



School of Law

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong



POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS (PCLL)

法學專業證書

Professional
Legal Education for
Tomorrow's Lawyers



THE PROGRAMME

The Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) is a pre-requisite to entering the legal profession as a trainee solicitor or pupil barrister in Hong Kong. At CityUHK, our PCLL programme equips students with the practical skills, legal knowledge, and ethical foundations required to meet the professional and societal responsibilities expected of lawyers in today's world. Now approaching its fourth decade, the CityUHK PCLL has built a strong reputation for producing well-rounded, practice-ready graduates who understand their clients' needs and deliver clear, effective legal solutions.

Programme Structure

The PCLL programme is a full-time programme taught over one year starting in late August or early September.

The programme comprises compulsory courses in the following practice areas and subjects:

- Civil Litigation Practice
- Conveyancing Practice
- Corporate and Commercial Practice
- Criminal Litigation Practice
- Interlocutory Advocacy and Interviewing
- Mediation and Negotiation
- Professional Conduct and Practice
- Trial Advocacy
- Wills and Probate Practice

Students must also take electives worth 6 credit units from among the following: Bar Course; Chinese for Legal Practice; Commercial Writing and Drafting; Corporate Fundraising for Lawyers; Family Law Practice; Financial Regulatory Practice; Foundations in Mainland Related Legal Transactions; Law and Technology; and Personal Injuries Practice.

*Each elective carries 2 credit units. However, courses offered and credit units may be subject to change from time to time.

The majority of courses are taught through a variety of teaching methods including large group lectures and regular weekly small group tutorials of approximately 12 students.





Teaching

The CityUHK PCLL is taught by a team of dedicated and experienced educators, many of whom have practiced law in Hong Kong and other common law jurisdictions. As recognised experts in their respective fields, our teaching staff bring to the classroom a wealth of practical insights and professional know-how drawn from their work in chambers, law firms, corporations, and courtrooms. In addition to a strong foundation in core legal skills, the programme also reflects our awareness of the evolving role of technology in legal practice. We are continually exploring ways to introduce innovative tools, including developments in artificial intelligence, to better prepare our students for the future demands of the profession.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must satisfy **ONE** of the following to be eligible for admission:

- ▶ hold an LLB or JD degree from City University of Hong Kong, University of Hong Kong or Chinese University of Hong Kong; or
- ▶ hold an LLB or JD degree of equivalent level from a recognised overseas institution in a common law jurisdiction; or
- ▶ hold a graduate diploma in law or equivalent from a recognised institution in a common law jurisdiction; or
- ▶ hold an Advanced Diploma for Legal Executives (Graduate Level) from HKU SPACE.

Applicants must **also** supply evidence that:

- ▶ they are competent in nine core subjects (or subjects recognised as their equivalent): Contract, Tort, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Land Law, Equity, Evidence, Business Associations and Commercial Law;
- ▶ they are competent in three 'Top-up' subjects: Hong Kong Constitutional Law, Hong Kong Legal System and Hong Kong Land Law; AND
- ▶ they have obtained an overall score of 7 or above in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS - academic) from a test taken at the IELTS test centre with no more than three years before the closing date of application. This is a requirement of the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training in Hong Kong. No exemption will be permitted.

Please see the School of Law's website for details including admission requirements, application period, and tuition at <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/slwl>.

How to Apply

Apply online at <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/pg/taught-postgraduate-programmes>

Admission Enquiry

☎ +852 3442 7223

✉ lwpccl@cityu.edu.hk



MORE INFO

STUDENT TESTIMONY



Mr Kim J. MCCOY

PCLL Graduate 2015
Barrister-at-Law, Bernacchi Chambers

“ As a barrister, I found strong emphasis in advocacy extremely useful as it gave me the confidence to translate legal theory into legal application. Additionally, the skilfully taught components of legal drafting, research and negotiation gave me all confidence that upon my admission to the Hong Kong Bar, I was well prepared for any situation which may come across my desk. ”



Mr Eric NG

PCLL Graduate 2013
Barrister-at-law, Prince's Chambers

“ The CityUHK PCLL helped provide me with the practical skills required to succeed as a lawyer. Their teachers were primarily focused on practical situations, and combined academic knowledge with real-life experience to deliver focused education for the real world. Overall, I am very satisfied with my choice of CityUHK for the PCLL programme and I believe that it is fundamental for the success of any new law graduate. ”



Mr Jacky LAU Ka Wai

PCLL Graduate 2023
Trainee Solicitor, Chiu, Szeto & Cheng Solicitors

“ Regarding the lecturers and tutors, I was impressed and surprised to find that most of them are experienced practicing solicitors or barristers. Some have even held positions as prosecutors, magistrates, in various government sectors, or from prestige international law firms in Hong Kong. They offer an invaluable reservoir of practical wisdom, which could never be obtained from textbooks or case law alone, thus ensuring students are well-prepared for their roles in the legal industry. ”

“ Reflecting on my time in the CityUHK PCLL program fills me with immense gratitude and appreciation for the comprehensive legal education it provided. The curriculum's firm grounding in practical legal skills has been invaluable. From my beginnings as a trainee solicitor, progressing to become a funds lawyer, and now serving as an in-house counsel, the curriculum has been directly applicable to my daily responsibilities, especially in terms of commercial legal drafting, corporate law and financial regulatory law. ”



Ms Vivian TANG

PCLL Graduate 2016
Legal & Compliance

CONTACT US / PCLL Programme Team

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