

FACULTY OF LAW



The birth of the Faculty of Law at the Chinese University of Hong Kong was one of the most exciting developments in legal education in Asia for many years. The Faculty is currently building on the successes of its inaugural year while maintaining its commitment to nurturing and stimulating dedicated and motivated students.

The Faculty provides general and professional education in law at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels and contributes to the development of law, the legal profession and the legal systems of Hong Kong and elsewhere by furthering the variety and scope of the region's legal studies.

Although the Faculty of Law is dedicated to providing legal education that is specifically suited to Hong Kong and its domestic needs, it recognises that Hong Kong is also a truly international hub. Therefore, the Faculty is also developing close relationships with other institutions of legal learning both regionally and internationally, including those in mainland China. Our goal is to achieve global standing in everything that we undertake.

The Faculty aims to develop in its students the professional skills and orientation necessary to enable them to adapt to changing circumstances in the workplace. It also aims to broaden perspectives of its students by exposing them to the different legal traditions in Hong Kong, mainland China and the Asia-Pacific region generally, as well as those in the wider global environment.

Students are encouraged to look behind the law to locate underlying values, purposes and policies and to place emphasis on the acquisition of transferable skills and competencies. They are expected to be able to deal with the widest possible range of situations, from the problems of ordinary citizens, business organisations and major institutions to those faced by the community as a whole.

FACULTY PROGRAMMES

The Faculty offers programmes that lead to the Bachelor of Laws degree, to the taught postgraduate degrees of Juris Doctor and Master of Laws, and to the research postgraduate degrees of Master of Philosophy in Laws and Doctor of Philosophy in Laws. Through its Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) programme, the Faculty also provides practical legal training to meet the needs of both branches of the legal profession – that is, solicitor and barrister. We also seek to integrate the laws, procedures, skills and competencies that characterise legal practice and to emphasise “learning by doing”.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME (LLB)

One of the main pillars of the Faculty is its four-year Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree programme, which addresses the need to provide school leavers with a quality legal education. By studying for the LLB, students enhance their intellectual maturity, develop an expanded outlook by viewing law in its social context, acquire the ability to deal with new situations, and gain a deeper awareness of other cultures, environments and societies.



In their first year, LLB students acquire a broad overview of the legal system in Hong Kong, an introduction to the Common Law tradition and the law of Contract and Tort, and a basic foundation in legal methods, writing and research. From their second year onwards, students expand their range of study to include the legal system of the PRC, criminal law, socio-legal research and such elective courses as Mediation, Introduction to Arbitration Theory and Practice, Refugee Assistance Clinic, Human Rights and the Law, Mooting, and many others designed to equip the students to meet the changing needs of the legal professions in the 21st century.

In addition to attending traditional lectures and tutorial classes, students are encouraged to broaden their educational experience by undertaking work placements or research activities with law-related organisations in Hong Kong or by completing educational exchanges with partner institutions in mainland China and around the world.



DOUBLE-DEGREE OPTIONS

The Faculty of Law now offers all LLB students the opportunity to obtain a double degree in Bachelor of Laws-Bachelor of Business Administration (LLB-BBA), Bachelor of Laws-Bachelor of Arts (Translation) (LLB-BA(TRA)) or Bachelor of Laws-Bachelor of Social Science (Sociology) (LLB-BSSc(Sociology)).

These double-degree options have been designed to provide students with maximum flexibility. They prepare them to apply to the PCLL programme, which is the pathway to becoming a practising lawyer in Hong Kong, while leaving the door open to other career choices. Students who decide not to pursue a second degree have the opportunity to gain a minor in a second subject, and those who need time to pursue other career options after they complete their first degree may defer the second degree for up to three years. Students are held to the same standards and requirements for the degrees in combination that they would be if they pursued them individually.

To summarise, students who elect to follow one of the double degree options may:

- (i) complete an LLB in four years;
- (ii) complete an LLB with a minor in Business Administration, Translation or Sociology,
- (iii) complete an LLB and, with one extra year of study, be awarded a BBA, BA(TRA) or BSSc(Sociology), or

- (iv) complete an LLB and then defer for up to three years a BBA, BA(TRA) or BSSc(Sociology).

The first four years of the LLB programme are government-funded; the final (fifth) year is self-financing.

These programmes will broaden and enrich the intellectual training and skills of Hong Kong's future leaders, and we anticipate that they will be highly desired by employers and extremely popular with students.

LLB ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

The intake for the 2011-12 academic year will be 65 students. Those seeking to be considered for admission to the LLB Programme must satisfy the general education requirements stipulated for admission to the University and to the LLB degree as well as demonstrate a high level of proficiency in both English and Chinese.

MORE ABOUT THE LLB PROGRAMME

The LLB Programme Brochure has more information about life as a LLB student with the Faculty of Law. Please contact the Faculty of Law or visit its website at www.law.cuhk.edu.hk/programmes/bachelor-of-laws.php for a copy of the Brochure.

