Master of Laws 2022–23

Corporate & Financial Law

• Studying law at HKU
• Our LLM programmes
• Your application
• Our expectations
• Your questions ....?

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Current CFL Master of Laws students

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Today’s registrants

• HK residents — many backgrounds
  – Law firm & in–house practitioners, finance & governance professionals, bankers, fund managers, HKG officers, regulatory agency professionals …
• Current law students … studying in HK, mainland China, Europe & the US
• Part–time / full–time registrants — 2:1 ratio
  – Around one third of PT applicants have law degrees
  – We offer introductions to common law principles, legal practice & studying law

CFL

• Graduation requires 72 credits, or 8 courses
• Mix of core & elective courses
• Entry & academic standards, regulations & administration shared by all HKU LLM degrees
• Full or part–time study — 1 or 2 years

CFL Since 2001

• Compliance & Regulation LLM shares some curricular objectives with CFL
• Separate core courses; different focus
• Varying student backgrounds, goals & expectations

CR Since 2017

71  Sept 2021 entry  67
43  Part–time        61
28  Full–time       28
120 Total enrolment 130

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World class academic coverage

- Law & finance in context
  - Traditional “Black Letter” law …
  - Law & innovation in finance, corporate governance & business conduct
  - Sustainable ethics & commercial conduct; “to do no harm”, systemically & between parties
- Regulation of markets & intermediaries
  - Stability of banks & exchanges, their users & the overall financial system
- Transnational & comparative law & finance

Basic alternatives (full or part–time)

- Finance orientation
  - International & comparative law & regulation of securities, banking, derivatives, FinTech
  - Topical issues in Hong Kong law & regulation
- Corporate law orientation
  - Governance, practice, ESG, regulation & reform
- PRC law & corporate governance orientation
  - Law & practice of banking; corporate governance; securities regulation, trade & investment
- Non–CFL subjects: Because LLMs are not vocational

Curriculum choices

- Choose courses reflecting your academic or professional interests
- “Pure finance” courses may require prior knowledge of contract & commercial law
  - Or relevant & current professional insight
- Some local & many non–HK students prefer “traditional” common law courses
  - Eg: Banking or Contract law, Securities regulation, Credit & security law
- Other topical electives – green finance, state immunity

Programme structure

1. Law of International Finance 1
2. Choose one (or more) of three ‘compulsory electives’
   - Corporate Governance & Shareholder Remedies
   - China Company Law & Securities Regulation
   - Regulation of Financial Markets
3. At least four CFL electives, from a choice of ~35
4. At least one ‘capstone’ (*) or a dissertation
   - International Securities Law, Mergers & Acquisitions, State Immunity & Sovereign Debt, Current Issues in Financial Law

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Course assessment & formats

• Most exams are largely “take-home”
  – Completion times vary from several days to 3 or 4 weeks
  – Many courses include a graded class participation element, such as formal presentations or teamwork
• Classes range from large-scale lectures of 120+ to seminar groups of 15–20, all face-to-face expected
  – Mainly weekday evenings, several daytime classes
  – 11 or 12 mandatory three hour sessions; no tutorials; all at HKU’s Pokfulam Road campus

Application components

• Essential elements
  – Academic qualifications & certified transcripts
  – Professional qualifications
  – Employment history, plus relevant internships
  – 500 word original statement of purpose
  – English language competence
• References, from those who know your academic work & capacity
  – Ideally your past or present university tutors

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Our expectations

• Academic excellence
• Substantive experience, where appropriate
• Capacity for reasoned analysis & argument
• Intellectual curiosity
• A commitment to study outside lectures
• Since these are academic programmes with practical aspects, not vocational qualifications

Studying at HKU

• What to expect of HKU’s law faculty
• Orientation
• Lectures & study time
• Library & online resources
• Your fellow students
• Faculty events
  – Many conferences & seminars through the year
  – Distinguished academics, jurists & practitioners
• Networking opportunities, student panels

Next steps

• Application deadline 28 February 2022
  – 1200 hours HKT (UTC+8)
• Ensure your application with attachments is complete, accurate, & original in written content
  – Explain your plan if you’re making several LLM or MCL applications
• More details
  – llm.law.hku.hk/cfl
  – Enquiries +852 3917 2953 or lawpgs@hku.hk