service and the non-profit sector.

At CUHK LAW, the administrative staff members take excellent individual care of each student. Our programmes provide each of our students with opportunities throughout the year to get together and offer support to one another. You will join a group of researchers who work closely together and with their professors. So let me say how pleased we are that you are considering CUHK LAW. We hope you will be able to join us on a journey where you can think deeply about your chosen subject and make exciting discoveries at one of the great international law faculties.



Dr. Michael Ramsden
Professor
Director, Research Postgraduate Programmes



Why Earn a Law PhD or MPhil Degree?

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Laws is the most advanced research degree in law. The PhD is a research degree that can prepare a student for a career in fields as varied as teaching, research, consulting and law practice. Students are required to conduct thorough research on a novel topic and write a thesis of publishable quality that makes an original contribution to legal scholarship.

The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Laws is a degree for students who want to pursue advanced research, so as to become expert in an area of law or on a complex topic that can help open doors to similar career opportunities. Study in the MPhil Programme can also lead to admission to the PhD Programme, subject to the Faculty's evaluation of the student's academic performance during his or her MPhil study period.

Dissertations for both PhD and MPhil in Laws are written under the guidance of a member of the Faculty as supervisor, and in most cases another faculty member as co-supervisor, and assessed by an independent examination committee.

CUHK LAW has a limited number of places available for each of these Programmes each year. Placement is very competitive.

Why Hong Kong and The Chinese University of Hong Kong are Your Choice

Hong Kong is not only a leading international financial and trade centre, but also hosts some of Asia's leading universities, including CUHK. Beyond Asia, international university ranking exercises have appraised universities in Hong Kong as among the best in the world. Hong Kong stands as a gateway between the best traditions of Western learning and a region which presents many of the most interesting and exciting objects of contemporary legal, economic, and cultural research.

You can write your PhD or MPhil in Laws with CUHK LAW in English, while enjoying unparalleled access to resources in Chinese and about Asia. You will receive one-on-one guidance from the Faculty, whose members represent all of the world's major jurisdictions and are actively engaged in a broad array of research. Your own research will be financed either by the University in the form of a studentship or by the Hong Kong Government in the form of a fellowship.



Conduct Your Research with Our Leading Scholars

Financial Support

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS)

The HKPFS was created by Hong Kong Research Grants Council in 2009 to give Hong Kong universities world class financing for our most promising full-time PhD students. It awards a monthly stipend of HK\$28,100 and an annual conference and research-related travel allowance of HK\$14,000 for up to three years. If a Fellowship winner has a normative study period of four years, CUHK will provide financing at the same level during the fourth year. If you would like to know more about the HKPFS, please visit the following URL for further details:

<https://cerg1.ugc.edu.hk/hkpfs>

CUHK Vice-Chancellor HKPFS Scholarship

Fellowship winners are offered a tuition fee waiver for their whole normative study period and an award of HK\$40,000 for lodging in the first year of study and HK\$20,000 in the subsequent years within the normative study period. CUHK guarantees on-campus accommodation during the normative study period to Fellowship winners who submit timely applications. The on-campus hostel fee will be waived in the first year of study.

CUHK Postgraduate Studentships

Even if not awarded a Hong Kong PhD Fellowship, all candidates admitted to the CUHK LAW's full-time PhD or MPhil Programme still receive a generous stipend during the normative research and writing period that, for the current academic year, amounts to HK\$18,725 monthly. Funding for conferences and research-related travel is also available.

CUHK Vice-Chancellor PhD Scholarship

Besides CUHK Postgraduate Studentship, PhD candidates who are nominated to the HKPFS by CUHK but not being selected for HKPFS will be offered an award of HK\$80,000 in three instalments (i.e. HK\$40,000 in the first year and HK\$20,000 in each of the second and third year of study, subject to satisfactory study progress).

Tuition Waiver Scheme for Local Research Postgraduate Students

The Hong Kong Government grants a tuition waiver to all current and newly admitted local full-time PhD and MPhil students enrolled in UGC-funded RPg programmes for their entire normative period of study.

CUHK LAW consisting of over 50 academic staff members, actively pursues research on a broad range of topics. Our faculty members have studied in leading universities around the world, including in the UK, China, the US, Australia and Continental Europe. They bring their global visions to focus on legal problems affecting Hong Kong, China, various domestic jurisdictions and the international community of nations. You can learn more about the interests and activities of individual faculty members from the faculty website. Below we list the areas in which our Faculty can offer you experienced guidance in your research:



Corporate/Commercial Law

- Capital Markets & Securities Regulation
- Commercial Law
- Competition Law
- Corporate Law
- Employment Law
- Insurance Law

Chinese Law

International & Comparative Law

- Comparative Law
- European Law
- Human Rights / Humanitarian Law
- International Commercial & Trade Law
- International Criminal Law
- International Environmental Law
- International Financial Law
- Law & Development
- Law of Armed Conflict
- Private International Law
- Public International Law

Intellectual Property & Technology Law

- Information & Privacy Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- Law & Technology
- Legal Technology
- Telecommunications Law & Cyber Law

Legal Education

Legal Theory

- Ethics & the Law
- Gender & the Law
- Jurisprudence
- Law & Economics
- Law & Society
- Legal History
- Legal Studies & Methodology

Private Law

- Contract Law
- Equity & Trusts
- Family Law
- Property, Land & Conveyancing Law
- Remedies Law
- Tort Law

Professional Practice

- Advocacy
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Civil Procedure
- Clinical Legal Education
- Criminal Procedure
- Legal Research & Writing
- Professional Ethics

Public Law

- Administrative Law
- Constitutional Law
- Criminal Law
- Immigration Law
- Public Health Law
- Tax Law

Maritime / Aviation

- Aviation Law
- Law of the Sea

Professor Anatole Boute

Professor Boute specializes in energy, environment and investment law, with a focus on the legal aspects governing the clean energy transition. He is the author of *"Energy Security along the New Silk Road"* (Cambridge University Press, 2019) and *"Russian Electricity and Energy Investment Law"* (Brill Nijhoff, 2015). Based on his research, he advised the major multilateral development banks on renewable energy and energy market reform.

Education & Qualifications

- PhD, University of Groningen
- LLM, University of Leuven
- M. Pol. Sc., University of Leuven
- LLB, University of Saint Louis (Brussels)
- B. Pol. Sc., University of Saint Louis (Brussels)
- Admitted to Practice in Brussels



Professor Siyi Lin

Professor Lin's research focuses on unjust enrichment, trusts, contract law, property law and comparative law. She is the author of *"The Law of Unjust Enrichment in China: Necessary or Not?"* (Springer International Publishing, 2022). She passed the National Judicial Examination and is a qualified lawyer in Mainland China. Her previous professional experience includes working at King & Wood Mallesons and Fangda Partners in Hong Kong and Mainland China.

Education & Qualifications

- PhD, CUHK LAW
- LLM, CUHK LAW
- LLB, China University of Political Science and Law



A Sampling of Our International Faculty

Professor Michelle Miao

Professor Miao previously conducted research in the capacity of NYU Global Fellow, Oxford Howard League Fellow, British Academy Postdoc Fellow, NUS ASLI scholar and Harvard Yenching Scholar. Her research expertise covers criminal justice, sociolegal studies and comparative law. She is an awardee of American Society of Comparative Law's Hessel Yntema Prize for most outstanding scholarship by a scholar under 40 years of age.

Education & Qualifications

- DPhil, Oxford University
- LLM, New York University
- LLM, Renmin University of China



Professor Samuli Seppänen

Professor Seppänen's research focuses on legal and political thought in China and developmental aspects of international law. His publications include *"Ideological Conflict and the Rule of Law in Contemporary China: Useful Paradoxes"* (Cambridge University Press, 2016) and articles in international law journals.

Education & Qualifications

- SJD, Harvard University
- LLM, Harvard University (degree waived for SJD degree)
- LLM, University of Helsinki



Professor James Zeng

Professor Zeng graduated from Yale Law School with an LLM and a JSD degree. Prior to that, Professor Zeng graduated from Peking University (LLB, BA in Economics, MPhil in Law). He passed the National Judicial Examination of China and is admitted to the New York State Bar. His research interests include corporate law and finance, comparative law, and law and economics.

Education & Qualifications

- JSD, Yale University
- LLM, Yale University
- LLM, Peking University
- LLB, Peking University
- BA in Economics, Peking University



Conduct Your Research with Our Great Resources

The University and CUHK LAW provide plenty of scholarship and exchange opportunities for students admitted to the PhD and MPhil Programmes. Here are some examples from previous years for reference:

- CUHK Research Postgraduate Student Grants for Overseas Academic Activities
- Ernst Mach Grant for PhD Students and Post-Docs
- PhD International Mobility for Partnerships and Collaborations Award

In addition, the Lee Quo Wei Law Library supports the Faculty's objective to remain a prominent centre for legal scholarship and training in the 21st century. Its collection of electronic resources, which can be accessed remotely, is particularly strong. A collection of over 124,600 volumes of books, bound periodicals and other materials on law and law-related subjects, 105 leading databases, a constantly expanding number of electronically available texts, monographs and reference works, as well as over 6,000 e-journal titles, accompanied of course by the interdisciplinary collections housed in the rest of the CUHK libraries. A separate Legal Resources Centre also includes our Faculty's Mediation Institute Collection, which was assembled in 2009.



Support Framework for Research Postgraduate Students

In-House Roundtable Presentations

On an annual basis, students must present their works-in-progress in an in-house roundtable setting before faculty and other students. This gives them an opportunity to get comfortable presenting their research and honing it as well as providing them a forum for feedback.

Classroom Supervision

In the first part of their studies, students take a four-course sequence to help them with orienting to research postgraduate studies, conducting research, obtaining law teaching skills, and drafting a thesis. "Orientation to Research Postgraduate Studies" in the first term provides an overview of salient issues students will deal with during the period of their research, such as topic refinement, the student-supervisor relationship, and time management. "Research Methodologies" in the second term introduces students to different modes of conducting and organizing research and understanding research methodologies. "Legal Education Practicum" equips research postgraduate students with the skills and the necessary confidence to engage in law school classroom teaching as well as to reflect critically and constructively upon that teaching. The course consists of a seminar in the first term. In the second term students shadow a course teacher. "Legal Academic Composition for Research Postgraduate Students" in the third term helps students prepare to write their thesis, including drafting an effective abstract, mastering paragraph structure and adopting the academic writing style. Each course provides students with feedback, via classroom exercises, external class assignments and an end-of-semester evaluation regarding the course materials.

Review Panels

Each year students meet with a review panel and their supervisors to assess their progress in the research and thesis writing processes.

Hong Kong Law Research Postgraduate Symposium

The Hong Kong Law Research Postgraduate Symposium annually brings together law or law-focused PhD, SJD and MPhil students from all universities in Hong Kong, providing them with the opportunity to present and engage in dialogues regarding their research. It provides a forum for such students to make and renew acquaintances as well as contribute toward a more collegial and intellectually vibrant law research environment in Hong Kong. The Symposium is bookended by Keynote Presentations delivered by distinguished Hong Kong law professors.

The Hong Kong Law Research Postgraduate Symposium is organized and sponsored by CUHK LAW and takes place on an annual basis. Each CUHK LAW research postgraduate student presents at the Symposium.

Career Success & Careers Facilities

The Faculty provides a careers advice service that can support its research postgraduate students in many ways.

Law Student Careers Office

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 a 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 designated 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.



Mr. Paul Mitchard KC
Director of Career Planning and Professionalism

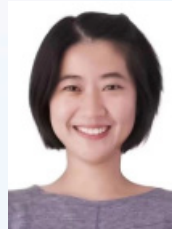
“The demands of legal recruiters are becoming increasingly sophisticated: it is therefore important for students, right from the start of their university career, to keep abreast of what is going to be required of them in addition to academic achievement and to take steps to enable them to meet those demands.”



WHAT Our Students Say

PhD thesis on the legal implications for the moderation of internet content

Many PhD programmes advertise themselves as a community with enriching resources and supportive faculty. But CUHK LAW is truly a unique place which stands as a beacon of excellence in legal scholarship, offering an unparalleled academic environment that fosters intellectual growth and professional development. In this programme, I have formed lifelong friendships and received exceptional mentorship from highly experienced and supportive professors. The programme is well-equipped with extensive resources, ensuring that students have access to necessary tools to conduct groundbreaking research and excel in their studies. Moreover, the programme provides generous funding opportunities. This support includes comprehensive grants for attending and presenting at prestigious conferences and seminars worldwide, enabling students to engage with the global academic community, gain invaluable insights, and receive critical feedback on their work. In essence, the CUHK LAW PhD programme is designed to cultivate exceptional scholars. It offers a nurturing and resource-rich environment where aspiring legal academics can thrive and achieve their fullest potential, truly preparing them to make significant contributions to the field of law.



Anqi Wang



Tajra Smajic

PhD thesis on the impact of the common heritage of mankind principle on investment projects in deep seabed mining

After completing the LLM in International Economic Law, motivated by my pleasant experience with the faculty, I decided to continue my education at CUHK. So far, the faculty has provided great support, not only in terms of my research aspirations but also in nurturing my holistic development as an aspiring scholar. My transition from the life and studies in Europe to Hong Kong was undoubtedly a significant adjustment, and I am immensely grateful for the faculty's unwavering efforts to facilitate my integration into the new cultural and academic milieu. Moreover, the international character of the CUHK LAW community has profoundly impacted my worldview, enabling me to embrace diverse cultures and expand my intellectual horizons. Undoubtedly, my tenure at CUHK LAW thus far has been an immensely rewarding and fulfilling experience, allowing me to flourish both academically and personally through its distinctive and multicultural environment.

PhD thesis on the outlook for technology transfer in the pharmaceutical industry

It is with profound appreciation that I share my experiences at The Chinese University of Hong Kong's Faculty of Law. My academic journey here is marked by rigorous scholarship and significant personal development, underpinned by the mentorship of esteemed professors such as Professor Bryan Mercurio and Professor Sandra Marco Colino. My Ph.D. research explores the intricate dynamics of technology transfer within the pharmaceutical sector. CUHK LAW's comprehensive curriculum and innovative pedagogical approaches have deepened my understanding of complex legal frameworks and fostered my analytical skills. The faculty's commitment to nurturing social responsibility among its students has been particularly influential. I have been encouraged to leverage my education towards meaningful social and environmental changes, applying theoretical knowledge to practical challenges. This has led to opportunities to present my findings at international conferences and contribute to scholarly discussions through publications in esteemed journals. I am proud to be part of a community that not only strives for legal excellence but also emphasizes making a tangible difference in the world. My time at CUHK LAW has been instrumental in shaping my professional outlook and enhancing my capability to contribute effectively to the field of international economic law and policy.



Ronald Tundang



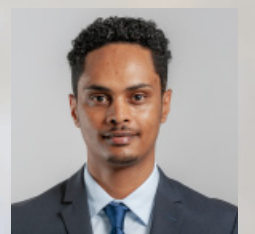
Yurong
Huang

PhD thesis on related party transactions and corporate governance in China

Driving by my keen interest in legal study and career aspiration of being a senior researcher in the corporate governance field, I joined the CUHK LAW PhD programme in 2019 after completing my LLM study in the US. As a PhD student, I have had the privilege of working alongside renowned faculty mentors who have challenged me to think critically and venture into new territories within legal scholarship. The programme's commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration enables students to learn from scholars across diverse fields, enriching their research and expanding their intellectual horizons. With the support of my supervisors, Professor Chao Xi and Professor Dicky Tsang, I had the opportunity to receive systematic training on statistical analysis from the Sociology and the Statistics Departments. This has equipped me with a robust set of quantitative research skills, further enhancing my capacity to conduct rigorous, data-driven legal scholarship. Additionally, research postgraduate students are provided with opportunities to attend thought-provoking seminars and present their own research at prestigious international conferences. These experiences allow students to engage with cutting-edge ideas, receive feedback from experts in the field, and develop the essential skills needed to disseminate their research on global platforms. In summary, the learning and research experience at CUHK LAW has been truly amazing and deeply rewarding. The exceptional guidance from my supervisors, the vibrant intellectual community, and the abundant opportunities for honing my research skills have all contributed to an incredibly enriching doctoral journey.

PhD thesis on patent harmonization in Africa

CUHK boasts a world class infrastructure, serene campus and outstanding experts across faculties. Since joining CUHK LAW, my research journey has been incredibly rewarding. The Faculty of Law is diverse, resourceful and incredibly supportive. I am writing my doctoral thesis under the supervision of an exceptionally accomplished expert in the field of international trade law and intellectual property. The guidance and encouragement I receive from my supervisor has been key to improving my research skills and scientific writing. Parallel to research, CUHK LAW offers postgraduate students an opportunity to travel for research visits and network with experts in renowned global institutions. I recently spent six months as a visiting research fellow at the prestigious Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition in Germany, an opportunity that was only possible because of CUHK LAW's reputation for excellence in research and outstanding faculty members. CUHK LAW also offers support for its postgraduate students to participate in exchange and conference activities around the world. Through its generous funding for research and conferences, CUHK LAW's postgraduate students can travel across the world to share their work and establish a strong professional network to enhance their career development.



Chimdessa
Tsega

PhD/MPhil Programme Study Mode and Period

PhD Programme

	Normative Study Period		Maximum Study Period
	With Research Master's Degree	Without Research Master's Degree	
Full-time	36 months	48 months	84 months
Part-time	48 months	64 months	96 months

MPhil Programme

	Normative Study Period	Maximum Study Period
Full-time	2 years	4 years
Part-time	3 years	5 years

How to Apply

Admission Requirements

All applicants must fulfill the CUHK General Admissions Requirements and English Language Proficiency Requirements. Details can be found at <https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk>.

In addition, MPhil applicants must possess:

- (a) a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree with first class honours or upper second class honours awarded by a recognized university; or
- (b) a Juris Doctor (JD) degree or a Master of Laws (LLM) degree awarded by a recognized university with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above; or
- (c) an equivalent degree (including non-law related) awarded by a recognized tertiary educational institution.

PhD applicants must possess either (b) or (c) as mentioned above. Of course, these are only minimum requirements, and actual admission on a competitive basis could demand much more.

Applicants must satisfy the English Language Proficiency Requirement by:

- (a) possessing a Bachelor's degree awarded by a recognized university in Hong Kong or an English-speaking country, or taught primarily in the English Language; or
- (b) achieving a result of Band 7.0 or better in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). IELTS test results must be obtained not more than two years prior to the date of applying for admission to the PhD/MPhil Programme; or
- (c) achieving at least a score of 587 (Paper Based Test) or 95 (Internet Based Test) in the Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL). TOEFL test results must be obtained not more than two years prior to the date of applying for admission to the PhD/MPhil Programme; or
- (d) providing alternative evidence of English Proficiency equivalent to one of the preceding measures.

Applicants for the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme, please visit the website of the Scheme for additional admission requirements.

Tuition Fee (subject to annual review)

HK\$44,500 per year for both full-time and part-time PhD and MPhil students.

Application Period and Procedures

- (a) For applicants to the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme

Application deadline

- **1 December 2024 at 12 noon (HKT)**

Submit an initial application to RGC at <https://cerg1.ugc.edu.hk/hkpfs>

- **1 December 2024 at 11:59 pm (HKT)**

Submit full application to CUHK at <https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/admissions>

- (b) For non-Fellowship applicants

Application deadline

- Main round: **1 December 2024**

- Clearing round: **31 March 2025[#]**

Submit an application to CUHK at <https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/admissions>

[#]Applications in clearing round will only be considered subject to availability of places.

The Faculty considers applications on a rolling basis. We encourage you to send us your application and supporting materials as early as possible. A decision on your application will be made by the Faculty and CUHK and, if admitted, an appropriate supervisor and/or co-supervisor will be assigned. Please do not contact faculty members directly with requests for admission and supervision.

Contact Us
We are CUHK LAW!

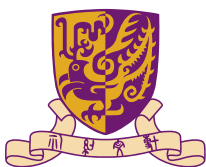
Telephone: (852) 3943 1681
Fax: (852) 2994 2505
E-mail: rpg.law@link.cuhk.edu.hk

Address: 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