City University of Hong Kong
School of Law
LLMArbDR Programme

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is the LLMArbDR Programme recognized by the relevant professional institutions in Hong Kong and the United Kingdom?

A: Upon completion of the LLMArbDR Programme and subject to fulfilling certain requirements, graduates are eligible to apply for Professional Recognition both within and outside of Hong Kong, including:

1. Membership of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCIArb);
2. Fellowship of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb) (subject to completing peer interview as required by the CIArb);
3. Associateship of the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators (AHKIArb);
4. Fellowship of the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators (FHKIArb);
5. Accredited General Mediator of the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited (HKMAAL) (subject to completing Stage 2 and Stage 3 requirements as stipulated by the HKMAAL Mediation Accreditation Committee);
6. CPD points awarded by the Law Society of Hong Kong.

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<th>CIArb Module/ Course Title</th>
<th>Equivalent Module/ Unit</th>
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<td><strong>Introduction</strong> Mediation, Arbitration, International Arbitration, Adjudication</td>
<td>LW6401 Dispute Resolution in Theory and Practice</td>
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<td><strong>Module 1</strong> Laws of Obligations &amp; Civil Evidence</td>
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<td><strong>Module 1</strong> Commercial Mediation Training</td>
<td>LW6406 Mediation Practice (leading to HKMAAL Stage 1 certification)#</td>
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<td><strong>Module 2</strong> Law of Arbitration</td>
<td>LW6405 Arbitration Law</td>
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<td><strong>Module 2</strong> Law of International Arbitration</td>
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<td><strong>Module 3</strong> Practice, Procedure, Drafting &amp; Deciding</td>
<td>LW6407 Arbitration Practice and Award Writing</td>
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<td><strong>Module 4</strong> Awarding Writing</td>
<td>LW6409B Advanced Award Writing##</td>
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(We are in the process of the membership renewal with CIArb, the updated equivalent modules will be announced once the renewal is finished.)
∞ students are eligible to apply for membership of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators only when they reached 55% in both coursework and exam in introductory, module 1 & 2 courses.
△ In order to meet the requirements of Module 4 of the CIArb, students must obtain a minimum mark of 70% in the assessment (the final exam), which will be by a written report (i.e. a Final Arbitral Award) in LW6409B Advanced Award Writing.

# Please note candidates must still pass the CIArb Module 2 assessment to become Accredited CIArb mediators. This Module allows them exemption from CIArb Module 1 Mediation only.

## Please note candidates must obtain 70% or more in order to obtain Module 4: Awarding Writing exemption. Students still have to pass peer-review to obtain the FCIArb.

* (a) Attendance on the CityU PGD/LLMArbDR Programme (where the student passes the examination) will qualify for exemption from the Entry Course Examination for Associateship of HKIArb; and

(b) Successfully passing the CityU PGD/LLMArbDR examinations will qualify for exemption from all the academic requirements for Fellowship of HKIArb and will confer eligibility for entry to the Fellowship course of HKIArb and exemption from taking the award writing part of the said course of HKIArb.

^ Completion of LW6406 Mediation Practice would lead to stage 1 requirements as stipulated by the HKMAAL Mediation Accreditation Committee

Q: What is the teaching mode for the LLMArbDR Programme? How many lectures and lecture hours will be conducted in a week?

A: LLMArbDR Programme is taught in the combined evening mode with most of the classes normally held on weekday evenings between 7:00 - 9:50 pm (10:50 pm if required), usually for 2-3 evening classes per week. If students opt to take the fast-track evening curriculum, the weekday classes will be increased to 4-5 evenings per week. There may be some weekend classes.

Q: How many courses do the LLMArbDR students need to enrol in each semester? Any flexibility for them in the course enrollment if they like to choose in accordance with their own pace of study?

A: LLMArbDR students can enrol in courses to a total between 3 and 18 credit units in different semesters (except the Summer Term) without seeking approval from the University. Non-local students who hold student visas should normally enrol at least 12 credit units in each semester (except the Summer Term), which is the minimum full-time credit unit load.

Q: I have a legal background. Can I be exempted from some courses in the LLMArbDR Programme?

A: Students holding a law degree from a Hong Kong or other common law jurisdiction, or
the Postgraduate Certificate in Hong Kong Law (PGCHKL) at City University of Hong Kong, or equivalent are exempted from “LW5303 Commercial Contracts” and “LW5400 Legal Concepts”. Apart from the basic requirement of 3 credit units of electives, these students are required to take 3 more credit units of electives from an approved list of electives (to be notified)."

Q: Does the School of Law offer any on-line courses for the LLMArbDR Programme? Is there any attendance requirement for the face-to-face teaching courses in the programme?

A: Students must meet the attendance requirement of 100% for “LW6406 Mediation Practice” and “LW6409B Advanced Award Writing”. There is no attendance requirement for rest of LLMArbDR courses under the programme level. We always encourage students attending all classes. Please note that it is the students' own responsibility to attend every class and examination during the teaching and examination periods.

Q: My academic qualification is obtained from an institution in Mainland China. What is the minimum English proficiency requirement that I need to achieve in order to meet the admission requirements for the LLMArbDR Programme?

A: Applicants graduated from an institution where the medium of instruction is not English must achieve the following English proficiency requirement:

- TOEFL 595 (paper-based test) / 97 (internet-based test) / 70 (revised paper-delivered test) or above; or
- IELTS 6.5; or
- Mainland China’s College English Test (CET) Band 6 score 520 or above; or
- Other equivalent qualifications.

(The School has stipulated a validity period of three years for results of the above tests. Applicants are required to provide their English test results obtained within the three years preceding the commencement of the University's application period.)

Q: What are the graduation requirements for the LLMArbDR Programme? Is there any intermediate award? If yes, what are the requirements for the intermediate award?

A: Students who have successfully completed the LLMArbDR Programme and got a minimum CGPA of 2.0 will earn a Master of Laws in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution degree. Those students who have successfully completed all required taught courses with a CGPA of 2.0 or above and elected not to pursue the dissertation or its equivalent for the Master's degree are eligible for the intermediate award of Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution.

Q: I have obtained both LLB and LLM qualifications. Can I apply for credit transfer for appropriate courses in the LLMArbDR Programme?

A: Application for credit transfer for appropriate courses will be considered by the School after a student has formally enrolled in our Programme. Once the University
application period for Credit Transfer opens, normally in July-August, students who submit an application for credit transfer would be required to demonstrate that the level of course(s) they have taken in other programmes is comparable to the course(s) in the LLMArbDR Programme. Please refer to the “Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees” for more details.

Q: Do I need to apply for a student visa?

A: If you hold any of the following documents issued by the Hong Kong Immigration Department, you do not need to apply for a student visa:

- “Permanent Hong Kong Identity Card” (as distinguished from a “Hong Kong Identity Card”)
- dependent visa
- full-time employment visa/work permit (for part-time study)
- one-way permit for entry to Hong Kong
- entry visa/entry permit for quality migrants
- entry visa/entry permit for capital investment entrants

If you do not hold any of these documents, you will need a student visa or entry permit issued by the Hong Kong Immigration Department to study in Hong Kong. For further information, please consult the website of the Hong Kong Immigration Department (Website: https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/index.html).