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

FACULTY OF LAW

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS (PCLL)

2027-28











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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 celebrates 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 AI 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 PCLL programme provides essential professional training for those seeking to enter legal practice in Hong Kong. With a strong emphasis on lawyering skills, ethics, and real-world application, the programme is designed to equip students with the competence and confidence required for a meaningful, responsible and thriving legal career.

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

Chao Xi

Professor Chao Xi
Dean of CUHK LAW

Message from the Programme Directors



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.

Dennis Hie

Professor Dennis Hie
Programme Director of Postgraduate Certificate in Laws Programme



On the PCLL at CUHK LAW, we aim to prepare you for your professional life as a solicitor or barrister. You will finish the PCLL equipped and ready to undertake your training contract or pupillage.

The emphasis of your studies on the PCLL will be different from what you have experienced at undergraduate levels. Whilst you will continue to acquire new legal knowledge, the programme will also focus on the development of practitioner skills and a professional mindset. One of the aims of the programme is to help you to develop self-awareness and to understand the importance of trust in the legal profession. You will learn to present yourself to clients, other lawyers and judges as a competent, reliable and ethical practitioner.

Being professional is not something that can easily be switched on and off. It is the result of training and the development of good habits from an early stage. The PCLL will help you to develop yourself in this way and you will become accustomed to being busy and juggling multiple tasks and responsibilities.

You will already have acquired a good academic knowledge of core areas of the law. The PCLL will add to this knowledge, but will also enable you to use the law you have learned ethically and with common sense to assist your client in achieving the best outcome.

You will be encouraged to assist yourself in your professional development from the beginning of the programme. Small things matter. Make sure that you attend classes on time and learn to be simultaneously robust and courteous.

I have been teaching undergraduate and postgraduate law courses for over 25 years. One of the greatest pleasures of my job is seeing our students leave CUHK LAW ready to start their professional lives as competent lawyers. Join us at CUHK LAW and let our PCLL be the gateway to a successful future.

Jeffrey Hill

Mr Jeffrey Hill
Deputy Programme Director of Postgraduate Certificate in Laws Programme

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.

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 summarised 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 CUHK 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 the Chinese University of Hong Kong."

Clive Grossman KC, SC



Teaching and Learning

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/

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.

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 (ADR) 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!

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.

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 familiarise 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.

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 held 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.

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 CUHK Department of Chinese Language and Literature).

WRITING AND DRAFTING LITIGATION DOCUMENTS

This course is divided into two 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.



Career Support

The PCLL is the professional bridge between academic study and legal practice. Graduates typically commence training contracts with law firms or pupillage with barristers' chambers, taking the next step towards qualification as solicitors or barristers in Hong Kong.

Many of our PCLL students secure positions with leading international, regional, and local law firms, as well as highly regarded barristers' chambers, government departments, and in-house legal teams.

Professional Development and Career Support

The Faculty's Law Student Careers Team works closely with PCLL students as they prepare to enter professional practice. Through targeted career advising, recruitment support, employer networking opportunities, and professional skills training, students receive practical guidance during this important transition period.

CUHK LAW Careers Hub

CUHK LAW Careers Hub serves as a central platform connecting students, alumni, faculty members, and employers.

We focus on supporting PCLL students seeking training contracts, pupillages, and graduate legal positions. Students benefit from employer presentations, recruitment events, interview workshops, mock interviews, and networking opportunities with law firms, barristers' chambers, government departments, and corporate legal employers.

In addition, students have access to a comprehensive Legal Careers Directory, up-to-date recruitment information, and career resources designed to support their progression into legal practice. These initiatives help ensure that PCLL students are well prepared to launch successful professional careers.

Summary of employment status of PCLL graduates in the 2024-25 academic year:

- **Trainee Solicitors** **76.1%**
- **Pupil Barristers** **4.3%**
- **Legal Employment** **4.3%**
- **Department of Justice** **3.3%**
- **Non-legal Sectors** **2.2%**
- **Further Studies** **6.5%**
- **Others** **3.3%**

** These figures comprise 92 student response out of 144 graduates of the 2024-25 cohort.*

What Our Students Say

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:



Chengcheng Liu

PCLL graduate 2025-26
Morrison & Foerster

The CUHK PCLL programme has been instrumental in preparing me for the demands of a global legal practice. The curriculum strikes an excellent balance between reinforcing core legal doctrines and developing the practical skills that are essential in a fast-paced international environment.

One of the programme's greatest strengths is its emphasis on commercial law. The wide range of electives in the second semester allowed me to tailor my studies toward the work I will be doing. Courses including Drafting Commercial Documents and Lending & Finance were particularly valuable, as they provided me with a strong foundation in the drafting techniques and commercial awareness required to handle complex, multi-jurisdictional deals.

Beyond the curriculum, the interactive Small Group Sessions were a highlight of my PCLL journey. Unlike traditional lectures, these sessions provided a platform for active participation, where we could apply legal concepts to realistic scenarios — from negotiation exercises to client counselling.

The CUHK PCLL programme provides not just a qualification, but a comprehensive grounding that prepares us for the challenges and opportunities of the legal profession.

Christopher Wong

PCLL graduate 2025-26
Pupil Barrister



Currently, admission to the CUHK PCLL programme is highly sought-after by students from both local and foreign universities — and rightfully so. The programme, being one focused on practical skills, forces students to come out of their bubble and start thinking as lawyers. Without it, we would be mindlessly entering the profession, dealing with each case as if it was simply a problem question derived from a professor's imagination.

Just as each and every one of us may enter the profession different levels and practice in different areas, the PCLL allows students to customise the curriculum to fit their interests. This freedom ranges from being able to choose between procedure-heavy courses and substance-heavy courses, solicitor-specific courses and barrister-specific courses, and between assignment-heavy courses and exam-heavy courses. As such, students are able to tailor the course to fit their needs and strengths.

Faculty members, who contribute to both the lectures and tutorials, also form a large part of why the CUHK PCLL programme is enjoyable and rewarding. Small Group Sessions — with no more than 10-15 students, allow teachers to test each student on their practical skills, and provide tailored feedback in preparation for the exams. The skills that are developed and polished in these sessions, varying from drafting documents to oral advocacy, are vital to our future practice.

At CUHK LAW, you need not worry about any academic pressure; instead, focus on honing your skills, and take the courses which best suit you! After all, our friendly teachers are here to guide you through your final steps of being a law student — whilst ensuring that we produce lawyers of the highest quality.

What Our Students Say



Thomas Liu

PCLL graduate 2025-26
Clyde & Co

The CUHK PCLL programme provides rigorous preparation for the would-be legal practitioner. The programme reframes core legal knowledge learnt in undergraduate study into the practical skills needed to enter the legal industry.

The highlight of the programme lies in its teaching staff. They were knowledgeable, well-versed in the delivery of said knowledge, and eager to support the growth of their students. I had ample opportunities to raise questions and receive individualised feedback.

Furthermore, excellent mooting opportunities were available. Participation in various international mooting competitions is available as an elective subject. I found that the structured courses provide a dedicated space where practical skills such as drafting and advocacy can be practiced. My skills developed rapidly as a result of constructive feedback.

Overall, CUHK's PCLL programme provided me a solid foundation of skills, helping to bridge the gap between academic study and legal practice. I would confidently recommend CUHK's PCLL programme to any graduate looking to practice law in Hong Kong.

Alina Long

PCLL graduate 2025-26
Cocking & Co



CUHK PCLL boasts a compact structured schedule, multi-faceted teaching formats and flexible pathways for all aspiring legal practitioners.

PCLL acts as the vital bridge between law school and professional practice, and CUHK's programme fully embodies this mission. Our daily schedule is filled with pre-work, coursework and authentic legal paperwork. Sorting through voluminous documentation equip us to tackle real-world legal work demands.

Lectures paired with small-group tutorials form the backbone of our studies. This is not merely a space to absorb knowledge; it is a safe space to speak up and engage in lively, genuine legal dialogues. These close learning bonds also forge lasting friendships that will support one another throughout our professional journeys.

An extensive spectrum of practice electives is tailored to the different career aspirations of students: Bar modules including trial advocacy, conference skills and family litigation sit alongside robust commercial streams covering corporate finance, China practice and lending finance. Whether it's courtroom advocacy or commercial practice, CUHK delivers all the specialist training you need.

Beyond local legal training, CUHK PCLL empowers us to look far beyond Hong Kong and develop a truly global legal outlook as it offers a wide range of mooting opportunities to students, including the Air Law Moot. I was honoured to join our team 2025-26 and compete at its international round in Namibia, and benefit from CUHK LAW's long-standing, award-winning moot legacy built over many years.



Perry Wong

PCLL graduate 2025-26
Deacons

The CUHK PCLL programme was a challenging but very rewarding experience. What I appreciated most was its strong practical focus. Through writing and drafting training, advocacy training, and both Large Group and Small Group Sessions, the programme encouraged us to move beyond academic study and apply legal principles in realistic professional contexts.

I found the Small Group Sessions especially valuable. They were highly interactive and gave students the opportunity to engage closely with both teachers and peers. The discussions in class, together with the feedback from the teaching staff, were extremely helpful in refining both our understanding of the law and our practical skills.

Another key strength of the programme is its flexibility. While the first semester consists of compulsory modules, students are able to tailor their second semester by choosing electives from a diverse range of offerings. This allows them to pursue subjects aligned with their interests and future career aspirations. As I have a strong interest in the interaction between law and technology, I chose Legal Practice and Technology. I also valued the flexibility to represent CUHK LAW in the Leiden-Sarin International Air Law Moot Court Competition during my PCLL studies.

Looking back, my experience at CUHK PCLL has been both rewarding and enjoyable. I am very thankful to the teaching staff for their guidance and to my peers for their support throughout this journey. I would highly recommend the programme to law graduates, and I am confident that it provides a solid foundation and excellent training for aspiring legal practitioners.

Gabrielle Luk

PCLL graduate 2024-25
A&O Shearman



A year ago, I knew the law. After completing the PCLL, I have gained the skills that enable me to confidently move into practice as a lawyer. Not only does CUHK's PCLL programme equip students with the knowledge and skills needed for their future careers, it also broadens students' horizons.

The PCLL programme was the perfect segue for me to learn about the practice of law in Hong Kong, having just returned from my studies in the UK. I went in hearing rumours about how there were virtually no international students in the cohort, but this proved to be false. I've made good friends during the year, which was made possible by the intermingling of cultures and conducive environment of the PCLL programme.

What really impressed me was the quality of teaching. While different professors had varying styles of teaching, I admired each one of them for their dedication and genuine care for their students. I vividly recall when one professor stayed behind after a small group session to give us career advice, despite having delivered back-to-back classes for 8 hours. Another professor replied to my email almost instantly despite it being outside office hours, just so he could clarify a concept prior to the exam. Skipping a lecture doesn't sound so appealing when one has come to genuinely respect and admire the professors.

As the PCLL representative for the UGC visit to CUHK, I can truthfully say that the passion of the Faculty and the ambition of my peers make this programme unrivalled.

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 Common Professional Examination (CPE) or Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) 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 full-time 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).

Tuition Fees

For the 2027-28 academic year, tuition fee levels are as follows:

- UGC-funded places and Distinguished Scholarship places (for local students): HK$49,500
- UGC-funded places and Distinguished Scholarship places (for non-local students): HK$230,000
- Self-financed places: HK$242,000

When and How to Apply

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

Before submitting an application, please visit our website https://www.law.cuhk.edu.hk/app/study-with-us/pcll/ for details of the application procedure. Please note in particular the following information on that page:

- How to make your application
- Important notes to applicants

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

Contact Us

E-mail: pcll.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, China

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

This brochure contains information as at August 2026. The University has the right at any time and from time to time to make changes in its rules, regulations and procedures.



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