UBC LAW | AT ALLARD HALL

University of Hong Kong / University of British Columbia
JOINT LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The University of British Columbia (UBC) and the University of Hong Kong (HKU) Joint Legal Education Program is the result of an agreement entered into by UBC Law and HKU Law in 2008, and the first students were accepted into the program in the fall of 2009. Students who successfully complete the program are able to pursue the professional qualifications required to practice law in both Hong Kong and Canada. Please note that the regular professional training requirements of each jurisdiction must also be met before you can start to practice law in either jurisdiction. See Appendix B for more details on those requirements.

BASICS

UBC law students will complete the first two years of their J.D. degree at UBC and, if admitted by HKU to the program, will subsequently attend HKU Law (http://www.hku.hk/law/index.htm) for one year. After successful completion of that year UBC will award them their J.D. degree.

Students will then spend a second year at HKU enrolled in the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL program) which is a pre-requisite to be permitted to pursue professional qualifications in Hong Kong.

Up to five UBC Law students may be admitted to the program each year and the admission process is handled by HKU.

SPECIFICS FOR UBC STUDENTS

Year One
You attend UBC Law on a full time basis and must successfully complete the mandatory first year program.

Year Two

1. You must take at least 30 credits at UBC in your second year.

2. You must complete all your course requirements for graduation from UBC Law by the end of your second year. See http://www.law.ubc.ca/current/jd/grad_requirements.html for those requirements.

3. You apply to HKU for admission to the program by January of your second year.

Year Three

1. You attend HKU Law and take the courses required for entry to the PCLL course (see Appendix A). Please read Appendix A carefully before you start your second year at UBC Law as you will note that you can take some courses at UBC Law for which you will be given credit for PCLL entry, thereby allowing you to take more electives at HKU. You will complete a total of 60 credits at HKU (calculated by reference to their credit system).

2. On successful completion of year 3 in the program (HKU standards apply), you will be granted your J.D. by UBC Law. You will graduate in November of this year (not May) because of the slightly different dates for the HKU academic year.

3. You apply for admission to the PCLL course by April 30th of this year. Please note that admission to the PCLL is a competitive process and you will, according to information provided to UBC by HKU, be required to obtain a “high” Second (Lower) Honours to gain admission to the PCLL.

4. FYI, the academic year in Hong Kong runs from the beginning of September to late May, with approximately one month vacation in December/January.

Year Four
You attend the PCLL course on a full time basis, see http://www.hku.hk/pcll/ for more information about this course. The course runs from September to the following June each year. On completion of this one year program you are eligible to pursue qualification in Hong Kong as a barrister or solicitor. See Appendix B for more information about pursing the professional qualification.

COST

The Joint Legal Education program is not an exchange program. Rather you are registered for two years at UBC where you pay UBC Law fees and then for your third year at HKU where you pay HKU Law fees as a non-local student. For 2012-2013, the non-local student fees per annum are HK$119,000 (~CDN$15,600) Composition fees and HK$350 Caution money. The composition fees and caution money are payable in a single payment in advance at the time an offer of admission is accepted.

In your fourth year you pay for the PCLL course which cost HK$95,000 for the 2011-2012 year. There are also, however, some government funded places in the PCLL program which would reduce the fees by approximately half. These places are awarded on academic merit and you will be eligible for them if you meet the required competitive academic standards.

Please note that all monetary amounts mentioned in this document are subject to change and may also vary depending on the shifts in currency values.

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Successful completion of first year and first term second year at UBC Law with a cumulative average of at least 74% is required in order to apply for admission to the program.
2. You must take at least 30 total credits in second year at UBC Law.
3. Up to 5 UBC Law students a year will be accepted by HKU into the program.
4. Your application should be returned to the Faculty of Law, 4th Floor, K K Leung Building, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong by January 31, 2012 (in your second year). Applications consist of:
    a. Application for Admission form (available online at: http://www.law.ubc.ca/current/jd/jd.html)
    b. A personal statement of no more than 750 words about yourself, outlining why you consider yourself suitable for selection to the program, and why you wish to apply for the program;
    c. Official academic transcripts from each post-secondary institution you have attended and are currently attending; and
    d. Academic references.
5. Admission to the program is made by HKU Law.

CONTACTS

Any questions about the HKU part of the program, including admission requirements, academic program at HKU Law or the PCLL program should be directed to Ms. Pamela Tam, Administrative Assistant, Faculty of Law (ystam@hkucc.hku.hk). For information about the residential halls, please visit the website of the Center for Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS) http://beta.cedars.hku.hk/showext.php?id=slr.

If you have questions about your two years at UBC Law, please contact Kaila Mikkelsen, Assistant Dean, Students, mikkelsen@law.ubc.ca (until Dec 2) or Pamela Cyr, Acting Assistant Dean, Students, cyr@law.ubc.ca (after Dec 2).

APPENDIX A – Curriculum Requirements for PCLL Course

UBC

Year 1

- Canadian Constitutional Law
- Contracts
- Criminal Law & Procedure
- Property Law
- Torts
- Transnational Law
- The Regulatory State
- Law in Context

Year 2

- Private Regulation Course
  - Corporations I
  - Trusts
- Procedure
  - Advanced Criminal Procedure
  - Civil Procedure or Civil Litigation
  - Evidence

In satisfaction of following PCLL Prerequisites:

- ➡ Constitutional Law
- ➡ Contract
- ➡ Criminal Law
- ➡ Land Law
- ➡ Tort

- ➡ Business Associations
- ➡ Equity

- ➡ Criminal Procedure
- ➡ Civil Procedure
- ➡ Evidence

HKU

Year 3 (60)

Assuming none of the above taken at UBC in Year 2:

First Semester:

◦ Legal System*		(6)
◦ Constitutional Law*		(6)
◦ Equity and Trusts I [Note]		(6)
◦ Business Associations [Note]		(6)
◦ Evidence [Note]	(6)	
◦ Land Law III (Conveyancing)*		(6)
		(36)

Second Semester:

◦ Equity and Trusts II [Note]	(6)
◦ Commercial Law	(6)
◦ Civil Procedure [Note]	(6)
◦ Criminal Procedure [Note]	(6)
	(24)

* Must be taken at HKU to satisfy Top-Up Subjects' requirements.

Note:
If equivalent course already taken at UBC, then take law elective as substitute.

APPENDIX B – "ARTICLING" IN HONG KONG

- Hong Kong maintains a distinction between barristers and solicitors. The essential nature of the difference is as follows:
  - Solicitors have more direct contact with clients and undertake mainly transactional work; they have some rights of audience in lower courts.
  - Barristers are litigators; they act as advocates in the superior courts.
- A law student who has obtained a P.C.LL. and wishes to practice as a solicitor begins as a trainee solicitor and must satisfactorily complete a two-year employment period, also known as a training contract. He or she is then eligible for admission to the bar of Hong Kong as a solicitor.
- A law student who has obtained a P.C.LL. and wishes to practice as a barrister begins as a trainee barrister and must undertake a pupillage for 12 months, during the last six months of which the student may apply for limited practice. A pupillage is similar to articling or an apprenticeship, during which the student gains practical experience.
- For more information, visit:
  - http://www.hklawsoc.org.hk **-** The Hong Kong Law Society is the professional association for solicitors in Hong Kong.
  - http://www.hkba.org/ **-** The Hong Kong Bar Association is the professional association for barristers.