

**THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2025**

1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

(1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025)

This is the twentieth annual report of the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training (“SCLET”). Section 74A of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159) providing for the establishment of SCLET and its functions is at **Annexure 1**.

Meetings

1. SCLET met on four occasions during the reporting period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 (“**Reporting Period**”). Its composition is at **Annexure 2**.

Major Matters Dealt with by SCLET

Optimisation of Postgraduate Certificate in Laws admission procedure

2. At the SCLET meeting on 20 March 2025, SCLET followed up on the discussion at the meeting on 26 September 2024 that students may only choose one law school as their first choice for Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (“**PCLL**”) admission. There is no formal mechanism between the law schools to oversee all available places and identify suitable candidates from other institutions’ applicants to fill available places.
3. It was decided at the SCLET meeting on 15 May 2025 that starting from the 2026/2027 academic year, The University of Hong Kong (“**HKU**”), City University of Hong Kong (“**CityU**”) and The Chinese University of Hong Kong (“**CUHK**”) would coordinate their application processes to facilitate candidates who may apply to the PCLL programme of more than one university.

Strengthening legal education

4. As previously reported¹, the Department of Justice (“**DoJ**”) proposed to discuss whether to offer more elective courses for Bachelor of Laws (“**LLB**”) and Juris Doctor (“**JD**”) students in support of Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address on consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong’s development of the “Eight Centres”². At the SCLET meeting on 25 April 2024, there was consensus that the three law schools would as far as practicable, try their best to offer elective courses³ in their LLB, JD and postgraduate programmes every academic year to meet the demand of

¹ See paragraphs 2 to 4 of the 2024 Annual Report.

² The Eight Centres are International Financial Centre, International Innovation and Technology Centre, East-meets-West Centre for International Cultural Exchange, International Trade Centre, International Shipping Centre, International Aviation Hub, Centre for International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services in the Asia Pacific Region and Regional Intellectual Property Trading Centre.

³ The elective courses are Law on technology or Artificial Intelligence, Private International Law, Public International Law, Insurance Law, Financial Law, Maritime Law, Aviation Law, Intellectual Property Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Hong Kong's development of the Eight Centres. Following up with the matter, information of the relevant courses offered by the three law schools were submitted for review by SCLET.

5. At the SCLET meeting on 20 March 2025, the DoJ further proposed, by way of a discussion paper, to discuss the strengthening of legal education, focusing on (a) maritime law and aviation law and (b) law on technology (“**LawTech**”), artificial intelligence (“**AI**”) and related intellectual property (“**IP**”) law. In view of the pressing need for legal professionals especially in maritime and aviation law, the rapid development of technology and AI, and the rise of IP law issues associated with the accelerated technological development and breakthroughs of AI, the DoJ suggested that the three law schools should conduct an immediate review of these particular areas.
6. The information of the courses relevant to Hong Kong's development of the Eight Centres offered by the three law schools were then submitted for review by SCLET. In the meeting on 15 May 2025, no serious concern was identified in the education of these areas of law: private international law, public international law, insurance law, financial law, IP law and alternative dispute resolution.
7. Regarding maritime law and aviation law, information provided by the three law schools showed that they had all successfully opened maritime law courses for LLB, JD, and Master in Laws (“**LLM**”) programmes in the 2024/2025 academic year, while HKU and CityU did not plan to offer aviation law courses. Upon reviewing the courses offered with the enrolment figures of the three law schools and considering the current market demand in the areas, it was observed at the meeting on 15 May 2025 that there did not appear to be serious problems over maritime law or aviation law education. The DoJ encouraged the law schools to maintain their good efforts in training up maritime law lawyers and to try their best to offer aviation law courses as far as practicable to meet the potential expansion of Hong Kong's aviation sector.
8. In the discussion of legal education on LawTech and AI on 20 March 2025, the DoJ recommended the introduction of a compulsory LawTech/AI course for students in LLB and JD programmes. This echoes with the consultants' views set out in the “Comprehensive Review of Legal Education and Training in Hong Kong – Final Report of the Consultants” (the “**Consultants' Report**”) published in May 2018, and the expectation of the profession as reflected in the Law Society's position paper titled “The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Legal Profession” published in January 2024. The position paper identified the need for young lawyers to be sufficiently equipped with knowledge of LawTech and AI with the recommendation that law schools should expand their legal curricula to include legal technology, data analytics, and AI applications, and adopt a fuller interdisciplinary approach combining law, technology, business skills, ethics and human skills development.
9. In taking forward the matter, at the meeting on 17 July 2025, the DoJ proposed, by way of a discussion paper, to discuss the introduction of a compulsory standalone LawTech/AI course in the first year of LLB and JD programmes, and the law schools expressed concerns about an overcrowded curriculum and suggested more flexible approaches. SCLET concluded that while acknowledging the importance

of AI in the legal and other fields, the universities should be allowed to decide how it should be taught, and periodic reports from the three law schools on their progress with AI education could be useful for SCLET to consider whether any advice from SCLET would be necessary.

10. In the SCLET's meeting on 15 May 2025, it was noted that all three law schools would continue to cover the Constitution of the People's Republic of China compulsorily in LLB and JD programmes.
11. As regards the education on national security ("NS"), the DoJ invited the three law schools to provide more details in order for SCLET to assess whether it was necessary to have NS law to be taught as a separate subject. Accordingly, in the meeting on 17 July 2025, the three law schools reported progress in incorporating NS education in core subjects such as constitutional law, legal system and criminal law, and indicated their position that it was not necessary to introduce a separate course for NS law. Noting the position of the three law schools, the DoJ suggested that priority should be given to enhancing the depth and time spent on NS education, and to have NS offences incorporated into the LLB and JD criminal law courses. During the meeting on 23 October 2025, SCLET noted that students should be equipped to deal with the new reality in Hong Kong due to the importance and prevalence of NS concerns, and the law schools were invited to consider the matter carefully in order to ensure that sufficient time was devoted to this important subject. SCLET would conduct a review in one year's time on the effectiveness of integrating NS law into the law curriculum.

Review on the programme structure for compulsory subjects in LLB and JD programmes

12. During the SCLET meetings held on 15 May 2025 and 17 July 2025, Members observed that the existing structure for compulsory subjects in both LLB and JD programmes leave little room for the introduction of new compulsory or elective courses.
13. In this regard, at the meeting on 23 October 2025, the DoJ proposed, by way of a discussion paper, to review the programme structure for compulsory subjects in LLB and JD programmes, with references made to the recommendations in the Consultants' Report. Upon deliberations by Members, SCLET agreed to further discuss a potential review on the programme structure for compulsory subjects in LLB and JD programmes. Further information on (a) the compulsory courses for both law and non-law subjects, (b) observations and suggestions on the way forward after reviewing the respective curricula, and (c) specific information or views sought by SCLET would be provided by the three law schools. The matter will be revisited at SCLET's meetings scheduled in 2026, with a view to bringing the relevant deliberation to a conclusion and making known its stance as soon as possible.

Comprehensive study on legal education and training

14. SCLET continued to consider the Consultants' Report. Two major outstanding issues remain, namely, the Law Society's proposals for (i) the Common Entrance Examination ("CEE") and (ii) the Law Society Examination ("LSE"). Both of

them, if and when implemented, will have ramifications on the PCLL programmes currently provided by the three law schools.

15. As previously reported⁴, as far as the CEE is concerned, the Law Society wished to ensure uniformity of standards by requiring all PCLL graduates, who do not sit a common examination at present, to undertake the CEE before entering into a training contract. However, as SCLET understands it, the Law Society has no immediate plan on pushing ahead with the CEE.
16. The other proposal, the LSE, may have a more substantial impact on entrants to the solicitors' branch of the legal profession and legal education in general. Currently, the three law schools provide a total of about 722 PCLL places (full time and part-time). These places are available to law graduates, local or overseas, who wish to enter into the legal profession in Hong Kong. SCLET was informed by the Law Society that because the PCLL places are limited, some suitably qualified law graduates have not been able to enter the solicitors' branch of the legal profession.
17. As previously reported⁵, the Law Society submitted a draft Report on LSE ("**draft Report**") to SCLET on 11 February 2022. As we had reported in the 2024 Annual Report⁶, there were continued discussions of the draft Report and related issues at SCLET's meetings on 22 February, 25 April, 25 July and 26 September 2024, and between the respective representatives of the Law Society and the Bar Association on 20 March 2024. As last reported⁷, the Law Society was invited to clarify to SCLET the reasons for introducing the LSE after considering the various statistics surrounding PCLL admission provided by the three law schools. At the meeting on 20 March 2025, the Law Society reported that the draft Report was in the hands of the consultant who was commissioned by the Law Society to advise and provide input in order to finalise the draft Report.
18. Up to the end of the Reporting Period, the Law Society had not submitted further response on the LSE proposal or revision to the draft Report. SCLET shall continue to discuss the draft Report and endeavour to bring the relevant deliberation to a conclusion and make known its stance on the Law Society's proposals as soon as possible.

LLB, JD and PCLL Programmes

19. SCLET continued to monitor the following legal education programmes:
 - (a) the LLB, JD and PCLL programmes of CityU. The reports are at **Annexure 3**;
 - (b) the LLB, JD and PCLL programmes of CUHK. The reports are at **Annexure 4**; and

⁴ See paragraphs 3 and 4 of the 2023 Annual Report, and paragraphs 6 and 7 of the 2024 Annual Report.

⁵ See paragraphs 6 and 7 of the 2022 Annual Report.

⁶ See paragraphs 8 to 14 of the 2024 Annual Report.

⁷ See paragraph 13 of the 2024 Annual Report.

- (c) the LLB, JD and PCLL programmes of HKU. The reports are at **Annexure 5**.
20. A table consolidating the key statistics of the LLB, JD and PCLL programmes of the three Law Schools is at **Annexure 6**.

PCLL Conversion Examination

21. The Conversion Examination Board met on two occasions during the Reporting Period to oversee the administration of the PCLL Conversion Examination (“**Conversion Examination**”). Matters considered by the Conversion Examination Board in the meetings and by paper circulation included the following:
- (a) Applications for exemption from sitting the Conversion Examination;
 - (b) Applications for special arrangements for sitting the Conversion Examination;
 - (c) Examination results, statistics and examiners’ reports;
 - (d) Chief Examiner’s decisions on the appeals against examination results;
 - (e) Review of syllabi and book lists;
 - (f) Adding reading time to the Hong Kong Legal System Examination;
 - (g) 2026 Examiners’ list; and
 - (h) Finances of the Conversion Examination Board.
22. The number of candidates who took part in the Conversion Examinations in eight different prerequisite subjects in January and June 2025 were 414 and 367 respectively as compared to 418 and 381 candidates respectively in the January and June 2024 Conversion Examinations.
23. The average passing rate of the subjects examined in January 2025 was 57.50% (as compared to 56.88% in the January 2024 results) and that in June 2025 was 53.25% (as compared to 55.25% in the June 2024 results).
24. The composition of the Conversion Examination Board is at **Annexure 7**.

Chairmanship

25. SCLET is chaired by Mr. Justice Robert Tang.

Overall position

26. Various stakeholders in the field of legal education and training contributed their views from different perspectives and the meetings of SCLET have provided a useful forum for the exchange of views on different issues.

Annexure 1

SECTION 74A OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE

74A. Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

- (1) There is established by this section a Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training.
- (2) The functions of the committee are-
 - (a) to keep under review, evaluate and assess-
 - (i) the system and provision of legal education and training in Hong Kong;
 - (ii) without prejudice to the generality of subparagraph (i), the academic requirements and standards for admission to the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws programme;
 - (b) to monitor the provision of vocational training of prospective legal practitioners in Hong Kong by organizations other than the Society or the Hong Kong Bar Association;
 - (c) to make recommendations on matters referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b); and
 - (d) to collect and disseminate information concerning the system of legal education and training in Hong Kong.
- (3) The committee shall consist of-
 - (a) 17 members appointed by the Chief Executive of whom-
 - (i) 2 shall be persons nominated by the Chief Justice;
 - (ii) 1 shall be a person nominated by the Secretary for Justice;
 - (iii) 1 shall be a person nominated by the Secretary for Education;
 - (iv) 2 shall be persons nominated by the Society;
 - (v) 2 shall be persons nominated by the Hong Kong Bar Association;
 - (vi) 2 shall be persons nominated by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong;

- (vii) 2 shall be persons nominated by the President of the City University of Hong Kong;
- (viii) 2 shall be persons nominated by the Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong;
- (ix) 2 shall be members of the public; and
- (ix) 1 shall be a person nominated by the Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education, a non-profit-making educational organization, from among its members which provide continuing legal education courses in Hong Kong; and
- (b) a chairman appointed by the Chief Executive after consultation with the persons and organizations making nominations pursuant to paragraph (a)(i) to (viii) and (ix).
- (4) A member of the committee who is unable to attend a meeting of the committee, except for a member appointed pursuant to subsection (3)(a)(viii), may, subject to the consent of the chairman, send a substitute to attend the meeting in his place and the substitute shall be deemed to be a member of the committee for the purpose of that meeting.
- (5) A member of the committee including the chairman shall hold office for a term not exceeding 2 years.
- (6) A member of the committee including the chairman may at any time resign from the committee by giving notice in writing of his resignation to the Chief Executive.
- (7) The Secretary for Justice may publish notice of the appointment or termination of membership of a member (including the chairman) appointed pursuant to this section in the Gazette.
- (8) The committee shall report annually to the Chief Executive and its annual report shall be tabled in the Legislative Council.
- (9) The committee may determine its own procedure.

Annexure 2

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Chairman: The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert TANG Ching, G.B.M., S.B.S., J.P.

Members: The Honourable Madam Justice Susan KWAN Shuk-hing, V-P
(from August 2023 to August 2025)
The Honourable Mr. Justice Thomas AU Hing-cheung, JA
(from August 2025)
(on the nomination of the Chief Justice)

The Honourable Mr. Justice Anderson CHOW Ka-ming, JA
(on the nomination of the Chief Justice)

Ms. CHAN Yuen-ping, Lorraine
Deputy Solicitor General (Policy Affairs), Department of Justice
(on the nomination of the Secretary for Justice)

Ms. JI Sang, Jerry
Principal Assistant Secretary (Higher Education), Education Bureau
(on the nomination of the Secretary for Education)

Mr. Brian GILCHRIST
(from August 2023 to August 2025)
Mr. YUEN Hoi-ying
(from August 2025)
(on the nomination of The Law Society of Hong Kong)

Mr. Dieter YIH Lai-tak, J.P.
(from August 2023 to August 2025)
Mr. Vincent TSO Shiu-kei
(from August 2025)
(on the nomination of The Law Society of Hong Kong)

Mr. Richard KHAW Wei-kiang, S.C., J.P.
(on the nomination of Hong Kong Bar Association)

Mr. Isaac CHAN Chi-kong
(on the nomination of Hong Kong Bar Association)

Professor FU Hualing
(from August 2023 to August 2025)
Professor Michael NG Hoi-kit
(from August 2025)
Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong
(on the nomination of the Vice-Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong)

Ms. Julianne JEN
(from August 2023 to August 2025)
Dr. Alwin CHAN Wai-ho
(from August 2025)
Principal Lecturer, Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong
(on the nomination of the Vice-Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong)

Professor LIN Feng
Dean, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong
(on the nomination of the President of City University of Hong Kong)

Mr. Ubaid REHMAN
Programme Director, Postgraduate Certificate in Laws,
School of Law, City University of Hong Kong
(on the nomination of the President of City University of Hong Kong)

Professor XI Chao
Dean, Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
(on the nomination of the Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Professor Dennis HIE Hok-fung
Programme Director of Postgraduate Certificate in Laws Programme,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
(on the nomination of the Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Ms. Angela SO Wing-kwan
(from August 2023 to August 2025)
Mr. Edmund LEE Chi-wai
(from August 2025)
(Member appointed under s74A(3)(a)(viii) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap.159))

Mr. TANG Man-chun
(from August 2023 to August 2025)
Ms. Sherry NGAI Hing-wan
(from August 2025)
(Member appointed under s74A(3)(a)(viii) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap.159))

Mr. LEE Chong-ting
(from August 2023 to August 2025)
Dr. Daniel John GITTINGS
(from August 2025)
(on the nomination of The Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education)

Secretary: Mr. Simon LAU
(from October 2023 to December 2025)
Ms. Louisa NG
(from December 2025)
Deputy Principal Government Counsel (Acting)
Department of Justice

**City University of Hong Kong
Bachelor of Laws (LLB)
2025 Annual Report
for Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training**

This is a status report on the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) programme offered by the School of Law (“the School”), City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK). The report covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025.

The LLB is offered as a stand-alone degree and also as part of two five-year double degrees, namely the LLB & BBA Accountancy and the BSocSc Crime Science & LLB. Two other double degrees, namely the BSocSc Public Policy & LLB, as well as the LLB & BSc Computing Mathematics, have been discontinued effective from the 2025 entry.

1 2025/26 Admissions

In the 2025/26 academic year, the School of Law admitted 71 full-time LLB students, including, 37 JUPAS applicants, 25 non-JUPAS local applicants and 9 non-local applicants, including 5 Chinese Mainland National University Entrance Examination (NUEE) students.

The intake quota was met. The average score in English Language (HKDSE) for students admitted through JUPAS was 6.14. All minimum entry requirements were met.

The admissions of the two double degree programmes were as follows:

- The LLB & BBA Accountancy admitted 31 students in total, including 10 JUPAS applicants, 14 non-JUPAS local applicants, and 7 non-local applicants including 6 Chinese Mainland NUEE students.
- The BSocSc Crime Science & LLB admitted 12 JUPAS applicants.

2 Programme Structure

2.1 The LLB

The LLB programme is based on Major Intended Learning Outcomes (MILOs) which guide the Outcome Based Teaching and Learning (OBTL) of the various courses offered. These operate within the framework of a Discovery Enriched Curriculum which ensures that students develop skills and acquire experiences of independent learning. The University requires all degrees to include 31 credits of General Education courses.

The MILOs are met by a combination of core courses, Gateway Education courses and free electives. The core courses include the essential legal courses which underpin legal practice. Elective courses can be legal courses which are specialized or in-depth legal courses, or can be courses from other disciplines. The former improves legal skills and knowledge, while the

latter develops interdisciplinary knowledge and skills. Students can also earn credits by taking courses abroad, through internships, research work and participation in moot competitions. The LLB programme for the 2025 cohort requires the study of a minimum of 121 credits and a maximum of 144 credits.

Students applying for the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) programme must complete the core courses and a set of electives which are prerequisites for professional studies.

LLB students who do not wish to enter the legal profession have the option of taking the LLB with minors in any other discipline the university offers.

2.2 The double degree programmes

The graduation requirement for all double degree programmes starting from the 2025 cohort is 151 credits and are to be completed in 5 years. The maximum number of credits a double degree student can take is 180. The LLB component of a double degree includes 63 - 66 credits, which are all the required courses for admission to the PCLL. Law electives and 31 credits of Gateway Education courses are also included. The remaining credits refer to courses taught by the partner departments.

3 Learning and Developmental Opportunities for LLB and double degree Students

The LLB programme has been designated as one of the CityUHK's Flagship Programme. As a Flagship programme, it features a globally oriented curriculum, enhanced exchange opportunities, and guaranteed admission to the CityUHK Postgraduate Certificate in Law upon meeting the entrance requirements. Additionally, it offers flagship scholarships that include a one-off sponsorship for an exchange with a leading foreign law school.

In response to the changing educational landscape, the School has established guidelines for using Generative AI (GenAI) in teaching and assessment. The use of GenAI for formative assessment tasks is at the discretion of the course leader. For examinations and summative work, the use of GenAI is generally prohibited, unless the course leader has expressly included it in the course description and has explained to the University on how it integrates with the OBTLs of the course. Several colleagues have been experimenting with the use of AI to develop skills in professional and ethical use and to familiarize students with advantages and risks of using this technology.

The LLB and double degree programmes provide opportunities for the development of general and professional skills, as well as the enhancement of learning experiences. Each student can choose to study different areas and systems of law, explore other disciplines and develop a unique educational profile. In particular:

- (i) For the period of report, 31 electives were offered to law students. Some of the electives were offered by renowned visiting scholars.
- (ii) The Discovery-Enriched Curriculum (DEC) gives students the opportunity to conduct research in the operation of the law and procedure in Hong Kong and elsewhere. This is implemented through several courses and, in addition, by the option of undertaking a research project.

- (iii) Legal placements have been incorporated as part of a credit-bearing course, providing students with the opportunity to acquire practical experience through working in a legal working environment. In 2025, 35 undergraduate law students completed either a part-time or full-time legal placement across a range of diverse employers, including barristers' chambers, local/international law firms, legal departments of international companies and financial institutions in Hong Kong.
- (iv) Students have the option to engage with the edition of the *City University of Hong Kong Law Review (CityUHK LR)*. First launched in October 2009, the *CityUHK LR* publishes two issues annually. Student editors work under the mentorship of faculty members. This work is also credit-bearing.
- (v) Participation in the Legal Clinic is credit-bearing. It offers students a learning experience in a real-world case setting. It cultivates essential lawyering skills, instill professional ethics and interact with practitioners.
- (vi) The Law School's Survival Skills Workshop equips new students with the fundamental skills necessary to thrive in legal education. This course also serves as an introduction to the legal profession, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the field they are about to enter. The course runs during the induction week and the first week, and targets first-year LLB students.
- (vii) Students can study abroad under one of the exchange programmes. The exchange network includes more than 40 universities, as well as universities in the Themis network. In addition, institutional exchanges at law schools are available through the University's partnerships with around 160 partner universities. An additional overseas exposure opportunity is offered through G-LEAP, a one-month intensive mode programme at the University College, Oxford. In 2025, 13 LLB students studied at universities in Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and the UK, while 20 LLB and double degree students participated in G-LEAP in summer 2025.

Incoming exchange students also enrich the educational experience of our students. During the year, the School received 36 exchange students from overseas jurisdictions, including Australia, Belgium, China, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, and the UK.

- (viii) The School has entered into a collaborative agreement with Georgetown University, enabling our most able LLB students to pursue an LLM degree at Georgetown University during their final year. The application process is highly competitive, with only the best students being selected for this collaborative programme. At present, one of our LLB students is studying at Georgetown University for her LLM degree.
- (ix) Mooting is strongly supported by the School. Our students receive training and support from our academic staff during their preparation for specific mootling competitions. In 2025, 11 LLB students participated in the following international mootling competitions:

- The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Commercial Mediation Competition (Paris), 3–8 February 2025
- The 2025 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition (Hong Kong Regional Rounds), 2 March 2025
- The 32nd Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, 11–17 April 2025 & the 15th Budapest Pre-Moot, 7–10 April 2025
- The 22nd Annual Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot, Hong Kong, 30 March–6 April 2025
- The International Criminal Court (ICC) Moot Court Competition, Hague, 11–18 June 2025

4 Quality Assurance

The University operates a Departmental Academic Advisor (DAA) Scheme as part of the University's quality enhancement and international benchmarking process. The School has appointed a new DAA and is in the transition process. Special approval from the Associate Provost (Quality Assurance and Accountability) has been given for this year before the assumption of duty by the next DAA. Thus, no DAA report is available.

Quality assurance mechanisms are implemented for the development, teaching and examination of courses and the overall design of the LLB studies. The design and development of courses is considered by examining the suitability of the Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs) against the substance of the course and their contributions to the MILOs of the LLB programme. The quality of teaching is monitored through formal and informal feedback from the students as well as teaching observation. Moderation of examination papers and scrutiny of marks by the examiners board is the basis for ensuring quality in the assessment methods.

5 Library and Other Facilities

The CityUHK Law Library has an excellent collection of law materials, including printed and electronic resources, as well as an extensive array of research support facilities. Legal reference services are also offered by the library. The library organized various workshops for our students, including Case Law Research Workshops and Citing Legal Information Workshops. All LLB and double degree students are encouraged to make use of the library resources and facilities. In addition, the SLW Moot Court Room is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. It is not only for mooting students to receive training in the moot court but also to arrange virtual teaching classes via Zoom/video-link facilities.

6 Supporting our Students

The School provides personal support to LLB and double degree students through personal and year tutors as well as by providing career advice and opportunities to meet with potential employers.

The Student's Professional Development and Public Service Programme was set up to provide various workshops and Webinars, including:

- The Director's Hours: Advice to All Years on Summer and Career Planning (23 January 2025)
- Seminar by LINK - Life of an In-house Counsel and Trainee Solicitor Programme (20 February 2025)
- CV Editing/Career Consultation/Simulated Interview/Practitioners' Networking Workshops (25 January 2025, 8 February 2025 and 22 February 2025)
- What you can gain from being a student member of The Law Society of Hong Kong? (3 September 2025)
- Everything You Wanted to Know About Becoming a Barrister But Were Afraid to Ask by The Young Barristers Committee of Hong Kong Bar Association (3 September 2025)
- Finding Your Vocation and Working Towards Your Dream from the First Year of Law School (4 September 2025)
- Ashurst - Graduate Recruitment Talk (10 September 2025)
- Clifford Chance Information Session (11 September 2025)
- How to Write a Winning CV? (13 September 2025)
- Many Roads to Rome - Local Law Firms' Training Contracts and Beyond - An Alumni's Roundtable (27 September 2025)
- Connect your Career at Pinsent Masons (8 October 2025)
- Eversheds Sutherland Career Talk Series 2025 (10 October 2025)
- Learn about Investigative Litigation and Private Client Disputes by Karas So LLP (27 October 2025)
- Career Talk on Legal Trainee Scheme by the Department of Justice (13 November 2025)

7 Staffing

In 2025 there were 55 academic and teaching staff in the School who teach in the LLB and double degree programmes. Additionally, 3 adjunct and visiting staff members contribute to the teaching of these programmes, offering practical and international experience. Our faculty provides a broad spectrum of courses to our undergraduate students, ensuring a comprehensive educational experience. Furthermore, the School is actively seeking highly qualified professionals to join our existing team and contribute to our commitment to academic excellence.

8 Graduation and Further Studies

42 LLB students graduated in 2025. 1 student graduated with Summa Cum Laude, 2 students graduated with Magna Cum Laude, and 3 students graduated with Cum Laude awards. The remaining 36 students graduated with no distinctions. Most of our students were admitted to the PCLL programme at CityUHK thus continuing their legal professional development.

Professor Michael Tsimplis
LLB Programme Director
School of Law
City University of Hong Kong
February 2026

**City University of Hong Kong
Juris Doctor (JD)
2025 Annual Report
for Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training**

1. Background

The JD (Juris Doctor) programme is a graduate entry law degree for applicants who have a non-law bachelor degree or an undergraduate law degree from a non-common law jurisdiction. JD graduates may enter the legal profession in Hong Kong after subsequently completing the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) or may use the gained legal knowledge and skills in other professions.

This status report on the JD programme at the School of Law (“the School”) of City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025.

2. 2025/26 Admissions

The minimum entry requirements for admission to JD are (i) a bachelor’s degree in a non-law discipline, or (ii) a bachelor’s degree in law from a non-common law jurisdiction obtained after at least eight semesters of full-time study. Moreover, applicants must also be proficient in English. For an applicant 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 TOEFL score of 100 (internet-based); or
- a band score of 7.5 or above in IELTS, with no individual score below 6.5, and a minimum score of 7.0 in the Academic Writing; or
- a total score of 520 in the Chinese Mainland's College English Test (Band 6).

Entry into the JD programme is quite competitive. The number and quality of applicants has remained strong. The School received 488 applications for admission to JD in 2025/26. The School admitted 135 students into the JD programme in 2025/26. The intake quality of students admitted to the JD programme in 2025/26 was of a high standard. Around 53% of admitted students received their postgraduate or bachelor’s degree from highly ranked universities globally, meaning their universities ranked in the top 200 according to QS/THE/ARWU, or from the top law schools from the Chinese Mainland. For students who were admitted to the programme with a bachelor’s degree as main qualification, they achieved an average GPA of 3.36 (base value as 4) or an average mark of 86%. For students who were admitted to the programme with a postgraduate degree as the main qualification, they achieved an average GPA of 3.39 (base value as 4) or an average mark of 85.59%.

Several outreach initiatives (e.g., placing advertisements and advertorials in local newspapers and education supplements, holding online information talks and participating in law fairs) were taken to attract applicants from all over the world. Our applicants come from a diverse range of academic backgrounds such as accounting and finance, economics, business administration, property management, physics, chemical and biological engineering, molecular biomedical science, materials engineering, civil engineering, biotechnology, nutrition, food science, civil law, language, translation, European studies, architectural studies, psychology, sociology, criminology, social policy and administration, political science and journalism. This diversity of the JD student body enhances greatly the quality of class interactions, discussions and the employability of our graduating cohorts.

Subsequent to students' admission to the programme, events and orientations for newly admitted students were organized. The events provided students an opportunity to know each other better and learn about various academic opportunities offered by the School.

3. Programme Structure

The JD programme comprises a total of 72 credit units. Students have to complete the following required courses (each worth 3 credits): Hong Kong Legal System and Legal Methods, Research and Writing. The remaining credits can be made up by enrolling in elective courses. The JD programme structure allows students to take 6 non-PCLL required electives (worth 18 credits) assuming that they are also going to take 48 credits worth of PCLL-required courses (16 courses).

The JD programme provides the necessary course requirements for admission to the PCLL programme. Apart from the two required courses for the degree itself, students are required to complete the following courses if they wish to pursue the PCLL programme: Law of Contract I & II, Law of Tort I & II, Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Criminal Law I & II, Land Law I & II, Law of Evidence, Equity and Trusts I and II, Company Law I & II and Commercial Law.

Students who do not wish to join the legal profession in Hong Kong can still benefit from the JD programme by choosing a range of elective courses offered by the JD, LLM and LLMArbDR programmes. The School offers a wide variety of elective courses such as Law School Survival Skills Workshop; Private Law of the PRC; Dispute Resolution; Principles of Insurance Law (Marine and General); Family Law in Hong Kong; Public International Law; Criminology Intellectual Property: Theory, Copyright and Design; City University Law Review; Introduction to Law and Economics; Principles of Maritime Law and Governance for Sustainable Shipping; Selected Problems in International Investment Law; Public Law of the PRC; Jurisprudence and Legal Theory; Criminal Justice; Intellectual Property Law: Theory, Patents and Trademarks; Mediation; Animal Law and Welfare; and International Water Law, Policy and Practice. In 2025/26, the School also offered 1.5-credit intensive elective courses such as Current Issues in Criminal Law and Practice; IPO and Listed Company Compliance in Hong Kong; China's State Capitalism and International Economic Law; Essential Laws for the Public Sector in Hong Kong; China's State-Owned Enterprises: Governance, Regulation and Global Implications; Artificial Intelligence and Robotics – Law and Governance; Legal Tech & Corporate Practice: Practical Insights; Law and Valuation; and The EU and the Digital Single Market: Governance and Implications for EU-China Relations. These short courses are taught by legal practitioners or by faculty members from other universities.

JD students have an option to specialise in any one of the following areas by taking any four elective courses (12 credits) from the respective specialisation list below:

- 1) **International Commercial Law:** LW5620 International Trade Regulation; LW5631 Banking Law; LW5632 International Financial Law; LW5641 Intellectual Property: Theory, Copyright and Design (G-LEAP); LW5643 Cyber Law; LW5664 European Competition Law of Policy (G-LEAP); LW6108E International Finance: Law and Regulation; LW6109E Banking and Finance Law; LW6140E Chinese and Comparative Commercial Law; LW6141E Chinese Foreign Trade and Investment Law; LW6142E International Investment Law; LW6144E International Trade Law; LW6145E Legal Problems of Economic Globalisation; LW6153E International Economic Dispute Resolution: Law and Politics; LW6160E Investor-State Dispute Settlement; LW6161E Chinese and Comparative Competition Law; LW6167E Current Issues in WTO Law; LW6180E International Commercial Contracts and Uniform Sales Law
- 2) **Alternative Dispute Resolution:** LW5614 Dispute Resolution; LW5666 Mediation; LW6126E Dispute Resolution in Theory and Practice; LW6142E International Investment Law; LW6153E International Economic Dispute Resolution: Law and Politics; LW6160E Investor-State Dispute Settlement; LW6168E Selected Problems in International Investment Law; LW6187E Chinese and Comparative Alternative Dispute Resolution; LW6405 Arbitration Law; LW6406 Mediation Practice; LW6407 Arbitration Practice and Award Writing; LW6408 International Arbitration LW5649 International Mooting and Advocacy (3 credits) OR LW5649B International Mooting and Advocacy (6 credits)
- 3) **Chinese and Comparative Law:** LW5626 Comparative Law; LW6127E Chinese and Comparative Intellectual Property Law: Trademarks and Patents; LW6134E Chinese and Comparative Company Law; LW6140E Chinese and Comparative Commercial Law; LW6141E Chinese Foreign Trade and Investment Law; LW6172E Law and Society in China; LW6115E Selected Issues on Chinese IP Law; LW6121E Constitutional and Administrative Law of China; LW6122E Chinese and Comparative Financial Law; LW6123E Chinese Criminal Law and Procedure; LW6124E Chinese Legal History and Legal Thought; LW6129E Chinese and Comparative Environmental Law; LW6132E Theory and Practice of Comparative Law; LW6136E Property Rights in China: Legal, Economic, and Policy Analysis; LW6138E Chinese and Comparative Contract Law; LW6139E Advanced Issues on Chinese Civil Law; LW6150E Chinese and Comparative Trade Secrets Law; LW6161E Comparative Competition Law: China, HKSAR and the US; LW6169E Chinese and Comparative Labour Law; LW6187E Chinese and Comparative Alternative Dispute Resolution; LW6188E Chinese and Comparative Maritime Law

Depending upon the interest of students and the course offering in the future, these specialised streams may be modified. The above course list may be reviewed and amended from time to time, subject to the availability of teaching staff.

Whether or not a student chooses to specialise in any of the above areas, she will receive the award of Juris Doctor (法律博士). Consistent with City University's policy on streamlining award titles, the award titles do not include areas of specialisation. The specialised area, if elected by a student, will appear on the academic transcript only.

The master implementation plan for the LLB and JD co-teaching programme has been successfully carried out. The co-teaching of common courses employs economies of scale given limited teaching resources, particularly for some courses for which recruitment has been challenging across all Hong Kong law schools. Co-teaching allows the School to offer a greater selection of electives to both LLB and JD students than would be possible if all electives were separately taught. In 2025/26, 19 electives were offered to JD students.

4. Teaching and Learning

The School promotes active and interactive learning. The teaching/learning activities and the assessment tasks for each course are aligned with the Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs). CILOs are then aligned with the JD Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs). The PILOs of the JD programme stipulate that after completing the programme, students should be able to:

- 1) explain and assess specified areas of the law and the legal system of Hong Kong, with particular emphasis on the law in action and the dynamic interplay between law and other social phenomena;
- 2) assess the common law system and its values, and its interaction with the law and the legal system of the Chinese Mainland, the East Asian region and the wider world;
- 3) explain, interpret and apply main principles of ethics, civil duty, and social and professional responsibility;
- 4) critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of law as a means of regulating society in the context of competing and conflicting interests; and
- 5) demonstrate and apply skills of legal analysis and reasoning, of legal research, problem solving, and of oral and written communication to a level appropriate to a graduate-entry degree in law.

To be in line with City University's overarching Discovery-enriched Curriculum (DEC) initiative, various DEC elements have been incorporated into JD courses. Students are encouraged to think critically, to solve real-world problems and to produce new research of high quality during their degree programme. All course syllabuses have been reformulated in a format called "SYL" with the relevant DEC components noted, where present in each course. Some course leaders have also begun to adopt an optional 'Team-Based Learning' curriculum, whereby students watch a series of introductory videos prior to the first scheduled class. Classroom activities are then oriented around active learning activities such as presentations, discussions, and peer evaluation, rather than didactic instruction.

Students receive three direct contact hours for each 3-credit course every week. Classes are generally conducted as a combination of lectures and small group tutorials, though certain courses are taught in a seminar style. JD students do not normally share tutorial classes with undergraduate LLB students.

5. Assessment

The assessment pattern for most courses is in the form of an assignment, in-class participation and a final examination. The final exam component is generally worth between 40 and 70 percent. Since all JD courses are offered at a postgraduate level and students are expected to achieve a suitable standard of competency, students are required to achieve a minimum of 40 percent in each of the assessment components to pass the course. Students are provided written feedback on their assignment before the final examination so as to aid their learning.

6. Academic Quality

The EAA arrangements for the JD programme have been discontinued. Following the positive assessments and advice given by external advisors over the years, we feel sufficiently confident in the quality of our programmes to discontinue with EEAs. To maintain the academic quality of the JD programme, the examination papers are subjected to internal moderation.

7. Exchange Opportunities

The School recognizes the importance of providing students with overseas exchange opportunities. Overseas exchanges provide a platform for students to share ideas and experiences about different legal issues and legal systems. The School has entered into collaborative agreements with several leading universities such as Amsterdam Law School, University of Bergen, KU Leuven, University of Liège, Durham University, University of Sheffield, University of San Francisco, Case Western Reserve University, University of Montreal, University of Mannheim, Fribourg University, Victoria University of Wellington, National Chengchi University, National Taiwan University, Fudan University, China University of Political Science and Law, East China University of Political Science and Law, Jilin University, Shanghai Jiaotong University Koguan Law School, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Renmin University, Tsinghua University, Zhongnan University of Economics & Law, Zhejiang University and Singapore Management University. We received seven incoming postgraduate exchange students in Semesters A&B 2024/25 from Bocconi University, Italy; ESADE Business School, Spain; Freie University Berlin, Germany; KU Leuven, Belgium; Nova School of Law, Portugal; University of Amsterdam, Netherlands; University of Bergen, Norway; Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria; Fudan University, Shanghai, the Chinese Mainland; Shanghai Jiaotong University, the Chinese Mainland; Southeast University, the Chinese Mainland. Seven CityUHK JD students went out on exchange for a semester.

8. Co-curricular and/or Overseas Academic Activities

The learning environment of JD students is enriched by their participation in some of the following activities:

International Mooting Competitions

As participation in mooting competitions greatly enhances students' mooting and advocacy

skills, the School continues to facilitate students' participation in various regional and international mooting competitions by providing extensive training and financial support. In academic year 2024-2025, 6 JD students participated in the following international mooting competitions:

- The 20th ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition, Paris, 3 – 8 February 2025
- The 2025 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court, HK, 2 March 2025
- The 22nd Annual Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot, Hong Kong, 30 March - 6 April 2025

Legal Placement

The credit-bearing Legal Placement course provides JD students with opportunities to complete internships not only in Hong Kong but also in the Chinese Mainland and in other parts of the world. The placement aims to enhance students' hands-on experience to complement theoretical learning from the classroom. In Hong Kong, students were placed in various legal departments, financial institutions, chambers and law firms. In Semester A, Semester B and Summer 2025, 59 JD students participated in Legal Placements in Hong Kong and 1 JD student participated in Legal Placements in the Chinese Mainland.

Global Engagement

To promote international collaboration and efficient student exchanges, the School of Law has entered into a collaborative agreement with Georgetown University (Georgetown) and Melbourne University (Melbourne). Our JD students will have the opportunity to study the LLM at Georgetown and the Law Master's at Melbourne. These collaborations will provide our students with an opportunity to obtain professional degrees in foreign jurisdictions and in Hong Kong. It will enhance students' employability in foreign jurisdictions with an overall reduction in study time and cost.

We continue our effort to build up formidable partnerships with leading law schools from around the world through groupings such as the Association of Asian Law Schools, the Center for Transnational Legal Studies of Georgetown University Law Center, the Themis Network Agreement and The Private Law Consortium. We also have a double degree agreement with University Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne. This arrangement enables participating students to obtain a Master's degree from Paris 1 University and also a JD from CityUHK. We have entered into a similar agreement with Fribourg University, Switzerland. Our JD students are provided with opportunity to study the LLM programme at Fribourg University, obtaining two degrees in three years' study time. Notably, we signed a collaboration agreement with Tsinghua University to provide opportunities for their eligible LLB students to study in the CityUHK JD programme, so as to cultivate elite talents with knowledge and skills of both common law and Chinese Mainland law.

Meanwhile, the School joined hands with the College of Business to introduce an innovative professional degree collaboration across the law and business disciplines. This accelerated path to business and law qualifications will be offered by the JD and MBA programmes. Students may enrol in either the JD or MBA programme first, with opportunities to take courses from the partner programme. Credit units earned can then be used for credit transfer when the student subsequently enrolls in the other programme.

The Global Legal Education Awareness Project aims to promote excellence in legal education with a view to providing opportunities for our law students to obtain a global perspective in the study of law. In the summer of 2025, 15 JD students spent a month at University College, Oxford (United Kingdom) to study a credit-bearing law course on European Competition Law and Policy.

City University of Hong Kong Law Review (CityU LR)

CityU LR is our student-edited law journal. Every year, about twenty students are selected and trained by the Faculty Editor to edit the journal. This elective law course has been introduced to harness the writing and editing skills of the Board members. Articles published by *CityU LR* are available through HeinOnline and Westlaw.

9. Supporting our Students

The School provides personal support to JD students through academic advisors and year tutors as well as by providing career advice and opportunities to meet with potential employers.

The SLW Students' Professional Development and Public Service Programme was set up to provide various workshops and Webinars, including:

- Director's Hours: Advice to All Years on Summer and Career Planning (23 January 2025)
- Life of an In-house Counsel and Trainee Solicitor Programme at LINK 2025 (20 February 2025)
- Stepping into the Legal Profession: Empowering Future Solicitors through Law Society Initiatives" by the Law Society of Hong Kong (3 September 2025)
- Everything You Wanted to Know About Becoming a Barrister But Were Afraid to Ask" by The Young Barristers Committee of Hong Kong Bar Association (3 September 2025)
- Finding Your Vocation and Working Towards Your Dream From the First Year of Law School by Professor Scarlet Fung (4 September 2025)
- Panel Discussion - What is the Future of Law and Legal Tech? by Ashurst (10 September 2025)
- Meet Clifford Chance at City University of Hong Kong (11 September 2025)
- How to Write a Winning CV (13 September 2025)
- Temple Chambers Visit (18 September 2025)
- Bird & Bird Firm Visit: "Law in Action: How we make a difference" (26 September 2025)
- Many Roads to Rome - Local Law Firms' Training Contracts and Beyond - An Alumni's Roundtable (27 September 2025)
- A&O Shearman Firm Visit, Ace the Business Case (2 October 2025)
- Pinsent Masons - Graduate Recruitment Talk: Connect Your Career at Pinsent Masons (8 October 2025)
- Clyde and Co Firm Visit - Legal and Soft Skills Workshop (9 October 2025)
- Eversheds Sutherland - Graduate Recruitment Talk: Behind the Headlines: What Lawyers Really Do in Competition, Trade and Foreign investment (10 October 2025)
- Hogan Lovells Firm Visit & Negotiation Workshop (16 October 2025)
- Karas So LLP - Investigative Litigation, Private Client Work and Trainee Opportunities at Karas So LLP (27 October 2025)
- Career Talk on Legal Trainee Scheme by the Department of Justice (6 November 2025)

10. Library and Other Facilities

The Law Library based at the Run Run Shaw Library on campus provides an extensive selection of print and online legal materials, including legal treatises, law books, law reports, statute sets, law journals and databases, etc. Most of the electronic resources can be accessed both on campus and remotely. Legal reference services are also offered by the library. Law Library workshops are held throughout the year to equip students with the core research skills: finding cases and legislation, locating ADR legal materials, effective use of secondary materials, searching databases, and citing legal information. Library staff also compile research guides and online tutorials. The library continues to provide customized library collections and services to JD students. The essential readings for JD courses are acquired and put on course reserve.

11. Looking Ahead

The JD programme at CityUHK, the first of its kind in Hong Kong, is running extremely well and our JD graduates are highly sought after by local as well as international law firms, together with employers outside of legal practice. We offer a global learning environment to our students. In the coming years, the School of Law aims to offer more elective courses, explore more overseas learning opportunities and to streamline the learning and teaching platform. The new English Proficiency Requirement for the 2026 intake has been implemented to further enhance the competitiveness of the JD programme.

Professor Daniel Pascoe
JD Programme Director
School of Law
City University of Hong Kong
February 2026

City University of Hong Kong
Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL)
2025 Annual Report
for Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

1. 2025/26 Admissions

The School of Law (“the School”) received **384** applications for its PCLL programme for the academic year 2025/26. **243** offers were made by the SLW, and eventually **197** students were admitted to the PCLL programme. The number of offers was consistent with figures from previous years.

Under the Special Track Programme, designed for candidates with at least 2 years of full-time law-related work experience (e.g., paralegals, law clerks, court clerks and legal assistants) who may not otherwise qualify for admission based solely on their academic results, there were 32 applicants. Following the interviews, we gave 22 offers to the applicants. We have continued to place deliberate emphasis on admitting candidates with substantial and relevant professional experience. While some of these applicants may not have demonstrated uninterrupted academic success earlier in their studies, many have, through sustained practice, perseverance, and long-term commitment, shown a clear dedication to the legal profession and its values. We consider such experience an important indicator of maturity and professional readiness. Equally importantly, these candidates bring practical perspectives that enrich classroom discussion, enhance peer learning, and make both teaching and learning more engaged, grounded, and reflective of real-world legal practice.

49.1% of those UGC-funded places were given to graduates from universities in Hong Kong.

As of 3 November 2025, 192 students were studying in the CityUHK PCLL programme.

The 2025/26 PCLL programme is comprised of **48.2%** local graduates and **51.8%** graduates from overseas institutions. Appendix 1 contains a list of the universities from which these PCLL students graduated.

The following matters are noted in relation to the admissions process:

1. The Admissions Committee began reviewing applications in December 2024 and regularly thereafter. This enabled several early conditional and unconditional offers to be made to academically strong applicants.
2. **28** applicants to whom conditional offers were made were unable to take up their place (most of them being unsuccessful in one or more of the Conversion

Exam Board examinations). **18** applicants declined our offers due to personal reasons.

3. All students enrolled attained the minimum IELTS standard.

2. Class Size

Our core and elective courses generally maintain a small group size of around 11 students. In selected skills-based courses, such as Commercial Writing and Drafting, enrolment is intentionally capped at a lower level to allow for more individualized instruction and feedback. Given the intensive and iterative nature of this work, a smaller class size of approximately six to seven students is pedagogically more effective.

3. Assessment Regime and Outcomes

3.1 Assessment Regime

Assessments were taken under controlled conditions through online typed examinations and performance-based assessments.

Since implementing online typed examinations in 2017/18 in collaboration with our technical staff and the CityUHK e-learning team, we have adopted this assessment method for all courses, and it continues to be effective. The practice has been well-received by both course examiners and students, underscoring its ongoing success.

3.2 Assessment Outcomes

2023/24:

No. of students who failed to graduate from the PCLL programme:	9
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No. of students who failed one or more subjects were required to take supplementary examinations:	72 (including 9 who failed to graduate from the PCLL, 1 who graduated in 2025 after passing supplementary examination in December 2024)
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2024/25:

No. of students who failed to graduate from the PCLL programme:	7
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No. of students who failed one or more subjects at first attempt and were required to take supplementary examinations:	57 (including 7 who failed to graduate from the PCLL)
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4. Staffing

In 2024/25, 12 full-time staff and 39 part-time staff (practitioners) taught in the PCLL programme.

In 2025/26, 12 full-time staff and 45 part-time staff (practitioners) taught in the PCLL programme.

Many teaching staff members have been instructing in the PCLL programme for some time, concurrently maintaining their legal practices. We are dedicated to enhancing the PCLL programme by actively recruiting experienced practitioners from various areas of practice to join our teaching team.

5. Curriculum

In 2025-26, there are nine core courses: Interlocutory Advocacy and Interviewing; Trial Advocacy; Mediation and Negotiation; Conveyancing Practice; Wills and Probate Practice; Corporate and Commercial Practice; Civil Litigation Practice; Criminal Litigation Practice; and Professional Conduct and Practice.

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

Feedback from students and colleagues concerning curriculum changes implemented in 2024/25

Following a careful review of the programme, and in response to feedback from students, staff, and consultations with professional bodies, a number of curriculum changes were implemented with effect from the 2024/25 academic year. These changes were designed to address student concerns regarding workload and scheduling, optimise contact hours, introduce greater flexibility and creativity in teaching methods, and ensure continued alignment with the benchmarks prescribed by the Law Society and the Bar Association.

After the first year of implementation in 2024/25, feedback was gathered from both students and course leaders across the relevant courses. Certain courses, including Mediation and Negotiation (MN) and Trial Advocacy (TA), were reorganised into more intensive formats. Overall, students responded positively to these arrangements. In particular, the intensive format of MN was found to provide a more focused learning environment, allowing students to devote sustained attention to practising negotiation skills without the competing demands of other courses. Students also benefited from exposure to different negotiation styles through the involvement of multiple tutors. Improvements were observed in large group attendance, in-class participation, and overall student engagement.

At the same time, students identified a need for additional practice opportunities and greater clarity regarding differing approaches during small group sessions. In response,

further refinements were implemented in the 2025/26 academic year, including a reduction in the number of large group sessions from eight to six with more condensed content, an increase in small group sessions from six to seven, and enhanced consistency among tutors through daily pre-small-group briefings.

From 2025/26 onwards, the NITA method has been adopted in the Trial Advocacy course to further strengthen skills training. In addition, a video on court dress has been introduced to help students avoid inappropriate attire at High Court trials and assessments.

Another curriculum adjustment involved the reclassification of the year-long Corporate and Commercial Practice (CCP) course. Part B was converted into an elective course retitled Corporate Fundraising for Lawyers (CFL), while Part A remains a core course. Student feedback on the revised structure has been positive. Those who elected to take CFL found the course interactive, practical, and engaging, with materials of particular relevance and interest. The Course Leader also reported strong attendance in both large and small group sessions, with active student participation, including effective use of real-time polls and in-class exercises deliberately incorporated to enhance engagement and learning outcomes.

Consistent with the broader curricular approach described above, Commercial Writing and Drafting (CWD) was transitioned to elective status from 2024/25, with smaller small-group class sizes introduced to allow for more individualised instruction. Students reported increased confidence in drafting, and non-assessable exercises were found to be particularly useful for skills development. The Course Leader considers the reduced group size to be a key strength of the revised course and recommends that this feature be retained.

From the 2025/26 academic year, the programme has also introduced the use of generative AI tools in drafting exercises in selected courses where such use is considered pedagogically appropriate, primarily within litigation-related subjects. A commercial AI platform is used to allow students to explore both the potential benefits and the limitations of generative AI, and to understand how such tools may be incorporated into professional legal workflows. This approach is carefully calibrated to ensure that core drafting, analytical, and case-preparation skills remain firmly grounded in traditional legal training. Subject to the outcomes of this initial implementation, consideration may be given to extending the use of such tools to additional courses in future years. This measured introduction reflects the reality that familiarity with AI-assisted tools is increasingly expected in legal practice, while recognising that the PCLL stage is an appropriate point at which students can critically engage with both the capabilities and pitfalls of such technologies.

6. The Future

As we look ahead, we remain committed to continuously enhancing students' learning experiences within our evolving curriculum. While traditional teaching and learning methods remain foundational, we recognize the profound impact of technological advancements, particularly in areas such as artificial intelligence.

Legal practice is undergoing significant transformation, and we are dedicated to ensuring our students are well-equipped to navigate these changes. We will continue to assess the implications of emerging technologies on the profession and explore innovative ways to integrate relevant skills into our training. By doing so, we aim to prepare our graduates not only to adapt to this evolving landscape but also to leverage these advancements effectively, adding value to their colleagues, employers, and clients from the outset of their careers.

7. Involvement of the Profession

We are happy to report that the profession continues to be very involved with training the CityUHK PCLL students. Involvement has been in the form of guest lectures, presentations on different topics, assistance in assessments and demonstrations in various advocacy courses. The School of Law's Students' Professional Development and Public Service Program, in partnership with the legal profession, including law firms, companies, and NGOs, arranged a series of engaging presentations for law students, including PCLL students (see information below). Opportunities for jobs and internships were also sought for students during the year 2025.

- ❖ The Director's Hours: Advice to All Years on Summer and Career Planning (23 January 2025)
- ❖ Seminar by LINK - Life of an In-house Counsel and Trainee Solicitor Programme (20 February 2025)
- ❖ CV Editing/Career Consultation/Simulated Interview/Practitioners' Networking Workshops (25 January 2025, 8 February 2025 and 22 February 2025)
- ❖ What you can gain from being a student member of The Law Society of Hong Kong? (3 September 2025)
- ❖ Everything You Wanted to Know About Becoming a Barrister But Were Afraid to Ask by The Young Barristers Committee of Hong Kong Bar Association (3 September 2025)
- ❖ Finding Your Vocation and Working Towards Your Dream from the First Year of Law School (4 September 2025)
- ❖ Ashurst - Graduate Recruitment Talk (10 September 2025)
- ❖ Clifford Chance Information Session (11 September 2025)
- ❖ How to Write a Winning CV? (13 September 2025)
- ❖ Many Roads to Rome - Local Law Firms' Training Contracts and Beyond - An Alumni's Roundtable (27 September 2025)
- ❖ Connect your Career at Pinsent Masons (8 October 2025)
- ❖ Eversheds Sutherland Career Talk Series 2025 (10 October 2025)
- ❖ Learn about Investigative Litigation and Private Client Disputes by Karas So LLP (27 October 2025)
- ❖ Career Talk on Legal Trainee Scheme by the Department of Justice (13 November 2025)

8. Conclusion

We remain firmly committed to developing well-rounded legal professionals who are capable of making meaningful contributions to the Hong Kong legal market. Beyond the acquisition of technical legal skills, the programme continues to emphasise professionalism, ethical responsibility, teamwork, and a sense of service to the wider community. We take pride in the quality and maturity of our graduates and in our ongoing role in preparing each cohort to contribute positively to the local legal profession.

As an international financial centre and a culturally diverse jurisdiction, Hong Kong requires lawyers who are adaptable, outward-looking, and comfortable working across borders and disciplines. The curriculum is designed to foster these attributes by encouraging collaboration, critical engagement, and practical problem-solving, ensuring that students are well prepared to work effectively with colleagues, clients, and stakeholders in both local and international contexts.

At the same time, we recognise that the legal profession continues to evolve in response to technological and structural change. Consistent with the approach outlined in this report, the programme seeks to prepare students for these developments in a measured and responsible manner, ensuring that they graduate with a strong foundation in core legal skills while developing the awareness and adaptability required to engage with emerging tools and practices in the profession.

We continue to value constructive feedback from the profession and welcome ongoing dialogue with all stakeholders in the further development of the programme. Looking ahead, we remain committed to the continuous refinement of the curriculum and to maintaining high standards of legal education that are responsive to the needs of the profession and the community it serves.

Mr Ubaid Rehman
PCLL Programme Director
School of Law
City University of Hong Kong
January 2026

Appendix 1

Students admitted to the 2025/26 PCLL programme graduated from the following universities:

Name of University
Australian National University, Australia
Chinese University of Hong Kong
City University of Hong Kong
De Montfort University, UK
King's College London, UK
London School of Economics and Political Science, UK
London South Bank University, UK
Manchester Metropolitan University, UK
Swansea University, UK
University College London, UK
University of Birmingham, UK
University of Bristol, UK
University of Cambridge, UK
University of Dundee, UK
University of Durham, UK
University of Essex, UK
University of Exeter, UK
University of Hong Kong
University of Hong Kong (SPACE)
University of Lancaster, UK
University of Law, UK
University of Leeds, UK
University of Leicester, UK
University of London, UK (Queen Mary)
University of London, UK (Ext/Int'l Programme)
University of London, UK (Royal Holloway)
University of London, UK (SOAS)
University of Manchester, UK
University of New South Wales, Australia
University of Nottingham, UK
University of Reading, UK
University of Surrey, UK
University of Sydney, Australia
University of Warwick, UK
University of York, UK

Annexure 4

The Chinese University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law

Report on the LLB Programme

(January to December 2025)

1. Admissions

The LLB programme's annual admission quota is 70 in the current triennium (2025-28). 76 students were ultimately admitted in the 2025 intake.

In addition to the review of minimum entry requirements, the Faculty conducts short interviews as part of the admissions process, to allow for individualized assessment of the students and to give the students the opportunity to discuss their goals and interest in studying at CUHK LAW with a member of our faculty.

2. Course Offering

Supplementing the core courses, the LLB programme continues to offer a wide range of electives. New electives are added to the programme on a regular basis. In the period in question, new elective course approved included:

- (i) *Digital Platforms and the Law;*
- (ii) *Compliance from a Legal Perspective*

3. Use of Chinese Language

The Chinese University of Hong Kong implements bilingual education, and Chinese language courses form a compulsory part of the curriculum for all students admitted under both the JUPAS and non-JUPAS schemes. The LLB programme places great emphasis on improving the bilingual skills of our students.

All LLB students are required to fulfill 5 units of Chinese language courses, selected from the below options:

- (i) *University Chinese I and University Chinese II;*
- (ii) *Chinese Law (Summer Course at Tsinghua University) and either Oral Communication Skills or Chinese Business Planning.*

These courses are designed to strengthen students' ability to use Chinese. Students admitted under the non-JUPAS scheme may be granted exemption on a case-by-case basis after assessment of their Chinese language ability. Where exemption is granted, it is compulsory for the relevant student to take other Chinese language courses suitable for their level of linguistic ability.

In addition, the LLB programme normally offers two electives (*Chinese Law (Summer Course)* and *Chinese Law Internship*) conducted in Putonghua and delivered in the Chinese Mainland, which allow students to acquire a deeper understanding of Chinese law and the Chinese legal system, and to sharpen their Chinese language skills. Students who have taken these courses report that they have substantially improved their Chinese language reading, writing and communication skills.

4. Experiential Learning

The LLB programme continues to emphasize experiential learning as part of law students' university experience, recognizing its ability to broaden their learning horizons. In addition to a wide range of activities organized at the University and College levels the Faculty offers exchange programmes, internships and credit-bearing Summer Study Abroad Programmes (SSAPs) in Beijing, Toronto and Bangkok. The Faculty has established a 4-year LLB-LLM pathway arrangement with the The Dickson Poon School of Law of King's College London and a 4-year LLB-LLM pathway arrangement with the University of Southern California USC Gould School of Law (USC). For these two programmes, students study at CUHK for three years, after which they spend a year to obtain an LLM at KCL in the UK or at USC in the US. The Faculty continues to work to identify exchange partner institutions, while also encouraging students to participate in exchange schemes over the course of a semester or two. CUHK LAW also organizes lectures by distinguished guests and visits to legal institutions, as well as social activities conducted as part of our Distinguished Professional Mentorship Scheme. We are most grateful for the strong support from the legal profession that has made these out-of-class learning activities a great success.

5. Mooting Participation

LLB students continue to participate in international mooting competitions, an area in which CUHK LAW has had extensive success in previous years. In the 2024-25 academic year, CUHK sent teams to participate in the following moots:

- Herbert Smith Freehills Competition Law Moot
- Nuremberg Moot Court
- Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Hong Kong) (Vienna)

CUHK LAW's moot teams continued to excel in 2025. Some highlights included:

Herbert Smith Freehills Competition Law Moot

- One of the 12 teams to qualify for the oral round (out of almost 50 contenders in the written round). The team advanced to the quarterfinals, won the award

for Best Advocate of the entire competition, and a certificate of achievement for outstanding advocacy skills.

Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Law Moot

- Won Honorable Mentions Best Written Memorandum for Claimant.

Vis International Commercial Arbitration Law Moot (Vienna)

- Won Werner Melis Award For Best Respondent Memorandum, Martin Domke Award For Best Oralist and Eric E. Bergsten Award For Best Team Orals (Top 16) in Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot 2025

The Faculty will continue to encourage mooting among our students and support their participation and success in these competitions.

6. Quality Assurance of Teaching and Learning

Quality assurance mechanisms are in place to ensure that we deliver quality legal education to best serve the community.

To ensure the quality of our courses the Faculty administers teaching evaluation surveys to students to collect their feedback in a systematic manner. The Assistant Dean/LLB Programme Director and the Deputy LLB Programme Director meet LLB representatives from each year in each academic term to collect students' views and concerns in relation to teaching and learning. A staff-student consultative committee has been established since 2019 to allow students to engage in conversations with one another as well as with teaching staff regarding their concerns in relation to all aspects of their studies and university life. The Faculty will continue to work closely with our students to aid independent learning and ensure the best learning environment.

There is rigorous internal moderation of course outlines and exams. All new courses require a detailed outline and plan and must be approved by both the Committee on Undergraduate and Graduate Studies and the Faculty Board. Each semester, exam panels are convened to review proposed exam questions for quality and consistency. The Assistant Dean/LLB Programme Director and the Deputy LLB Programme Director then review all the exam questions a second time. This double-layer of review has proved effective in catching errors before the exams are printed and distributed to students. There is also an exam moderation procedure, under which two or three exam papers from each grading band and all failure grades will be marked again by a second member of staff, to ensure fairness and consistency.

7. Learning Resources

Given the centrality of law reports, ordinances and scholarly writings to the study of law, the Faculty places great emphasis on its library resources. The Lee Quo Wei Law Library consists of approx. 125,000 volumes of books and bound periodicals on law or law related subjects and provides access to over 6,400 electronic law journals. There are 103 electronic legal databases available to students and staff. Wherever possible electronic format is the preferred option for

books, law journals and serials. The Faculty is investing heavily in library materials to support future years of its law programmes.

8. Career Preparation

The Academic Advisory System and the Distinguished Professional Mentorship Scheme provide pastoral care and support for our students. The Academic Advisory System ensures close faculty-student relations. The Distinguished Professional Mentors help link our students to the local practitioner community, providing an invaluable service in terms of helping them to understand and appreciate the working life of a legal practitioner, and obtain guidance as to their future career choices. The students also have access to alumni mentoring through the Faculty's e-mentoring programme.

Mr. Hans Herrmann, served as the Assistant Dean Career Planning and Student Affairs during the 2024-25 academic year. Ms. Janet Chan, Senior Manager of Career Planning and Professionalism, has since stepped into the role. Together with the generous support the Faculty receives from local professionals and stakeholders, Mr. Herrmann and Ms. Chan provide our students with valuable guidance on career planning, job applications, interview techniques, professionalism and other matters relating to careers, including through a series of seminars matched to the stages of the annual recruitment rounds and through counselling sessions offered to students who require personalised assistance on career issues.

The Office of Career Planning and Professionalism has also continued keeping the Faculty's Virtual Careers Resource Centre up-to-date with a legal directory of law firms and chambers in Hong Kong and their information pertaining to their recruitment processes and offers. The Office also produces a biweekly newsletter on developments in legal business and arranges a series of career seminars, talks and workshops, delivered by international and local law firm associates and partners and members of the Hong Kong Bar and the Department of Justice. These events have been very well attended and well received by students.

9. Graduates

As in previous years, the majority of our LLB graduates continue their PCLL studies at CUHK after completion of the LLB programme. 100% of our LLB graduates who applied for the PCLL programme at CUHK were admitted in 2025. Those not joining the PCLL programme pursued other postgraduate programmes in Hong Kong and abroad as well as other career paths.

Dicky Tsang
Assistant Dean (Undergraduate Studies) and LLB Programme Director
Faculty of Law
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
January 2026

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Faculty of Law**

Report on the Juris Doctor Programme

(January to December 2025)

1. Background

The Juris Doctor (JD) is a graduate entry programme. CUHK LAW designed and offered it as a response to the recommendation of the *Redmond-Roper Report* “that there should be opportunity for mature age students, and graduates in other disciplines, to study law - both for equity and access reasons and for the richness and diversity this brings to the law schools and the legal profession” (*Report*, 11.4 at p. 271).

2. Teaching philosophy and structure

CUHK LAW teaches the JD exclusively at graduate level. JD students thus enjoy a dedicated programme. They share some courses with other students (i.e. those reading for the Master of Laws (LLM) and a small number of exchange and associate students).

CUHK LAW examines the JD as a graduate programme. Students thus must perform to graduate standards.

3. Admission requirements

CUHK LAW required applicants for admission to the 2025-26 JD to have:

- (i) graduated from a recognised university and obtained a bachelor's degree in a non-law subject or a law degree from a non-common law jurisdiction, normally with honours not lower than Second Class; or
- (ii) graduated from an honours programme of a recognised university with a bachelor's degree in a non-law subject or a law degree from a non-common law jurisdiction, normally achieving an average grade of not lower than "B" in undergraduate courses; or
- (iii) completed a course of study in a tertiary educational institution and obtained professional or similar qualifications equivalent to an honours degree.

Applicants must also have satisfied the JD's English Language Proficiency Requirement by:

- possessing a bachelor's degree obtained by completing a programme of study in Hong Kong or an English-speaking country, or which was taught primarily in the English language; or

- achieving a result of Band 7.5 or better in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), which result was obtained not more than two years prior to the date of applying to join the JD; or
- achieving a result of 600 (Paper Based Test), or 100 (Internet Based Test) or better in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), which result was obtained not more than two years prior to the date of applying to join the JD; or
- producing alternative evidence of English proficiency equivalent to one of the preceding measures.

4. Programme philosophy and structure

The JD is an intellectually enriching general education in law. It offers various Faculty core courses (details of which are below). It offers all subjects that the Hong Kong legal professions stipulate as pre-requisites for admission to the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL). It also allows candidates to read a wide range of challenging elective courses in the common law, Chinese law, comparative law, international law and the law of trade, business and finance.

The JD consists of 72 credit units (a standard semester-length course being 3 credit units). Students have an average of 3 contact hours per week with teachers in each course. Students entering the JD complete it in full-time mode or part-time mode.

Full-time mode students can finish the JD in 24 months by completing courses in each summer term. Full-time students may take up to 48 months to complete the JD.

Part-time mode students can complete their studies in 42 months (although students may, in exceptional circumstances, apply to accelerate their studies and complete the JD in 36 months on CUHK LAW's recommendation and with the Graduate Council's permission). CUHK LAW lets part-time students take up to 84 months to complete the JD. The JD is currently the only qualifying law degree offered in part-time mode by a Hong Kong university.

To graduate, students must complete five Faculty-required courses. These are *LAWS6001 Legal System*, *LAWS6004 Legal Research, Analysis and Writing*, *LAWS6006 Comparative Legal Studies*, *LAWS6007 Ethics and Jurisprudence*, and either *LAWS6901 Independent Research* or *LAWS6902 Independent Research Dissertation*. These required components give JD students the essential foundational knowledge and skills for a well-rounded general legal education and a first-hand appreciation of the relationship between the legal system and the broader community that it serves and regulates.

Students aspiring to become Hong Kong-qualified barristers or solicitors must pursue particular courses mandated by the Hong Kong legal professions. Passing these courses entitles students to apply for admission to the PCLL Programme. These courses are also open to students who do not plan to apply for the PCLL.

In addition to the five required courses, CUHK LAW offers JD elective courses from a wide range of intellectually stimulating and professionally enhancing offerings. This arrangement enables students to complete their degrees and professional requirements while enhancing their range of courses and thus their academic and professional opportunities.

JD Courses

CUHK LAW structures the JD to accommodate the interests both of those who intend to enter the legal profession and those who are reading the JD for other reasons. The JD comprises a mixture of required and elective courses:

(i) Required courses

- Legal System
- Legal Research, Analysis and Writing
- Comparative Legal Studies#
- Ethics and Jurisprudence
- Independent Research* OR Independent Research Dissertation*

Students may take *Legal Technologies* to substitute *Comparative Legal Studies*.

* Students must complete either *Independent Research* (3 credits) or *Independent Research Dissertation* (6 credits).

(ii) Elective Courses

(a) Elective Courses Required for admission to the PCLL Programme

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Principles of Administrative Law | - Principles of Equity and Trusts |
| - Principles of Commercial Law | - Principles of Evidence |
| - Principles of Company Law | - Principles of Land Law |
| - Principles of Constitutional Law | - Principles of Property Law |
| - Principles of Contract | - Principles of Tort |
| - Principles of Criminal Law | |

(b) Other Elective Courses

The Faculty offers an extensive list of electives in the JD (which ones are offered depends on teacher availability and sufficient student interest). Other elective courses include:

- Artificial Intelligence & The Common Law
- Business Taxation: Principles and Practice
- Chinese Civil Law
- Chinese Company Law
- Chinese Contract Law
- Chinese Environmental Law
- Chinese Intellectual Property Law
- Chinese Law and Society in an Age of Digital Technologies and Artificial Intelligence
- Chinese Securities Regulation
- Chinese Tax Law
- Clean Technology Law
- Climate Law
- Colonial Governance and the Rule of Law
- Common Law: Origins and Development
- Comparative Constitutional Law

- Compliance and the Law
- Copyright, Digital Subject Matter & Information Technology
- Global Issues in Law: Competition and Globalization
- Global Issues in Law: Intellectual Property and AI
- Global Issues in Law: Law and Development
- International and Comparative Energy Law
- International and Comparative Intellectual Property Law
- International Environmental Law
- International Financial and Banking Law
- International Legal Advocacy I
- International Legal Advocacy II
- International Taxation
- Issues in Contract
- Issues in Tort
- Law of International Business Transactions I
- Law of International Business Transactions II
- Legal System and Methods in China
- Legal Technologies
- Merger Control
- Oil and Gas Law
- Principles of Art, Antiquities, Cultural Heritage and the Law
- Principles of Aviation Law
- Principles of Civil Procedure
- Principles of Competition Law
- Principles of Corporate Insolvency
- Principles of Criminal Procedure
- Principles of Employment Law
- Principles of Environmental Law
- Principles of Family Law
- Principles of Information & Privacy Law
- Principles of Insurance Law
- Principles of Intellectual Property
- Principles of International Law
- Principles of Mediation
- Principles of Revenue Law
- Principles of Securities Regulation
- Principles of Unjust Enrichment
- Private International Law in China
- Project Finance and Infrastructure Law
- Shipping Law
- The Law of the Digital Economy
- The Laws and Legal System of the United States
- Trans-national Legal Problems
- Water Law
- World Trade Law

5. Student intake

The JD has proved to be a highly competitive programme. In the 2025-26 academic year, the programme received 856 applications meeting minimum admission requirements (701 applications for full-time mode and 155 applications for part-time mode). The admission requirements in section 3 above, are minimum requirements. In the 2025-26 intake, CUHK LAW did not offer places to a large proportion of applicants who satisfied these. The JD attracts students of the highest quality, and the student body is a rich and diverse mixture of well-educated fresh graduates and seasoned professionals who have already achieved considerable success in their fields. In 2025 CUHK LAW admitted 202 students, these being the top segment of applicants.

No. of applications received for academic year 2025-26 (full-time mode)	744
No. of students admitted for academic year 2025-26 (full-time mode)	140
No. of applications received for academic year 2025-26 (part-time mode)	192
No. of students admitted for academic year 2025-26 (part-time mode)	62

All JD students admitted in 2025-26 hold at least an Upper 2nd bachelor's degree or a credit master's degree (or equivalent):

Band 1	33% (67)
Band 2	35% (71)
Band 3	32% (64)
Total	100% (202)

Band 1: 1st class bachelor's degree; or Cumulative GPA 3.5 (4-point scale) where no class of honours awarded; or PhD; or equivalent.

Band 2: Borderline 1st class bachelor's degree; or Cumulative GPA 3.4 (4-point scale) where no class of honours awarded; or master (Distinction); or equivalent.

Band 3: Upper 2nd class bachelor's degree; or Cumulative GPA 3.2-3.3 (4-point scale) where no class of honours awarded; or master (Credit); or equivalent.

As noted above, many JD students take the Programme to help them in their existing careers or to enhance their skills; they have no intention of entering the legal profession. Most part-time students are professionals with qualifications. These include qualifications such as Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS), Certified ESG Analyst (CESGA), Certified Private Wealth Professional (CPWP), Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Chartered Enterprise Risk Analyst (CERA), Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), Chartered Surveyors of The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (MRICS), Commercial Pilot License (CPL), Institution of Civil Engineer (ICE), Pharmacist (Pharm), Professional Surveyor (General Practice) (MHKIS) and Registered Nurse (RN).

Some students are members of professional bodies. These include Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries (FCIA), Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (Anesthesiology) (FHKAM), Fellow of the Society of Actuaries (FSA), Fellow of Life Management Institute (FLMI), Fellowship of College of Dental Surgeons (Pros) - FCDSHK (Pros), Fellowship of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (FHKAM), Fellowship of Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons, Inc (FRACDS), Membership of Restorative Dentistry (MRD RCS) and Professional Member of Chartered Valuation Surveyor (MRICS) or registered professional in various disciplines for instance in medical and engineering.

In 2017 CUHK LAW and the CUHK Business School jointly introduced the BBA-JD Double Degree Programme. In 2025-26, the BBA-JD Programme admitted 26 year one students. Students in the BBA-JD Programme must achieve a second upper class honours in their BBA to be eligible to enroll in the JD. In July 2025, we had 15 BBA-JD students graduated from the Programme.

In 2018 CUHK LAW and The Dickson Poon School of Law of the King's College London (KCL) jointly introduced the Dual LLB-JD Degree Programme. Students in the LLB-JD Programme must satisfactorily complete all the KCL LLB Degree requirements for graduation and obtain an overall result which is equivalent to a Second Class Honours Upper Division and achieve a minimum CGPA of 2.0 in all JD courses taken at CUHK in the third year in order to be eligible to enroll in the JD. In 2025-26, 4 students from LLB-JD Degree Programme completed their first 2-year studies at KCL and are now taking CUHK JD courses in their final year of studies. In July 2025, we had 7 LLB-JD students graduated from the Programme.

In 2020 CUHK LAW and The University of Exeter Law School (Exeter) jointly introduced the Dual LLB-JD Degree Programme. Students in the LLB-JD Programme must satisfactorily complete all the Exeter LLB Degree requirements for graduation and obtain an overall result which is equivalent to a Second Class Honours Upper Division and achieve a minimum CGPA of 2.0 in all JD courses taken at CUHK in the third year in order to be eligible to enroll in the JD. In July 2025, we had 1 LLB-JD student graduated from the Programme.

6. Library

Given the centrality of law reports, ordinances and scholarly writings to the study of law, the Faculty places great emphasis on its library resources. The Lee Quo Wei Law Library contains over 125,218 volumes and access to over 6,733 electronic law journals. There are 103 electronic legal databases available to students and staff. Wherever possible electronic format is the preferred option for books, law journals and serials. The Faculty is investing heavily in library materials to support future years of its law programmes.

The Lee Quo Wei Law Library houses the main law collection. The Legal Resources Centre (LRC) at the Graduate Law Centre (GLC), where JD teaching takes place, contains a short loan collection and a small collection of law reports and reference materials. CUHK LAW retains a daily courier service that provides research materials students need at the GLC.

The Law Library has developed an extensive array of resource guides and indices that are accessible via the Library website. Both locations provide reference services. CUHK LAW also includes Information Literacy in the JD curriculum.

7. Physical accommodation

CUHK LAW teaches the JD at the GLC in Central. The GLC, covering 35,000 sq. feet, includes three lecture theatres, a state-of-the-art-moot court, small breakout rooms, multi-purpose classrooms, dedicated computer facilities and its Legal Resources Centre. The GLC's location in Central has proven ideal for organising events with practitioners in the legal profession. Throughout the year, the JD students benefit from a wide offering of talks, information sessions and other events with prominent law firms, barristers' chambers, as well as members of the judiciary, government departments and other members of the legal industry.

8. Concluding Remarks

The CUHK JD is now a well-established feature of the Hong Kong legal education landscape. JD students routinely receive job placement offers from top international and local law firms. Many undertake pupillage and develop careers at the Hong Kong bar. Some move on to further studies, often competing strongly in the world's most venerated universities (among them Oxbridge and the Ivy League). Others embark on or continue careers in other walks of Hong Kong or overseas. These fields include banking, commerce, academia and government. JD students are, as a whole, highly qualified and highly motivated. Classes are interactive, with students bringing expertise and experience to enrich the learning environment, both within and outside the classroom. Student satisfaction with the JD, which the University's Centre for Learning Enhancement and Research independently monitors, is very high. Students on the JD have taken the initiative to set up the Graduate Law Students Association and organised activities, which the Faculty supports, to benefit the student body. Mooting teams including JD students represent the Faculty at both regional and international competitions and have achieved outstanding results.

Some JD students will not choose a career in law. They continue to contribute to their respective professions – among them banking and finance, government, journalism and academia – and are all the better armed with all they have learned during their JD education.

Some JD students will choose to continue their studies in the PCLL Programme. In 2025-26, 97 JD graduates applied for admission to the CUHK PCLL Programme and 78.4% of them were successful. Those who progress to the PCLL have a great deal to offer the legal profession. They will continue to help answer the call in the Redmond Roper Report for increased diversity of practitioners in Hong Kong.

Elliot Fung
JD Programme Director
Faculty of Law
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
January 2026

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Faculty of Law**

Report on the PCLL Programme

(January to December 2025)

2024/2025 PCLL Programme

1. Admission and Completion Rates

In the 2024 intake, we admitted 146 students to the PCLL. Adding three students who were approved to defer studies from 2023/24 to 2024/25, there were initially 149 students. Of these 149 students, four were approved to defer studies to the 2025-26 academic year. One was discontinued in accordance with the PCLL Assessment Regulations at the end of Term One. The remaining **144** students successfully completed the PCLL. The pass rate is a reflection of the quality of the students admitted to the Programme.

2. Programme Delivery

The teaching site for the 2024/25 Programme was our Graduate Law Centre in the Bank of America Tower, in Central. The Graduate Law Centre offers students a high quality learning environment. In addition to a Moot Court, we have a number of interactive lecture theatres and classrooms. These are all equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. There are also a number of breakout rooms available for student study and discussion. We retained the teaching model of a combination of Large Group Sessions and Small Group Sessions (LGSs and SGSs), as this has proved so effective in the past.

The same five core courses, as in previous years, were offered in Term One, namely: Professional Practice; Commercial Practice; Property and Probate Practice; Civil Litigation Practice; and Criminal Litigation Practice.

Thirteen elective courses were offered in Term Two/Summer Term. Out of these, the students had to select and complete five courses. The thirteen courses offered were: Writing and Drafting Litigation Documents*; Conference Skills and Opinion Writing*; Lending and Finance; Corporate Finance; Writing and Drafting Litigation Documents (in Chinese); China Practice; Writing and Drafting Commercial Documents (in Chinese); Alternative Dispute Resolution; Trial Advocacy*; Writing and Drafting Commercial Documents; Personal Injuries Practice*; Family Law Practice* and Legal Practice and Technology.

Those students intending to enter pupillage as a barrister are required to study Trial Advocacy and two out of the other four Bar electives, marked above with asterisks. These five Bar electives are not confined to intending barristers. Many intending solicitors also chose to study one or more of these courses.

With the exception of those teaching the Chinese language parts of the two Chinese drafting electives, nearly all teachers on the PCLL Programme are or have been practising lawyers. Throughout all of the courses, the emphasis was on the teaching of skills, and on the students' "learning by doing". On all courses the students were first taught skills which they would

need in legal practice. They then practised those skills themselves in class exercises. Finally, they were assessed on those skills.

The PCLL Programme is rigorous. The students have to balance their time between different courses. In doing so they learn time management skills, which will be vital to them in practice.

3. Student Diversity

The PCLL 2024/25 had a diverse student body. Of the 146 students admitted, 132 held local law qualifications while 14 held non-local law qualifications. Their academic backgrounds are as follows:

Law Qualifications	No. with overseas qualifications	No. with local qualifications	Total no. of students
Bachelor of Laws (LLB)	10	50	60
Juris Doctor (JD) (including Dual Degree and Double Degree programmes)	0	82	82
Bachelor of Arts in Law	2	0	2
Bachelor of Arts in Jurisprudence	1	0	1
LLM (Law Conversion)	1	0	1

While most of our students were local, we also had a number of students from the Chinese Mainland, who had qualified for admission by way of our Juris Doctor Programme, along with students who had studied for their law degrees in the UK and Australia.

4. Oversight by the Professions

With the exception of Trial Advocacy, each PCLL course has assigned to it one or two external course assessors (ECAs), from the Law Society and the Bar Association. Both ECAs see the assessment papers before they are finalized. They are also sent a selection of marked answer scripts for review. These include all borderline and failed scripts, along with some of the highest-scoring scripts. Some of the Law Society ECAs attend Large Group and Small Group sessions of their choice. They provide written reports to the Law Society and to the Faculty on the teaching they have observed and the course materials used in the classes. The PCLL Director carefully studies their comments and passes them on to the teachers involved.

Students also give feedback on the courses and their teachers which is assessed by the Faculty with follow-up action taken if deemed necessary.

5. Contribution by the Judiciary and the Professions

We are also very fortunate to have the support of members of the judiciary and senior practitioners. By way of example, in our Trial Advocacy course in May 2025 we staged a demonstration of a trial held before a Deputy District Judge, in Cantonese. In this demonstration, two members of the Bar (also CUHK LAW alumni) acted as the advocates.

We have also had throughout the years numerous guest speakers from the judiciary and both branches of the profession. The teaching staff and the students greatly appreciate their contribution.

6. Placement of the 2025 Graduates

Our graduates in all seventeen years have been consistently placed in all areas of the legal profession following graduation. Our latest placement survey results comprise 92 student responses out of 144 graduates of the 2024/2025 cohort. The results show that 90% have been employed by law firms, the Department of Justice, have found places in sets of barristers' chambers, or have chosen to pursue further academic studies.

2025/2026 PCLL Programme

Admissions for 2025/2026

The Faculty received 264 applications to study for the PCLL in the academic year 2025/26. The Faculty made 170 offers which were accepted by 150 applicants. Of those accepting the offers, 145 were able to satisfy the pre-conditions and be admitted to the PCLL. Including four students who had been approved to defer studies to the 2025/26 academic year and excluding three students who were approved to defer studies to the 2026-27 academic year, the 2025/26 PCLL intake accordingly comprises **146** candidates.

With effect from the 2020-21 intake, we started to offer an alternative route to admit a limited number of PCLL candidates who have a law qualification supplemented by evidence of law-related working experience. In the academic year 2024/25, three out of three eligible applicants were admitted and passed the PCLL. One student was admitted through the alternative route in the academic year 2025/26. We will continue to monitor the performance of students admitted to the PCLL through this route.

Conclusion

We believe that the emphasis we place on the acquisition of skills throughout the Programme produces graduates who will be useful and professional members of a legal team, from the very first day of their traineeship or pupillage. The feedback we have had from the professions on the quality of our PCLL graduates whom they have taken on as trainees or pupils bears this out.

We now have seventeen years of past PCLL intakes to build upon. We shall continue to develop and improve our Programme, so that our graduates will be able to meet the future challenges of legal practice in Hong Kong.

Dennis Hie
PCLL Programme Director
Faculty of Law
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
January 2026

Annexure 5



Faculty of Law The University of Hong Kong

Report on the LLB and JD Programmes to the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

(January to December 2025)

In 2025, the Faculty continued to adapt to its new unitary structure, with overall responsibility for the LLB and JD Programmes resting on the Associate Dean (Teaching Management) and the Assistant Dean (Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes). This year also saw the first cohorts admitted to our revised LLB and integrated double-degree programmes with our HKU and overseas partners. Additional changes to the LLB curriculum were also made in response to HKU's newly introduced mandatory AI Literacy course.

Admissions 2025-2026

As always, the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) remains the flagship programme of the Faculty of Law, and provides the core curriculum for both the LLB and our integrated double-degree undergraduate programmes. We are pleased to see that the LLB continues to attract and admit students who are among the best and brightest secondary school graduates. Together with our integrated double-degree undergraduate programmes, our LLB programme persists as a signature programme of HKU, with international recognition once again demonstrated by our robust admission figures.

The LLB has maintained its high ranking both among HKU's undergraduate programmes and also as one of the most competitive programmes across all tertiary institutions in Hong Kong. We are pleased to report that the LLB continues to attract excellent students admitted through both the local Diploma of Secondary Education (DSE) scheme (JUPAS) and the non-Joint University Programmes Admissions Scheme (non-JUPAS) routes.

Our Faculty's flagship LLB programme continues to be augmented by our double-degree and double pathway programmes, which variously give students a wider range of interdisciplinary or international study options in business and law (via our BBA(Law) & LLB programme, jointly offered with HKU's Faculty of Business and Economics), politics and law (via our BSS(Govt&Laws) & LLB programme, jointly offered with the Department of Politics and Public Administration within the Faculty of Social Sciences), arts and law (via our BA & LLB programme, jointly offered with the Faculty of Arts), and science and law (via our BSc & LLB Programme, jointly offered with the Faculty of Science). This programme, from an initial cohort of 12 students, has grown to 27 students in the current academic year, with a wide range of science majors.

In addition to our regular undergraduate programmes, our Faculty's international study options continue to offer a 4-year dual LLB programme with University College London (UCL), enabling students to obtain LLB degrees from both UK and Hong Kong providers.

This programme admits 10 students in total each year (five each from the Hong Kong and UK admission streams), with successful applicants commonly having superior academic records at the point of admission. Our 5-year dual LLB programme with Peking University (PKU) Law School, which experienced difficulties during COVID, has now resumed its attraction, with five students being admitted in 2025-26.

Our programmes continue to offer pathways programmes with overseas providers, including King's College London (KCL), whereby students are able to obtain an LLB at HKU followed by an LLM at KCL, alongside similar arrangements with the University of New South Wales (UNSW), the National University of Singapore (NUS), and the University of California, Berkeley (UCB). These pathways programmes support HKU's established reputation for international excellence and the Faculty is continuing to explore new options for the future.

In 2025, admissions to our LLB programme strengthened, after consolidation in 2024-25, once again reinforcing our traditional strength as the premier legal education provider in Hong Kong. A total of 130 students were admitted in 2025 to our undergraduate LLB programme: 64 through the JUPAS scheme, 60 through the local non-JUPAS admissions process (including 10 to the HKU-UCL programme), and six via internal transfer. The non-JUPAS cohort included 23 non-local students, with 7 of these being admitted through Chinese Mainland recruitment.

Likewise, total admission to our integrated LLB dual-degree programmes increased, with 194 students admitted in total to the four dual-degree programmes: a substantial increase to 92 to the BBA(Law) & LLB; alongside stable admission figures of 50 to the BSocSc (Govt & Laws) & LLB; 25 to the BA & LLB; and 27 to the BSc & LLB.

All these programmes continue to maintain excellent overall admission standards, relative to the admission standards both of HKU generally and also our HK competitors. The attractiveness of our range of LLB programmes is also evidenced by relatively stable application numbers to our LLB and BA & LLB programmes, these being the two undergraduate programmes for which the Faculty has primary admissions responsibilities. Specifically, JUPAS applications placing LLB or BA & LLB in Band A-C held at 449 (similar to 479 in 2024-25) for the LLB, and at 106 (compared to 139 in 2024-25) for the BA & LLB. Non-JUPAS applications rose in both instances; with 754 applications to our LLB programme (from 598 in 2024-25), and 201 applications to our BA & LLB programme (from 180 in 2024-25).

Our JD programme likewise goes from strength to strength, with a diverse mix of applicants from various educational and other backgrounds, with a continuing mix of local and non-local students, including significant numbers of students from the Chinese Mainland. Following past admission practices, our Faculty has exercised restraint in JD admissions, with a view to admitting students with significant professional experience on top of their undergraduate education.

Total JD admissions figures rose again this year to meet the need for places for increasing numbers of candidates with the strong academic records or professional backgrounds preferred by the JD admissions team. For 2025-26, we admitted 65 students from over 347 applications (which was a reduction from 454 applications in 2024-25). Similar to 2024-25, about one-third are local, and the balance are non-local. The Faculty notes there is a continuing demand for evermore JD places.

Exchange

The Faculty of Law continues to value its long-established academic links with 125 major universities in many parts of the world. These links enable our undergraduate students to participate in a variety of rewarding exchange programmes. Our student exchange numbers have now re-established themselves after the difficulties wrought by the pandemic. Figures for out-going law students during the second semester of the 2024-25 academic year comprised 83 students, with 51 of these participating in a one-semester exchange, and a further 32 continuing their full year exchange via either University or Faculty-level exchange agreements, spread over 50 institutions. Figures for out-going law students during the first semester of the 2025-26 academic year comprise 34 students undertaking a one semester exchange, and 30 on a full year exchange (including 9 students taking up places overseas as visiting students, rather than on exchange). In-coming students in the second semester of 2024-25 numbered 49, from 25 partner institutions, with 93 students arriving during the first semester of 2025-26.

At the postgraduate level, HKU JD students continue to take up the two places we are able to offer in our reciprocal exchange arrangement with Pennsylvania Law School, whereby students spend an extra year at Pennsylvania and earn an LLM degree. Our Faculty's international team continue to pursue additional exchange opportunities with overseas institutions so that greater numbers of our students may have the opportunity of exposure to other legal systems, complementing their HKU-based learning and skills with the necessary skills for complex, cross-border and international legal practice.

Curriculum

In 2025, the Faculty further revised its LLB curriculum by adding HKU's newly introduced mandatory AI Literacy courses, with corresponding revisions to our integrated LLB double-degree programmes. In 2025, the Faculty and its integrated double degree partners admitted the second cohort of students to the revised curriculums of respectively our LLB and our integrated double degree programmes. With the first cohort progressing to their second year in September 2025, parallel teaching streams have been implemented, as planned, for the different cohorts who commenced their LLB (or dual degree) studies prior to 2024-25, and from 2024-25. In some instances, such as Criminal Law and Land Law, one stream caters primarily to first or second year LLB and integrated double degree students, while the other stream caters almost exclusively to senior year integrated double degree students. This will continue for a year or two more, until all senior year integrated double degree students complete these core requirements of the previous curriculum.

Additional revisions to our capstone LLB requirement, including offering a wider range of experiential learning courses, are not yet fully in effect, since they will mostly come to fruition when the 2024-25 LLB cohort progress to their third year of LLB studies in 2026-27, but planning is well underway to meet the need for such experiential teaching resources.

For some time now, the Faculty has cross-listed some of its LLM elective courses as a means of providing more options for our senior year LLB students (subject to sound GPA), subject to a limit of two such courses. These courses remain a popular option, and help ensure students who have chosen to specialize in streams dedicated to (i) Chinese law; (ii) commercial, corporate and financial law; and (iii) international trade and economic law have access to additional specialized teaching in these areas. We anticipate that additional LLM

courses may seek cross-listing as we move forward, as this also helps ensure the viability of some of the more ‘niche’ LLM courses with smaller cohorts.

During 2025, the Faculty once again offered our LLB students the opportunity to study their compulsory Introduction to the Chinese Legal System course (formerly called ‘Introduction to Chinese Law’) at Chinese Mainland law schools, including in Shanghai, with intensive courses offered during summer semesters, rather than at HKU. This option has been well received, and the Faculty continues to explore further opportunities to collaborate with other Chinese Mainland universities in other cities for intensive teaching of the same course.

The JD is a two-year programme. A substantial part of the curriculum comprises compulsory law courses, covering both the fundamentals of the common law and all core subject areas necessary for admission to the PCLL programme. In addition to the core subjects, a wide range of electives is available to JD students to fulfill their curriculum requirements, including taking at least one elective from a variety of Chinese law offerings and one from the “International, Comparative and Theoretical Perspectives in Law” grouping.

Career and Related Advice

The Faculty currently employs an in-house Career Development Advisor who provides individual career advice consultation sessions to our students on all aspects of career development. In addition, we run a mentorship programme that matches students with the Faculty’s alumni as part of an informal curriculum. The Faculty has also taken care to further strengthen our administrative and academic processes for identifying and dealing with the needs of students reporting health and related issues. Meeting this challenge continues to be a focus of attention in the near future.

Staffing

Our undergraduate and JD programmes continue to offer students an extensive range of electives, in addition to all core subjects. In order to meet the needs of our undergraduate programmes, the Faculty continues to actively recruit academic staff at all levels, filling gaps when they appear, and enhancing our overall offerings. Academic turnover remains a reality, especially with demanding tenure requirements, but the Faculty has continued to add to or replace academic staff with teaching and research expertise in LLB or JD related subject areas in 2025. This is an on-going need, and the Faculty will continue actively to advertise for and recruit additional academic staff in 2026.

Conclusion

Our LLB, integrated LLB dual degree, and JD programmes are all well established as among the best law programmes in Hong Kong and abroad. However, the Faculty is not content to rest on our laurels, and continues to seek out additional means of maintaining and enhancing the attractiveness and competitiveness of our programmes. Equally, the Faculty remains alert and responsive to the significant challenges facing legal educators in the modern world, including the challenge of AI and its effect both on educational practices and job opportunities for graduates. We will continue to focus on these issues, while also taking care to ensure the rigour and diversity of teaching will not be compromised. Additionally, we are

mindful of the need to provide additional support to students in terms of both career advice and general counselling. We look forward to meeting and responding to these challenges and to enhancing the legal education offered by the Faculty.

Professor Michael Jackson

Assistant Dean (Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes), Faculty of Law

March 2026

Report on the HKU PCLL

January – December 2025

Curriculum and Teaching in 2024/25

1. The teaching mode for the HKU PCLL programme continued to be through large group sessions (“LG”s) and small group sessions (“SG”s). All SGs were conducted face-to-face. For pedagogical reasons, we have been utilising technologies in the delivery of some LGs where these were thought to be appropriate by the relevant course coordinator.
2. There was one minor change in the 2024/2025 curriculum when compared to that of 2023/2024. The electives Property Litigation and Property Transactions II have ‘merged’ into the new elective course of Property Practice. For the full-time programme, students were taught the core curriculum: Civil Litigation, Criminal Litigation, Corporate and Commercial Transactions and Property Transactions 1 in the first semester. In the second semester, students on the full-time programme were taught the core Professional Practice and Management course and they had to study 3 electives of their choice. The electives which were available were: Trial Advocacy, Commercial Dispute Resolution, Personal Injury Litigation, Matrimonial Practice and Procedure, Property Practice, Drafting Commercial Agreements, Listed Companies, China Practice, Wills, Trust and Estate Planning, Use of Chinese in Legal Practice, Financial Regulations and Practice and Employment Law and Practice.
3. The part-time programme is delivered in the same manner as the full-time programme, with the use of common course materials and with the full-time and part-time students of the same course taking the same examinations where possible. The part-time programme is taught over two years. The first semester of the full-time programme is covered in the first year of the part-time programme and the second semester of the full-time programme is covered in the second year of the part-time programme.
4. The programme was taught and coordinated by 16 full-time teachers with a pool of over 50 part-time teachers who are legal practitioners in Hong Kong assisting in the teaching of the small group sessions. In addition, there were a pool of over 50 assessors from the profession who assessed students on advocacy and oral assessments. The programme also employed a pool of over 30 standardised clients on a part-time basis who role-played lay clients in client interview exercises and who assisted course coordinators to assess students on oral communication skills. The Faculty and our students are immensely grateful for the support from of the legal practitioners and the standardised clients who assist with the teaching and assessments on the programme.

Assessments in 2024/2025

5. In 2024/25 all written assessments were conducted in-hall and most exams have become computer-based exams. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and the exams have proceeded smoothly. In accordance with usual practice, all assessments (including the assessments’ setting and marking) were supervised by external examiners who were representatives of the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Bar Association.
6. In 2024/2025, 293 full-time students were assessed and 290 of them were awarded the PCLL. This represents a pass rate of 99%.

7. In 2024/25, 96 part-time year 2 students were assessed and all of them were awarded the PCLL. This represents a pass rate of 100%.
8. In 2024/25, 104 part-time year 1 students were assessed and 88 students proceeded to their second year of studies in 2025/26. This represents a pass rate of 84.6%.
9. Among a total of 389 full-time and part-time Year 2 students, the Board of Examiners awarded overall distinction to the top 37 students of the cohort. All were full-time graduates. Among these 37 students, all (except two of them) are HKU law graduates, with an LLB, a mixed-degree LLB or a JD.

Admissions 2025/2026

10. There were 763 applications from 592 applicants, of whom 542 applicants designated HKU as first preference. Since applicants must make separate applications to the full-time and part-time programmes, many of them applied for both.
11. In any year, the HKU PCLL Programme would be able to admit a maximum of 400 students (300 full-time and 100 part-time), if the quality of applicants so warrants.
12. The number of new PCLL students admitted in September 2025 was 289 to the full-time programme and 90 to the part-time programme. These figures exclude the 11 students who are repeating the full-time or part-time programmes.
13. There are a maximum number of 15 discretionary part-time places based on a balance of applicants' legal knowledge and full-time working experience, as well as interview performance (the work experience route). 11 of those places were filled after interviewing 34 applicants. Two PCLL academic board members, Mr. Edward Chan SC and Mr. Brian Gilchrist, were invited to sit in those interviews.
14. 121 Government-funded full-time places, were allocated on academic merit. HKU law graduates (including JD) took up about 80% of such places. Other categories of applicants, shared the remaining government-funded places of which UK LLB graduates, who were Hong Kong permanent residents, represented the largest proportion.
15. The following is a breakdown of where the 379 newly admitted students obtained their underlying law qualification:

	No. of applicants	No. of students admitted in 2025/26
HKU LLB, double degree and JD	243	216
CUHK	37	20
City U HK	22	12
UK	62	39
GDL UK	12	5
UoL (LLB)	19	8
HKU SPACE (MMU)	124	73
HKU SPACE (ADLE)	7	3
Australia	6	3

16. In the 2025/26 admissions process, of the 163 applicants not admitted to the HKU PCLL Programme. Of the rejections, 40% were rejected for their failure to meet the eligibility requirements and 38% were rejected on academic merits. It is noteworthy that for the UK LLB candidates, 15 of them qualified on law averages but failed their conversion examination(s).

Looking ahead

17. The HKU Faculty of Law PCLL Programme Team are committed to continuously improving the PCLL Programme in all aspects. Meanwhile, we continue to seek the co-operation with the profession via the professional bodies, firms and chambers, as well as individual members of the profession for the better development of the HKU PCLL Programme.

Julienne Jen
Assistant Dean (Professional Legal Education)
Faculty of Law
March 2026

Annexure 6

Key Statistics of the 2025/26 LLB, JD and PCLL Programmes of City University of Hong Kong The Chinese University of Hong Kong The University of Hong Kong

	City University of Hong Kong	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	The University of Hong Kong
No. of Admissions to the LLB Programme	71 (37 JUPAS applicants, 25 non-JUPAS local applicants and 9 non-local applicants (including 5 Chinese Mainland NCEE students))	76 (20 JUPAS students, 53 non-JUPAS students and 3 Chinese Mainland Gaokao students)	130 (64 JUPAS students, 60 non-JUPAS and 6 internal transfer)
No. of Admissions to the JD Programme	135	202 (140 full-time students and 62 part-time students)	65
No. of Admissions to the PCLL Programme	197	146	379 (289 full-time students and 90 part-time students)
No. of Admissions to the Double Law Degree Programmes	43 (31 students in LLB & BBA Accountancy 12 students in BSocSc Crime Science & LLB)	32 (26 students in BBA-JD and 6 students in LLB-JD jointly offered with King's College London and University of Exeter)	194 (92 students in BBA(Law) & LLB, 50 students in BSocSc (Govt & Laws) & LLB; 25 students in BA & LLB and 27 students to the BSc & LLB)

Annexure 7

THE HONG KONG CONVERSION EXAMINATION BOARD

Chairperson : The Honourable Madam Justice Maggie POON Man-kay, JA
Court of Appeal of the High Court

Members : Mr. Edward CHAN King-sang, S.C., J.P.
Hong Kong Bar Association

Mr. Christopher YU
The Law Society of Hong Kong

Professor Richard WU Wai-sang
(from June 2015 to July 2025)

Ms. Julianne JEN
(from July 2025)
The University of Hong Kong

Mr. Ubaid REHMAN
City University of Hong Kong

Professor Dennis HIE Hok-fung
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Secretary : Dr. John CRIBBIN
HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education