

MASTER OF LAWS (LLM)



Programme Brochure



School of Law

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong



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the City University of Hong Kong

Message from Our Dean

I am delighted that you are considering applying to the Master of Laws programme at City University of Hong Kong School of Law (CityU Law). You are joining us at a time of global challenges and opportunities as we offer a legal education fit for the 21st century.

Established in 1987, CityU Law offers quality education to undergraduate and postgraduate students. Our school is an internationally recognized center for the research and teaching of law; a school that fosters global knowledge, skills and perspectives in our students while maintaining a close link with local and international legal establishments. These goals are reflected in the composition of our faculty and our curricula.

Our School is staffed by a stellar international and multicultural faculty that is highly regarded globally, and bring a diversity of expertise and strengths. We have established expertise in a wide range of fields including Chinese law, comparative law, Hong Kong Basic Law, commercial law, constitutional law, human rights, criminal justice, WTO law, law and technology, international trade and investment law, international economic law, arbitration and alternative dispute resolution. You will therefore have a broad and diverse menu of courses to choose from.

As an indicator of our academic reputation, we have for more than a decade collaborated with the Supreme People's Court of the PRC and its National Judges College to admit Chinese judges to our Master of Laws (LLM) programme and to offer



Professor Tan Cheng-Han, SC
Dean & Chair Professor of Commercial Law
School of Law

a tailor-made Doctor of Juridical Science (JSD) programme for senior Chinese judges, while a short-term and highly specialized programme is also organized for other Chinese senior judges. The presence of these mainland judges in our School offers an exceptional opportunity to our students for a fruitful exchange of views as well as a well-informed understanding of the current Chinese legal system and its development which is invaluable given the importance of legal work in China to lawyers in Hong Kong and beyond.

Recognizing the high quality of the CityU Law, the Times Higher Education World University Rankings for Law ranked the school within the top 25. We are committed to providing you with an intellectually rigorous and relevant LLM programme and it is my hope that I will personally be able to welcome you as a student at the CityU Law.

Message from Our Programme Director

Graduate legal education is a significant aspect of our Law School. Since introducing its LLM programme in 1995, CityU Law has endeavored to provide the best legal education for our students to cope with the challenges in the modern legal practice. Rooted in the tradition of Chinese law and common law, CityU LLM Programme also helps students to develop expertise in international economic law, corporate law, commercial law, intellectual property, and technology law. Currently, we offer five specialized streams in International Economic Law, Corporate and Commercial Law, Intellectual Property and Technology Law, Common Law, and Chinese and Comparative Law. Alternatively, you can tailor your own LLM programme by selecting from all available courses offered.

Students from all over the world join us to gain a better understanding of the Asian perspective of law and to experience life in Hong Kong, one of the most dynamic and cosmopolitan cities in the world. In addition to the outstanding faculty at CityU, we also invite top scholars from around the world as well as practitioners from the region to offer courses for our students. The diversity of our faculty and course offering demonstrate our commitment to provide cutting-edge legal education. It is my sincere hope that you will consider to join us for a splendid year of master study at CityU Law.



Dr Lauren Yu-Hsin Lin

LLM Programme Director
School of Law



Why Join CityU LLM?

Following the development of China's economic and legal reform, its accession to the World Trade Organization, the transformation of the Asian economy and the globalization of the world's economy, the demand for more lawyers with advanced legal education has increased. The professional demand for international lawyers with sophisticated legal skills and knowledge to execute international business transactions, participate in sound dispute resolution methods, promote sustainable development as well as contribute to the digital economy and cultural/scientific exchanges is expanding. The CityU LLM Programme is dynamic in meeting the society and the world's needs. It provides local and overseas students the opportunities to learn the professional skills and knowledge necessary to become an integral part of the emerging Asian economy. The programme permits students to structure their legal studies to design their own career goals. In particular, our comprehensive educational programme provides students the chance to write a publishable thesis, learn essential professional legal skills, hone them in a professional setting and study a variety of courses offered each semester.

Specialised Streams

International Economic Law Stream

deals with international legal issues concerning business transactions and economic development with a particular emphasis on problems relating to different jurisdictions.

Intellectual Property and Technology Law Stream

explores cutting-edge issues relating to copyright, patent, trademark, design, trade secret and cyberspace.

Chinese and Comparative Law Stream

focuses on a comparative understanding of the legal framework in China.

Corporate and Commercial Law Stream

focuses on legal issues concerning corporations, finance and business with practical importance in the regional and international markets.

Common Law Stream

provides students with an opportunity to study the origins, practices, values, principles and theories of common law, and equips students with legal skills of comparing common and civil law systems and methods.

General Stream

provides students with the opportunity to study any topics in which they may be interested.

Cooperation with Overseas Universities

CityU Law operates collaborative programmes with the following overseas universities:

- Aix-Marseille University (France)
- Université de Fribourg (Switzerland)
- University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (France)

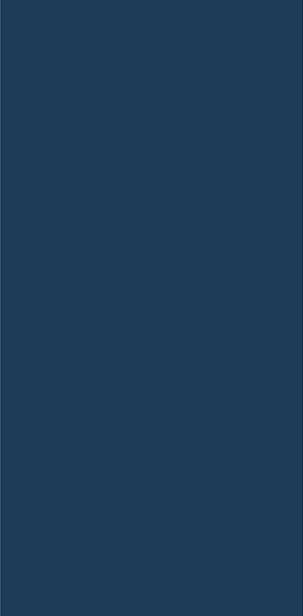
Selected students will study at these partner universities and obtain one postgraduate degree from CityU and one from the partner university, where the designated study-loads at the institutions are successfully discharged.



Cooperation with the Supreme People's Court of the PRC

CityU Law also collaborates with the National Judges College and the Supreme People's Court of the PRC to provide advanced legal education to Chinese judges. A number of Chinese judges are selected to study in the Common Law stream of the LLM programme at CityU.





Mode of Programme and Class Schedule

Local students taking programmes in combined mode can attend full-time (12-18 credit units per semester) or part-time (no more than 11 credit units per semester) study in different semesters without seeking approval from the University.

For non-local students, they will be admitted to these programmes for either full-time or part-time studies. Non-local students must maintain the required credit load for their full-time or part-time studies and any changes will require approval from the University.

Classes are held during daytime. Classes may be offered in weekday evenings / Saturdays in special cases. CityU Law does not guarantee to offer weekday-evening or weekend classes to LLM students enrolled in the combined mode or part-time mode.



Duration of Programme

The programme can normally be completed in 1 year for full-time study mode and 2 years for combined study mode.

The maximum study period for full-time students is 2.5 years and for combined mode students is 5 years.



Award Requirements

Students who complete the LLM programme requirement of 24 credit units and achieve a cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.0 or better will receive the degree of Master of Laws (LLM).



Admission

Entrance Requirements

To be eligible for admission, applicants must satisfy the General Entrance Requirements and the following programme-specific entrance requirements: *

- holding an honours degree in law or equivalent qualification; or
- having been admitted for professional practice of law in Hong Kong or other jurisdictions; or
- having obtained either a Common Professional Examination (CPE) of the United Kingdom or Hong Kong with satisfactory results, provided that a second class honours degree has also been obtained; or
- having obtained a Postgraduate Certificate in Hong Kong Law or Master of Arts/Laws in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution;

English Proficiency

For applicants whose entrance qualification is obtained from an institution where the medium of instruction is not English, the minimum English language proficiency requirement is as follows: ^

- a minimum total score of 595 (paper-based test); or 97 (internet-based test); or 70 (revised paper-delivered test; sum of Reading, Listening and Writing section scores) in TOEFL; or
- an overall band score of 6.5 in IELTS; or
- a score of 520 in the Mainland China's College English Test (CET) Band 6; or
- other equivalent qualifications.

Application Deadlines

Non-local: 14 May 2021
Local: 30 June 2021

* An applicant who holds a legal qualification from a common law jurisdiction will not be eligible to enrol in the Common Law Stream.

^ TOEFL and IELTS scores are considered valid for two years. Applicants are required to provide their TOEFL / IELTS test results obtained within the two years preceding the commencement of the University's application period. For CET-6 scores, the validity period is three years.

Career Prospects

The LLM Programme has hundreds of graduates working locally and worldwide, including the United States, France, Italy, Germany, China and Singapore. In Hong Kong alone our graduates are working in governmental offices, law firms, non-governmental organizations and corporations. Our alumni network offers the potential of enriching your educational and professional opportunities.

Student Life

CityU offers the opportunity to study law with students from all over the world. Students from Austria, Belgium, Portugal, Russia, Switzerland, Taiwan and Thailand participate in the programme. The student body is composed of law students, attorneys, corporate executives, journalists and professionals from other law related disciplines.

Students can enjoy numerous shops, restaurants, movie theatres and even ice-skating in Festival Walk, one of the largest shopping mall in Hong Kong. The mall is conveniently located just across the street from the campus. Transportation is easy and convenient from the campus, as our stop, Kowloon Tong, serves as the transportation hub for downtown Central, Kowloon and the New Territories. Via the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) students can easily find themselves downtown in about 20 minutes. Downtown diversions include Lan Kwai Fong and Soho. Lan Kwai Fong provides the territory with the latest and most modern bar restaurants and discothèques. Soho, close by in the mid-levels, is a mellower alternative, located next to the longest escalator in the world, providing quiet and down to earth cafés and restaurants.



Course List

International Economic Law Stream

International Finance: Law and Regulation
International Investment Law
International Taxation*
World Trade Law*
Transnational Legal Problems
Investor-State Dispute Settlement*
International Economic Law and Relations*
Private International Law

Corporate and Commercial Law Stream

Company Law
Cross-Border Restructuring and Insolvency
Comparative Corporate Governance
Capital and Securities Market Regulation
International Finance: Law and Regulation
Corporate Finance
Deals
Banking and Financial Law*
Chinese and Comparative Company Law

Intellectual Property and Technology Law Stream

Law and Technology
Selected Issues on Chinese IP Law
Entertainment Law
Computer Coding for Lawyers*
International and Comparative Law of Copyright, Designs and Allied Rights
International and Comparative Law of Trade Marks and Patents
Intellectual Property: Law, Practice and Procedure
Business Intellectual Property

Common Law Stream

Constitutional Law
Introduction to Common Law System and Methodology
Law of Contract
Law of Tort

Chinese and Comparative Law Stream

Selected Issues on Chinese IP Law
Constitutional and Administrative Law of China
Chinese and Comparative Environmental Law
Chinese and Comparative Company Law
Chinese Law of Obligations
Chinese Foreign Trade and Investment Law
Chinese and Comparative Competition Law
Law and Society in China

Other Courses

Advanced Legal Research Methodology	Theory and Practice of Comparative Law
Jurisprudence and Political Theories	Dissertation
Common Law System, Reasoning & Methodology	Business Torts
Court Internship	Equity and Trusts
Judgment-writing: Principles and Practice	Medical Law and Ethics
Dispute Resolution in Theory and Practice	Research Seminars

* Subject to approval

Please note:

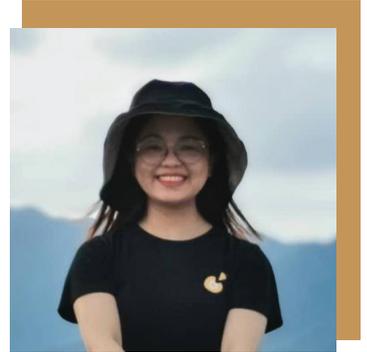
The courses are available but there is no guarantee that all the options will be offered in any given year. Based on demand and available expertise, new courses may be offered from time to time.

Message from our Graduates

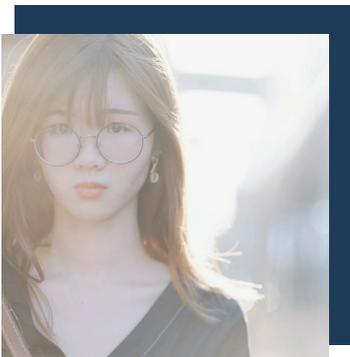
“

What benefited me most for LLM was that I adjusted to the new study life quickly by choosing courses with tutorials during which I could interact with the teacher thoroughly and solve the difficulties during the course of studying.

”



CHEN Yanmei
LLM Graduate 2020



HAN Yang
LLM Graduate 2020

“

The family of CityU offered me not only a unique atmosphere to seek answers to my academic pursuit but also essential life skills in daily life.

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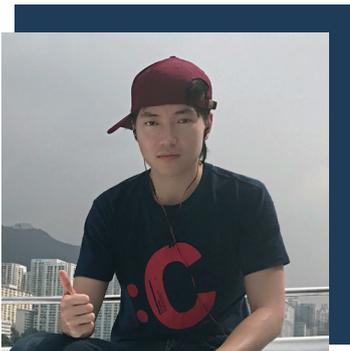
“

The Intellectual Property and Technology Law Stream in the programme gave me access to many advanced technologies and corresponding laws, which greatly broadened my horizons. In short, the precious experience at CityU has allowed me to broaden the scope of my work as a lawyer, which is of great help to my future.

”



SHEN Yuhong
LLM Graduate 2020



MENG Tianyi
LLM Graduate 2020

“

With the ups and downs of the external environment, I was truly privileged to enjoy a pure and challenging learning experience with the world-class faculty and resources at CityU. I was deeply impressed by the excellence, dedication, and professionalism of the CityU teachers, as well as the timely and meticulous adjustments during the pandemic.

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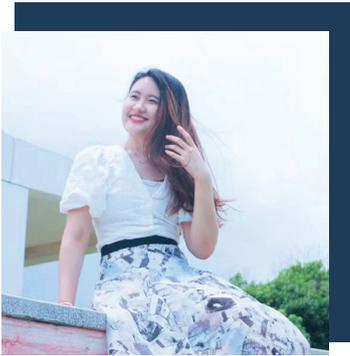
I would like to acknowledge with deep gratitude City University of Hong Kong for granting me the opportunity to learn from wonderful professors and uncover the world of international law from a truly new perspective during my LLM.

My time at City University has been one of the happiest in my life, allowing me to thrive academically, professionally and uncover the beautiful gem that Hong Kong encapsulates.

”



Thomas LEHMANN
LLM Graduate 2020



YE Yang
LLM Graduate 2020

“

The experience in CityU law school is a treasure in my life. Professors led me to practical knowledge of law in the areas of international finance, international investment and international trade. Many of my classmates are great lawyers, judges and arbitrators all over the world. I learned a lot from them.

”

“

Although the LLM was challenging at times from pursuing with all these activities concurrently, the knowledge, mentors and friends were what made the course worth it. I strongly recommend the LLM at CityU to those who are self-initiated and are keen to obtain a better understanding of the HK legal system.

”



Justin YUEN
LLM Graduate 2020



ZHANG Shuo
LLM Graduate 2020

“

Through systematic and intensive study, I can clearly feel the enhancement of my problem-solving skills and professional competence. The learning experience has also refreshed my perspectives of thinking with a deeper understanding to the common law system. All these precious gifts awarded by CityU will undoubtedly benefit my legal career in the future.

”

Tuition Fees

The 2021/22 tuition fee is HK\$6,200 per credit unit. Fees are subject to review from time to time without prior notification.

LLM Admission Scholarships

A maximum of 3 scholarships, each to the value of 12-credit tuition fees, which equals HK\$74,400.

The number of scholarships and the allocation of scholarships each year are left entirely at the discretion of the Law School.

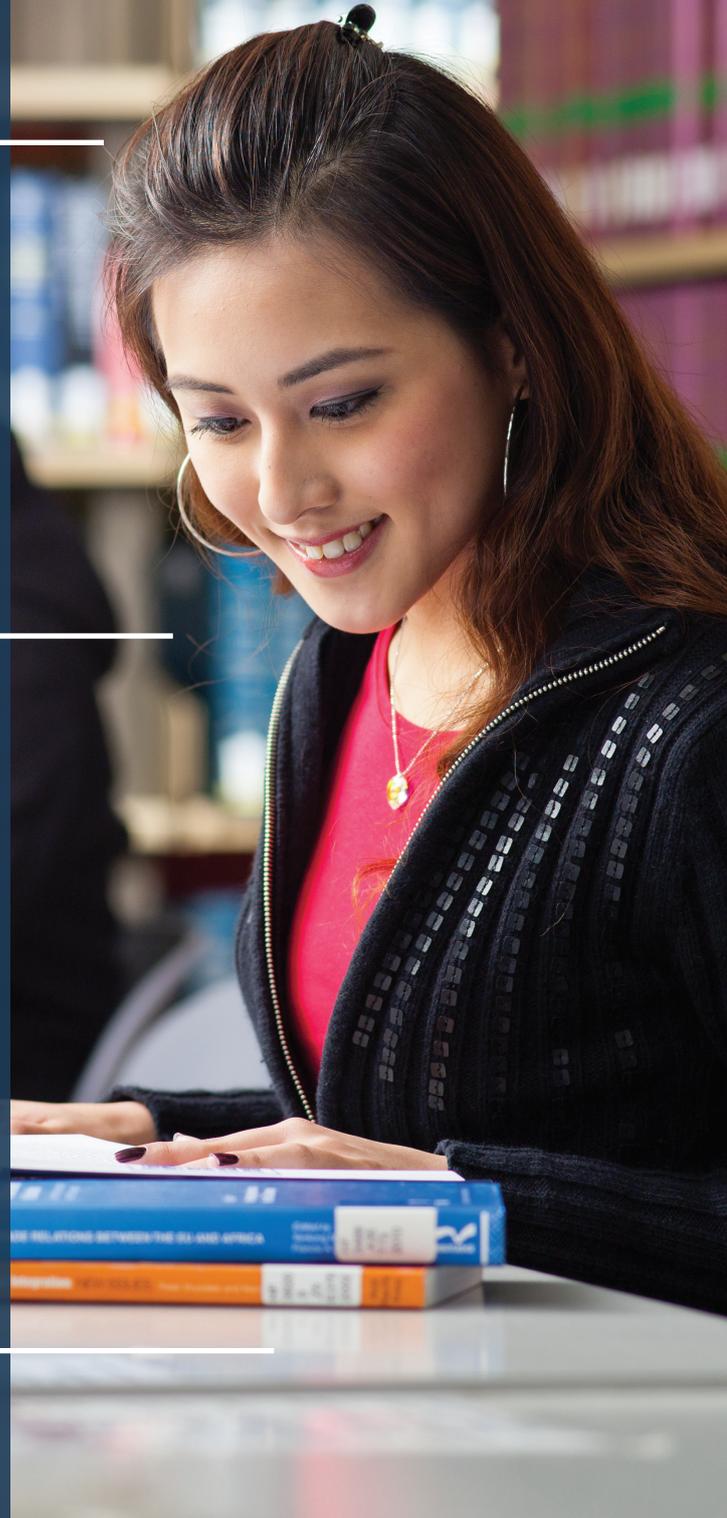
UGC Targeted Taught Postgraduate Programmes Fellowships Scheme

The Master of Laws in Corporate and Commercial Law has successfully obtained fellowships from the UGC Targeted Taught Postgraduate Programmes Fellowships Scheme (Second Cohort) for 2021/22 intake. The fellowship recipients are required to pay a minimum tuition fee of HK\$42,100 and the differences will be subsidized by the fellowships subject to a cap of HK\$120,000 for each student regardless of the actual study period of their programme.

Three Fellowship awards are available for local students admitted to this programme under the Fellowship Scheme supported by the HKSAR Government. Local students admitted to the programme in full-time, part-time, or combined study mode will be invited to submit applications for the fellowships.

Accommodation

Students should be prepared to arrange their own accommodation, as on-campus accommodation is usually not available due to limited space.





Government Financial Assistance

The Non-means-tested Loan Scheme (NLS) provides financial assistance to the LLM students who meet the eligibility requirements of the scheme.

Meanwhile, LLM course LW6126E “Dispute Resolution in Theory and Practice” is included in the list of reimbursable courses for Continuing Education Fund (CEF) purposes.

For details of other eligibility requirements of the NLS scheme and details of CEF, please visit the website of the HKSAR government’s Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (WFSFAA).

Immigration and Visa Requirement

If you are a non-local applicant and do not have the right of abode in Hong Kong, you will need a student visa if you are accepted for admission. Information about visa application is available from the website of our Global Engagement Office or the website of the Hong Kong Immigration Department.

For applicants from the Mainland who wish to obtain information on application for pass permit to Hong Kong, please refer to the website of The Ministry of Public Security.

Please submit your student visa application as early as possible. The approval process may take about two months or even more.

Anyone who stays in Hong Kong for more than 180 days is required by law to apply for a Hong Kong Smart Identity Card. For more details, please visit the Hong Kong Immigration Department website.

Admissions Enquiry

Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies
4/F, Fong Yun Wah Building
Tat Chee Avenue
Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 3442 5588
Fax: (852) 3442 0187
E-mail: tpadmit@cityu.edu.hk



General Enquiries

LLM Programme
School of Law
City University of Hong Kong
Tat Chee Avenue
Kowloon
Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 3442 8008
Fax: (852) 3442 0190
E-mail: lwllm@cityu.edu.hk
Website: <http://www.cityu.edu.hk/slw/>

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