

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF LAW

Dual Bachelor of Laws curriculum
in collaboration with University College London

Credit Unit Statement

(applicable to students admitted in the academic year 2024-25 and thereafter)

After completing the first two years at UCL, students will proceed to HKU in the last two years of the programme. We notionally award a total of 132 credits to the first two years taken at UCL by way of credit transfer.

The HKU part of the curriculum consists of six different types of law course which are taught in distinctive learning modes. All courses in the HKU LLB curriculum are 6-credit in value. We use 150 hours of student learning activities (including contact hours ranging from 33 to 36 hours) as the norm for a 6-credit course, except for the experiential courses and research courses which normally involve 120 to 300 hours of student learning activities depending on the credit value of the course (around 36 contact hours for a 6-credit course; 72 contact hours for a 12-credit course). Assessment is by a combination of continuous assessment (0% - 100%) and examination (0% to 100%). The Faculty of Law, on this basis, will ensure a proper balance in the allocation of weight to different modes of assessment. The six categories of law courses are summarized as follows:

1. Introductory courses (6 credits, 150 hours of student learning activities)

These are mostly first and second year courses emphasizing foundational legal concepts; basic institutional framework; essential legal skills such as case reading, legal research and writing and communication skills, and statutory interpretation. They also include courses on cross-disciplinary knowledge, as well as linguistic/technical skills. Introductory courses are mainly taught in lecture/tutorial or large seminar format and assessments are variously conducted by way of periodical assignments, short research papers with a total output of approximately 5,000 to 6,000 words, and in-tutorial participation, and/or in-hall examinations.

2. Foundation/survey courses (6 credits, 150 hours of student learning activities)

These courses are the core building blocks of legal education and the foundation for legal practice. Each course in this category provides a comprehensive survey of a specific area of law. These courses are mainly taught in lecture/tutorial format and assessments are mainly in the form of in-hall examinations combined with varying elements of coursework such as research papers and term papers with a total output of approximately 5,000 to 6,000 words, and in-tutorial participation.

3. Seminar courses (6 credits, 150 hours of student learning activities)

These courses offer specialized/advanced legal or cross-disciplinary knowledge. They are mainly taught in seminar format with heavy reliance on extensive reading before the seminars and active participation in class discussion. These courses aim to further enhance students' knowledge of legal concepts as well as analytical and evaluative skills. Assessment for this category of course is variously by way of a combination of in-class presentation, take-home examination, in-hall examination and/or research papers, with a

total output of approximately 5,000 to 6,000 words.

4. Research courses (6 or 12 credits, 150 or 300 hours of student learning activities)

These courses aim to provide students with deeper theoretical insights and enhanced cross-disciplinary knowledge, as well as an opportunity to pursue advanced and independent research. One of the key objectives of courses in this category is to help students develop original and critical thinking through independent research. Research courses are assessed by a single research paper of at least 6,000 (for a 6-credit course) or a range from 10,000 to 12,000 words (for a 12-credit Dissertation) or by a combination of a research paper and a class presentation.

5. Experiential courses (6 or 12 credits, 120-150 or 240-300 hours of student learning activities respectively)

Experiential courses refer to clinical legal courses, but may include other form of internships and placements in Hong Kong and Mainland China, as approved by the Programme Director. Courses in this category aim to familiarize students with the social environment in which law operates and the practical dimension of legal studies. They offer students opportunities to apply and test both their legal knowledge and also the critical and analytical legal skills they have learned in other courses. Students in this category of courses are assessed by a report of approximately 5,000 words with intensive feedback from academic staff and/or practitioners. The experiential courses could be made up of a 12-credit course, or as approved by the Programme Director, by two 6-credit courses.

6. Compulsory moot competition and mediation training (6 credits, 150 hours of student learning activities)

Compulsory moot competition and mediation training aim to train students to integrate legal knowledge with various types of legal skills including conducting legal research, writing of submissions and memorandums, mediation and advocacy skills. Students in this category of course are variously assessed by their written submissions and mediation reports of approximately 2,500 words each and performance in mediation and advocacy.

The study load of 84 credits in the Law Professional Core, 12 credits in dissertation and 12 credits in internships in the last two years of study of LLB at HKU usually requires approximately 594 to 648 contact hours, and approximately 2160 to 3240 student learning hours in total.

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