



Faculty of Law
The University of Hong Kong

Information Kit for Employers (2023-24)
~ 2026 Trainee Candidates ~

Our Programmes

Programme	LLB	BBA(Law) & LLB	BSS(GL) & LLB	BA & LLB	BSc&LLB	HKU-UCL Dual Law Programme	HKU-PKU Dual Law Programme	JD	PCLL
Duration	4 years	5 years	5 years	5 years	5 years	4 years	5 years	2 years	Full time: 1 year Part time: 2 years
First year intake (2023-24, for reference only)	~120	~86	~45	~28	~18	~11	~6	~55	Full time: 300 Part time: 100
Final Year Tuition Fee for local students, HK\$ (for 2023-24 intake, for reference only)	42,100 p.a.	85,000 p.a.	85,000 p.a.	85,000 p.a.	85,000 p.a.	42,100 p.a. (for last 2 years study at HKU, i.e. for academic years 2025-26 and 2026-27)	42,100 p.a. (for first 2.5 years study at HKU)	240,000 p.a.	Govt-funded: 42,100 p.a. (Local) 171,000 p.a. (Non-local) Self-financed: Full time: 220,000 p.a. Part time: 110,000 p.a.
Admission Statistics (2023-24) – Average Scores of JUPAS Applications									
English	6.661	7.094	6.923	7.278	6.118	Not applicable			
Chinese	5.592	5.942	6.115	6.229	5.063				
Best 6 electives	35.376	39.731	38.885	39.148	36.529				

Note: Conversion of the HKDSE grades into scores: Level 5** = 8.5, 5* = 7, 5 = 5.5, 4 = 4, 3 = 3, 2 = 2, 1 = 1, unclassified/ others = 0.

Programme Structure

Compulsory Law subjects taken by 2026 Trainee candidates – JD (*italics & blue = PCLL Pre-requisites*)

2023-2024	2024-2025	PCLL (2025-2026)
<i>Legal system and legal research</i>	<i>Land law I & II</i>	
<i>Law of contract I & II</i>	<i>Equity and trusts I & II</i>	
<i>Law of tort I & II</i>	Dissertation / Clinical legal education /	
<i>Criminal law I & II</i>	CLE – refugee and human trafficking stream /	
<i>Constitutional law</i>	International moot competition /	
<i>Commercial law</i>	Jessup international law moot court competition	
Administrative law	<i>*JD students might take the remaining 3 PCLL Pre-requisites as electives.</i>	

Compulsory Law subjects taken by 2026 Trainee candidates – Undergraduate programmes (*italics & blue = PCLL Pre-requisites*)

Year	LLB (admitted in 2021-22)	BBA(Law) & LLB (admitted in 2020-21)	BSS(GL) & LLB (admitted in 2020-21)	BA & LLB (admitted in 2020-21)
2020-2021		<i>The legal system of the HKSAR</i>	<i>The legal system of the HKSAR</i>	<i>The legal system of the HKSAR</i>
		Law & society	Law & society	Law & society
		<i>Law of contract I & II</i>	<i>Law of contract I & II</i>	<i>Law of contract I & II</i>
		Legal research & writing I	Legal research & writing I	Legal research & writing I
2021-2022	<i>The legal system of the HKSAR</i>	<i>Law of tort I & II</i>	Administrative law	Administrative law
	Law & society	Legal research & writing II	<i>Constitutional law</i>	<i>Constitutional law</i>
	<i>Law of contract I & II</i>		<i>Law of tort I & II</i>	<i>Law of tort I & II</i>
	Legal research & writing I		Legal research & writing II	Legal research & writing II
2022-2023	<i>Constitutional law</i>	Administrative law	<i>Criminal law I & II</i>	<i>Criminal law I & II</i>
	<i>Criminal law I & II</i>	<i>Business associations</i>	<i>Land law I & II</i>	Intro to Chinese legal system
	<i>Land law I & II</i>	<i>Commercial law</i>		<i>Land law I & II</i>
	<i>Law of tort I & II</i>	<i>Constitutional law</i>		
	Legal research & writing II			
2023-2025	Administrative law	<i>Criminal law I & II</i>	<i>Business associations</i>	<i>Business associations</i>
	<i>Business associations</i>	<i>Equity & trusts I & II</i>	<i>Commercial law</i>	<i>Commercial law</i>
	<i>Commercial law</i>	Intro to Chinese legal system	<i>Equity & trusts I & II</i>	<i>Equity & trusts I & II</i>
	<i>Equity & trusts I & II</i>	Intro to legal theory	Intro to Chinese legal system	Intro to legal theory
	Intro to Chinese legal system	<i>Land law I & II</i>	Intro to legal theory	Mooting & dispute resolution
	Intro to legal theory	Mooting & dispute resolution	Mooting & dispute resolution	
	Mooting & dispute resolution			
2025-2026	PCLL			

Dual Degrees Programmes in Law

In addition to our 4-year LLB, students may also consider choosing to study the four-year and five-year Dual Degree Programmes in Law jointly offered with University College London (UCL) and Peking University (PKU) respectively.

HKU-UCL Dual Degree Programme in Law

This Programme was jointly launched by The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and University College London (UCL) in September 2016, with an annual intake of 10 (5 from each institution). The students will spend the first two years at UCL and the following two years at HKU. Upon successful completion of the whole programme, separate Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degrees will be awarded.

Compulsory Law subjects taken by 2026 Trainee candidates (*italics & blue = PCLL Pre-requisites*)

Year	Studying at	HKU-UCL Dual Degree Programme in Law (admitted in 2021-22)
2021-2022	UCL	<i>Contract Law</i>
		<i>Criminal Law</i>
		<i>Property Law I</i>
		Public Law
		Summer Internship
2022-2023		<i>European Union Law</i>
		<i>Jurisprudence & Legal Theory</i>
		<i>Property Law II</i>
		<i>Tort Law</i>
2023-2025		HKU
	<i>The legal system of the HKSAR</i>	
	<i>Constitutional law</i>	
	<i>Commercial law</i>	
	<i>Business associations</i>	
	Legal research & writing I	
	Legal research & writing II	
	Intro to Chinese legal system	
	Practical Chinese for law students	
	HKU Legal Internship	
	Mooting and dispute resolution	
	Dissertation	
2025-2026	HKU	PCLL

HKU-PKU Dual Degree Programme in Law

This Programme was jointly launched by The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and Peking University (PKU) in September 2019, with an annual intake of 4-8 on each institution. Graduates who have completed this programme will obtain two LLBs from both leading law schools, and open their paths to legal qualifications in both jurisdictions.

Students admitted to HKU will spend the first 2 ½ years in HKU learning the fundamental legal concepts on common law jurisdictions, followed by another 2 ½ years at PKU learning about the civil law system in Mainland China. Students admitted to PKU will spend the first 2 ½ years in PKU then another 2 ½ years at HKU. The following table shows the compulsory law subjects taken by students of this programme admitted to HKU only.

Compulsory Law subjects taken by 2026 Trainee candidates/ 2024 Summer student candidates (*italics & blue = PCLL Pre-requisites*)

Admitted to HKU in	HKU-PKU Dual Degree Programme in Law		
	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
2020-2021	<i>Law of contract I & II</i>		
	<i>Law of tort I & II</i>		
	<i>The legal system of the HKSAR</i>		
	Law & society		
	Legal research & writing I		
	Legal research & writing II		
	Practical Chinese for law students		
2021-2022	<i>Constitutional law</i>	<i>Law of contract I & II</i>	
	<i>Criminal law I & II</i>	<i>Law of tort I & II</i>	
	<i>Commercial law</i>	<i>The legal system of the HKSAR</i>	
	<i>Land law I & II</i>	Law & society	
	<i>Business associations</i>	Legal research & writing I	
	Administrative law	Legal research & writing II	
	<i>Equity & trusts I & II</i>	Practical Chinese for law students	
	Mooting & dispute resolution		
2022-2023		<i>Constitutional law</i>	<i>Law of contract I & II</i>
	<i>With PKU</i>	<i>Criminal law I & II</i>	<i>Law of tort I & II</i>
	<i>From Sem 2, 2022-23</i>	<i>Commercial law</i>	<i>The legal system of the HKSAR</i>
	<i>Till 2024-25</i>	<i>Land law I & II</i>	Law & society
		<i>Business associations</i>	Legal research & writing I
		Administrative law	Legal research & writing II
		<i>Equity & trusts I & II</i>	Practical Chinese for law students
		Mooting & dispute resolution	
2023-2024	PKU		<i>Constitutional law</i>
		<i>With PKU</i>	<i>Criminal law I & II</i>
		<i>From Sem 2, 2023-24</i>	<i>Commercial law</i>
		<i>Till 2025-26</i>	<i>Land law I & II</i>
			<i>Business associations</i>
			Administrative law
			<i>Equity & trusts I & II</i>
			Mooting & dispute resolution
2024-2025	PKU		<i>With PKU</i>
			<i>From Sem 2, 2024-25</i>
2025-2026	PCLL	PCLL (2026-27)	<i>Till 2026-27</i>
			PCLL (2027-28)

**Explanation of the Honours Classification System
for the Bachelor of Laws Degree and Juris Doctor Degree at the Faculty of Law,
The University of Hong Kong**

1. The degrees of Bachelor of Laws and Juris Doctor shall be awarded in five divisions in accordance with the degree regulations:

First Class Honours
Second Class Honours Division One
Second Class Honours Division Two
Third Class Honours
Pass

2. The classification of honours shall be determined by the Board of Examiners for the degree in accordance with the following Graduation Grade Point Average (GGPA) scores, with all courses taken (including failed courses) carrying weightings which are proportionate to their credit values:

Class of honours	GGPA range
First Class Honours	3.60 – 4.30
Second Class Honours	(2.40 – 3.59)
<i>Division One</i>	3.00 – 3.59
<i>Division Two</i>	2.40 – 2.99
Third Class Honours	1.70 – 2.39
Pass	1.00 – 1.69

3. Examination scripts and other assessable work for each course are marked in accordance with the following grading scale:

Mark		Grade	Grade point
90+)	Outstanding	A+	4.3
85-89)	Excellent	A	4.0
80-84)	Borderline Excellent	A-	3.7
76-79)	Very Good	B+	3.3
73-75)	Good (Average Competent Answer)	B	3.0
70-72)	Borderline Good	B-	2.7
66-69)	Very Satisfactory	C+	2.3
63-65)	Satisfactory	C	2.0
60-62)	Borderline Satisfactory	C-	1.7
55-59)	Pass	D+	1.3
50-54)	Borderline Pass	D	1.0
0-49)	Fail	F	0

Remarks:

LLB The mooted course which fulfills the capstone requirement of the programme shall be graded on pass/fail basis. An annotation "P" shall be recorded on the transcript for the mooted course which shall not be counted in the calculation of GGPA.

JD The following courses shall be graded on pass/fail basis: Legal system and legal research, Clinical legal education, and International mooted competition. An annotation "P" shall be recorded on the transcript for the mooted course which shall not be counted in the calculation of GGPA.

4. Honours classification may not be determined solely on the basis of a candidate's GGPA and the Board of Examiners for the degree may, at its absolute discretion and with justification, award a higher class of honours to a candidate deemed to have demonstrated meritorious academic achievement but whose GGPA falls below the range stipulated in (2) above of the higher classification by not more than 0.1 Grade Point.
5. [Applicable to integrated double degree programmes only]
As approved by the Senate in June 2013, separate honours for the integrated double degree programmes are

determined and awarded in accordance with the Regulation UG9 on the basis that among 300 credits of double degree programme requirements, 240 credits are counted towards each degree, including double-counting of relevant credits from either degree. Students graduating from double degree programmes therefore will receive 2 different GGPA and/or honours from each of the degree awarded from the double degree programme.

6. Subsequent to the switch from face-to-face to online teaching and learning across second semester of academic year 2019-20 and first semester of academic year 2020-21, HKU had given students the flexibility to opt for pass/fail grading for their enrolled courses within these 2 semesters at HKU. Courses that are graded under pass/fail grading will be recorded as "P" on the transcript, with no impact on the GPA calculation.

A '50% rule' will be employed for awarding a degree with honours to a student, which mandates that at least half of the credits of a degree curriculum should be letter-graded. This means that a student taking a programme requiring 240 credits for graduation will normally be required to have at least 120 letter-graded credits. A student with fewer than half the total credits letter-graded will normally be awarded a pass degree with no honours classification.

7. Class Ranking

In addition to the percentage distribution, it would also be useful to assess students on the basis of their rankings in class in individual years as well as on an overall basis of four years of study.

Upon a student's request, the Department of Law will issue an "Official Certification of Ranking" showing student's class ranking among his/her cohort in a particular examination year. If a student is a final year student, he/she may also request for his/her overall ranking in the degree in addition to his/her year ranking. This document reflects student's performance in the May examination only, and does not take into account the results of the supplementary examinations in August. Information on a graduate's overall ranking usually provides a fuller picture of his/her overall competence.

Employers may like to note, however, that the profile of core and elective subjects varies significantly in each year of the LLB and JD programmes, and marking practices in electives also vary. These needs to be borne in mind in drawing any comparison between candidates based on their year ranking where there is a great proportion of elective subjects. We advise employers to also seek information on a graduate's overall ranking to obtain a fuller picture of his/her overall competence.

Full-time Programme Structure (2023-24)*

First Semester	Second Semester	
Compulsory Core Practice Areas	Compulsory Core & Elective Practice Areas <i>[Electives subject to minimum enrolment]</i>	
	Compulsory Core: Professional Practice and Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Civil Litigation (includes Civil Procedure & Civil Advocacy) ➤ Criminal Litigation (includes Criminal Procedure & Criminal Advocacy) ➤ Corporate & Commercial Transactions ➤ Property Transactions I 	Litigation-specific Electives	Transactional-specific Electives
	➤ Commercial Dispute Resolution	➤ Drafting Commercial Agreements
	➤ Financial Regulations and Practice	➤ Listed Companies
	➤ Matrimonial Practice and Procedure	➤ China Practice
	➤ Personal Injury Litigation	➤ Property Transactions II
	➤ Property Litigation	➤ Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning
	➤ Employment Law and Practice	
	➤ Trial Advocacy	
	➤ Use of Chinese in Legal Practice	
First Semester	Second Semester	
Skills		
<p>In each practice area, students will carry out practical exercises involving the use of different skills sets relevant to the context. Hypothetical transactions or case files adopted from real-life cases form the basis on which skills are being learnt and practiced.</p> <p>Skills common to both semesters include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problem solving Document analysis Issue identification Legal research 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Research memo writing ➤ Advising ➤ Pleadings' drafting ➤ Affidavit drafting ➤ Interviewing ➤ Conferencing ➤ Advocacy (non-trial) ➤ File and case management 	Litigation-specific Electives	Transactional-specific Electives
	➤ Pleadings' drafting	➤ Document drafting
	➤ Affidavit drafting	➤ Letter writing
	➤ Opinion writing	➤ Interviewing
	➤ Advocacy (non-trial and trial)	➤ Negotiation / Mediation
	➤ Interviewing / Conferencing	
	➤ Negotiation / Mediation	
<p><i>*Students have the option of studying for the HKU PCLL either full-time over one academic year or part-time over two academic years. For part-time students, year one is equivalent to the first semester of the full-time programme and year two is equivalent to the second semester of the full-time programme. The same standards apply to both the full-time and part-time programmes. Students must choose 3 Electives in addition to completing the compulsory core subjects.</i></p>		

FAQ about our PCLL Programme

Is it difficult to gain entry to the HKU PCLL?

Yes, but it is no more difficult to gain entry to the HKU PCLL than it is to the other PCLL providers. In fact, the minimum cut-off required for entry to the HKU PCLL is now on par with that of the other PCLL providers and students with a high 2:2 tend to secure entry to the HKU PCLL. Of course, we still continue to receive more applications than we have places for, so admission in any year is always subject to the quality of other applications we receive. Admission to the PCLL at HK means your trainees will be studying among the best legal minds at one of the best institutions. HKU's law school was 20th in the 2022 international QS rankings and the 2nd highest ranked law school in Asia.

I've heard HKU has higher cut-offs than the other providers. Am I more likely to be rejected if I apply to the HKU PCLL?

While this may have been true some 10 years ago, it is no longer the case today. We admit the majority of students to the PCLL based on their academic merit and while of course, we seek to admit the best students, in the last few years, lower cut-offs have meant there is now no real difference between our cut-offs and those of the other providers. We also have more PCLL places available than any other provider with 300 full-time and 100 part-time places and we are the only provider to offer a part-time programme.

Is it true that the standard of entry is high?

Our focus in admissions is on academic merit and in this regard, we look primarily at an applicant's All Law Average (the average mark of all Law subjects studied over the entirety of an applicant's qualifying law degree) in light of relevant grading practice rather than just by the class of his or her degree. This means that applicants are treated equally, with their marks compared, as much as practicable, on a like-for-like basis. In past years, applicants with a 2.2 degree have been offered a place on the PCLL if their marks are sufficiently competitive. We also hold a limited number of interviews for the last 10-15 places on the part-time programme for those applicants whose marks are not sufficiently competitive but who are able to demonstrate genuine legal working experience. Such legal working experience must be of at least 2 years in total duration, involve the use of legal skills such as research, drafting and advising clients and does not include internships or mini-pupillages.

Are non-HKU applicants disadvantaged in gaining entry?

No. HKU graduates have to compete for admission to the HKU PCLL with overseas and other applicants. We do not reserve places for HKU students or for any particular group of students.

Is it necessary to make HKU my first choice?

We strongly advise your trainees to put HKU as their first choice. We have agreed with the other two law schools that each of us will only consider applicants in the first instance who have put us as first choice. We will only consider applicants listing us as second or third choice in the event that not all places are filled by first choice applicants. The reality is that students ranking a provider as second preference rarely get a place at that provider since all the places each year are usually filled by first preference applicants.

When will an applicant know the outcome of his or her application?

We will make conditional offers as early as possible and throughout the period from April to August (and perhaps even earlier). The sooner an applicant sends in the necessary application with supporting documentation, the earlier we can consider it.

Will a master's degree help?

This is of marginal relevance. Academic results in an applicant's qualifying law degree are the primary consideration. Only in borderline cases or when the academic merits of applicants are similar will we take into account "other factors", which include the results of a relevant LLM degree and genuine legal work experience. Additional "other factors" we consider for borderline applicants are: the average mark of their 6 core subjects (Criminal, Contract, Tort, Equity, Land law and Constitutional), law school ranking, admission to practice in another jurisdiction and reference letters. When it comes to reference letters, the quality of the reference is more important than the quantity of references.

Must an applicant have IELTS or will another English qualification do?

An applicant must achieve an overall band score of 7 the academic module in the International English Language Test (IELTS) by the relevant deadline in August. We can make offers earlier, conditional upon this being attained. The Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training does not allow the result in any other examination in English such as TOEFL. An applicant's IELTS test must also have been taken within 3 years of the Application Deadline.

Does the PCLL at HKU adequately prepare me for practice as a barrister or solicitor?

We don't like to make comparisons but we can say that our course is extremely well respected, very practical and has received praise from the legal profession. Our teaching materials are based on case studies and case files and are vetted and approved by our external examiners who are practitioners. Nearly all our teachers have experience as lawyers and many of them retain their practice at the Bar or as solicitors. We have lectures and classes led by current practitioners. Almost all our part-time teachers are working lawyers or former magistrates and judges. Our method of teaching concentrates upon practical exercises carried out by students under supervision. The feedback from former students is that they find our teachings useful when they start traineeship (or pupillage) and are grateful for the help they received.

How does your part-time programme compare to your full-time one?

We are currently the only PCLL provider to offer a part-time course. Our part-time PCLL course content is identical to our full-time programme and we apply the same standards to both programmes. The only real difference is that the part-time PCLL is taught over two years.

In previous years, PCLL students used to be able to obtain a "Credit", however, this no longer appears to be an option on the transcript. Why is this?

This is the result of a change in University policy towards the grade descriptors for Taught Postgraduate programmes that was implemented in the academic year 2016-17. Graduating PCLL students are now only awarded either a Distinction or a Pass.

How many students obtain a Distinction on the PCLL each year?

According to our Regulations, each year, we can award a Distinction to not more than 10% of the graduating class. This includes both full-time and part-time students.

Should the law firms require students to take any particular electives?

This is a matter for you entirely. Some law firms with a litigation focused practice, may consider it helpful for their trainees to take more litigation specific electives. Other law firms may allow their trainees to choose their electives themselves. The only requirement when it comes to the taking of electives is that for those students wishing to go to the Bar, they must take Trial Advocacy and one other litigation specific elective. Timetabling constraints may, however, prevent the taking of certain combinations of electives.

Will there be any changes to the curriculum of the PCLL moving forward?

Our ability to offer certain electives may depend on the number of students choosing that particular elective. From 2021 onwards, Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure are being taught on are the PCLL alongside existing courses. This means that from 2021, LLB/JD Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure are longer PCLL pre-requisites. In the 2023 academic year, we are introducing a new elective: “Financial Regulations & Practice” and we continue to consider and review the electives on offer taking into account feedback from the profession.

How do you award government funded places?

We have a limited number of government funded places available. Currently we have 117 government funded places which we award to those applicants with the highest marks. From 2022 onwards, all government funded places will be allocated to applicants with the highest All Law Average marks.

Is it true that HKU has a higher failure rate than the other PCLL providers?

We cannot comment on the failure rates of PCLL students at other providers. At HKU, we hold our students to the highest standards; the profession demands nothing less. That said, the vast majority of our students pass the PCLL at HKU.

Useful links

LLB & double
degrees

<https://www.law.hku.hk/prospective-students/ug-introduction/>

https://www.infoday.hku.hk/files/ugd/5e3f2e_9bdeed99c6dc48249f0b0b068604fdc7.pdf

JD

<https://jd.law.hku.hk/>

PCLL

<https://www.ple.hku.hk/>

Careers Resource
Centre

<https://career.law.hku.hk/>

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