

法律 CUHK
LAW

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
香港中文大學

FACULTY OF LAW

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS (PCLL)

2021-22





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WELCOME

Lutz-Christian
Wolff



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 since then. 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 50 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.

Our PCLL programme is delivered by highly qualified teachers with many years of experience in private practice and in legal education. We focus on topical issues of great practical relevance so as to prepare our PCLL students for successful legal careers in the increasingly globalized and digitized legal arena. Highly interactive skills training modules, which incorporate drafting, negotiation, presentation and alternative dispute settlement exercises ensure that students get a real on-the-job experience. We are constantly updating our PCLL courses and teaching patterns in order to respond swiftly to the latest developments. Our PCLL students are able to take advantage of a sophisticated career development scheme which allows them to identify, assess and exploit career options with great success. Our PCLL graduates are in high demand and many have joined top international and local law firms or have assumed leadership positions in business organizations, government agencies or other entities.

We are CUHK LAW! If you are ready for an elite legal training scheme to get qualified in Hong Kong then join our PCLL programme.

Professor Lutz-Christian Wolff
Wei Lun Professor of Law
Dean, Faculty of Law



Christopher
Knight

To be an effective legal practitioner you need more than a good academic foundation. You have to learn how to apply your knowledge of the law to the problems and situations people encounter in everyday life.

I was the senior partner of a local law firm for over twenty-five years. In my experience, trainee solicitors were much more effective in their work if they had already acquired some basic legal skills before they began their training contracts.

The PCLL programme at CUHK bridges the gap in the transition from being a law student to a practising lawyer. The course will equip you to be an effective member of a team of legal practitioners, from the first day of your training contract or pupillage.

You will be taught in both large group sessions and small group sessions. The large group sessions will introduce you to key legal principles and skills.

In the small group sessions it is over to you. You will get first-hand experience by performing practical exercises both in groups and individually. These will be in compulsory subjects such as criminal and civil litigation practice and also in elective subjects such as trial advocacy, alternative dispute resolution and drafting. Your performance will be reviewed by our team of experienced teachers. Most have been practising lawyers and several are still in practice. They will give you constructive advice on how to improve the skills you have learned.

The teaching will be supplemented by talks given by distinguished guest speakers, including judges and also lawyers acknowledged as experts in their areas of practice.

You will find the training intensive, demanding but also rewarding. When you have completed the programme, you will have acquired the practical skills and knowledge of correct professional practice to commence your term as a pupil barrister or trainee solicitor.

We are CUHK LAW! Join us, and let our PCLL Programme be the gateway to your future success.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Knight
Programme Director of Postgraduate Certificate in Laws Programme

The PCLL is the vocational stage of training and provides transition between the academic stage of the qualification process and your training contract/pupillage. In your law degree, you have learnt the legal principles as an academic subject. During the PCLL, you learn how to apply legal principles in a practical setting. The tasks you carry out during the PCLL look very much like the tasks that would be asked of a trainee solicitor or pupil barrister.

There is a significant emphasis on learning the skills you need for practice, so that you "learn by doing". You will role play client interviews, make applications to court, draft letters of advice and formal legal documents. The opportunity to practise these skills in a classroom setting is invaluable - where your performance can be reviewed in an impartial and constructive way. It will make attempting the same in the harsher light of practice much less daunting. Law will constantly evolve - it's the transferable skills and ability to self-learn that will propel you forward.

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 encourage student participation. We challenge students to think about the topic at hand, and to create a safe environment for people to share their thoughts - to help everyone feel valued about the input they've offered.

I have had the pleasure of teaching CUHK PCLL program since its inception and take pride in CUHK's friendly and supportive learning environment. I look forward to welcoming you to our program - we are here to help you flourish, not just in your academic studies, but to ensure you hit the ground running at the start of your training contract or pupillage. Join us at CUHK, Hong Kong's most vibrant and dynamic Faculty of Law.

Yours sincerely,

Dennis Hie
Deputy Programme Director of Postgraduate Certificate in Laws Programme



Dennis
Hie

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.



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, we have numerous practitioners come in to give one-on-one feedback on students' recorded advocacy performances. 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.


TEACHING

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/>



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 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!

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 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.

FAMILY LAW PRACTICE

This 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 practice their learnt skills in a supervised manner.

In this course, students will have an opportunity to understand the legal and procedural requirements for entering into marriage in Hong Kong along with the legal and procedural requirements 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 discussed in detail.

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 the Faculty of Law and the other from the Department of Chinese Language and Literature).

WRITING AND DRAFTING LITIGATION DOCUMENTS

This course is divided into 2 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. 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.



We deliver the PCLL in the CUHK Graduate Law Centre (GLC). This is on the second floor of the Bank of America Tower in Central. The GLC is in the heart of Hong Kong's central business district. It is thus in amongst its major law firms and companies, and a stone's throw from the High Court. The GLC is equipped with facilities designed to optimise your learning experience. It has, for instance:

- the Warren Chan Moot Court, in which students practise advocacy skills.
- interactive lecture theatres and classrooms. These are all equipped with state-of-the-art facilities.
- an open student common area and a computer laboratory with online PCs for student use.
- breakout rooms for student study and discussion.
- Wifi internet access.

In addition, the Faculty has substantial resources on its main campus in Shatin. The facilities on the main campus are similar to those of the GLC. The main campus also houses the Lee Quo Wei Law Library, which PCLL students are welcome to use. The Lee Quo Wei Law Library contains one of the fastest-growing law collections in Asia. It has around 131,400 volumes of books, bound periodicals and other materials on law and law-related subjects. The Lee Quo Wei Law Library provides seating for students in a mix of individual study desks, open plan tables and 8 group study rooms. The Lee Quo Wei Law Library also contains 38 PC's and a fully wireless network for use by students with their own laptops. This collection is complemented by a growing array of online sources,

over 6,000 e-journal titles, 104 law databases, as well as the interdisciplinary collections housed by the Chinese University of Hong Kong Library. The Learning Garden, located at LG/F of the University Library opens 24 x 7 for most of the year. The Research Commons at 1/F of the University Library is an area for research and collaborative activities for postgraduate students.

PCLL students will also have access to the Legal Resources Centre (LRC). The LRC is a service point of the Lee Quo Wei Law Library. It serves the legal information needs of the students and teachers at the GLC. It contains multiple copies of essential texts for courses run at the GLC, a small reference collection and various sets of case law and legislation. The essential texts are drawn from the main collection of the Lee Quo Wei Law Library and rotate in and out of the LRC according to the courses offered at the GLC each term. Students may request delivery of other books from the Lee Quo Wei Law Library free of charge. The 104 law databases for student use can be accessed from the PC facilities at the GLC, LRC, on campus and from home or other locations.

Library resources aside, PCLL students are also entitled to use the University sports facilities on campus and the University Health Service.

FACILITIES AND RESOURCES



BROADER EDUCATION AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES AT CUHK

While studying at the Graduate Law Centre in Central, you may use the sporting and recreational facilities at the main campus in Shatin. You will also have the opportunity to join in a wide range of activities at the GLC itself.

You may attend various talks that are given on a variety of subjects outside the scope of the PCLL Programme. In particular, there are many career talks given throughout the year by leading law firms and barristers' chambers.

Mooting has always been a popular activity among PCLL students. They regularly form part of the Jessup Moot competition teams. This experience is excellent preparation for legal practice.

At the end of the course, PCLL students arrange a graduation party, at a venue of their choice. This popular event marks the successful completion of a demanding but rewarding course.



Mr. Paul Mitchard QC
Director of Career Planning and Professionalism

After graduating from the PCLL, most of our students move on to careers in legal practice, many in top firms and barristers' chambers. Some graduates choose to go into government or industry. Others remain in academia. Their achievements are testimony to their hard work and the quality of their education.

CAREER SUCCESS & CAREERS FACILITIES

LAW STUDENT CAREERS OFFICE

The Careers Programme

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 QC, 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 the 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 and on internships and other employment opportunities for students. The VCRC website also notifies careers seminars and other events as well as providing students with information on matters such as job applications and CV preparation and with a wide range of other career-related resources designed to ensure that Faculty of 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 Law Faculty alumni in their chosen field for career guidance and help with achieving the level of professionalism which many employers require.

Summary of employment status of PCLL graduates in the 2018-19 academic year:

• Trainee Solicitors	85.3%
• Pupil Barristers	7.3%
• Legal Employment	3.7%
• Further Studies	2.8%
• Others	0.9%

* These figures comprise 109 student responses out of 150 graduates of the 2018-19 cohort.

COMMENTS FROM CUHK PCLL GRADUATES

We hope our students' association with our Faculty 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:



"The CUHK PCLL programme offers a multitude of subjects and interactive elements to prepare students for real-life practice.

The programme is divided into two parts - compulsory and electives. This gives students a solid foundation in essential legal knowledge, while making it possible for each student to pursue their own interests. In both parts, students get to learn about the fundamental knowledge of the subject in a lecture, followed by a small group session where students and their tutor discuss various legal questions. I found this mixed teaching method to be really helpful, in consolidating both theoretical and practice legal knowledge and skills. This was particularly so in subjects that involved elements of advocacy; where I had many chances to speak in front of an audience, receive feedback on my performance, and watch my classmates' doing the same.

Apart from studying, I had a wonderful time meeting the teachers and also classmates from various universities who were very supportive of each other. The excellent location of the campus and its facilities were a bonus to my student life. Its convenient location in Admiralty made it easy to access books and other resources. The on-site computer, printing and library facilities were also very helpful to my studies.

I greatly enjoyed my time at CUHK PCLL and I thank all my classmates, teachers and other CUHK PCLL staff members, for giving me such a smooth and enjoyable legal study experience.

I highly recommend this programme to all law graduates."

Rachel Chiu
PCLL graduate 2019-20
LLM student at the University of Cambridge



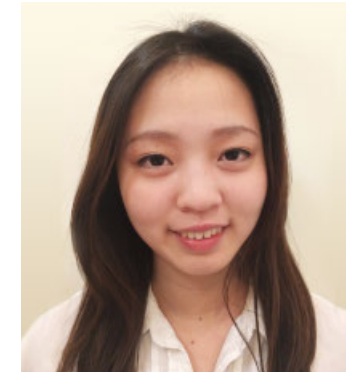
"The CUHK PCLL Programme provides comprehensive, practical training for aspiring lawyers. In the first semester, students are required to take courses on essential areas of law in Hong Kong. This is useful for both students who would become trainee solicitors or pupil barristers. The Programme then offers a wide range of elective courses in the second semester, which enables students to choose courses in accordance with their specific needs and intended career path.

As the PCLL focuses on the practical side more than the theoretical side, merely attending lectures without much practice may be difficult for students to acquire a true understanding of the subject matter. This is where the small group sessions become vital, as they provide students with the opportunities to work on cases that resemble real-life situations, in a highly interactive environment. Small group sessions are where students can truly test and apply their knowledge.

I would also like to thank CUHK LAW for their amazing efforts in ensuring that the implementation of online teaching was as smooth as possible. It was an enormous challenge for a course like Trial Advocacy, but the Faculty did an excellent job.

Looking back, the PCLL Programme was a pleasant experience and I would recommend it to anyone who seeks to enter the legal profession."

Zavier To
PCLL graduate 2019-20
Pupil Barrister



"I have thoroughly enjoyed my PCLL experience at CUHK. The programme offers an array of electives and is thoughtfully designed to cater to the needs of every student, regardless of his or her chosen career path. CUHK LAW also provides its students with an extensive range of online databases. These cover Hong Kong law, English law and other Commonwealth legal systems. These resources have been very helpful for my studies.

I am grateful for the Programme's supportive teachers, who go out of their way to make the curriculum interesting and accessible for their students. The PCLL teachers adopt an "open-door policy" and actively encourage their students to ask questions. They are patient and always willing to explain concepts in further detail. They also adopt a practical approach in their teaching, guiding us in the transition from academic study to practice.

The PCLL Programme's non-teaching faculty members were also incredibly accommodating and efficient. Despite the unexpected Covid-19 outbreak, the Faculty nevertheless coordinated online lectures, small groups and exams. It was due to their well-organised and swift arrangements, that we could seamlessly continue our learning from home and complete the PCLL in time, prior to the start of our training contracts.

I highly recommend the CUHK PCLL to any graduating law student."

Claudia Quek
PCLL graduate 2019-20
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP



"In a nutshell, the PCLL at CUHK bridges the gap between basic legal education and real-life legal practice. The PCLL Programme is the first opportunity for students to apply their hard-earned technical knowledge to practical scenarios. Students deepen their understanding of the law through interactive, realistic exercises that put their drafting and advocacy skills to the test. This imparts students with the confidence to embark on their legal careers, and is certainly one of the most enjoyable years of legal education for well-equipped students.

Another important aspect of the PCLL is the level of interaction students are exposed to. Participating in small-group learning sessions is not only a more effective way to learn, it also enables interaction with experienced tutors and your fellow students from various educational and cultural backgrounds. This offers a great atmosphere that is conducive to learning and networking.

The PCLL is also a great time for expanding your extracurricular involvements at law school. In particular, students are offered the opportunity to participate in international moot competitions. The Vis Moot, for example, focuses on international arbitration and international commercial law. There is no better way to meet law students and practitioners from around the world, learn about new areas of the law, and develop your advocacy skills and confidence."

Ferdinand Loo
PCLL graduate 2019-20
Morrison & Foerster

"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 summarized in 3 Cs – Courteous, Confident and Competitive."

Huen Wong JP
Past President
The Law Society of Hong Kong

COMMENTS FROM THE PROFESSIONS

"I have had the pleasure of being the mentor for a number of Chinese U 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 Chinese University."

Clive Grossman
Senior Counsel



"The CUHK PCLL Programme is an exciting and inspiring journey. It serves as a bridge between the LLB Programme and legal practice. Throughout the year, teachers emphasize the importance of understanding our client and having commercial awareness. Not only do we have to be familiar with the legal concepts and theories, we must also be practical in our legal advice. The five core courses in the first semester provide all-round training. In the second semester, we can have a choice according to our interests.

The courses equip us with necessary skills, including drafting and advocacy. In small group sessions, we had the opportunity to draft court documents and clauses in agreements. We also did client pitches, pleas in mitigation of sentence and applications for injunctions. The student-to-teacher ratio in small group sessions is low. We got individual feedback from experienced professors who were formerly practitioners. The classmates were supportive and friendly. We learnt from each other.

The academic year of 2019 to 2020 was full of uncertainty, but the Faculty tried to ensure minimum impact on our studies. Classes were still interactive even though we attended lectures at home. We were assigned to breakout rooms during class for different tasks. Teachers entered the breakout rooms and joined our discussions.

I enjoyed the CUHK PCLL Programme and I am proud of being a member of this big family; CUHK LAW."

Candy Cheng
PCLL graduate 2019-20
Reed Smith Richards Butler

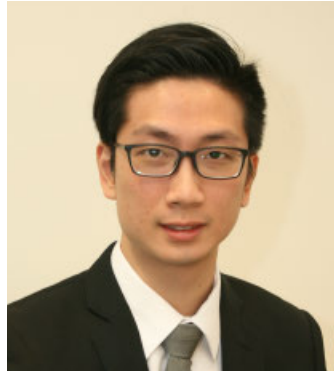


"By offering a variety of specialized and focused electives, the PCLL Programme at CUHK provides students with a valuable opportunity to acquire practical skills through doing hands-on work: from drafting correspondence and commercial agreements, to advocacy training. The structured programme provides an ideal platform to prepare students for the steep learning-curve ahead and for the types of work expected from them.

The small class setting, during the small group sessions, makes learning truly interactive. As experienced practitioners themselves, the course instructors are eager to share with us their professional experience. They would use their practical knowledge to provide us with feedback on our work. This allows us to be better prepared for the challenges in legal practice.

The PCLL Programme was an enjoyable experience, and I would like to thank all Faculty members and classmates who have been very supportive during this year-long journey."

Nicole Liang
PCLL graduate 2018-19
Deacons



"The CUHK PCLL Programme has a comprehensive and flexible curriculum, that equips students with essential skills for their future careers as trainee solicitors or as pupil barristers. It offers students with all-round training in different core practice areas in the first semester. In the second semester, the Faculty offers a great variety of electives, so students may tailor their training for their intended areas of future practice. The whole curriculum is well-designed to cover important aspects of legal practice, as well as to cater for the needs of different individuals in their career development.

The professors at CUHK have in-depth experience in the legal profession and guide students to grasp the essence of different practice areas. The small groups are highly interactive. Students are assigned legal tasks that closely resemble those they will encounter in the real world. Tutors also provide timely feedback in small group sessions. They are willing to spend their personal time after class to answer students' questions. The Faculty also has close connections with the legal profession. This enables students to meet with current legal practitioners in workshops and networking sessions.

After completing the CUHK PCLL Programme, I feel I am well-prepared to handle the tasks I will be assigned as a trainee solicitor."

Isaac Lam
PCLL graduate 2018-19
Clifford Chance



"The CUHK PCLL programme provides excellent training for aspiring practitioners. The courses are well-structured and address various aspects of legal practice. They are in-depth, but at the same time commercially focused, pragmatic and mirror real-life challenges. These factors are of great importance to students, who do not have practical experience. Regardless of whether students aim to become solicitors or barristers, the courses are able to fulfil all their needs.

The teachers at CUHK are extremely approachable and their wealth of experience enriches the content of the courses. They are passionate about sharing their knowledge and experiences, especially in the small group sessions. In addition, students have opportunities to meet judges from all levels of courts during the course.

Students will also have ample opportunities to join different kinds of activities after joining the Faculty, including international mooting competitions where they will receive invaluable training. The Faculty has received numerous awards in different competitions, and it is willing to put resources into training its students. In particular, certain mooting competitions such as the "Vis Moot" allow students to meet and learn from alumni who are former members of mooting teams. This enables them to expand their networks, besides gaining valuable mooting advice and experience."

Samuel Leung
PCLL graduate 2018-19
Judicial Assistant of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal



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 CPEs or GDLs.

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 based on their academic merit, supplemented by evidence of law-related 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) with an overall score of 7 or above taken on a date which is not earlier than three years preceding the closing date for applications in the academic year in which applicants are seeking entry to the PCLL.

TUITION FEES*

For the 2020-21 academic year, tuition fee levels are as follows:

- UGC-funded places and Distinguished Scholarship places (for local students): HK\$42,100
- UGC-funded places and Distinguished Scholarship places (for non-local students): HK\$145,000
- Self-financed places: HK\$193,800

Fee levels for the 2021-22 academic year are to be announced.

* Subject to annual review

WHEN AND HOW TO APPLY

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

Before submitting an application, please visit our website <http://www.law.cuhk.edu.hk> for details of the application procedure.

Please note in particular the following two links on that page:

- How to make your application.
- Important notes to applicants.

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

CONTACT US

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This brochure contains information as at September 2020. 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