

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

**ANNUAL REPORT
2023**

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

(1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023)

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

Meetings

1. SCLET met on three occasions during the reporting period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 (“Reporting Period”). Its composition is at Annexure 2.

Major Matters Dealt with by SCLET

Comprehensive Study on Legal Education and Training

2. SCLET continued to consider the Final Report of the Consultants on the Comprehensive Review of Legal Education and Training in Hong Kong. Two major outstanding issues remain, namely, the Law Society’s proposals for (i) the Law Society Examination (“LSE”) and (ii) the Common Entrance Examination (“CEE”).
3. As we have explained in the 2022 Annual Report¹, these proposals are designed to serve different purposes. The Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (“PCLL”) is currently provided by The University of Hong Kong (“HKU”), City University of Hong Kong (“CityU”) and The Chinese University of Hong Kong (“CUHK”). PCLL students do not sit a common examination. The Law Society wishes to ensure uniformity of standards by requiring all PCLL graduates 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.
4. 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 Universities provide a total of about 730 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 the Law Society is of the view that because the places are limited, some suitably qualified law graduates have been unable to enter the solicitors’ branch of the legal profession.

¹ See paragraph 3 of the 2022 Annual Report.

5. As we have reported in the 2022 Annual Report², the Law Society submitted a draft Report on LSE (“**draft Report**”) to SCLET on 11 February 2022. There were continuing discussions of the draft Report at SCLET’s meetings on 12 January 2023 and 27 April 2023.
6. SCLET was informed that subsequent to the SCLET meeting of 27 April 2023, the Bar Chairman and representatives of the Law Society met in mid-July 2023 which was described as “a very constructive meeting and direct dialogue”. At the SCLET meeting on 9 November 2023, the representatives of the Bar Association indicated it would give a response on the LSE before the next meeting in February 2024.
7. Shortly before the SCLET meeting on 22 February 2024, the Bar Association provided its response to the LSE raising concerns on various matters such as the need for the LSE, its details as well as its potential impact on the extant PCLL courses and the barristers’ profession, etc. The Bar Association expected that the Law Society would deal with the issues either in their next draft LSE report or by way of their response to SCLET.
8. At the SCLET meeting on 22 February 2024, the concerns raised by the Bar Association were shared by some of the Universities. The representatives of the Law Society informed SCLET that the Bar Association’s response was being considered by the Legal Education Committee of the Law Society and that it would come back to the Bar Association or SCLET to report on the suggested way forward.
9. SCLET shall continue to discuss the draft Report and looks forward to constructive discussions among the two professional bodies, with the participation of the Universities, if necessary. We shall endeavour to bring our deliberation to a conclusion and make known our stance on the Law Society’s proposal as soon as possible.

Introduction of additional subjects for LLB, JD and PCLL Conversion Examination

10. Before the SCLET meeting of 9 November 2023, the Department of Justice (“**DoJ**”) proposed, by way of a discussion paper, to discuss whether to introduce compulsory courses for Bachelor of Laws (“**LLB**”) and Juris Doctor (“**JD**”) students on the Constitution of the People's Republic of China (“**Constitution**”) and introduction to the Mainland Legal System and the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“**NSL**”) and other related national security laws as well as including them into the syllabus of the PCLL Conversion Examination. By the same discussion paper, the DoJ also proposed to discuss whether to offer more elective courses for LLB and JD students in support of Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address of developing Hong Kong into the Eight Centres³.

² See paragraphs 6 and 7 of the 2022 Annual Report.

³ The 8 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.

11. The DoJ's proposals were discussed, on a preliminary basis, at the SCLET meeting of 9 November 2023. There was no controversy regarding making the Constitution and the NSL compulsory subjects for LLB and JD students and including them into the syllabus of the PCLL Conversion Examination. In fact, according to the Universities, the Constitution and the NSL were being taught and covered in different subjects at the LLB level and that the study of these two subjects could readily be extended to the JD programmes. The main focus of the preliminary discussion was whether the NSL should be a standalone subject. The Universities wished to have some flexibility in the teaching of the NSL. Regarding the provision of more elective courses in support of developing Hong Kong into the Eight Centres, the Universities was generally receptive to the proposal subject to the demand of individual subjects. The two professional bodies also generally supported the DoJ's proposals subject to the details to be worked out between the DoJ and the Universities. At the end of the meeting, the Universities were invited by SCLET to submit their written responses to the DoJ's proposals before the next meeting in February 2024, which they did.
12. Having received the written responses of the Universities, the DoJ indicated at the SCLET meeting of 22 February 2024 that more time was needed for discussion with the Universities and if necessary, with the involvement of the two legal professional bodies.
13. SCLET shall continue to discuss the DoJ's proposals and the concerns raised by the Universities.

LLB, JD and PCLL Programmes

14. 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
 - (c) The LLB, JD and PCLL programmes of HKU. The reports are at **Annexure 5**.
15. 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

16. The Conversion Examination Board met on one occasion during the Reporting Period to oversee the administration of the PCLL Conversion Examination ("**Conversion Examination**"). Matters considered by the Conversion Examination Board in the meeting and by paper circulation included the following:
 - (a) Vetting of applications for exemption from sitting the Conversion Examination;

- (b) Review of examination results, reports of the Examiners, irregularities in the examinations;
 - (c) Applications for special arrangements to sit the Conversion Examination;
 - (d) Decisions of the Chief Examiner on the appeals against examination results;
 - (e) Use of smart watches;
 - (f) Review of syllabi and book lists; and
 - (g) Finances of the Conversion Examination Board.
17. 379 and 392 candidates took part in the Conversion Examinations in eight different prerequisite subjects in January and June 2023 as compared to 410 and 286 candidates respectively in the January and June 2022⁴ Conversion Examinations.
18. The average passing rate of the subjects examined in January 2023 was 50.5% (as compared to 62.63% in the January 2022 results) and that in June 2023 was 51.63% (as compared to 60.88% in the June 2022 results).
19. The composition of the Conversion Examination Board is at **Annexure 7**.

Chairmanship

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

Overall position

21. 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.

⁴ There was an additional Conversion Examination held in August 2022 pursuant to a special arrangement. See paragraph 18 of the 2022 Annual Report. 151 candidates took part in it and the average passing rate of the subject examined was 65%.

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- (Amended 10 of 2005, s.184)
 - (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 (Amended L.N. 130 of 2007);
 - (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; (Added 10 of 2005 s.184)
 - (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 (Amended 18 of 2014 s. 159)
- (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). (Amended 10 of 2005 s.184)
- (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
(on the nomination of the Chief Justice)

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

Ms. Jenny FUNG
Deputy Solicitor General (Policy Affairs), Department of Justice
(on the nomination of the Secretary for Justice)

Mr. Derek LAI
(from August 2019 to August 2023)

Ms. Jerry JI
(from August 2023)
Principal Assistant Secretary (Higher Education), Education Bureau
(on the nomination of the Secretary for Education)

Mr. Brian GILCHRIST
(on the nomination of The Law Society of Hong Kong)

Mr. Dieter YIH Lai-tak, J.P.
(on the nomination of The Law Society of Hong Kong)

Mr. Selwyn YU Sing-cheung, S.C.
(from August 2021 to August 2023)

Mr. Richard KHAW Wei-kiang, S.C.
(from August 2023)
(on the nomination of Hong Kong Bar Association)

Mr. Michael YIN Chi-ming
(from March 2013 to August 2023)

Mr. Isaac CHAN Chi-kong
(from August 2023)
(on the nomination of Hong Kong Bar Association)

Professor FU Hualing
Dean of Law, The University of Hong Kong
(on the nomination of the Vice-Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong)

Mr. Wilson CHOW Wai-shun
(from July 2014 to August 2023)
Ms. Julienne JEN
(from August 2023)
Head of the Department of Professional Legal Education,
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 of 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 of the 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 Lutz-Christian WOLFF
Dean of 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. CHAN Ching-chu, Rebecca
(from August 2019 – August 2023)
Ms. Angela SO Wing-kwan
(from August 2023)
(Member appointed under s74A(3)(a)(viii) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance Cap.159 (“Ordinance”))

Mr. Rex LAI Tat-shing
(from August 2019 – August 2023)
Mr. TANG Man-chun
(from August 2023)
(Member appointed under s74A(3)(a)(viii) of the Ordinance)

Mr. LEE Chong-ting
(on the nomination of The Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education)

Secretary:

Ms. Kitty FUNG

(from March 2018 to September 2023)

Mr. Simon LAU

(from October 2023)

Deputy Principal Government Counsel

Department of Justice

Annexure 3



City University of Hong Kong Bachelor of Laws (LLB) 2023 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 (CityU). The report covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2023.

1 2023/24 Admissions

In the 2023/24 academic year, the School admitted 61 full-time LLB students, including, 25 JUPAS applicants (through HKDSE), 25 non-JUPAS local applicants and 11 non-local applicants, including 7 Mainland NUEE students.

The intake quota was met. The average score in English Language (HKDSE) for students admitted through JUPAS was 5.2. All minimum entry requirements were met. Admission interviews were conducted for borderline applicants.

Students were admitted to three double degree programmes:

- LLB&BBA(Accountancy) admitted 9 students in total, including 2 JUPAS applicants (from HKDSE), 4 non-JUPAS local applicants and 3 Mainland NUEE students
- BSocSc(Criminology)&LLB admitted 7 JUPAS applicants (HKDSE) and BSocSc(Public Policy)&LLB admitted 2 JUPAS applicants (HKDSE).
- The fourth double degree LLB&BSc Computing Mathematics did not admit any students.

2 Programme Structure

2.1 The LLB

The LLB programme is designed on the basis of adopted 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 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 specialized or in-depth legal courses or can be courses from other disciplines which develop 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 requires the study of 120-144 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 the double degree programmes is 150 credits instead of 120 for the LLB programme, and are to be completed in 5 years instead of 4 years. The Law component includes 63 - 66 credits of the LLB Major, which are all the required courses for admission to the PCLL and include law electives. Thirty credits of GE courses are included. The LLB also included the same GE credits. 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 provides for the development of general and professional skills and the enhancement of learning experiences. Each student has the choice 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, 29 electives were offered to LLB students, enabling them to study areas of law of interest to them. 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 2023, 53 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 (CityU LR)*. First launched in October 2009, the *CityU LR* publishes two issues annually. Student editors work under the mentorship of faculty members. This work is also credit-bearing.
- (v) The Legal Clinic has been instituted as a credit-bearing course, designed to offer students an immersive learning experience in a real-world case setting. It aims to cultivate essential lawyering skills and instill professional ethics. Furthermore, it provides students with the unique opportunity to collaborate closely with practitioners, enabling them to gain valuable insights and receive immediate feedback, thus fostering a robust professional network.
- (vi) The Law School has introduced an intensive preparatory course, the Law School Survival Skills Workshop, aimed at equipping 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 of first-year LLB students.

- (vii) Students have the option to participate in one of the several exchange programmes with foreign universities acquiring general transferable skills and legal knowledge. School-level exchange agreements with more than 40 universities are in place and in addition the universities which participate in the Themis network of law schools. Further opportunities are provided to LLB students to go on institutional exchange at the universities with law school among the 160 partner universities of CityU. An additional possibility of exchange is offered through G-LEAP, a one-month intensive mode programme at the University College Oxford. Incoming exchange students enrich the educational experience of our students.

In 2023, the School sent out 10 LLB students to universities in China, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the UK and the US, while 13 LLB students took part in G-LEAP. In the same period, the School received 24 exchange students from overseas jurisdictions, including Canada, China, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, and Sweden.

- (viii) The School of Law 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 most exceptional 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 mooting competitions. In the academic year 2022-2023, 12 LLB students participated in the following international mooting competitions:

- The 18th International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Commercial Mediation Competition - Paris, 6 – 11 February 2023
- Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition – Asia Pacific Regional Rounds, Japan, 15 – 20 March 2023
- The 20th Annual Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot, Hong Kong, 16 – 26 March 2023
- The 30th Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, 31 March - 6 April 2023 & the 13th Budapest Pre-Moot, 27 – 30 March 2023
- The 2023 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition (Hong Kong Regional Rounds), 11 – 12 March 2023
- Ian Fletcher International Insolvency Moot 2023, Hong Kong (held Virtually)

4 Quality Assurance

The University operates a Departmental Academic Advisor Scheme as part of the University's quality enhancement and international benchmarking process. The School of Law including the LLB programme was reviewed in 2023. 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. This is undertaken by the LLB programme team. 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 CityU 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:

- Unravelling Disputes in International Commercial Law by Ms Heidi Li, Counsel of Allen & Overy, 3 October 2023
- Application for Local Law Firms' Training Contract and Beyond – An Alumni's Roundtable, 23 September 2023
- Clifford Chance Information Session - Clifford Chance as an International Law Firm, 19 September 2023
- Everything You Wanted to Know About Becoming a Barrister But Were Afraid to Ask, 12 September 2023
- Finding Your Vocation and Moving Towards Your Dream From the First Year of Law School, 7 September 2023
- Legal Trainee Career Talk 2023 by Department of Justice, 2 March 2023
- Crypto, NFT, Metaverse and Artificial Intelligence – Legal Issues and Practice by Mr. Alan Chiu, the Founder and Managing Partner of ELLALAN, and Mr. Charles To, Partner of ELLALAN, 9 February 2023
- How to Write a Winning CV and Ace Your Job Interviews, 19 January 2023

7 Staffing

As of 2023, there are 31 academic and teaching staff teaching in the LLB programme, hailing from more than 10 countries. In addition, 9 adjunct and visiting staff members contribute to LLB teaching, offering practical and international experience. Our faculty offers 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

In 2023, 56 LLB students graduated. All of them were awarded upper second-class honours or above. Nine of them received first-class honours. Most of our students were admitted to the PCLL programme at CityU thus continuing their legal professional development.

Professor Michael Tsimplis
LLB Programme Director
School of Law
City University of Hong Kong
February 2024

City University of Hong Kong Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) 2023 Annual Report for Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

1. 2023/24 Admissions

The School of Law (“the School”) received **421** applications for its PCLL programme for the academic year 2023/24. **246** offers were made by the SLW, and eventually **201** students were admitted to the PCLL programme.

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, we interviewed 38 applicants. Following the interviews, we admitted 26 of these students to the PCLL programme.

50.8% of those UGC-funded places were given to graduates from universities in Hong Kong.

As of 31 October 2023, 200 students were studying in the CityU PCLL programme.

The 2023/24 PCLL programme is comprised of **52.7%** local graduates and **47.3%** 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:

- a. The Admissions Committee began reviewing applications in February 2023 and regularly thereafter. This enabled several early conditional and unconditional offers to be made to academically strong applicants.
- b. **25** 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). **20** applicants declined our offers due to personal reasons.
- c. No student was enrolled with a Third Class Law Degree [or equivalent]. All students enrolled attained the minimum IELTS standard.

2. Class Size

Our small group size is around 11 to 12 students for core and elective courses.

3. Assessment Regime and Outcomes

3.1 Assessment Regime

Assessments were taken under controlled conditions through online written examinations and performance-based assessments in Semester B of 2022/23 and Semester A 2023/24.

Since implementing online written examinations in 2017/18 in collaboration with our technical staff and the CityU 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

2021/22:

No. of students who failed to graduate from the PCLL programme: 9

No. of students who failed one or more subjects at first attempt and were required to take supplementary examinations: 94 (including the 9 who failed to graduate from the PCLL, 1 who graduated in 2023 after passing supplementary examination in December 2022)

2022/23:

No. of students who failed to graduate from the PCLL programme: 7

No. of students who failed one or more subjects at first attempt and were required to take supplementary examinations: 79 (including the 7 who failed to graduate from the PCLL, 1 who graduated in 2024 after passing supplementary examination in December 2023)

4. Staffing

In 2022/23, 12 full-time staff and 37 part-time staff (practitioners) taught in the PCLL programme.

In 2023/24, 12 full-time staff and 34 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

There are eleven core courses: Interlocutory Advocacy and Interviewing; Trial Advocacy; Mediation and Negotiation; Litigation Writing and Drafting; Commercial Writing and Drafting; 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 eight electives: Bar Course; Foundations in Mainland Related Legal Transactions; International Arbitration Practice; Family Law Practice; Financial Regulatory Practice; Personal Injuries Practice; Chinese for Legal Practice; and International Mooting and Advocacy.

Changes in 2022/23 and 2023/24 academic years

There are no major curriculum changes to be carried out in 2023/24. The course of International Mooting and Advocacy introduced since 2019/20 continues to be offered in Semester B 2022-23 but it will no longer be offered with effect from 2023-24. Instead, a new elective titled “Law and Technology” will be offered from 2023-24 onwards.

6. The Future

Starting from the 2024-25 academic year, the programme team plans to implement some changes to the curriculum. The main goal of this curriculum revision is to improve the distribution of contact hours to enhance the quality and depth of the student learning experiences. We aim to achieve this by employing various strategies, such as merging similar courses, integrating related content across different courses, and organizing certain courses in a more intensive format. Additionally, we will reclassify Corporate and Commercial Practice (part of Semester B) and Commercial Writing and Drafting, from core to elective status in Semester B. These modifications have received full approval from both the Law Society and the Bar Association.

7. Involvement of the Profession

We are happy to report that the profession continues to be very involved with training the CityU 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 2023.

- How to Write a Winning CV and Ace Your Job Interviews (19 Jan 2023)
- Legal Trainee Career Talk 2023 by Department of Justice (2 March 2023)
- How to Write a Winning CV and Ace Your Job Interviews (5 Sept 2023)
- Finding Your Vocation and Moving Towards Your Dream From the First Year of Law School (7 Sept 2023)
- Everything You Wanted to Know About Becoming a Barrister But Were Afraid to Ask (12 Sept 2023)
- Clifford Chance Information Session - Clifford Chance as an International Law Firm (19 Sept 2023)
- Application for Local Law Firms' Training Contract and Beyond – An Alumni's Roundtable (23 Sept 2023)
- Unravelling Disputes in International Commercial Law by Ms Heidi Li, Counsel of Allen & Overy (3 Oct 2023)

8. Conclusion

We are dedicated to developing well-rounded lawyers for the Hong Kong legal market by providing a comprehensive educational experience. Beyond imparting practical legal skills, we prioritize embedding values like teamwork, ethical conduct, and a commitment to community service within our students. We hold our graduates in high esteem, striving to enrich the legal community in Hong Kong with each new class.

Recognizing Hong Kong's pivotal role as a financial and multicultural center, our objective is to nurture future practitioners who possess an international perspective. Our curriculum is designed to foster this mindset, preparing students to tackle complex issues from diverse perspectives and to collaborate effectively with peers across the globe.

We value feedback from the profession and are enthusiastic about working together with all involved parties to enhance our programme's quality. Looking ahead, we are excited about the future of our programme and are confident in its continued evolution, aiming to set new standards of excellence in legal education.

Mr Ubaid Rehman
 PCLL Programme Director
 School of Law
 City University of Hong Kong
 February 2024

Appendix 1

Students admitted to the 2023/24 PCLL programme graduated from the following universities:

BPP University, UK
Chinese University of Hong Kong
City University of Hong Kong
Coventry University, UK
King's College London, UK
London School of Economics and Political Science, UK
Manchester Metropolitan University, UK
Newcastle University, UK
Oxford Brookes University, UK
Queen's University of Belfast, UK
Swansea University, UK
University College London, UK
University of Birmingham, UK
University of Cambridge, UK
University of Durham, UK
University of Essex, UK
University of Exeter, UK
University of Hong Kong
University of Kent, UK
Lancaster University, UK
University of Law, UK
University of Leeds, UK
University of Liverpool, UK
University of London, UK (Ext/Int'l Programme)
University of Manchester, UK
University of Melbourne, Australia
University of Nottingham, UK
University of Oxford, UK
University of Reading, UK
University of Sussex, UK
University of Sydney, Australia
University of Warwick, UK
University of York, UK

City University of Hong Kong Juris Doctor (JD) 2023 Annual Report for Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

1. Background

The JD (Juris Doctor) programme is a graduate entry law programme 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 (CityU) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2023.

2. 2023/24 Admissions

The minimum entry requirements for admission to JD is (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:

- a TOEFL score of 100 (internet-based); 71 (revised paper-delivered test; sum of reading, Listening and Writing section scores); 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 has been quite competitive. The number and quality of applications has remained strong. The School received 418 applications for admission to JD in 2023/24. The School admitted 96 students in the JD programme in 2023/24. The intake quality of students admitted to the JD programme in 2023/24 maintained a high standard. Around 65% of admitted students received their postgraduate or bachelor’s degree from globally highly ranked universities, where their universities ranked top 200 in QS/ THE/ ARWU, or from the top law schools from Mainland China. For students who were admitted to the programme with a bachelor’s degree as main qualification, they achieved an average GPA of 3.53 (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 3.36 (base value as 4) or an average mark of 86%. This high GPA average is comparable to admission standards at any law school in the world.

Several outreach initiatives (e.g., placing advertisements and advertorials in local newspapers

and education supplements, holding online information talks and participating in law fair) 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 our graduating classes.

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; 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) as far as PCLL entry is concerned.

The JD programme provides the necessary course requirements for admission to the PCLL programme. Apart from the requirement concerning the required courses, 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 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 Contemporary Issues of Human Rights Law, Introduction to Law and Economics, Introduction to Information Law, Legal and Operational Aspects of Corporate Governance, International Investment Law, Chinese Maritime Law, Banking Law, Cyber Law, Current Issues in WTO Law, Maritime Insurance Law and Charterparties Law. In 2023-24, the School also offered 1.5-credit intensive elective courses like Advanced Trust Law, Contemporary Issues in Trusts Law: Asia-Pacific, Commercial Law in Asia, International Aviation Law, LawTech, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, SmartCity, Metaverse and Openverse and Legal Tech: Legal Technology and the Law Profession taught by legal practitioner or faculties 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:** LW5631 Banking Law; LW5641 Intellectual Property: Theory, Copyright and Design; LW5643 Cyber Law; LW5664 European Competition Law and Policy; LW6140E Chinese and Comparative Commercial Law; LW6144E International Trade Law; LW6161E Competition Law; LW6167E Current Issues in WTO Law; LW6180E International Commercial Contracts and Uniform Sales Law.

- 2) **Alternative Dispute Resolution:** LW6142E International Investment Law; LW6401 Dispute Resolution in Theory and Practice; 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; LW6134E Chinese and Comparative Company Law; LW6140E Chinese and Comparative Commercial Law; LW6141E Chinese Foreign Trade and Investment Law

Depending upon the interest of students and the course offering in the future, these specialised streams may be modified. The offering of the above courses may be reviewed and amended from time to time subject to the availability of teaching staff. We shall keep students informed regarding the offering of elective courses.

Whether or not a student chooses to specialise in any of the above areas, she will receive the award 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 co-teaching programme has been successfully implemented. The co-teaching of common courses is better secured economies of scale with 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 2023/24, 25 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 are aligned with the Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs). CILOs are then aligned with the 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 Mainland China, 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 initiative of Discovery-enriched Curriculum (DEC), 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.

All course syllabuses were reformulated in a format called "SYL" with the incorporation of DEC elements.

Students receive three direct contact hours for each 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 normally do not share tutorial classes with undergraduate LLB students for most courses.

5. Assessment

The assessment pattern for most courses is in the form of an assignment, in-class participation and 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. For the 2022 cohort students and thereafter, they are required to achieve a minimum of 50 percent in each of the assessment components. 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 JD programme have been discontinued. Thankfully, 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 exchange 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, Zhongnan University of Economics & Law and Singapore Management University. We received six incoming postgraduate exchange students in Semesters A&B 2022/23 from Bocconi University, Italy; Vienna U of Economic and Business, Austria; University of Bergen, Norway; China University of Political Science and Law, Fudan University and Shanghai Jiaotong University, China.

8. Co-curricular and/or Overseas Academic Activities

The learning environment of JD students is immensely 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 for them. In the academic year 2022-2023, 3 JD students participated in the following international mooting competitions:

- The 18th International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Commercial Mediation Competition - Paris, 6 – 11 February 2023
- The 20th Annual Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot, Hong Kong, 16 – 26 March 2023
- The 30th Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, 31 March - 6 April 2023 & the 13th Budapest Pre-Moot, 27 – 30 March 2023
- Ian Fletcher International Insolvency Moot 2023, Hong Kong (held Virtually)

Legal Placement

The credit-bearing Legal Placement course provides JD students with opportunities to complete internships not only in Hong Kong but also in Mainland China 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 Summer 2023, 39 JD students participated in Legal Placements in Hong Kong. The placement programme in Mainland China was suspended due to the pandemic, with a planned resumption in 2024.

Global Engagement

To promote international collaboration and efficient student exchanges, the School of Law entered into a collaborative agreement with Georgetown University (Georgetown). Our JD students will have the opportunity to study the LLM at Georgetown starting from 2022/23 academic year. The collaboration will provide our students with an opportunity to obtain professional degrees in both the United States and Hong Kong. It will enhance students' employability in both jurisdictions with an overall reduction in study time.

We continue our effort to build up formidable partnerships with leading law schools from around the world such as 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 double degree agreement with the 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 CityU. We have entered into an agreement with Fribourg University, Switzerland. Our JD students are provided with opportunity to study the LLM programme at Fribourg University.

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 from the 2022/23 academic year onwards. Students may enroll 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 2023, 16 JD students spent a month at University College, Oxford (United Kingdom) to study a credit-bearing law course European Competition Law and Policy.

City University of Hong Kong Law Review (CityU LR)

CityU LR is the 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. The journal currently ranks 17th of 49 among Asian Law Journals on the W & L law journal ranking scheme, which is highly competitive with other top rated faculty edited law journals and actually superior to many quality journals in the UK, China, Japan, Korea, Australia, US, the Netherlands and Singapore.

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

- Unravelling Disputes in International Commercial Law by Ms Heidi Li, Counsel of Allen & Overy, 3 October 2023
- Application for Local Law Firms' Training Contract and Beyond – An Alumni's Roundtable, 23 September 2023
- Clifford Chance Information Session - Clifford Chance as an International Law Firm, 19 September 2023
- Everything You Wanted to Know About Becoming a Barrister But Were Afraid to Ask, 12 September 2023
- Finding Your Vocation and Moving Towards Your Dream From the First Year of Law School, 7 September 2023
- Legal Trainee Career Talk 2023 by Department of Justice, 2 March 2023
- Crypto, NFT, Metaverse and Artificial Intelligence – Legal Issues and Practice by Mr. Alan Chiu, the Founder and Managing Partner of ELLALAN, and Mr. Charles To, Partner of ELLALAN, 9 February 2023
- How to Write a Winning CV and Ace Your Job Interviews, 19 January 2023

10. Library and Other Facilities

The library 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 different kinds of research guides and online tutorial. This is to ensure that students can get assistance at the point of need. The library continues to provide customized library collections and services to JD students. The essential readings for their courses are acquired and put on course reserve.

11. Looking Ahead

The JD programme at CityU, the first of its kind in Hong Kong, is doing 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 aim to continue to offer an excellent 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.

Professor Daniel Pascoe
JD Programme Director
School of Law
City University of Hong Kong
February 2024

Annexure 4

The Chinese University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law

Report on the LLB Programme

(January to December 2023)

1. Admissions

The LLB programme's annual admission quota is 73 in the current triennium (2022-25). 94 students (including 43 JUPAS students, 49 non-JUPAS students and 2 Mainland Gaokao students) were ultimately admitted in the 2023 intake. Among the 49 non-JUPAS students, 13 were non-local students, from Mainland China and Vietnam.

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) *Introduction to Artificial Intelligence & the Law;*
- (ii) *CISG – the UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods;*
- (iii) *Digital Technology and Law*

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 on the 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.

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, *Chinese Law (Summer Course)* and *Chinese Law Internship* were cancelled in 2022. Students have been advised to take *University Chinese I* and *University Chinese II* to fulfill the Chinese language requirement for graduation.

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 and Toronto. The Faculty has established two 4-year Dual LLB-JD Degree Programmes, with the University of Exeter Law School and The Dickson Poon School of Law of King's College London (KCL), as well as a 4-year Dual LLB-LLM Degree Programme with the The Dickson Poon School of Law of King's College London. For the first two programmes, students study in the LLB programme at the partner university for two years, followed by two year in CUHK's JD programme. For the second programme, students study at CUHK for three years, after which they spend a year to obtain an LLM at KCL in London. 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 2022-23 academic year, CUHK sent teams to participate in the following moots:

- Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Hong Kong) (Vienna)
- Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition
- Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot

- International Air Law Moot Court Competition

CUHK LAW's moot teams continued to excel in 2023. Some highlights included:

International Air Law Moot Court

- Air law moot team was ranked 2nd for applicant's memorial and 4th for overall performance.

International Criminal Court Competition (English)

- Team advanced to the semi-finals of the oral rounds.

Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot

- Team advanced to the quarter-finals of the oral rounds
- Won Second Honourable Submission (Prosecutor)

Vis (Vienna) International Commercial Arbitration Law Moot

- Honourable Mention (top 10%) for Memorandum on behalf of Respondent
- Honourable Mention (top 10%) for Individual Oralist

Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Law Moot

- Honourable Mention (top 10%) for Memorandum on behalf of Respondent

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. The Faculty responds to all student questions and concerns through written answers distributed to all students. 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. 124,400 volumes of books and bound periodicals on law or law related subjects and provides access to over 6,000 electronic law journals. There are 108 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. Paul Mitchard, K.C., is Director of Career Planning and Professionalism. Together with the support the Faculty receives from local professionals, Mr. Mitchard provides 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. These events have been very well attended and well received by students.

With the lifting of pandemic restrictions and rules, the Office has resumed on-campus face-to-face career events and consultations, and continued engaging in providing career support actively.

9. Graduates

As in previous years, the majority of our LLB graduates continue their PCLL studies at CUHK after completion of the LLB programme. About 78% of our LLB graduates who applied for the PCLL programme at CUHK were admitted in 2023. Those not joining the PCLL programme pursued other postgraduate programmes in Hong Kong and abroad as well as other career paths.

Jae Woon Lee
Assistant Dean (Undergraduate Studies) and LLB Programme Director
Faculty of Law
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
February 2024

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

Report on the Juris Doctor Programme

(January to December 2023)

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 2023-24 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:

- Chinese Civil Law
- Chinese Company Law
- Chinese Contract Law
- Chinese Energy Law
- Chinese Environmental Law
- Chinese Financial Law
- Chinese Investment Law
- Chinese Law on Corporate Finance
- Chinese Securities Regulation
- Chinese Tax Law
- Clean Technology Law
- Colonial Governance and the Rule of Law
- Common Law: Origins and Development
- Conflict of Laws
- Conflicts in International Commercial Litigation

- Dispute Resolution in the Energy and Natural Resources Sector
- International and Comparative Energy Law
- International and Comparative Intellectual Property Law
- International Commercial Arbitration
- International Environmental Law
- International Financial and Banking Law
- International Legal Advocacy I
- International Legal Advocacy II
- International Taxation
- Issues in Contract
- Issues in Human Rights
- Issues in Tort
- Law and Literature
- Law and Practice of Investment Arbitration
- 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 Digital Technology and Law
- Principles of Employment Law
- Principles of Environmental Law
- Principles of Family Law
- Principles of Information and Privacy Law
- Principles of Intellectual Property
- Principles of Mediation
- Principles of Remedies
- Principles of Revenue Law
- Principles of Unjust Enrichment
- Project Finance and Infrastructure Law
- Shipping Law
- The Law of Electronic Commerce
- The Law of the Digital Economy
- Trans-national Legal Problems
- World Trade Law

5. Student intake

The JD has proved to be a highly competitive programme. In the 2023-24 academic year, the programme received 634 applications meeting minimum admission requirements (512 applications for full-time mode and 122 applications for part-time mode). The admission requirements in section 3 above, are minimum requirements. In the 2023-24 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 2023 CUHK LAW admitted 205 students, these being the top segment of applicants.

No. of applications received for academic year 2023-24 (full-time mode)	579
No. of students admitted for academic year 2023-24 (full-time mode)	145
No. of applications received for academic year 2023-24 (part-time mode)	167
No. of students admitted for academic year 2023-24 (part-time mode)	60

All JD students admitted in 2023-24 hold at least an Upper 2nd bachelor's degree or a credit master's degree (or equivalent):

Band 1	33% (68)
Band 2	25% (52)
Band 3	42% (85)
Total	100% (205)

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 Management Accountant (CMA), Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Chartered Engineer (CEng), Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), and Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP).

Some students are members of professional bodies. These include Associate Member of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (ACI Arb), Member of the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (MCIBSE) 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 2023-24, the BBA-JD Programme admitted 32 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 2023, we had 14 BBA-JD students graduated in 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 2023-24, 7 students from LLB-JD Degree Programme had completed their first 2-year studies at KCL and are now taking CUHK JD courses as Associate Students in their third year of studies. In July 2023, we had 2 LLB-JD students from the first cohort graduated in 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 2023-24, 1 student from LLB-JD Degree Programme had completed her first 2-year studies at Exeter and is now taking CUHK JD courses as an Associate student in her third year of studies.

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 124,860 volumes and access to over 5,800 electronic law journals. There are 107 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 2023-24, 108 JD graduates applied for admission to the CUHK PCLL Programme and 76.9% 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 2024

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

Report on the PCLL Programme

(January to December 2023)

2022/2023 PCLL Programme

1. Admission and Completion Rates

In the 2022 intake, we admitted 147 students to the PCLL. Adding one student who was approved to defer studies from 2021/22 to the cohort, there were initially 148 students. Of these 148 students, two withdrew from the programme in Term One; one was approved to suspend studies on medical ground. The remaining **145** 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 2022/23 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 2022/23 had a diverse student body. Of the 147 students admitted, 136 held local law qualifications while 11 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)	9	46	55
Juris Doctor (JD)	1	90	91
Master of Arts in Law	1	0	1

While most of our students were local, we also had a number of students from the 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 2023 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 2023 Graduates

Our graduates in all fifteen years have been consistently placed in all areas of the legal profession following graduation. Our latest placement survey results comprise 98 student responses out of 145 graduates of the 2022/2023 cohort. The results show that over 90% have been employed by law firms or the Department of Justice, or have found places in sets of barristers' chambers.

2023/2024 PCLL Programme

Admissions for 2023/2024

The Faculty received 273 applications to study for the PCLL in the academic year 2023/24. The Faculty made 156 offers which were accepted by 151 applicants. Of those accepting the offers, 150 were able to satisfy the pre-conditions and be admitted to the PCLL. Three students were then approved to defer studies to the 2024-25 academic year. Therefore, the 2023/24 PCLL intake accordingly comprises **147** candidates.

With effect from the 2020-21 intake, we started to offer an alternative route to admit a limited number of PCLL candidates based on their academic strength supplemented by evidence of law-related working experience. One out of two eligible students was admitted through the alternative route in the academic year 2020-21. In the academic year 2021-22, two out of two eligible applicants were admitted. In the academic year 2022-23, one out of two eligible applicants were admitted. These students managed to pass the PCLL. In the academic year 2023-24, three out of three eligible applicants were admitted. 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 fifteen 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
February 2024

Annexure 5



Department 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 2023)

With the pandemic finally behind us, the Department has returned to its traditional role as a provider of high-quality in-class teaching and learning to our undergraduate and JD students. We are once again glad to report more than satisfactory progress overall.

1. Admissions 2023-2024

The Bachelor of Laws (LLB) is the flagship programme of the Department of Law, and the core around which both the LLB and our integrated double-degree undergraduate programmes are structured. It consistently attracts and admits the best and brightest students notwithstanding keen competition both locally and abroad. Together, the LLB and integrated double-degree undergraduate programmes remain signature programmes of HKU, international recognition of which is evidenced by our robust admission figures.

The LLB consistently ranks as one of the top ten programmes at HKU and among the most competitive programmes across all tertiary institutions in Hong Kong. It has attracted excellent students through both the local Diploma of Secondary Education (DSE) scheme and the non-Joint University Programmes Admissions Scheme (non-JUPAS) routes.

To attract top students, we have established and continue to offer dual degree or double pathway programmes, which give students a wider range of options. For example, since 2016-2017, the Faculty has offered a 4-year dual LLB programme with University College London (UCL), which enables students to obtain an LLB degree from both UK and Hong Kong providers when they graduate. To cater to growing interest in Chinese law, we also introduced a 5-year dual LLB programme with Peking University (PKU) Law School in 2019-2020. In 2022, we introduced a new dual degree BSc & LLB Programme, which attracted and admitted an initial cohort of 12 students.

We also 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. Similar arrangements have been made with the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and the National University of Singapore (NUS), buttressing HKU's established reputation for international excellence. With the passing of the pandemic, we continue to explore new options in this arena, and are currently introducing a new pathway programme with the University of California, Berkeley (UCB), which will enable students to obtain an LLB from HKU and an LLM from UCB.

In 2023, admissions to our LLB programme increased, showing a return to our traditional strength as the premier legal education provider in Hong Kong. A total of 126 students were admitted in 2023 to undergraduate programmes: 85 through the JUPAS scheme; 34 through the non-JUPAS admissions process (including 6 to the HKU-UCL programme); and 7 through Mainland recruitment.

In addition, our integrated LLB dual-degree programmes continued to attract strong numbers of applicants, with 174 students admitted to the four dual-degree programmes: 88 to the BBA(Law) & LLB; 38 to the BSocSc (Govt & Laws) & LLB; 31 to the BA & LLB; and 17 to the BSc&LLB.

All these programmes continue to maintain outstanding admission standards.

Our JD programme goes from strength to strength. Students attracted to this programme come from diverse educational and other backgrounds, with substantial numbers receiving their undergraduate or graduate education at leading universities in North America or the UK. The programme also attracts significant numbers of students from the Mainland and local universities. Over the years, we have also admitted a considerable number of students with significant professional experience.

JD admissions figures this year continue to be strong. We admitted 54 students from over 347 applications. Student profiles are diverse, with 42 fresh graduates and 12 with work experience.

Exchange

The Faculty of Law has long-established academic links with 125 major universities in many parts of the world which allow students to participate in a rich variety of exchange programmes. With the passing of the pandemic, our students have once again been able to pursue academic and cultural exchanges, and have done so with enthusiasm. Current figures for out-going law students comprise 115 students, who are participating in either a one-semester or a full year exchange study through University or Faculty-level exchange agreements, and are undertaking their studies in 14 countries, with the most in the UK (58), Canada (16), and USA (8). No virtual exchange was conducted.

At the postgraduate level, we established a reciprocal exchange arrangement with Pennsylvania Law School, enabling HKU JD students to spend an extra year at Pennsylvania and earn an LLM degree. Under this programme, two HKU JD students were admitted to UPenn's LLM programme, and one UPenn JD student admitted to HKU's LLM programme. We are currently moving towards establishing further exchange opportunities with even more overseas institutions to broaden our students' exposure to other legal systems, equipping them with the necessary skills for complex, cross-border and international legal practice.

Curriculum

Since 2021-2022, the Department has cross-listed some of its LLM elective courses as a means of providing more options for our senior year LLB students. This remains a popular option for such students, who may choose to specialize in streams dedicated to (i) Chinese

law; (ii) commercial, corporate and financial law; and (iii) international trade and economic law. Others choose instead to study a minor in another discipline.

Mooting and Dispute Resolution remains a compulsory capstone course, and requires all students to integrate knowledge and skills across the curricula. Looking forward, we intend to expand the list of capstone courses to include experiential learning, as an alternative to Mooting and Dispute Resolution.

For a number of years, we offered our LLB students the opportunity to study their compulsory Introduction to the Chinese Legal System course (formerly called ‘Introduction to Chinese Law’) in Shanghai, rather than at HKU. This Shanghai option was suspended during the pandemic, but has now resumed, and students will be pursuing their studies in Shanghai in the summer of 2024. Additionally, building on our successful experience with this option, and with the passing of the pandemic, we are now actively exploring opportunities to collaborate with other mainland universities in other cities for intensive teaching of the same course.

The Department promotes experiential learning for students to develop practical skills and to learn law in action. The Clinical Legal Education course and other experiential courses including the Social Justice Internship (in both Hong Kong and Mainland China), the Global Migration Legal Clinic, the Disability Rights Clinic, and the Law, Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship (LITE) Lab have all been in high demand. The Faculty successfully recruited a number of full-time teaching-track staff for experiential learning prior to the pandemic, and our ultimate goal is to be able to offer all LLB students experiential learning during their studies. This is an on-going project, and we expect to make experiential learning a capstone option in the future.

In 2023, the Faculty began a process of reviewing the LLB curriculum with a view to ensuring our undergraduate students are provided with a comprehensive, up-to-date, and responsive curriculum, which addresses not only traditional law subjects, but also challenges posed by technology, by globalization, and by the changing demands of the legal and financial communities. This is an on-going process, and is expected to lead to the introduction of a revised LLB curriculum from the 2024-25 academic year. This revised LLB curriculum will equally affect our integrated LLB double-degree programmes.

The JD is a two-year programme. The bulk of the programme consists of compulsory courses, which cover the fundamentals of the common law. It provides students with a breadth and depth of legal knowledge that enables them to gain admission to the PCLL in a comparatively short period of time. A wide range of electives is available to JD students to fulfill the requirements of taking at least one elective from a variety of Chinese law offerings and one from the “International, Comparative and Theoretical Perspectives in Law” grouping. The Department has continued to take steps to implement proposals in the most recent Report of the Review Panel for our JD programme.

Career and Related Advice

The current in-house Career Development Advisor provides individual career advice consultation sessions to our students. In addition, we run a mentorship programme that matches students with the Faculty’s alumni as part of an informal curriculum. Meeting the needs of students who have also increasingly reported health and related issues has been a

challenge this past year, and is a matter receiving front-line attention among both our administrative and academic staff.

Staffing

Our staff continue to offer a wide range of electives in the undergraduate programmes, in addition to all core subjects. The Faculty continues to actively seek academic staff at different levels, both to enhance our overall curriculum offerings, and also to replenish our teaching capabilities in traditional courses. Ten new academic staff joined the Department in 2023, including five professoriate staff and one senior lecturer, and more new staff are expected to join the Department in 2024.

Conclusion

Our LLB and JD programmes are firmly established as among the best law programmes in Hong Kong and abroad. However, we continue to focus on additional means of maintaining and enhancing the competitiveness of our programmes. The Department is aware of the significant challenges facing legal educators in the modern world, and has already taken on board the need to review our undergraduate curriculum to meet the changing demands of society and concerns about job opportunities. We will continue to address these issues, while also taking care to ensure the rigour and diversity of teaching will not be compromised. We are also extending our efforts to provide additional support to students in terms of both career advice and general counselling. We look forward to meeting the challenges and to capitalizing on the opportunities ahead.

Professor Michael JACKSON
Interim Head, Department of Law
February 2024

Report on the HKU PCLL

January – December 2023

Overview

1. The first semester of the academic year 2022/2023 saw the return of face-to-face learning in small group sessions (“SG”s) while, for pedagogical reasons, we have been utilising technologies in the delivery of our large group sessions (“LG”s) to make overall learning even more effective from the students’ perspective.
2. We continued to adopt this teaching mode for the first semester of 2023/2024.

Assessments and examination results 2022/23

3. The first-attempt pass rate in the full-time PCLL 2022/23 was 65.4% (compared with 80.6% in 2021/22 and 76.1% in 2019/20). This pass rate was slightly lower than usual with most of the failures in the Professional Practice and Management course. Course co-ordinators for this course believe that students for this particular year underestimated the course and did not dedicate as much study time to this course as required. After review of the first attempt examination paper and suggested solutions with those failed students, together with more extensive guidance and revision, the 2nd attempt pass rate in August 2023 was 96.9% (compared with 97.1% in August 2022 and 97.7% in August 2021).
4. The first-attempt pass rate of part-time PCLL Year 2 2022/23 was about 40.4% (compared to 59.4% in 2021/22 and 61.1% in 2020/21). This is a record low for the second consecutive year and again mainly attributable to the high failure rate in the Professional Practice and Management course. The pass rate after re-examinations in August 2023 increased to about 96.6% (compared with close to 95.9% in August 2022 and 86.8% in August 2021).
5. The first attempt pass rate of part-time Year 1 2022/23 was about 52.1% (compared with 67.9% in 2021/22 and 66.3% in 2020/21). The pass rate after re-examinations in August 2023 increased to about 84.0% (compared with about 89.4% in August 2022 and 90% in August 2021). The failures were mainly in Civil Litigation or Commercial and Corporate Transactions (or both).
6. Among a total of 378 full-time and part-time Year 2 students, the Board of Examiners awarded overall distinction to the top 35 students of the cohort. All except one were full-time graduates. Among the top ten students, all except one are HKU law graduates, with an LLB, a mixed-degree LLB or a joint-LLB degree with UCL.

Admissions 2023/2024

7. There were over 900 applications from 629 applicants, of whom 575 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.
8. In any year, we are able to admit a maximum of 400 students (300 full-time and 100 part-time) to the HKU PCLL, if the quality of applicants so warrants.
9. The number of new PCLL students admitted in September 2023 was 281 to the full-time course and 102 to the part-time course. These figures exclude the 18 students who are repeating the full-time or part-time courses with or without attendance.
10. We have a maximum number of 15 discretionary part-time places based on a balance of candidates' legal knowledge and full-time working experience, as well as interview performance (the "WE Route"). We filled up all 15 of those places after interviewing 20 candidates. We invited two PCLL academic board members, Mr. Edward Chan SC and Mr. Brian Gilchrist, to sit in those interviews. The purpose of the invitation was to let the PCLL Academic Board (and the profession) have a better understanding of the WE Route and its operation.
11. We continued to allocate our awarded government-funded full-time places, all on academic merit. HKU law graduates (including JD) took up about 83% of such places. Other categories of applicants, shared the remaining government-funded places of which UK LLB graduates, who were mostly Hong Kong permanent residents, represented the largest proportion.
12. About 78% of the full-time intake in 2023 held a HKU law degree. The proportion in the part-time programme was much lower at about 5%. Graduates from both the Common Professional Examination operated by MMU/HKUSPACE and from CUHK filled up most of the remaining part-time places. In 2023, for the first time, we also admitted 4 graduates (out of a total of 7 applicants), from the Advanced Diploma of Legal Education programme run by HKUSPACE. 2 of these graduates were awarded full-time places and 2 graduates took up part-time places.
13. In the 2023/24 admissions process, of the 195 applicants not admitted to the HKU PCLL, 71% were rejected for their failure to meet the eligibility requirements, including incomplete documentation or failure to pass the conversion exams.

Curriculum and teaching

14. Mr. Justice Anderson Chow, the Chief External Examiner, gave his comprehensive report on the programme. He raised no concerns that required attention. Indeed, he commended that our PCLL "continued to be run professionally and efficiently, producing students who are well equipped to enter into the legal market in Hong Kong".
15. In 2023/24, the teaching of, and the course materials for the Professional Practice and Management course have been re-designed. Knowledge based LGs were delivered via

video recordings, supplemented by LG workshops to illustrate and explain the important professional conduct rules. SG materials were revised to provide students with more opportunities to identify professional conduct issues and tackle problem scenarios.

16. As for the electives, in 2023/24, Employment Law and Practice, Matrimonial Practice and Procedure and Commercial Disputes Resolution continue to be the three most popular electives. A total of 89 students, full-time and part-time, opted for the Trial Advocacy Elective. We offered a new elective on Financial Regulations and Practice this year.

Looking ahead

17. We are committed to use our best endeavours to contribute to the continuous improvement of the system in all aspects of the PCLL in order to better serve the public interest and our students. 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.

Julienne Jen
Interim Head, Department of Professional Legal Education
Faculty of Law
February 2024

Annexure 6

Key Statistics of the 2023/24 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	61 (25 JUPAS students, 25 Non-JUPAS local students and 11 non-local students (including 7 Mainland NUEE students))	94 (43 JUPAS students, 49 Non-JUPAS students and 2 Mainland students)	126 (85 JUPAS students, 34 Non-JUPAS students and 7 Mainland students)
No. of Admissions to the JD Programme	96	205 (145 full-time students and 60 part-time students)	54
No. of Admissions to the PCLL Programme	201	147	383 (281 full-time students and 102 part-time students)
No. of Admissions to the Double Law Degree Programmes	18 (9 students in LLB & BBA(Accountancy), 7 students in BSocSc(Criminology) & LLB, and 2 students in BSocSc(Public Policy) & LLB)	37 (32 students in BBA-JD, 4 students in LLB-JD jointly offered with King's College London and 1 student in LLB-JD jointly offered with University of Exeter)	174 (88 students in BBA(Law) & LLB, 38 students in BSocSc(Govt & Laws) & LLB, 31 students in BA & LLB and 17 students in 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
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- Dr. Richard WU Wai-sang
The University of Hong Kong
- Mr. Ubaid REHMAN
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