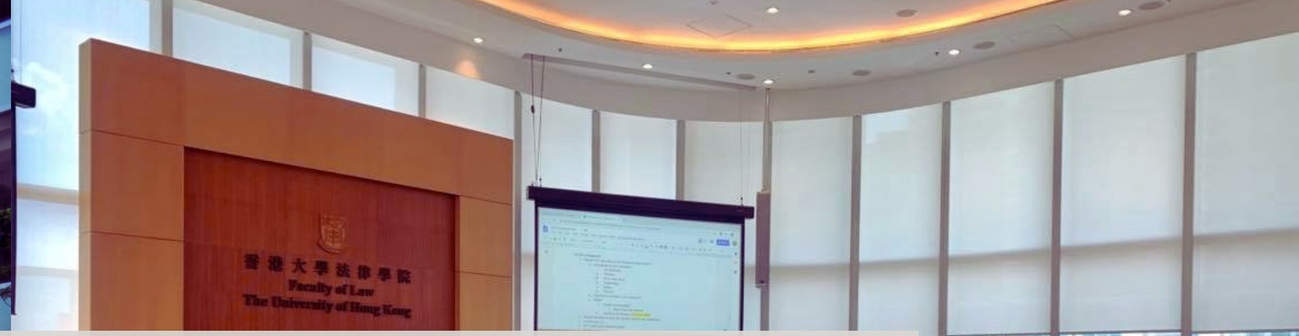

MASTER OF LAWS (LL.M) IN HUMAN RIGHTS

Information Session

2022/23 Intake

Tuesday, 18 January 2022

7:00 p.m. (GMT+8)

Zoom

by

Kelley Loper

Programme Director

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF LAW
香 港 大 學 法 律 學 院

ABOUT HKU & THE FACULTY

- HKU, founded in 1911, is the oldest tertiary institution in Hong Kong
- Ranks 3rd in Asia and 22nd internationally by QS; 4th in Asia and 30th internationally by THE in 2022
- HKU's Faculty of Law is a top global law school, ranked 21st in the QS World University Rankings 2021
- International recognition for human rights and public law expertise

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

AN OVERVIEW

- **Established in *1999* in response to the growing demand for knowledge about human rights in the Asia-Pacific region**

- **Full and partial scholarships available for international and local students:**
  - ***The Wong Family Scholarships***
  - ***The Pam Baker Scholarships in Human Rights***

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

AN OVERVIEW

Our Students :

- Students from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds
- Interactions enrich the learning experience
- Fruitful exchange of ideas

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

AN OVERVIEW

Our Alumni

...value the knowledge of human rights acquired, and skills developed from the Programme which have been very helpful to their work in other professional context and relevant everyday life.

"The Programme solidified my knowledge on International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Law and application of them in the Asian and global context."

"this Programme equipped me with not only the technical know-how in the field of public law, but more important, the perspectives and ethical principles to tackle complex human rights issues."

"The courses and the modality by which the experts teach them guarantee the LLM candidate advanced capacity building that can more than adequately respond to demands of work in government, civil society organizations or development aid."

"I am honoured to be part of the Programme and what I learn will now benefit thousands of others working to actualize human rights of millions of populations around the world."

"I treasure the friendships and opportunities to learn from experts and peers who care about human rights and social change through this Programme."

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

AN OVERVIEW

The Programme:

- Focuses on human rights issues of global concern, including in the Asia-Pacific region
- Provides an opportunity to study in a jurisdiction where human rights treaties have been incorporated into the local constitution, and human rights issues are continually being litigated
- Aims to foster an active learning environment
- Enables students to develop their research, writing, and practice skills

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

AN OVERVIEW

We offer a diverse range of courses which enables students to:

1) Understand the international human rights legal framework
2) Reflect on key human rights challenges from global, regional, and domestic perspectives
3) Apply their knowledge to advocate for real change

PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

MODES OF STUDY

Full time:

- 72 credits in one academic year (no more than 36 credits per term)

Part time:

- 36 credits per academic year (no fewer than 9 credits and no more than 18 credits per term)

(8 courses in total, 9 credits/subject)

CURRICULUM DESIGN

Compulsory Courses:

- LLAW6068 Human Rights History, Theory and Politics
- LLAW6072 International and Regional Protection of Human Rights
- LLAW6075 National Protection of Human Rights

Capstone Course:

- LLAW6242 Human Rights in Practice (Experiential Learning); OR
- LLAW6054/6014 Supervised Dissertation (10,000/20,000 words)

3 - 4 Elective Courses

OUR COURSES (1): MANDATORY COURSE

MANDATORY COURSES

...provides students with an understanding of the core concepts, frameworks and important debates in the field.

- ***LLAW6068 Human Rights History, Theory and Politics***
  Considers human rights in its historical, theoretical and political context, and illustrates its application

- ***LLAW6072 International and Regional Protection of Human Rights***
  Focuses on the role and functions of international human rights law through the UN (global) and regional human rights systems

- ***LLAW6075 National Protection of Human Rights***
  Examines the domestic protection of human rights in constitutional, statutory and administrative frameworks, and the role of national human rights bodies

OUR COURSES (2): CAPSTONES

CAPSTONES

1. LLAW6242 Human Rights in Practice (Experiential Learning):

- Collaborate with NGO partners on human rights projects
- Engage substantively with different areas of local and/or international law
- Work individually, in pairs, or in small groups
- Create semester-long projects graded on a pass/fail basis

Street Law & Community Legal Education Partners:

a. Earth Refuge

b. Adoptive Families of Hong Kong (AFHK)

c. Hong Kong Women Workers' Association (HKWWA) & Access to Justice Fellowship (A2J)

(Additional partner organisations TBD. Students are also welcome to propose independent work with an organisation of their choice with whom they have an existing relation.)

OUR COURSES (2): CAPSTONES

CAPSTONES

(...con't)

Examples of previous projects:

- Field report documenting effects of sea level rise in Tai O *(see pictures)*
- Articles published in the *The Archive* of Earth Refuge
- Infographics illustrating the life cycle of a Hong Kong Labour Tribunal claim
- Social media posts about the process of adoption in Hong Kong
- Case study on working conditions of street cleaners in Hong Kong
- Legal memos and case briefs for climate change impact litigation

2. LLAW6054/6014 Supervised Dissertation

- 10,000/20,000 words on a human rights-related topic of your own interest

OUR COURSES (3): ELECTIVES

ELECTIVES

...give students an opportunity to develop expertise in their chosen subfields.

- LL.M in Human Rights' list of annual course offerings available on Faculty website: https://course.law.hku.hk/llmhr/
- Courses (but no more than two) from other LLM specialist programmes

ELECTIVES COURSES ON OFFER (2021/22)

First Semester:

- International Criminal Law
- Privacy and Data Protection
- International Protection of Refugees and Displaced Persons
- Comparative Constitutional Law
- Hong Kong National Security Law in Comparative Perspective
- Multiculturalism and the Law

Second Semester:

- International Dispute Settlement
- Human Rights in Hong Kong
- Equality and Non-discrimination
- Human Rights in China
- Public International Law
- The Legal Foundations of Global Health and Development
- Business and Human Rights
- International Organisations
- Seminar on Human Rights and Constitutionalism in Asia
- Clinical Legal Education Programme - Refugee Stream

- OTHER SUPPORT -

LEGAL BASICS

PREPARATORY COURSE:
LEGAL ESSENTIALS SEMINAR FOR LLM STUDENTS

- Organised by the Department of Law
- Designed for LL.M students without legal background
- Better understanding of legal concepts and the local legal process
- Improve legal research and writing skills

ENGLISH ENHANCEMENT

COLLABORATION WITH CAES

- HKU's Centre for Applied English Studies
- English support for postgraduate students
- Individual consultation service
- Visit https://caescss.hku.hk/ for further information

HUMAN RIGHTS-RELATED CONFERENCES & EVENTS

...given by guest speakers from other local or international universities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations to further enhance students' opportunities to learn from experts in the human rights fields.

HUMAN RIGHTS TALK SERIES/ PUBLIC SEMINARS

...on topics of current concern.

...for alumni to share their human rights experience.

....for students who have written a dissertation of excellent quality to document or publish their work.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission to the Programme, applicants shall comply with the General Regulations and fulfil at least one of requirements (1) to (3) below AND (if applicable) requirement (4):

(1) hold **a degree of Bachelor of Laws with at least second class honours or an equivalent qualification** accepted by the University for this purpose; or
(2) hold **a degree in a discipline other than law with at least second class honours** accepted by the University for this purpose **and have at least two years relevant experience and professional qualifications**; or
(3) have obtained either the **Common Professional Examination of England and Wales or the Common Professional Examination Certificate of this University, provided that in either case a second class honours degree or a qualification of equivalent standard of this University or another comparable institution** accepted for this purpose has also been obtained; and

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

(cont'd)

If applicable:
(4) For a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the Faculty English language requirement with one of the following recognized English tests:

(i) Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) - a score of 593 or above (paper-based test) or 97 or above (internet-based test); or
(ii) International English Language Testing System (IELTS) - an overall band score of 7 or above with no subtest below 6.5.

Note: The test score report is regarded as valid for two years of the application deadline.

An application for exemption from the admission requirements with justifications and relevant supporting documents, if any, may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

APPLICATION & DOCUMENTS

All applications should be submitted via the online application system:
https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/programme/master-laws-human-rights
(To submit the online application form, you will need to pay an application fee of HK$ 300 per programme.)

Transcripts and other supporting documents should reach the Faculty of Law Office preferably within three weeks from the date of submitting your application, and by March 18, 2022 the latest: *LLM/MCL Admissions Team 10/F, Cheng Yu Tung Tower, Centennial Campus, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, HONG KONG (Attn.: Ms Doris CHENG, Faculty of Law Office)*

[You must submit an **original copy or a certified true copy of the academic transcript and a certified true copy of the graduation diploma** (i.e., graduation certificate) for all earned degrees. Applicants who have obtained a degree from HKU are not required to provide a separate transcript (but to state your university student number when completing the online application form).

Two Letters of Recommendation are required, with at least one academic referee who can comment knowledgeably on your academic performance and your ability for pursuing postgraduate study in law (the template can be downloaded from the application system).

The letters of recommendation can be addressed to the Admissions Panel of the respective programme and must be submitted via one of the following ways:

- Email the completed form directly to lawpgref@hku.hk by the referee(s), with your full name, application number, and programme applied on the email subject line [e.g., full name, 110xxxxxxx, LLM(HR)]; or
- Mail the completed form in a sealed envelope together with your other supporting documents.

Personal statement (for not more than 750 words)

OTHER INFORMATION (1)

Composition Fees

The composition fee is **HK$42,100 per annum for local full-time student, HK$171,000 per annum for non-local full-time student and HK$21,050 per annum for local part-time student**.

Student Visa

Students who do not have the right of abode or right to land in Hong Kong are required to apply for a student visa for the purpose of education from the Hong Kong Immigration Department (ImmD). HKU's Admissions and Academic Liaison Section (AAL) will act as the local sponsor and provide assistance to students for student visa application.

It is the responsibility of individual students to make appropriate visa arrangement before the start of their studies.

OTHER INFORMATION (2)

Current Covid-19 Control Measures at HKU:

Learning & Teaching

- HKU has resumed face-to-face teaching in most programme and courses since the 1st Semester of this academic year, which began in September 2021;
- We no longer support remote learning now as we expect all students to be in Hong Kong and able to attend classes on campus unless there are special reasons;
- We are also operating at 75% room capacity, and there will also be a vaccine mandate.

Quarantine Arrangements

- All inbound travellers are required to follow quarantine measures imposed by the HKSAR Government. As the entry restrictions, quarantine requirements and infection control advices will be updated from time to time as required by the Government, you are advised to check on the government website for the latest details: https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html.
- Travel advice and hotels for quarantine purposes: https://covid19.hku.hk/content/uploads/2021/11/Before20you20leave20for20Hong20Kong.pdf

THE HUMAN RIGHTS HUB@HKU

Visit: https://www.hrhub.law.hku.hk/

- A quick internet guide to access human rights knowledge produced by scholars within the Faculty of Law at HKU
- Provides information about the LL.M in Human Rights Programme
- Highlights past and ongoing human rights experiential learning and knowledge exchange projects

STAY TUNED!

FACEBOOK

Https://www.facebook.com/humanrightshku/

TWITTER

@humanrightshku

INSTAGRAM

@humanrightshku

LL.M IN HUMAN RIGHTS CURRICULUM TEAM (2021/22)

KELLEY LOPER

(Email: kloper@hku.hk)
Programme Director

Teaches:
LLAW6072 International and Regional Protection of Human Rights (1st Semester)

LLAW6063 Equality and Non-discrimination (2nd Semester)

STEPHANIE BIEDERMANN

(Email: sbied@hku.hk)
Lecturer

Teaches:
LLAW6073 International Protection of Refugees and Displaced Persons (1st Semester)

LLAW6242 Human Rights in Practice (2nd Semester)

LYDIA CHOI

(Email: lwychoi@hku.hk)
Assistant Research Officer in Human Rights

ENQUIRIES

General Enquiries:
(852) 3917-2953
lawpgs@hku.hk

Enquiries about the Programme Curriculum:
lwychoi@hku.hk

USEFUL LINKS

Learn more about HKU and the Faculty of Law:
https://www.hku.hk/
https://www.law.hku.hk/

Further details about the LL.M in Human Rights Programme:
https://llm.law.hku.hk/hr/ (Faculty Website)
https://www.hrhub.law.hku.hk/llm (The Human Rights Hub)

Course List (2021/22):
https://course.law.hku.hk/llmhr/

Regulations and Syllabus:
https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/sites/default/files/R209_REGULATIONSYLLABUS2122.pdf

Admissions Requirements:
https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/sites/default/files/R209_PROGRAMINFORMATION22.pdf

To Apply:
https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/programme/master-laws-human-rights

Application deadline :

Monday, 28 February 2022

12:00 noon [Hong Kong Time (GMT+8)]

Q & A