

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**FACULTY OF LAW**  
**POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS (PCLL)**

**Notes to Applicants (2025-2026)**

1. The Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) is available as either (i) a full-time course extending over one academic year or (ii) as a part-time course spanning over two academic years, each from September to June inclusive.

**Eligibility for Admission to the PCLL**

2. Intended PCLL applicants should consult the eligibility requirements on the Taught Postgraduate (TPG) Admissions website at:  
<https://portal.hku.hk/tpg-admissions/programme-details?programme=postgraduate-certificate-in-laws-law&mode=0>
3. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL), an applicant:
  - (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
  - (b) shall either:
    - (i) hold a degree with at least a second-class honours degree or equivalent in law<sup>1</sup> from a university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; or
    - (ii) pass the Common Professional Examination or its equivalent of Hong Kong or of England and Wales and satisfy this University as to the applicant's competence in the required law subjects<sup>1</sup> provided that the applicant has also obtained a degree with at least a second-class honours or equivalent in a discipline; and
  - (c) if applying on the basis of a degree in law of a university or comparable institution other than this University, the City University of Hong Kong and The Chinese University of Hong Kong under (b)(i) above, shall produce evidence of sufficient academic attainment and may be required to pass a qualifying examination; and
  - (d) shall, notwithstanding General Regulation G2(b), achieve a band score in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS): (i) within a specified

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<sup>1</sup> An applicant's degree must be in common law and will normally be from a Hong Kong or Commonwealth institution. An applicant must demonstrate competence in the following required law subjects or subject areas (or subjects recognised as their equivalent): Constitutional Law, Contract, Criminal Law, Land Law, Tort, Equity and Trusts, Evidence, Business Associations, Commercial Law, Hong Kong Constitutional Law, Hong Kong Legal System and Hong Kong Land Law.

period before application for admission<sup>2</sup>; and (ii) at the level that may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of the Faculty of Law.

### **IELTS Requirement**

4. All applicants (including native English speakers) must take the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test. A minimum **overall band score of 7.0 in the Academic Module** must be achieved as a requirement for admission to the PCLL (the “Prescribed Minimum IELTS”). The Prescribed Minimum IELTS is a requirement of the Hong Kong Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training and **no exemptions will be granted.**
5. The Faculty of Law accepts an IELTS Test Report Form as valid where it is obtained within three years of the Application Deadline, i.e. for a 2025 application, the test date shown on the IELTS Test Report Form cannot be earlier than 30 April 2022. Applicants may apply to the PCLL pending completion of their IELTS test, however, you must have your IELTS Test Report Form proving that you have obtained the Prescribed Minimum IELTS available by 5:30 p.m. on 31 July 2025. **Applicants who (i) fail to achieve the Prescribed Minimum IELTS or (ii) fail to obtain an IELTS Test Report Form achieving the Prescribed Minimum IELTS on or before 5:30 p.m. on 31 July 2025 will be automatically rejected.**
6. **No other English language test (e.g. TOEFL) will be accepted. We do not accept IELTS tests taken online; you must attend one of the authorized IELTS test centres in person to take your IELTS test.**
7. In light of the new One Skill Retake Policy by IELTS, we have agreed in consultation with the other PCLL providers that we will not accept test results where an applicant has retaken one skill. This means that **applicants must complete their IELTS examination in one attempt.** Those applicants failing to obtain the Prescribed Minimum IELTS in one sitting, must retake all modules.

### **Satisfaction of PCLL Prerequisites for applicants with qualifying law degree other than from this University, the City University of Hong Kong or the Chinese University of Hong Kong**

8. Please note that **only the Hong Kong Conversion Examination Board (“the Conversion Board”)** can determine whether your law degree is eligible for the PCLL; not the individual PCLL providers. You must contact the Conversion Board if you have any questions regarding this requirement and to obtain an official Evaluation letter regarding the eligibility of your law degree. Their contact details are:

Hong Kong Conversion Examination Board:  
Tel: (852) 3761 1123  
E-mail: [enquiry@pcea.com.hk](mailto:enquiry@pcea.com.hk)  
Website: <http://www.pcea.com.hk>

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<sup>2</sup> An IELTS band score is valid for three years from the application deadline.

## **Application**

9. All applications must be made online at <https://portal.hku.hk/tpg-admissions/programme-details?programme=postgraduate-certificate-in-laws-law&mode=0>
10. You are required to submit ONE application for EACH PCLL programme you wish to apply for by the application deadline (see below), i.e. if you wish to be considered for both the full-time and part-time PCLL programmes, you must submit two separate applications: one for the full-time mode and one for the part-time mode. We cannot consider or admit you to either programme if the relevant application has not been submitted by the Application.
11. Applicants may apply to more than one provider i.e. to the University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. However, all applicants must specify their preference of PCLL provider on each application form. Applicants who apply to more than one PCLL provider must be consistent in their preference of provider and **cannot list more than one provider as their first preference. Applicants who do not adhere to this rule will have their applications disqualified by all three providers in that year.** If you are applying for both the full-time PCLL and the part-time PCLL at this University, you should also specify your preference. The order of programme mode and the provider preferences must be consistent with your preferences on both forms.
12. Applicants are not permitted to change their preference of PCLL provider after they have been rejected by their first preference choice. Should you wish to change your provider preference prior to rejection by your first preference provider, please notify both providers of this as soon as possible stating the reasons for your change in preference.

## **Application Deadline**

13. **The application deadline is 12:00 noon (Hong Kong time) on 30 April 2025 (for admission in September 2025). Application form(s) must be submitted by this application deadline. Please note that the PCLL application webpage will shut down promptly once this application deadline has expired so all applications must be completed by this time. We do not accept late applications nor requests for an extension of time to apply. You must ensure that your application is submitted by this application deadline.**
14. As strong applicants may be given offers or conditional offers, early application before the application deadline is recommended.

## **Enquiries and Further Information**

15. All applicants should visit the QnA page on the HKU PCLL website <https://www.ple.hku.hk/the-pcll> (the “QnA Page”) before completing their application(s) online.
16. Any enquiries not covered in the QnA Page should be addressed in writing and sent to the PCLL Admissions Office via email at [pcll@hku.hk](mailto:pcll@hku.hk).

17. Formal notices of rejections will be sent via email only. Formal notices of offers are normally sent via email in the first instance, with a hard copy to follow by post.
18. **Please note that due to the number of applications received, the PCLL Admissions Office cannot provide a document checking service to ensure that an application is complete. We will also not respond to messages requesting us to confirm that we have received all necessary supporting documents. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they submit all necessary supporting documents by the Documents Deadline.**

January 2025