

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

**ANNUAL REPORT
2020**

1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

(1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020)

This is the fifteenth 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 five occasions during the reporting period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020 (“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. There remains two major outstanding issues. They concern the Law Society’s proposals for (i) the Law Society Examination (“LSE”) and (ii) the Common Entrance Examination (“CEE”).
3. These proposals are designed to serve different purposes. The Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (“PCLL”) is currently provided by The University of Hong Kong (“HKU”), the 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.
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 774 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.
5. As SCLET currently understands it, the LSE will involve the establishment by the Law Society of taught programme based on a syllabus set by the Law Society leading to an examination to be set by the Law Society, the satisfactory completion of which

will enable the student to enter into a training contract. Such taught programme will be provided by accredited institutions. There will be no limit on the number of law graduates who could undertake such taught programmes. Thus, the LSE is designed to provide anyone who has achieved the Law Society's required standard, an opportunity to enter into the solicitors' branch of the legal profession.

6. Since no limit will be placed on the number of persons who could undertake such taught courses, it may in time result in lower demand for PCLL places thereby jeopardising the viability of the institution of PCLL.
7. The three PCLL providers and the Law Society have agreed on a "Protocol on the role of External Examiners, External Course Assessors and External Academic Advisors and other aspects of the PCLL programme". The aim of the Protocol is to maintain uniformity and confirm the standards for the three PCLL programmes.
8. By letter dated 11 May 2021, the Law Society informed us that:
 - “(i) The Protocol covers the position regarding the CEE. The Law Society will monitor its implementation in the next 3 to 5 years. The success of the Protocol will impact the decision of the Law Society on the CEE and accordingly, it is currently estimated that the CEE will not be implemented earlier than 2025;
 - (ii) The Law Society is progressing with the LSE. It will consult the course providers on the syllabus and learning outcomes. Once the syllabus and outcomes are finalised, it will be provided to SCLET for its consideration.”
9. We look forward to hearing from the Law Society on the LSE.

Bachelor of Laws (“LLB”), Juris Doctor (“JD”) and PCLL Programmes

10. 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**.
11. 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

12. The Conversion Examination Board met on three occasions during the Reporting Period to oversee the administration of the PCLL Conversion Examination (“Conversion Examination”). Matters considered by the Conversion Examination Board in the meetings and by paper circulation included the following:
 - (a) Vetting of applications for exemption from sitting the Conversion Examination;
 - (b) Review of examination results, reports of the Examiners, irregularities in the examinations;
 - (c) Review of exemptions granted to the examination subjects of Criminal Procedure and Civil Procedure;
 - (d) Appointment of examiners and reviewers;
 - (e) Fees of the Examiners;
 - (f) Scholarships granted to candidates and their eligibility;
 - (g) Review of examination schedule;
 - (h) Decisions of the Chief Examiner on the appeals against examination results;
 - (i) Review of syllabi and book lists; and
 - (j) Applications for special arrangements to sit the Conversion Examination.
13. The Conversion Examination was held twice during the Reporting Period in January and June 2020 respectively.
14. 619 and 539 candidates took part in the Conversion Examination in eight different prerequisite subjects in January and June 2020 as compared to 703 and 623 candidates respectively in the January and June 2019 Conversion Examination.
15. The average pass rate of the subjects examined in January 2020 was 61.43% (as compared to 60.19% in the January 2019 results) and that in June 2020 was 63.51% (as compared to 59.52% in the June 2019 results).
16. In the course of the year, because of Covid-19, overseas students who wished to sit the Conversion Examination held in Hong Kong, for admission into the PCLL in the 2021 academic year, were concerned that they would be unable to do so in Hong Kong because of travel restrictions and/or quarantine requirements.
17. SCLET and the Conversion Examination Board were engaged in a series of discussions on possible solutions. Unfortunately, it is not possible to hold the Conversion Examination online. The Conversion Examination will be held physically in Hong Kong in late June 2021.

18. As events unfold, it appears that all or many overseas universities will hold their examinations online and with the relaxation of travel restrictions, overseas students who wish to take the Conversion Examination in Hong Kong in June 2021 (“June Examination”) for PCLL admissions in September should be able to do so. Neither the SCLET nor so far as we know, the Conversion Examination Board has been told by any overseas student that they will be unable to sit the Conversion Examination in Hong Kong physically in late June 2021.
19. Should any such case arise, SCLET and the Conversion Examination Board will consider holding a special examination in August 2021 (“August Examination”) for students who would not be able to take the June Examination and can prove that it is not possible for them to do so. The August Examination may be restricted to students who have applied for admissions to the PCLL in September 2021 at either HKU or CityU or both of them. This arrangement would not cover CUHK if results of the August Examination cannot be published before the end of August 2021 for students intending to join the CUHK PCLL in September 2021. This is because the PCLL admission conditions must be fulfilled in August 2021 for all CUHK PCLL candidates.
20. The composition of the Conversion Examination Board is at [Annexure 7](#).

Chairmanship

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

Overall position

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

Annexure 1

SECTION 74A OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE

74A. Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

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

Extract of Section 74A of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance

- (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
 - (x) 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
(on the nomination of the Chief Justice)

The Honourable Mr. Justice Godfrey LAM Wan-ho, J.P.
(on the nomination of the Chief Justice)

Miss LEE Sau-kong
Deputy Solicitor General (Policy Affairs), Department of Justice
(on the nomination of the Secretary for Justice)

Mr. Derek LAI
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, J.P.
(on the nomination of The Law Society of Hong Kong)

Mr. Edward CHAN King-sang, S.C., J.P.
(on the nomination of Hong Kong Bar Association)

Mr. Michael YIN Chi-ming
(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
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 TAN Cheng-han
Dean & Chair Professor of Commercial Law, School of Law,
City University of Hong Kong
(on the nomination of the President of City University of Hong
Kong)

Ms. Theresa LOW
Programme Leader 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, Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
(on the nomination of the Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese
University of Hong Kong)

Mr. Christopher KNIGHT
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
(Member appointed under s74A(3)(a)(viii) of the Legal
Practitioners Ordinance Cap.159 (“Ordinance”))

Mr. Rex LAI Tat-shing
(Member appointed under s74A(3)(a)(viii) of the Ordinance)

Dr. Tommy HO Koon-ki
(on the nomination of The Federation for Self-financing Tertiary
Education)

Secretary:

Ms. Kitty FUNG
Deputy Principal Government Counsel (Acting)
Department of Justice

Annexure 3

School of Law City University of Hong Kong

Bachelor of Laws (LLB) 2020 Annual Report for Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

(January to December 2020)

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 2020 to 31 December 2020.

During the period of this report, the LLB Programme was offered only in full-time (UGC-funded) study mode.

1. 2020/21 Admissions

In the 2020/21 academic year, the School admitted 48 full-time LLB students in total, including:

- 20 JUPAS applicants (from HKDSE)
- 16 non-JUPAS local applicants
- 12 non-local applicants (including 6 Mainland NUÉE students)

1.1 JUPAS Admissions

In 2020, the School received a total of 348 qualified applications for the 2020 JUPAS entry. JUPAS admissions was significantly diminished compared to previous intakes despite increased engagement with high school students. It is unclear if this is related to the societal unrest of 2019 but we intend to continue to monitor the intake for 2021. All students admitted through JUPAS have good English proficiency, having attained “5” or above in English Language (HKDSE).

1.2 Direct Applicants (local and international)

The School received a total of 163 non-JUPAS (including local and non-local) applications. The selection criteria include the assessment of applicants’ academic performance, personal statements and achievements in other relevant activities. In addition, they must all have achieved an IELTS overall score of “7” or above, TOEFL score of over 100 (internet-based) or 600 (paper-based) or equivalent English proficiency qualifications. The quality of applicants was generally high, with some of them being degree holders.

Admission interviews were conducted with some borderline applicants. All interviews were conducted via Skype for both local and non-local applicants. Face-to-face interviews were suspended due to the pandemic.

2. Academic Standards

As a result of financial constraints, and the university's preference for cessation of the use of External Academic Advisors (EAA), the EAA arrangements for LLB Programme has been discontinued from 2019/20 academic year onwards. Thankfully, following the positive assessments and advice given by external advisors over the years, we now feel sufficiently confident in the quality of our programmes. To maintain the academic quality of the LLB Programme, the examination papers are subjected to internal moderation.

3. Programme Structure

The LLB Programme requirement is 126 credits contributed by the core courses, Law for Professional Qualification Minor, Gateway Education courses and free electives. Students are required to take the core courses including: Legal Research and Writing, Hong Kong Legal System, Law of Contract, Law of Tort, Land Law, Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Criminal Law, Public Law of the PRC, Private Law of the PRC, Applied Legal Theory and Company Law.

The Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure courses would no longer be offered in the LLB Programme. The Equity and Trusts would be changed back to a full-year course.

In response to concerns raised by some LLB students about the Law for Professional Qualification (LPQ) minor for the PCLL admission, it has been resolved that the LPQ minor is not a fundamental condition for PCLL admission. Students are informed that regardless of whether they have declared the LPQ minor or not, the PCLL admission team would still consider their application provided they have taken all the pre-requisite courses required by the PCLL and have otherwise met the PCLL admission requirements as stated.

Students who do not wish to enter the legal profession have the option of taking other Minors such as Accountancy, Finance, Global Business, Marketing, Psychology, Languages, etc.

The School continues to bring in renowned scholars to give short one-credit electives. This again broadens the menu of electives available to LLB students.

4. Teaching and Learning

The LLB courses were redesigned in accordance with Outcome Based Teaching and Learning (OBTL). The Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs) have been aligned with the Major Intended Learning Outcomes (MILOs).

The MILOs of the LLB Programme specified that upon successful completion of the Programme, students should be able:

- (1) to analytically and critically describe the main substantive/procedural laws and the legal system of Hong Kong, and also describe the principles of international law or the laws of other jurisdictions;
- (2) to describe the law and legal system of the People's Republic of China and its relation with Hong Kong's constitutional set-up and commercial future;
- (3) to apply the law to solve legal problems;
- (4) to critically evaluate the law in action and the dynamic interplay between law and other social phenomena;
- (5) to use a range of legal or intellectual skills – such as reading and interpreting cases and statutes, identifying and evaluating relevant facts, conducting independent legal research, developing and offering solutions to legal problems, using and citing relevant authorities appropriately, drafting documents, and communicating in a coherent, cogent and persuasive manner – in performing various tasks;
- (6) to act with a strong sense of ethics and with due regard to social and professional responsibilities;
- (7) to develop an attitude of inquiry and a sense of curiosity to learning and knowledge; and
- (8) to have an opportunity to make an original discovery and/ or innovation concerning the operation of the law and procedure in Hong Kong.

Following the CityU's initiative, the Discovery-Enriched Curriculum (DEC) is well- integrated into the LLB curriculum. Under the DEC, students are given opportunity to make an original discovery and/ or innovation concerning the operation of the law and procedure in Hong Kong.

2019/20 also saw the introduction of a pilot phase of co-teaching between the LLB and JD programmes for selected common courses. As the smallest (by intake) of the three Hong Kong law schools, the introduction of co-teaching of common courses is regarded by the School as a means of better securing economies of scale with limited teaching resources, particularly for some courses for which recruitment has been challenging across all common law schools. It would also allow 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. For example, in 2020/21 (as at Semester B, 2020/21), 16 electives were offered to LLB students as compared to 17 electives in 2019/20 and 14 electives in 2018/19. The School hopes to follow up with this pilot initiative, which has been generally well received by students, with an expanded co-teaching scheme in 2020/21, which should further enhance both teaching quality and elective selection to students.

5. Assessment

The LLB courses are assessed by a combination of class participation and presentation, coursework and examination. To pass a particular course, students must obtain an aggregate mark of 40% and a minimum of 30% in each of the coursework and the examination elements of the assessment.

6. Exchange Programmes

The School has a good number of exchange programmes with foreign Universities. Exchange activities form an important element in the acquisition of both general transferable skills and legal knowledge. Students are encouraged to take part in the exchange programmes. The School has entered into agreements with overseas universities. They include: University of Amsterdam, The University of Bergen, University College Dublin in Ireland, Erasmus University Rotterdam, University of Mannheim in Germany, University of Kent, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, University of Montreal, Nanjing University, National Chengchi University, National Taiwan University, Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Spain, Renmin University of China, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Singapore Management University, Soochow University, Sun Yat-sen University, University of Strathclyde in the U.K, etc. Most significantly, the SLW had signed an agreement to join the Themis network of law schools, which dramatically improves the quality of our exchange partners. Network partners include: Università Bocconi, Esade Law School, Freie Universität Berlin, Universiteit Maastricht, National Taiwan University, Nova School of Law of the NOVA University Lisbon, Singapore Management University, Université Paris Est Créteil Val de Marne, Universität St. Gallen, Victoria University of Wellington and Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien.

In 2020, the School received 2 exchange students from overseas jurisdictions, including China and Ireland studied at the School as exchange students. The School sent out 6 LLB students to universities in Australia, Belgium, Japan, the Netherlands, and the U.K..

7. Global Engagement

In order to complement the conventional semester-long exchange programmes and to produce law graduates equipped with the breadth of knowledge and skills to navigate the challenges of the globalised working environment, the School in 2007 launched the G-LEAP initially for LLB students and subsequently for JD students. The G-LEAP is a one month intensive mode programme in which students study in prestigious overseas law schools. In the summer of 2020, no overseas activities were held due to the Covid-19 situation.

8. Legal Placements

The School has incorporated legal placements in the credit-bearing curriculum of the LLB Programme. The objective of this course is to provide students with a structured opportunity to obtain practical experience from working in law offices or in a law-related working environment. Currently, the course provides legal work experience in Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas. In 2020, 21 students completed either a part-time or full-time legal placement across a range of diverse places (including barristers' chambers, local/international law firms, legal departments of international companies and financial institutions) in Hong Kong. Due to the Covid-19 situation, no overseas legal placement was arranged. Participation in the placement programme provides students with a structured opportunity to acquire practical experience through working in a legal working environment.

9. Mooting Competitions

The School considers mooting to be an integral part of students' legal education as it provides students with an opportunity to broaden and sharpen their advocacy skills. To this end, the

School provides them with extensive training in order to participate in both internal and international moot competitions. During the reporting period, our LLB students achieved an outstanding level of success in the following international moot competitions.

The LLB students participated in international moot competitions and achieved commendable results, including the following:

Our students received extensive training from experts in their fields for better preparation in the specific moot competitions. In the academic year 2019-2020, the LLB students participated in the following international moot competitions. The moot teams achieved outstanding results:

The 2020 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition (Hong Kong Regional Round), 15 March 2020

- Hardy C. Dillard Award (Best Combined Memorials) (10th Place)
- Hong Kong Regional Round - Best Applicant Memorial
- Hong Kong Regional Round - Best Respondent Memorial

Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition*

- Ranked 8th out of 33 teams
- Ranked 9th for applicant memorial
- Ranked 7th for respondent memorial

** For the 2019/2020 competition the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the cancellation of the oral round of the competition, set down for Beijing, which normally determines the winner. In 2020 the winner of the Memorials competition is automatically the winner of the Asia-Pacific Zone of the competition.*

The 17th Annual Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot held virtually, 22-29 March 2020

- Winner of the Fali Nariman Award – Best Memorandum for Respondent

The 27th Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot held virtually, 4-9 April 2020

- Honorable Mention for the Werner Melis Award Best Memorandum for Respondent

Participation in these competitions provides students with an opportunity to develop their advocacy skills and interact with students from other jurisdictions.

10. City University of Hong Kong Law Review

The idea behind this course is for students to work together to edit a law journal: 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. The work of the students has won great acclaim. Due to its immense success, editing the CityU LR is offered as an LLB law elective.

11. Conclusion

We are pleased to report the smooth and successful operation of the LLB Programme in the last year. In the near future, we are exploring more collaboration opportunities with the prestigious overseas universities to add to our student exchange arrangements. Additionally, the LLB Programme team is taking active measures to increase the number of international students.

Professor Kelvin Low
LLB Programme Director
School of Law
City University of Hong Kong
February 2021

**City University of Hong Kong
Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL)
2020 Annual Report
for Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training**

1. The School of Law (“SLW”) received **483** applications for its PCLL programme for the academic year 2020/2021. About **79%** of the applicants selected CityU as their first choice. **253** offers were made by the SLW and eventually **221** students were admitted to the PCLL programme.

Among the successful applicants, **53** received UGC-funded places and **168** received non-UGC funded places. About **51%** of those UGC-funded places were given to graduates from universities in Hong Kong.

As at 30 September 2020, there were **220** students studying in the CityU PCLL programme.

The 2020/2021 PCLL programme is comprised of **50%** local graduates and **50%** graduates from overseas institutions. Appendix 1 contains a list of the universities from which these PCLL students graduated.

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

1. The Admissions Committee began reviewing applications in March 2020 and regularly thereafter. This enabled a number of early conditional and unconditional offers to be made to academically strong applicants.
2. **18** 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). **14** applicants declined our offers due to personal reasons.
3. 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 both core and elective courses.

3. Assessment Regime and Outcomes

3.1 Assessment Regime

The majority of assessments are taken under controlled conditions through online written examinations and the performance-based assessments are conducted and recorded via zoom in view of the pandemic situation as backup and for review of the first examiners' assessments. Certain courses continue to be assessed by mid-term examinations as well as end-of-term examinations.

We have been working with the CityU e-learning team to implement online examinations for almost all courses except Chinese for Legal Practice for which we allow students to choose to type or handwrite the examination and a few courses that utilize performance-based assessments. The practice has been well received by course examiners and students alike.

3.2 Assessment Outcomes

2018/2019:

No. of students who failed to graduate from the PCLL programme:	4
No. of students who failed one or more subjects at first attempt and were required to take supplementary examinations:	55 (including the 4 who failed to graduate from the PCLL)

2019/2020:

No. of students who failed to graduate from the PCLL programme:	5 (including the 1 who was not allowed to take supplementary exam)
No. of students who failed one or more subjects at first attempt and were required to take supplementary examinations:	64 (including the 4 who failed to graduate from the PCLL and 1 who graduated in 2021)

4. Staffing

In 2019/2020, 12 full-time staff and 38 part-time staff (practitioners) taught in the PCLL programme.

In 2020/2021, 12 full-time staff and 34 part-time staff (practitioners) taught in the PCLL programme.

Many teaching staff members have taught PCLL for some time while continuing their legal practice. We are continuing our efforts to bring into our teaching team experienced practitioners in different areas of practice with a view to further strengthen the PCLL programme.

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 2019-2020 and 2020-21 academic years

There are no major curriculum changes to be carried out in 2020/2021. The course of International Mooting and Advocacy introduced in 2019-20 continues to be offered to enhance the choice of elective courses and to provide an opportunity for students to take part in mooting competitions.

6. The Future

The School has relocated to a new office. As there are a lower number of small group rooms, we would still be able to provide small group rooms for small group teaching though there will no longer be a small group room assigned for each group of students. We also plan to recruit additional qualified practitioners to teach on the programme.

We will continue to work closely with the CityU e-learning team for the implementation of online examinations and marking for all PCLL courses in the future.

7. Involvement of the Profession

We are happy to report that the profession has been very involved with the training of 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.

8. Conclusion

We are committed to educating and training competent lawyers to work in the Hong Kong legal market. Our focus is on the holistic development of our students. Apart from training practical skills, we instill in them the value of collaboration, the importance of ethics and the joy of community service. We are proud of our graduates, and with every graduating student, we hope that we are adding an asset to the legal community of Hong Kong.

We are also keen to develop lawyers with a global perspective given the importance of Hong Kong as a financial center and crossroads community. Thus, our courses train our students to approach problem solving from different angles and to work competently with lawyers from other jurisdictions.

We welcome input from the profession and look forward to working with all constituents to move our programme to the next level of excellence.

Ms Theresa Low
PCLL Programme Director
School of Law, City University of Hong Kong
Feb 2021

School of Law
City University of Hong Kong
Juris Doctor (JD)
2020 Annual Report
for Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

February 2021

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 completing the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) or use the gained legal knowledge and skills in other professions.

This status report on the JD Programme at the School of Law (School) of City University of Hong Kong (CityU) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020. Since the part-time JD Programme was discontinued in 2010, we only offer the full-time programme to new entrants.

2. 2020/2021 Admission

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 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 600 (paper-based) or 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).

JD Programme has been quite competitive. The number and quality of applications has remained strong. The School received 316 applications for admission to JD in 2020-21. The School admitted 76 students in the JD Programme in 2020-21, 39.5% of whom had a postgraduate degree. The intake quality of students admitted to the JD Programme in 2020-21 has been stable. For example, around 78.9% of admitted students had either Upper Second Class Honours (or above) or a GPA of 3 (or above) or achieved 85 out of 100.

Several outreach initiatives (e.g., placing advertisements and advertorials in local newspapers and education supplements, holding online information talk and participating in online 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 and discussions.

Subsequent to students' admission to the programme, apart from formal events and orientations, a tea gathering for newly admitted students was organized. This event 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 three required courses (each worth 3 credits): Legal Systems of Hong Kong and Mainland China; Legal Methods, Research and Writing; and Jurisprudence. The remaining credits can be made up by enrolling in elective courses. The JD Programme structure allows students to take six non-PCLL required electives (worth 18 credits) assuming that they are also going to take 45 credits worth of PCLL-required courses (15 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, Law of Tort, Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Criminal Law I and II, Land Law I and II, Law of Evidence, Equity and Trusts, Company Law I and II, Commercial Law, Civil Procedure, and Criminal Procedure.

The JD curriculum has been revamped for students entering JD in 2020 cohort and thereafter. The JD required course Legal Systems of Hong Kong and Mainland China has been replaced by Hong Kong Legal System from 2020/21 onwards. This is to expand the Hong Kong part. The students can take opt to take law electives such as Private Law of PRC and Public Law of PRC to have an in-depth study on Chinese law.

Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure courses will not be compulsory for PCLL entry from commencing the 2021/22 academic year. Therefore, the two procedure courses are no longer JD required electives for PCLL from 2020/21 onwards.

Jurisprudence is a required course under the JD Programme. The course will be changed to an elective course. It applies to the JD students of 2020 cohort onwards.

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 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 2020-21, the School also offered 1-credit intensive elective courses like Dispute Resolution in a Global World, Commercial Criminal Law, An Introduction to the Law of Unjust Enrichment, Financial Statements for Lawyers, Business Valuation in Practice, Advanced Trusts Law, EU Administrative Law, Introduction to the Law and Policy of Artificial Intelligence, Introductory Law and Economics course, Comparative Constitutional Law: Rights taught by 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:** LW6161E Competition Law; LW5631 Banking Law; LW5664 European Competition Law of Policy; LW5641 Intellectual Property: Theory, Copyright and Design; LW5643 Cyber Law, LW6144E International Trade Law: LW6140E Chinese and Comparative Commercial Law; LW6180E International Commercial Contracts and Uniform Sales Law; LW6167E Current Issues in WTO Law
- 2) **Alternative Dispute Resolution:** LW6401 Dispute Resolution in Theory and Practice; LW6405 Arbitration Law; LW6406 Mediation Practice; LW6407 Arbitration Practice and Award Writing; LW6408 International Arbitration; LW6142E International Investment Law; and 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
- 4) **Air and Maritime Law:** LW6175E Maritime Insurance Law; LW6176E International Air Law; LW6179E Maritime Arbitration Law; LW6189E Bills of Lading Law; LW6190E Charterparties Law; LW6191E Admiralty Law; LW6192E Maritime Law; LW6194E The Law of the Sea; LW5649 International Mooting and Advocacy (3 credits) OR LW5649B International Mooting and Advocacy (6 credits).

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.

Students who choose or do not choose to specialise in any of the above areas will receive the award title as Juris Doctor (法律博士). In pursuance of City University's new policy on streamlining award titles, it has been decided that from 2015-16 onwards the award titles will not include areas of specialisation. The specialised area, if elected by a student, will appear on the transcript.

The master implementation plan for the co-teaching programme consists of a two-step process with an initial pilot run in 2019/20 combining some courses, and a finalized step in 2020/21. The co-teaching of common courses is regarded by the School as a means of better securing economies of scale with limited teaching resources, particularly for some courses for which recruitment has been challenging across all common law schools. It would also allow 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 2019/20 (as at Semester B, 2019/20), 31 electives were offered to JD students as compared to 29 electives in 2018/19.

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, explore new socio-legal issues and produce papers of high quality.

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

Students get 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 classes with undergraduate LLB students for most courses except a small number of elective courses.

In view of the pandemic, the campus-wide real-time e-learning platform has been implemented since Semester B 2019/20. The real-time online learning have enabled student learning throughout the year and have made it effective.

5. Assessment

The assessment pattern for most courses is in the form of an assignment, in-class participation and final examination. 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 per cent marks in each of the assessment components. Students are provided written feedback on their assignment before the final examination.

6. Academic Quality

As a result of financial constraints, and the university's preference for cessation of the use of External Academic Advisors, the EAA arrangements for JD programme has been discontinued. Thankfully, following the positive assessments and advice given by external advisors over the years, we now feel sufficiently confident in the quality of our programmes. 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 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, Bergen University, KU Leuven, Liège University, Emory University, University of San Francisco, Case Western Reserve University, Montreal University, Mannheim University, Fribourg University, National Chengchi University, National Taiwan University, Fudan University, 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 one incoming postgraduate exchange students in Semester B 2019-20 and four incoming postgraduate exchange students in Semester A 2019-20 from universities in Belgium, Norway and Switzerland. The School sent out two JD students to the universities in Semester A 2019-20.

We enter into a partnership with leading law schools around the world such as Association of Asian Law Schools, Center for Transnational Legal Studies of Georgetown University Law Center, Themis Network Agreement and The Private Law Consortium. We also reach double degree agreement with the University Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne This arrangement enables participating students to obtain a master degree from Paris 1 University and also a JD from CityU. We enter into an agreement with Fribourg University, Switzerland. Our JD students are provided with opportunity to study the LLM programme at Fribourg University.

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. Our mooting teams have earned world-class reputation winning approximately 12 world championships in 10 years.

Legal Placement

The credit-bearing Legal Placement course provides JD students with opportunities to do internships not only in Hong Kong but also in Mainland China and other parts of the world. The placement enhances students' hands-on experiences apart from theoretical learning. In Hong Kong, students were placed in various legal departments, financial institutions, chambers and law firms. In Summer 2020, 37 JD students participated in Legal Placement in Hong Kong. The placement programme in the Mainland China was suspended due to the pandemic.

Global Engagement

Global Legal Education Awareness Project (G-LEAP) 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. Due to the pandemic, the G-LEAP was suspended in 2020.

City University of Hong Kong Law Review (CityU LR)

The School of Law launched the student-edited law journal in 2009. Every year, about twenty students are selected and trained by the Faculty Editor to edit the journal. From 2010-11 onwards, an elective law course has been introduced to harness the writing and editing skills of the Board members. The *CityU LR* is available through HeinOnline and Westlaw. It ranks 15th 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 superior to many quality journals in the UK, China, Japan, Korea, Australia, US, the Netherlands and Singapore.

9. Library and Other Facilities

The library provides an extensive selection of print and online legal materials, including law books, law reports, statutes, law reviews 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 legal research skills: finding cases and legislation, finding PRC law, locating ADR legal materials, locating maritime law resources, effective use of secondary materials, and citing legal authorities. Library staff also handle all kinds of enquiries and compile different kinds of research guides. 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.

10. 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. We aim to continue to offer an excellent global learning environment to our students. In the coming years, the School aims to offer more elective courses and explore more overseas learning opportunities.

Dr Mark Kielsingard
JD Programme Director
School of Law
City University of Hong Kong
February 2021

Annexure 4

The Chinese University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law

Report on the LLB Programme

(January to December 2020)

1. Admissions

The LLB programme has had an annual admission quota of 76 since 2019. 74 students (including 55 JUPAS students, 17 non-JUPAS students and 2 Mainland Gaokao students) were ultimately admitted in the 2020 intake. Among the 17 non-JUPAS students, two were non-local students, from Mainland China and South Korea.

In addition to review of minimum entry requirements, the Faculty conducts short interviews as a 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. 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 6 units of Chinese language courses, with the below options:

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

These courses are designed to strengthen the 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 2020. The University has exceptionally approved the LLB students previously enrolled in *Chinese Law (Summer Course)* to take alternative Chinese courses in order to fulfill the Chinese language requirement for graduation.

3. Experiential Learning

The LLB programme continues to emphasize experiential learning as part of law students' university experience, 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, Sydney, and Toronto. The Faculty has established a 4-year Dual LLB-JD Degree Programme with the University of Exeter Law School with effect from 2021-22 Academic Year. Students will study in the LLB programme at the University of Exeter for two years followed by two year in CUHK's JD programme. The Faculty continues to identify further exchange partners and encourage our students to participate in exchange schemes. We also organize lectures by distinguished guests and visits to legal institutions. There are also social activities under the 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.

4. 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 2019-20 academic year, CUHK sent teams to participate in the Jessup, Vis, Red Cross, and ICC Moots.

CUHK Law's moot teams continued to excel in 2020. Notable highlights include:

Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Law Moot

- CUHK's team won the championship (out of 71 schools from 21 jurisdictions in Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America, including top law schools from Harvard University, University College London, University of Basel and Tsinghua University.)
- A team member was awarded an Honourable Mention (top 10%) for advocacy

Vis (Vienna) International Commercial Arbitration Law Moot

- CUHK's team was awarded Honourable Mentions (top 10%) for Best Memorandum on Behalf of the Claimant and on Behalf of the Respondent
- Two team members were awarded Honourable Mentions (top 10%) for advocacy

International Criminal Court (ICC) Moot (English)

- CUHK's team won the championship (out of 70 teams from around the world, such as Leiden University (the Netherlands), Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (France) and National University of Singapore (Singapore))
- The team also won the following awards:
 - Best Memorial Team Overall
 - Best Regional Memorial for Asia

- Best Defense Counsel Memorial
- Second Runner-up Best Memorial
- Second Runner-up Best Prosecution Memorial

Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition

- CUHK's team won the Hong Kong regional round
- A CUHK team member was also awarded Best Oralist

Red Cross International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Moot

- CUHK's team was one of the top four teams in the moot

The 11th International Air Law Moot Court Competition

- CUHK's team won Best Respondent Memorial
- The team was ranked second overall

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

5. 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 about 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.

6. 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 contains over 132,000 volumes and provides access to over 6,000 electronic law journals. There are 104 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.

7. 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 provide close links for our students to the local practitioner community, which provides an invaluable service in terms of helping them to understand and appreciate the working life of a practitioner, and in terms of helping them 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, Q.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 to keep 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.

Though the coronavirus outbreak has restricted us from conducting on-campus face-to-face career events and consultations, the Office remains actively engaged with students and industry partners in providing career support online.

8. Graduates

As in previous years, the majority of our LLB graduates continue their PCLL studies at CUHK on completion of the LLB programme. Around 80% of our LLB graduates who applied for the PCLL programme at CUHK were admitted in 2020. Those not joining the PCLL programme pursued other postgraduate programmes in Hong Kong or abroad or had other career plans.

Jyh-An Lee
Assistant Dean (Undergraduate Studies) and LLB Programme Director
Faculty of Law
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
February 2021

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

Report on the PCLL Programme

(January to December 2020)

2019/2020 PCLL Programme

1. Admission and Completion Rates

In the 2019 intake, we admitted 158 students to the PCLL. Including two students who were approved to defer studies from 2018/19 to the 2019/20 academic year, there were initially 160 students. Of these 160 students: two were approved to defer studies to the 2020/21 academic year. One withdrew from studies during Term One and one was discontinued in accordance with the PCLL Assessment Regulations. The remaining **156** 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 2019/20 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.

Twelve elective courses were offered in Term Two/Summer Term. Out of these, the students had to select and complete five courses. The twelve 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*; and Family Law Practice.

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

Family Law Practice was a new elective course offered for the first time in 2019/20. The response from the students was very encouraging, with the course being over-subscribed. A total of 60 students took the course.

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. Adjustments in Response to Social Conditions and the COVID-19 Pandemic

Due to the worsening social unrest, classes were called off, by the University, with effect from 14 November 2019. Make-up classes for Term One of 2019/20 were arranged to take place in January 2020. These were in the form of face-to-face teaching sessions, supplemented by pre-recorded videos. The start of Term Two was postponed until mid-February 2020.

Furthermore due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, classes in Term Two/Summer Term 2019/20 were conducted online. Those classes scheduled in the first two weeks were delivered by pre-recorded videos uploaded onto Blackboard, our e-learning platform. Thereafter, the online classes were delivered in the form of real-time interactive teaching sessions.

These changes to our usual form of teaching were forced upon us, by circumstances beyond our control. Both teachers and students adapted quickly to these developments. There was no compromising of learning outcomes.

4. Student Diversity

The PCLL 2019/20 had a diverse student body. Of the 158 students admitted, 140 held local law qualifications while 18 held non-local law qualifications. Their academic backgrounds are as follows:

Law Qualifications	No. with overseas qualifications	No. with local qualifications	Total no. of students
Bachelor of Laws (LLB)	10	57	67
BA in Law	5	0	5
BA in Jurisprudence	2	0	2
Juris Doctor (JD)	1	83	84

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, Australia and New Zealand.

5. 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 Director carefully studies their comments and passes them on to the teachers involved.

The students also give feedback on the courses and their teachers which is studied by the Faculty.

6. 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 2020 we staged a demonstration of a trial held before a magistrate, in Cantonese. This involved a Magistrate (a CUHK LAW alumna) and members of the Bar (also CUHK LAW alumni) acting 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.

7. Placement of the 2020 Graduates

Notwithstanding our short history, our graduates in all twelve years have been consistently placed in all areas of the legal profession following graduation. Our latest placement survey results comprise 115 student responses out of 156 graduates of the 2019/2020 cohort. The results show that over 90% have been employed by law firms, the Department of Justice, have found places in sets of barristers' chambers, or have chosen to pursue further academic studies.

2020/2021 PCLL Programme

Admissions for 2020/21

The Faculty received 324 applications to study for the PCLL in the academic year 2020/21. The Faculty made 173 offers. Of the 173 candidates to whom the Faculty made offers, 168 accepted and five declined. Of those accepting the offers, 168 were able to satisfy all of the pre-conditions and be admitted to the PCLL. Three students were subsequently approved to defer studies till 2021/22. Including two students who had been approved to defer studies to the 2020/21 academic year, the 2020/21 PCLL intake accordingly comprises **167** candidates.

Looking ahead

We have introduced a new elective course "Family Law Practice" in the academic year 2019/20. We plan to introduce another new elective course "Legal Practice and Technology" in the academic year 2021/22. We are currently going through relevant approval process for this

course. Given the increasing importance of technology to legal practice, we believe this will be a valuable and popular addition to our elective courses.

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 twelve years of past PCLL intakes to build upon. We shall continue to evolve and improve our Programme, so that our graduates meet the future challenges of legal practice in Hong Kong.

Christopher Knight
PCLL Programme Director
Faculty of Law
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
February 2021

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

Report on the Juris Doctor Programme

(January to December 2020)

1. Background

The Juris Doctor (JD) is a graduate entry programme. The Chinese University of Hong Kong's Faculty of 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

The CUHK Faculty of 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).

The Faculty of Law examines the JD as a graduate programme. Students thus must perform to graduate standards.

3. Admission requirements

The Faculty of Law required applicants for admission to the 2020-21 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 the Faculty of Law's recommendation and with the Graduate Council's permission). The Faculty of 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, the Faculty of 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

The Faculty of 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:

- Business and the Law in Hong Kong
- Business Taxation: Principles and Practice
- Chinese Civil Law
- Chinese Company Law
- Chinese Contract Law
- Chinese Energy Law
- Chinese Environmental Law
- Chinese Financial Law
- Chinese Intellectual Property Law
- Chinese Investment Law
- Chinese Law on Corporate Finance
- Chinese Securities Regulation
- Chinese Tax Law
- Clean Energy and Climate Law
- Colonial Governance and the Rule of Law
- Common Law: Origins and Development

- Comparative Contract Law
- Conflict of Laws
- Copyright, Digital Subject Matter and Information Technology
- Criminal Justice and Society in China
- Dispute Resolution in the Energy and Natural Resources Sector
- European Union Law
- Financial Markets: Law and Operation
- International and Comparative Energy Law
- International and Comparative Environmental Law
- International and Comparative Intellectual Property Law
- International Commercial Dispute Resolution
- International Financial and Banking Law
- International Legal Advocacy
- International Taxation
- Issues in Contract
- Issues in Human Rights
- Issues in Tort
- Law and Film
- 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
- 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 Criminal Procedure
- Principles of Employment Law
- Principles of Environmental Law
- Principles of Family Law
- Principles of Intellectual Property
- Principles of International Law
- Principles of Mediation
- Principles of Remedies
- Principles of Revenue Law
- Principles of Securities Regulation
- Project Finance and Infrastructure Law
- Shipping Law
- The Laws and Legal System of the United States
- Trans-national Legal Problems
- World Trade Law

5. Student intake

The JD has proved to be a highly competitive programme. In the 2020-21 academic year, the programme received 776 applications meeting minimum admission requirements (487 applications for full-time mode and 289 applications for part-time mode). The admission requirements in section 3, above, are minimum requirements. In the 2020-21 intake, the Faculty of 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 2020 the Faculty of Law admitted 201 students, these being the top segment of applicants.

No. of applications received for academic year 2020-21 (full-time mode)	542
No. of students admitted for academic year 2020-21 (full-time mode)	132
No. of applications received for academic year 2020-21 (part-time mode)	344
No. of students admitted for academic year 2020-21 (part-time mode)	69

All JD students the Faculty of Law admitted in 2020-21 hold at least an Upper 2nd bachelor's degree or a credit master's degree (or equivalent):

Band 1	23% (47)
Band 2	23% (46)
Band 3	54% (108)
Total	100% (201)

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 the Accredited General Mediator (HKIAC), Air Transport Pilot's License (ATPL), Associate of the Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries (HKICS), Associates of the Chartered Institute of Bankers (ACIB), Certified Hospitality Educator (CHE), Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Chartered Certified Accountant (CCA), Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

Some students are members of professional bodies. These include memberships as Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCI Arb), Fellow of Life Management Institute (FLMI), Member of Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (MRICS), Member of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (MHKIS), Member of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (MHKIE); or registered professionals in various disciplines, for instance in medical and social work. Some of our students are already in prominent management positions, such as Director and Lecturer at companies/institutions such as Hotel Icon, HAECO Hong Kong, Manulife (International) Limited, Emperio Gold and Silver Coins (Hong Kong) Limited and Caritas Institute of Higher Education.

In 2017 the Faculty of Law and the CUHK Business School jointly introduced the BBA-JD Double Degree Programme. In 2020-21, the BBA-JD Programme admitted 22 year one students. Students in the BBA-JD Programme must achieve a second upper class honours in their BBA to be eligible to enrol in the JD.

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 132,000 volumes and access to over 6,000 electronic law journals. There are 104 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. The Faculty of 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. The Faculty of Law also includes Information Literacy in the JD curriculum.

7. Physical accommodation

The Faculty of 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 2020-21, 119 JD graduates applied for admission to the CUHK PCLL Programme and 71% 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

January 2021

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 2020)

Admissions 2020-2021

The Department of Law is responsible for managing six undergraduate programmes, including the 4-year LLB, three 5-year joint degree programmes, HKU-UCL Dual Degree programme in Law and HKU-PKU Dual Degree Programme in Law. The Bachelor of Laws (LLB) is a flagship programme of the Department of Law. It consistently admits the highest quality students notwithstanding keen competition locally and abroad. The LLB, joint degree and dual degree undergraduate programmes remain signature programmes that cement the reputation of the HKU, as seen by the robust admission figures.

The LLB is one of the top ten programmes at HKU and among the most competitive programmes across all tertiary institutions in Hong Kong. It has attracted top quality 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 dual degree or pathways programmes, which will give students a wider range of options. For example, in 2016-2017, the Faculty introduced a dual degree programme with University College London (UCL), which enable the students to obtain an LLB degree in both UK and Hong Kong in 4 years. In light of the rising interest in Chinese law, we introduced a 5-year dual degree programmes with Peking University (PKU) Law School in the Academic Year of 2019-2020.

We have established a pathways programme with King's College London (KCL) whereby students would be able to obtain an LLB with HKU and an LLM with KCL. Similar arrangements have been made with University of New South Wales (UNSW) and National Singapore (NUS) as well.

Currently, about 50-60% of our LLB students spend at least one semester in an overseas university to acquire first-hand knowledge and experience of a different legal system and culture.

A total of 97 students were admitted into the undergraduate programmes: 51 through the JUPAS scheme (including 2 for HKU-PKU programme and 2 for HKU-UCL programme); 35 through the non-JUPAS admissions process (including 2 for HKU-PKU programme and 7 for HKU-UCL programme); and 11 through Mainland recruitment.

In addition, 139 students were admitted to the three mixed-degree programmes: BBA(Law) & LLB – 76; BSocSc (Govt & Laws) & LLB – 46; and BA (Literary Studies) & LLB – 17.

All these programmes continue to maintain outstanding admission standard.

Students in the JD programme come from a diversity of educational and other backgrounds. A large number of students received their undergraduate or graduate education at leading universities in North America or the UK. A significant, and increasing, number of JD students come from the Mainland and local universities. Over the years, we have admitted a considerable number of students with significant work experience.

JD admissions figures this year continue to be strong. We admitted 41 students from over 200 applications. Student profiles are diverse, with 14 fresh graduates and 27 with work experience.

Exchange

The Faculty of Law has established academic links with 125 major universities in many parts of the world to allow students to participate in student exchange programmes. We have been well placed to accommodate the demand of students for exchange opportunities in the past few years. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, current figures for out-going law students comprise 6 students (conducted virtually), undertaking studies in 2 countries, mostly in the UK (5) and USA (1).

The JD programme has already been duly recognized through its exchange arrangement with Pennsylvania Law School, whereby HKU JD students spend an extra year at Pennsylvania and earn an LLM degree. We are currently moving towards establishing further exchange opportunities with overseas institutions to broaden our JD students' exposure to other legal systems, equipping them with the necessary skills for cross-border, international practice in law.

Curriculum

The “3+3+4” curriculum has been fully implemented. To prepare for younger students being admitted into university, the first-year experience of fresh entrants has been strengthened, including the introduction of orientation sessions to assist fresh entrants to acquire basic skills and methodologies in the study of law as soon as possible and the introduction of systemic academic advice. Mooting has been introduced as a compulsory capstone course to integrate knowledge and skills in all courses. The Department has also separated electives in the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, to allow teachers to better take into account the skills and competencies of students in their courses.

The LLB students may choose to specialize in one of the following streams, namely 1) Chinese law; 2) Commercial, corporate and financial law; and 3) International trade and economic law. They may also declare minor in another discipline.

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 include 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. These courses have been in high demand. The Faculty has successfully recruited five full-time teaching-track staff during the academic year of 2019-2020, which further strengthens our student experiential learning programme. The ultimate goal is that all LLB students will be able to undergo some experiential learning during their studies.

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 the 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 a least one elective from the Chinese law offerings and one from the ICT (International, Comparative, Theoretical Perspectives in Law) grouping. The Department has continued to take steps to implement the proposals in the Report of the Review Panel for our JD programme in the last review.

Career Advice

The current in-house Career Development Advisor provides individual career advice consultation sessions for our students. In addition, we also run a mentorship programme that matches students with the Faculty's alumni as part of its informal curriculum.

Staffing

Our staff have been able to offer a wide range of electives in the undergraduate programmes. The Faculty has been conducting an active search for professional staff at different levels. It is expected that the current round of recruitment will end in two months' time and that the new staff will be able to join the Department before the start of the new academic year.

Conclusion

While our LLB and JD programmes are firmly established as among the best law programmes in Hong Kong and abroad, we acknowledge the need to maintain and enhance the competitiveness of the programmes. The Department is aware of the challenges facing legal education, such as the need for ongoing curriculum review and concerns about job opportunities. We will continue to consider special measures to ensure that the rigour and diversity of teaching will not be compromised, and that additional support in terms of career advice will be provided to students.

Professor Yun ZHAO
Head, Department of Law
January 2021

Report on the HKU PCLL
(January – December 2020)

Overview

1. The first semester of the academic year 2019/2020 saw the challenges brought by the suspension of classes on campus due to social events. Nevertheless, we continued most of the teaching and learning activities on-line or by other possible means. We postponed a few classes and assessments in November and December 2019 but managed to catch up and complete all in-hall examinations in early January 2020 as scheduled.
2. Soon afterwards, we encountered the challenges brought by the first two waves of the COVID-19 pandemic during the second semester. Many of our Large Group Sessions were pre-recorded while the Small Group Sessions were held online. We conducted all examinations in April/May 2020 online with a Lockdown Browser and Monitoring System and subsequently submitted a full report to the Standing Committee. Because of the third wave of the pandemic, we held the supplementary examinations in late July/early August 2020, with a smaller number of students, with the same system. With the understanding and support of the professional bodies, we succeeded in bringing the academic year to its end in time with no delay in graduation.
3. The same arrangements have continued in the first semester of the new academic year 2020/21 given the ongoing and evolving public health situation globally.
4. As one of the ways to address the perceived issue of the PCLL being the “bottleneck” to the legal profession, we have prepared for a maximum of 300 full-time and 100 part-time students to the HKU PCLL if the quality of applicants so warranted. However, we have not been able to fill up all our places.

Assessments and examination results 2019/20

5. The online teaching arrangement seemed to have an impact on the first attempt pass rate of the full-time cohort. The overall first-attempt pass rate was dragged down by the examination performance of the full-time students (just about 76.1%) while the same of part-time students increased (72.2% for Year 1 and 83.1% for Year 2). The pass rate after the supplementary exams in August were 96% (full-time), 92.8% (part-time Year 1) and 99% (part-time Year 2). The Board of Examiners awarded overall distinction to the top 10% of the cohort among over 360 full-time and part-time Year 2 students in total. All the top ten students are HKU law graduates, either with a mixed-degree LLB or a JD.

Admissions 2020/2021

6. There were 929 applications from 667 applicants, of which 595 applicants designated HKU as first preference. Applicants, as in the past, had to make separate applications to the full-time and part-time programmes and many of them applied for both.
7. The number of PCLL students admitted in September 2020 was 293 to the full-time course and 93 to the part-time course. 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 those places after interviewing 48 candidates. We invited two PCLL academic board members, Mr. Edward Chan SC and Ms. Serina Chan, to sit in those interviews. The purpose of the invitation, which they both kindly took up, was to let the PCLL Academic Board (and the profession) to have a better understanding of the WE Route and its operation.
8. We continued to allocate the 117 government-funded full-time places, all on academic merit. HKU law graduates (including JD) took up about 82% of such places. Other categories of applicants, with UK LLB graduates having the largest share and most of them were Hong Kong permanent residents, shared the remaining government-funded places.
9. About 76% of the full-time intake held a HKU law degree. The proportion in the part-time programme was much lower, just about 8%. Graduates of the Common Professional Examination operated by MMU/SPACE filled up most of the remaining part-time places.

Curriculum and teaching

10. Mr. Justice Anderson Chow, the Chief External Examiner, gave his fifth comprehensive report on the programme. He raised no concerns that require attention. Indeed, he commended that our PCLL "has run smoothly notwithstanding the difficult circumstances that Hong Kong faced during the year, and its usual high standards have been maintained".
11. We (and students) have had more experience in, and got more used to, pre-recorded classes with online small group practical sessions. We continue to reflect on these strategies and explore better utilisation of them not just for contingency, but also, as soon as the pandemic is over, for effective facilitation of students' learning in addition to face-to-face learning which is undoubtedly irreplaceable and indispensable.
12. In 2020/21, Matrimonial Practice and Procedure, Listed Companies and Employment Law and Practice continue to be the three most popular electives. 108 students, full-time and part-time, opted for TAE.

Looking ahead

13. We are committed to use our best endeavour to contribute to the improvement the system as reasonably recommended by SCLET in its final review report and agreed among the stakeholders after deliberation, in all aspects of the PCLL from admissions to assessments which aim to better serve the public interest and avoid any double (or even multiple) jeopardy to students. Meanwhile, we continue to seek the continuing 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, and with our counterparts for the PCLLs in Hong Kong.

Wilson Chow
Head, Department of Professional Legal Education
Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong
February 2021

Annexure 6

Key Statistics of the 2020/21 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	48 (20 JUPAS students, 16 non-JUPAS local students and 12 non-local students (including 6 Mainland NUEE students))	74 (55 JUPAS students, 17 Non-JUPAS students, 2 Mainland students)	97 (51 JUPAS students, 35 Non-JUPAS students and 11 Mainland students)
No. of Admissions to the JD Programme	76	132 (full-time) 69 (part-time)	41
No. of Admissions to the PCLL Programme	221	167	293 (full-time) 93 (part-time)
No. of Admissions to the Double Law Degree Programmes	N/A	N/A	76 (BBA (Law) & LLB) 46 (BSocSc (Govt & Laws) & LLB) 17 (BA (Literary Studies) & LLB)

Annexure 7

THE HONG KONG CONVERSION EXAMINATION BOARD

- Chairperson** : The Honourable Madam Justice Maggie POON Man-kay
Court of First Instance of the High Court
- Members** : Mr. Edward CHAN King-sang, S.C., J.P.
Hong Kong Bar Association
- Ms. Serina CHAN
The Law Society of Hong Kong
- Dr. Richard WU Wai-sang
The University of Hong Kong
- Ms. Theresa LOW
City University of Hong Kong
- Mr. Christopher KNIGHT
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Secretary** : Dr. John CRIBBIN
HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education