

MASTER OF LAWS (LL.M) IN HUMAN RIGHTS

Information Session

2021/22 Intake

Wednesday, 20 January 2021

7:00 p.m.

Zoom

by

Kelley Loper

Programme Co-Director



FACULTY OF LAW
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

ABOUT HKU & THE FACULTY

- HKU, founded in 1911, is the oldest tertiary institution in HK
- Ranks 3rd in Asia and 22nd internationally by QS; 4th in Asia and 35th internationally by THE in 2020
- HKU's Faculty of Law is a top global law school, ranked 17th in the world by the THE in 2020
- International recognition for its human rights and public law research, teaching and learning



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 :

- Local and overseas students from a diverse background with a wide range of professional and practical experience
- Interactions between people from different countries and cultural background enrich the knowledge and learning experiences of students, and broaden their international outlook
- 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 various human rights issues are continually being litigated and covered in the press
- 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; and
- 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 in one term, not including summer term)

Part time:

- 36 credits per academic year
(no fewer than 9 credits and no more than 18 credits in any one term,
not including summer 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 the core concepts and an understanding of the 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 UN (international) 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 different human rights bodies

OUR COURSES (2): CAPSTONES

CAPSTONES

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

- develops strong links and collaborations with NGO partners.
- equips students with multi-disciplinary skills for working with people from different backgrounds.
- contributes to the development of NGOs.

Street Law & Community Legal Education Partners:

- a. Chosen Power
- b. Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
- c. Mother's Choice
- d. PILnet/SVHK
- e. S.T.F.A. Leung Kau Kui College and HKMA David Li Kwok Po College
- f. Branches of Hope

Human Rights Investigation, Legal Research and Advocacy Partners:

- a. Amnesty International's Digital Verification Corps
- b. TrialWatch

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://www.law.hku.hk/course/llmhr/>
- Courses (but no more than two) from other LLM specialist programmes

ELECTIVE COURSES ON OFFER

(This year for example)

First Semester:

- Public International Law
- International Organisations
- Armed Conflict, Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- International Protection of Refugees and Displaced Persons
- Courts
- Mental disability and the Law
- Climate and Energy Justice in Practice

Second Semester:

- Human Rights in Hong Kong
- Multiculturalism and the Law
- International Environmental Law
- Law, governance and development in Asia
- The Legal Foundations of Global Health and Development
- Comparative Constitutional Law
- Introduction to European Union Law
- International Criminal Law
- Privacy and Data Protection

Summer Semester:

- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ENGLISH ENHANCEMENT

INTERNSHIPS

- OTHER SUPPORT -

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

LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS / FELLOWSHIPS

- NGOs
- Law Schools
- UN Agencies (e.g. IOM)
- Human Rights Institutes
- Open Society Internship for Rights and Governance ('OSIRG')
- European Court of Human Rights ('ECtHR')

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.



RIGHTS TALKS SERIES/ HUMAN RIGHTS 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.



ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission to the Programme, applicants shall:

(a) comply with the General Regulations;

(b) 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

(c) 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

(d) 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;

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

(cont'd)

(e) satisfy the Faculty English proficiency requirement with one of the following recognized English tests 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:

Test Minimum Requirement

TOEFL (Paper-based Test) A score of 593 or above

TOEFL (Internet-based Test) A score of 97 or above

IELTS Band 7 or above with no subtest below 6.5

Note: The Faculty accepts TOEFL/IELTS score report as valid where it is obtained within 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://aal.hku.hk/tpg/faculty/faculty-law>

Transcripts and supporting documents should be submitted to the Faculty of Law Office [Attn.: Ms. Doris Cheng, Faculty of Law Office] at 10/F, Cheng Yu Tung Tower, Centennial Campus, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong by the aforementioned deadline:

- Your official transcripts, certified true copy of certificates for all tertiary level studies; and
- List of professional publications, if any.

(Due to the pandemic, you may first submit electronic copies via email and the hard copies at a later date.)

Two reference letters are required, with at least one academic referee who can comment knowledgeably on your academic performance and on your ability for pursuing postgraduate study in law.

Applicants can obtain the reference cover sheet from the application system and submit by:

- 1) invite the referee to email the completed reference forms and letters directly to tolawpgref@hku.hk (with applicant's full name, application number and programme applied on the email subject line); or
- 2) Submit to the Faculty of Law Office [Attn.: Ms. Doris Cheng, Faculty of Law Office] at 10/F, Cheng Yu Tung Tower, Centennial Campus, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong by the application deadline.

OTHER INFORMATION

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.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS HUB@HKU

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

- A quick internet guide to access human rights information, knowledge generated and materials produced by scholars within the Faculty of Law and across other disciplines at HKU
- Provides information about the LL.M in Human Rights Programme
- Highlights the 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

KELLEY LOPER

(Email: kloper@hku.hk)
Programme Co-Director

LINDSAY ERNST

(Email: lernst@hku.hk)
Programme Co-Director

KAREN KONG

(Email: kykong@hku.hk)
Programme Deputy Director

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)

Regulations and Syllabus:

https://aal.hku.hk/tpg/sites/default/files/R209_REGULATIONSYLLABUS2021.pdf

Admissions Requirements:

https://aal.hku.hk/tpg/sites/default/files/R209_PROGRAMINFORMATION21.pdf

To Apply:

<https://aal.hku.hk/tpg/programme/master-laws-human-rights>

Applications must be received by :

Monday, 1 March 2021 (Hong Kong Time 12:00 noon).

ACT NOW!

Q & A