



FACULTY OF LAW

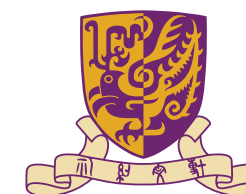
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN LAWS
MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN LAWS
2026-27

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法律 CUHK
LAW

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
香港中文大學

MESSAGE from the Dean

The Faculty of Law at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK LAW) stands among the most dynamic and accomplished law schools in Asia and beyond. Since welcoming its inaugural cohort in 2006, CUHK LAW has earned international recognition for excellence in legal education and research, while making a lasting contribution to our local community.

As the Faculty approaches its 20th anniversary, I warmly invite you to consider joining the CUHK LAW community as we embark on a new chapter in our third decade. This journey will unfold against a backdrop of rapid and complex change — from the rise of artificial intelligence to the challenges of climate change and the evolving demands on legal institutions. Guided by these shifts, our teaching and scholarship will continue to respond with rigour, imagination, and resolve.

In the years ahead, we shall remain deeply committed to the rule of law and to the University's enduring motto: "Through learning and temperance to virtue." We shall also continue to cherish the close ties we share with our alumni, supporters, and partners — as together we shall build on enduring legal values to meet the challenges of a changing world.

Our research postgraduate programmes offer a rigorous and supportive environment for the pursuit of advanced legal scholarship. Through structured training, close supervision, and active engagement in Faculty life, the programmes equip students to make original contributions to legal knowledge and to pursue careers in academia, policy, and beyond.

We would be delighted to welcome you into our community of thinkers, learners, and future leaders in law.



Professor Chao Xi
Dean of CUHK LAW



MESSAGE

from the Programme Director

Our PhD and MPhil in Laws Programmes are designed for students who wish to conduct original research in law. We seek talented candidates who aspire to pursue a career in legal academia. If admitted, you will spend two to four years developing expertise in your chosen legal field.

As a research student, you will become part of a vibrant and intellectually stimulating academic community. You will be supervised by professors with strong research backgrounds and expertise in your area of law. Our comprehensive support framework includes regular meetings with your supervisors, seminars and courses on research methods and thesis writing, as well as opportunities to present and discuss your work. Our programmes feature a clear structure and defined milestones to guide your progress.

Our funding schemes enable research students to focus on their studies. Students have opportunities to participate in academic activities outside Hong Kong, including conferences and exchange programmes. They also have access to extensive library resources.

At CUHK LAW, we are dedicated to training the next generation of legal academics in a research-oriented and supportive environment. We encourage motivated candidates to apply. Thank you for considering CUHK LAW for your advanced legal research degree.

Professor Noam Noked
Associate 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.



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\$28,400 and an annual conference and research-related travel allowance of HK\$14,200 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 Studentship

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\$19,100 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.



Support Framework for Research Postgraduate Students

Supervision

Each student is supervised by a supervisor and a co-supervisor, who are typically law professors with relevant expertise. The supervisors and the student communicate regularly to provide guidance and feedback on the student's research. The supervisors review and comment on the student's draft dissertation and approve it for submission once it meets the required academic standards.

Courses Required

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 organising 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.



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, Mainland China, various jurisdictions, and the international community. You can learn more about the interests and activities of individual faculty members from the faculty website. Below we list the main 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

Chinese Law

International & Comparative Law

- Private International Law
- Public International Law
- Comparative Law
- European Law
- Human Rights & Humanitarian Law
- International Commercial & Trade Law
- International Criminal Law
- International Environmental Law
- International Investment & Trade Law
- Law & Development

Intellectual Property & Technology Law

- Information & Privacy Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- Law & Technology

Legal Education

Legal Theory

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

Private Law

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

Public Law

- Administrative Law
- Constitutional Law
- Criminal Law
- Aviation Law
- Tax Law

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
- LL.M., University of Leuven
- M. Pol. Sc., University of Leuven
- LL.B., 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
- LL.M., CUHK LAW
- LL.B., 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
- LL.M., New York University
- LL.M., 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
- LL.M., Harvard University (degree waived for SJD degree)
- LL.M., University of Helsinki



Professor Hao Zhang

Professor Zhang specialises in Chinese and comparative energy and climate law. He obtained his PhD from Melbourne Law School, the University of Melbourne and holds a Visiting Fellowship at Clare Hall, University of Cambridge (2025-26). His scholarly contributions include the monograph “*In Pursuit of Carbon Neutrality: Energy Law and Regulation in China*” (Cambridge University Press, 2023), along with numerous articles published in energy and environmental law journals.

Education & Qualifications

- PhD, The University of Melbourne
- LL.M., Beijing Forestry University
- LL.B., Beijing Forestry 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 125,000 volumes of books, bound periodicals and other materials on law and law-related subjects, 103 leading databases, a constantly expanding number of electronically available texts, monographs and reference works, as well as over 6,400 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.

Career Success and Careers Facilities

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

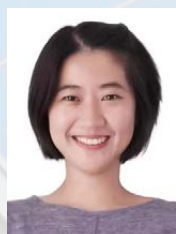
Law Student Careers Office

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 Careers Office 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 job market.





Anqi
Wang

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

What makes the CUHK LAW PhD Programme truly stand out is its rich academic ecosystem and collegial environment. The Programme offers a wide selection of advanced law courses, alongside regular research workshops, writing sessions, and skills-based trainings that support students throughout the PhD journey. One of the most rewarding aspects of the experience is the vibrant and welcoming research community. PhD students at CUHK LAW benefit not only from excellent supervision and institutional resources, but also from a close-knit and encouraging group of peers, whether through informal study groups, collaborative projects, or simply exchanging ideas over coffee. The Faculty also hosts seminar series that bring in leading scholars from around the world, giving students the opportunity to engage with frontier research and broader academic conversations. Altogether, CUHK LAW provides a dynamic, well-resourced, and truly supportive environment for doctoral research in law.

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

Motivated by a desire to bridge my extensive public service experience with academic scholarship, I embarked on a PhD at CUHK LAW after completing an LL.M. and spending more than a decade as a legal adviser to the Indonesian government and as a diplomat. My PhD research explores the intricate dynamics of technology transfer in the pharmaceutical sector, particularly at the intersection of international economic law, intellectual property, and public health. CUHK LAW's rigorous doctoral programme, underpinned by outstanding mentorship and an interdisciplinary environment, has provided an ideal platform to integrate insights from Indonesia's civil law system with Hong Kong's common law perspective. The Faculty's unwavering support and wealth of resources have empowered me to present at international conferences, publish in leading international journals, and even collaborate with academia outside of CUHK. I am proud to be part of a vibrant community that not only fosters legal excellence but also encourages me to leverage my governance experience to serve the public interest.



Tajra
Smajic

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

After completing the LL.M. 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.



Ronald
Tundang



Yurong
Huang

PhD thesis on related party transactions and corporate governance in China

Fueled by a passion for legal scholarship and research, I entered CUHK's PhD Programme after my LL.M. studies. The Faculty composes distinguished scholars offering both expert supervision and transformative mentorship. The guidance of Professors Chao Xi and Dicky Tsang has been instrumental in shaping the theoretical depth and analytical clarity of my research, while also cultivating scholarly autonomy. CUHK LAW is particularly commendable for its strong encouragement of interdisciplinary inquiry. With institutional support, I have undertaken methodological training in the Sociology and Statistics Department, allowing me to integrate empirical approaches into my legal scholarship. This interdisciplinary orientation has greatly enriched the scope and sophistication of my research. Equally notable is the Faculty's global vision. Through curated seminars, international workshops, and visiting speaker series, the programme actively exposes candidates to cutting-edge debates while facilitating organic connections with global thought leaders. These platforms provide indispensable opportunities to test ideas through expert feedback and develop essential skills for global research dissemination. Beyond formal training, CUHK LAW immerses students in a dynamic intellectual ecosystem. Faculty accessibility, collaborative peer engagement, and cross-disciplinary opportunities coalesce into an unparalleled environment for pioneering legal research — forging researchers equipped to navigate law's evolving global landscape.

PhD thesis on harmonising patent law and policy under the AfCFTA framework

CUHK LAW offers a world-class infrastructure, a serene campus, and access to outstanding experts across various research areas. As a proud graduate of CUHK LAW, I can attest to the incredible rewards of my research journey here. The Faculty of Law is diverse, resourceful, and remarkably supportive. I completed my doctoral thesis under the guidance of highly accomplished experts in international trade law and intellectual property. Their mentorship was pivotal in enhancing my research skills and scientific writing. In addition to rigorous academic training, CUHK LAW provides postgraduate students with unique opportunities for research visits and networking with global experts. I had the privilege of spending six months as a visiting research fellow at the prestigious Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition in Germany. This experience was only made possible because of CUHK LAW's stellar reputation for research excellence and its dedicated faculty. Moreover, CUHK LAW supports its postgraduate students in participating in exchange programmes and conferences worldwide. With generous funding for research initiatives and conferences, CUHK LAW empowers its students to share their work globally, build a robust professional network and enhance their career development.



Chimdessa
Tsega

WHAT

Our Students Say

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 recognised university; or
- (b) a Juris Doctor (JD) degree or a Master of Laws (LLM) degree awarded by a recognised university with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above; or
- (c) an equivalent degree (including non-law related) awarded by a recognised 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 Requirements by:

- (a) possessing a degree awarded by a recognised university in Hong Kong or an English-speaking country, or taught primarily in the English Language; or
- (b) achieving a result of Band 7.5 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 600 (Paper Based Test) or 100 (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\$47,000 per year for 2026-27 and HK\$49,500 per year for 2027-28, 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 2025 at 12 noon (HKT)**

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

- **1 December 2025 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 2025**

- Clearing round: **31 March 2026[#]**

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.

You are strongly advised to apply by 1 December 2025. Most (if not all) research students are selected from the main round. A decision on your application will be made by the Faculty. If admitted, appropriate supervisors will be assigned.

This brochure contains information as at August 2025.
The University has the right at any time and from time to time to make changes in its rules, regulations and procedures.