

FACULTY OF LAW

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN LAWS

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN LAWS

2022-23



MESSAGE from the Dean



The Faculty of Law of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK LAW) was established in 2004. With an emphasis on very practice-oriented programmes delivered by first-class professors from over 20 different jurisdictions, the adoption of innovative teaching methods and last but not least the recruitment of a highly qualified student body, CUHK LAW has moved from strength to strength since then. The outstanding quality of our taught programmes is globally acknowledged and evidenced by collaborations with many leading law schools in the world. The research conducted by our professors and by our research students meets the highest standards and generates significant impact. We are proud that CUHK LAW is on a regular basis ranked amongst the top 50 law schools in the world. We are providing a truly global learning environment. In 2018 CUHK LAW was ranked by the Times Higher Education (THE) ranking exercise the most international law school worldwide.

The CUHK LAW research postgraduate (RPg) programmes are designed for top students who wish to pursue a MPhil or a PhD degree. Our RPg students are admitted after a rigorous and highly competitive selection process. Supervised by top experts in their respective fields they are trained to conduct legal research at the highest level. Their postgraduate stipend comes with a travel grant to present research output at international conferences. Our RPg students produce cutting-edge and often award-winning research which allows them to set their mark in the very early years of their careers. Many of our past RPg students have assumed prestigious positions in academia or legal practice around the world.

We are CUHK LAW! Join us if you are committed to excellence in legal research and if you are ready to undertake an elite RPg programme!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lutz-Christian Wolff'.

Professor Lutz-Christian Wolff
Wei Lun Professor of Law
Dean, Faculty of Law

MESSAGE from the Programme Director

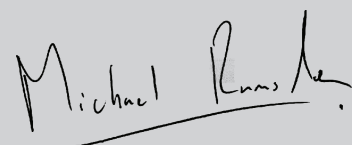
The CUHK LAW PhD and MPhil in Laws Programmes offer two of the great opportunities in legal education. You will, if accepted, spend two to four years researching and writing about a topic you are passionate about while getting all the support you will need for such a major intellectual endeavor.

With our funding scheme, you will be supported generously enough that you can live comfortably without having to work for additional remuneration while you earn your PhD or MPhil in Laws. At the same time, you will have committed, research-active professors as supervisors; many of whom have some of the most distinguished research records in their respective fields of interest.

You will have fellow students from around the world to inspire you in what is a close-knit community with their own dedicated space in the Faculty. Our student-friendly support framework provides you with the formal guidance and encouragement which you will need. This will include multiple opportunities each year to present your work to other professors and peers, classroom support (with seminars on research and thesis writing) and also a team of two supervisors who will check in with you regularly in order to sustain your research momentum.

Your experience with our programmes will unfold in different stages. Following admission, our students have opportunities to apply for scholarships for research and study outside of Hong Kong, as well as access to some of the best library resources in Asia. After graduation our degree will empower you and give you the confidence to seek out careers in academia, legal practice, in the commercial world as well as in public service and the non-profit sector.

At CUHK LAW, the administrative staff members take excellent individual care of each student. Our programmes provide each of our students with opportunities throughout the year to get together and offer support to one another. You will join a group of researchers who work closely together and with their professors. So let me say how pleased we are that you are considering CUHK LAW. We hope you will be able to join us on a journey where you can think deeply about your chosen subject and make exciting discoveries at one of the great international law faculties.



Professor Michael Ramsden
Associate Professor
Director, Research Postgraduate Programmes



Why Earn a Law PhD or MPhil Degree?

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Laws is the most advanced research degree in law. The PhD is a research degree that can prepare a student for a career in fields as varied as teaching, research, consulting and law practice. Students are required to conduct thorough research on a novel topic and write a thesis of publishable quality that makes an original contribution to legal scholarship.

The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Laws is a degree for students who want to pursue advanced research, so as to become expert in an area of law or on a complex topic that can help open doors to similar career opportunities. Study in the MPhil Programme can also lead to admission to the PhD Programme, subject to the Faculty's evaluation of the student's academic performance during his or her MPhil study period.

Dissertations for both PhD and MPhil in Laws are written under the guidance of a member of the Faculty as supervisor, and in most cases another faculty member as co-supervisor, and assessed by an independent examination committee.

CUHK LAW has a limited number of places available for each of these Programmes each year. Placement is very competitive.

Why Hong Kong and The Chinese University of Hong Kong are Your Choice

Hong Kong is not only a leading international financial and trade centre, but also hosts some of Asia's leading universities, including CUHK. Beyond Asia, international university ranking exercises have appraised universities in Hong Kong as among the best in the world. Hong Kong stands as a gateway between the best traditions of Western learning and a region which presents many of the most interesting and exciting objects of contemporary legal, economic, and cultural research.

You can write your PhD or MPhil in Laws with CUHK LAW in English, while enjoying unparalleled access to resources in Chinese and about Asia. You will receive one-on-one guidance from the Faculty, whose members represent all of the world's major jurisdictions and are actively engaged in a broad array of research. Your own research will be financed either by the University in the form of a studentship or by the Hong Kong Government in the form of a fellowship.



Conduct Your Research with Our Leading Scholars

CUHK LAW consisting of over 50 academic staff members, actively pursues research on a broad range of topics. Our faculty members have studied in leading universities around the world, including in the UK, China, the US, Australia and Continental Europe. They bring their global visions to focus on legal problems affecting Hong Kong, China, various domestic jurisdictions and the international community of nations. You can learn more about the interests and activities of individual faculty members from the faculty website. Below we list the areas in which our Faculty can offer you experienced guidance in your research:



Financial Support

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS)

The HKPFS was created by Hong Kong Research Grants Council in 2009 to give Hong Kong universities world class financing for our most promising full-time PhD students. It awards a monthly stipend of HK\$26,900 and an annual conference travel allowance of HK\$13,500 for up to three years. If a Fellowship winner has a normative study period of four years, CUHK will provide financing at the same level during the fourth year. If you would like to know more about the HKPFS, please visit the following URL for further details:

<http://www.rgc.edu.hk/hkphd>

CUHK Vice-Chancellor's HKPFS Scholarship

Fellowship winners are offered a tuition fee waiver for their whole normative study period and an award of HK\$40,000 for lodging in the first year of study and HK\$20,000 in the subsequent years within the normative study period. CUHK guarantees on-campus accommodation during the normative study period to Fellowship winners who submit timely applications. The on-campus hostel fee will be waived in the first year of study.

CUHK Postgraduate Studentships

Even if not awarded a Hong Kong PhD Fellowship, all candidates admitted to the Law Faculty's full-time PhD or MPhil Programme still receive a generous stipend during the normative research and writing period that, for the current academic year, amounts to HK\$18,025 monthly. Funding for conferences and research-related travel is also available.

CUHK Vice-Chancellor's PhD Scholarship Scheme

Besides CUHK Postgraduate Studentship, PhD candidates who are nominated to the HKPFS by CUHK but not being selected for HKPFS will be offered an award of HK\$80,000 in three instalments (i.e. HK\$40,000 in the first year and HK\$20,000 in each of the second and third year of study, subject to satisfactory study progress).

Tuition Waiver Scheme for Local Research Postgraduate Students

The Hong Kong Government grants a tuition waiver to all current and newly admitted local full-time PhD and MPhil students enrolled in UGC-funded RPg programmes for their entire normative period of study.

Corporate/Commercial Law

- Capital Markets & Securities Regulation
- Commercial Law
- Competition Law
- Corporate Law
- Employment Law

Chinese Law

International & Comparative Law

- Comparative Law
- European Law
- Human Rights / Humanitarian Law
- International Commercial & Trade Law
- International Criminal Law
- International Environmental Law
- International Financial Law
- Law & Development
- Law of Armed Conflict
- Private International Law
- Public International Law

Intellectual Property & Technology Law

- Information & Privacy Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- Law & Technology
- Legal Technology
- Telecommunications Law & Cyber Law

Legal Education

Legal Theory

- Ethics & the Law
- Gender & the Law
- Jurisprudence
- Law & Economics
- Law & Society
- Legal History
- Legal Studies & Methodology

Private Law

- Contract Law
- Equity & Trusts
- Family Law
- Property, Land & Conveyancing Law
- Remedies Law
- Tort Law

Professional Practice

- Advocacy
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Civil Procedure
- Clinical Legal Education
- Criminal Procedure
- Legal Research & Writing
- Professional Ethics

Public Law

- Administrative Law
- Constitutional Law
- Criminal Law
- Immigration Law
- Public Health Law
- Tax Law

Maritime / Aviation

- Aviation Law
- Law of the Sea



Support Framework for Research Postgr

The Faculty provides a careers advice service that can support its research postgraduate students in many ways.

Law Student Careers Office

The Faculty's Law Student Careers Office provides students with guidance on career choices, applications and interviews as well as assistance with career preparation and professional development. The Director, Mr. Paul Mitchard QC, has prepared a programme of seminars on career and professionalism topics which includes presentations by representatives of law firms, barristers' chambers and other prospective employers.

Virtual Careers Resource Centre

The Law Student Careers Office also maintains a Virtual Careers Resource Centre (VCRC) which serves as a contact point for prospective employers, teaching faculty members and students. The VCRC contains a Legal Careers Directory that contains up-to-date information on law firms and chambers and on internships and other employment opportunities for students. The VCRC website also notifies careers seminars and other events as well as providing students with information on matters such as job applications and CV preparation and with a wide range of other career-related resources designated to ensure that CUHK LAW students are fully informed and equipped for entering into what today is a challenging and rapidly-changing jobs market.

E-mentoring

The Careers Office also supports an e-mentoring programme through which students may connect with CUHK LAW alumni in their chosen field for career guidance and help with achieving the level of 'employability' and professionalism which many employers require.



“ **Mr. Paul Mitchard QC**
Director of Career Planning and Professionalism

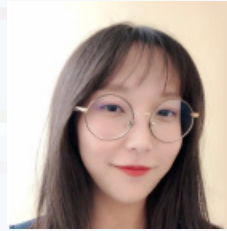
The demands of legal recruiters are becoming increasingly sophisticated: it is therefore important for students, right from the start of their university career, to keep abreast of what is going to be required of them in addition to academic achievement and to take steps to enable them to meet those demands. ”



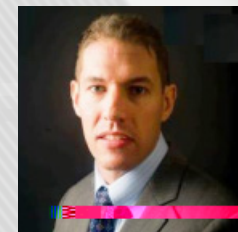
PhD thesis on related party transactions and corporate governance in China

Driven by my keen interest in legal studies and career aspiration of becoming a senior researcher in the field of corporate governance, I joined the Ph.D. programme of CUHK LAW in 2019. Under the seasoned and excellent guidance of Professor Chao Xi and Professor Dicky Tsang, I have been able to widen my knowledge base, grasp cutting-edge research methodologies so as to undertake research in a more systematic manner and effectively communicate research outcomes.

With a world-class reputation for academic excellence, CUHK LAW provides a superior community for students to pursue their research and self-upgrade. Research postgraduate students are not only provided with opportunities to present their research and receive feedback from faculty members, they also have a great chance to exchange ideas with distinguished scholars and like-minded peers hailing from around the world to further develop their global perspectives. The faculty fully supports students conducting interdisciplinary research and developing comprehensive skills. For example, towards my Ph.D., I undertook statistical and programming training from the Sociology Department and the Statistics Department under the support of CUHK LAW. My study experience and life at CUHK LAW has been colorful, joyful and memorable so far. I enjoy the vibrant research culture and the friendly and supportive environment!



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Huang



Jamieson
Kirkwood

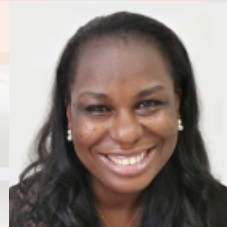
PhD thesis on constructing a rule-oriented approach in BRI dispute settlement

I completed the LLM in International Economic Law in 2012-2013 and had the opportunity to observe first-hand the outstanding faculty and resources available at CUHK. I was then delighted to return to CUHK in 2018 to pursue my PhD and have certainly not regretted making this choice. CUHK LAW has an awesome Dean, many talented Professors and amongst the other Research postgraduate students in CUHK LAW you will find a vibrant mix of intelligent and friendly people from different parts of the globe. For me CUHK is also quite unique because it has a fantastic campus in Shatin and I am able to pursue many extra-curricular activities alongside my PhD studies. For example I have been able to become proficient in Mandarin due to taking language classes at CUHK. I even had the opportunity to attend an intensive two-work Mandarin course in Mainland China with the full support of CUHK. I remain fluid and open-minded as regards my career aspirations, however I am sure that obtaining a PhD at CUHK and becoming proficient in Mandarin will be a tremendous springboard to wherever I land!

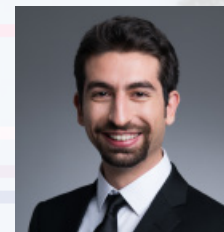
PhD thesis on trends, dynamics and reform of international investment law in Africa: an ECOWAS case study

In December 2020, I officially graduated with a doctorate degree in law from CUHK LAW. My doctoral dissertation focused on identifying key trends and dynamics of foreign investment protection law in Africa. Studying at CUHK LAW was very rewarding as I received excellent supervision and support from my advisors, Professors Chin Leng Lim and Bryan Mercurio. Overall, CUHK provided great opportunities for legal research, global exchange and scholarship. CUHK is a great place for studying international economic law. It is at the heart of a vibrant arbitration community, maintains close links with Hong Kong's legal community and is home to edge cutting legal research. In the summer of 2019, I interned for three months as an international arbitration trainee at the Hong Kong office of a Top 10 Global Law Firm. Also, in my final semester, I was a visiting doctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law. CUHK LAW staff provided administrative support during my internship and academic exchange.

Being awarded the CUHK 2020 Young Scholars Thesis Award in 2021 for the outstanding standard of my doctoral dissertation was a humbling culmination to four great years at CUHK LAW.



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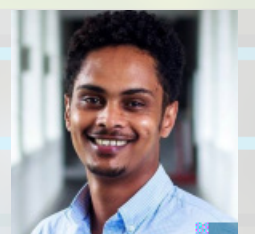
Can Eken

PhD thesis on third-party funding in investment arbitration

Before joining the PhD program at CUHK, I completed my LLM at the London School of Economics and Political Science. I am a licensed attorney in Turkey and the State of California. I have enjoyed my time in Hong Kong working with distinguished faculty members from CUHK and extraordinary scholars from all around the world. I have had great support from my former supervisor, Professor Julien Chaisse, and current supervisors Professor Bryan Duzin and Professor Fernando Dias Simões. With their encouragement and guidance, I attended various conferences as a speaker in Australia, London, Singapore, Israel, Edinburgh, Macau, and Indonesia. I was also a finalist of the CIBEL Global Network PhD Scholar Prize in Sydney. I spent the 2019/20 academic year at Stanford University. Besides completing my doctoral thesis, I have also published three articles and gave guest lectures at CUHK LAW, Mayer Brown LLP, Tashkent State University of Law and ICAI Law School. These enriching experiences stand as a testament to the ample opportunities CUHK provides. In November and December 2021, I will visit the prestigious Max Planck Institute in Luxembourg as an in-resident scholar. For those who are considering CUHK, I promise you a challenging, enlightening, and rewarding journey at CUHK LAW.

PhD thesis on the feasibility and desirability of patent harmonization in Africa

CUHK LAW provides extensive opportunities for its doctoral students. Firstly, the faculty is comprised of outstanding scholars who are leaders in their respective fields of research. This enables CUHK LAW students to work with and benefit from world class minds. I am currently working with my supervisors Professor Bryan Mercurio and Professor Sandra Marco Colino. Both professors are renowned authorities on matters of intellectual property rights and international law. By working with them, I have benefited immensely in enhancing my legal understanding and research skills. The constant support and encouragement from my supervisors have made the whole research journey very pleasant. Secondly, CUHK LAW hosts seminars, conferences, and training activities on various sociolegal issues through which the doctoral students are able to sharpen their research skills and engage with scholars from all over the world. By participating in seminars and conferences organized by CUHK LAW, I had the opportunity to interact with fellow PhD students in top universities across the world. Finally, CUHK LAW offers unique support environment for its PhD students to participate in research and conference activities around the world. Through its generous funding for research and conference, CUHK LAW's PhD students can travel across the world to share their work and establish a strong professional network to enhance their professional development.



Chimdessa
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WHAT

Our **Students** Say

How to Apply

The following schematically presents our PhD and MPhil Programmes:

Study Mode and Period

PhD Programme

	Normative Study Period		Maximum Study Period
	With Research Master's Degree	Without Research Master's Degree	
Full-time	36 months	48 months	84 months
Part-time	48 months	64 months	96 months

MPhil Programme

	Normative Study Period	Maximum Study Period
Full-time	2 years	4 years
Part-time	3 years	5 years

Admission Requirements

All applicants must fulfill the CUHK General Admissions Requirements and English Language Proficiency Requirements. Details can be found at <https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/>.

In addition, MPhil applicants must possess:

- (a) a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree with first class honours or upper second class honours awarded by a recognized university; or
- (b) a Juris Doctor (JD) degree or a Master of Laws (LLM) degree awarded by a recognized university with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above; or
- (c) an equivalent degree (including non-law related) awarded by a recognized tertiary educational institution.

PhD applicants must possess either (b) or (c) as mentioned above. Of course, these are only minimum requirements, and actual admission on a competitive basis could demand much more.

Applicants must satisfy the English Language Proficiency Requirement by:

- (a) possessing a Bachelor's degree awarded by a recognized university in Hong Kong or an English-speaking country, or taught primarily in the English Language; or
- (b) achieving a result of Band 7.0 or better in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). IELTS test results must be obtained not more than two years prior to the date of applying for admission to the PhD/MPhil Programme; or
- (c) achieving at least a score of 587 (Paper Based Test) or 95 (Internet Based Test) in the Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL). TOEFL test results must be obtained not more than two years prior to the date of applying for admission to the PhD/MPhil Programme; or
- (d) providing alternative evidence of English Proficiency equivalent to one of the preceding measures.

Applicants for the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme, please visit the website of the Scheme for additional admission requirements.

Tuition Fee (subject to annual review)

HK\$42,100 per year for both full-time and part-time PhD and MPhil students.

Application Period and Procedures

- (a) For applicants to the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme
Application deadline (Hong Kong Time)
- 1 December 2021 at 12 noon
 Submit an initial application to RGC at <http://www.rgc.edu.hk/hkphd>
- 1 December 2021 at 5 pm
 Submit full application to CUHK at <https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/admissions/>

- (b) For non-Fellowship applicants
Application deadline
 - main round: **1 December 2021**
 - clearing round: **31 March 2022***

Submit application to CUHK at <https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/admissions/>

*Applications in clearing round will only be considered subject to availability of places.

The Faculty considers applications on a rolling basis. We encourage you to send us your application and supporting materials as early as possible. A decision on your application will be made by the Faculty and CUHK and, if admitted, an appropriate supervisor and/or co-supervisor will be assigned. Please do not contact faculty members directly with requests for admission and supervision.

Contact Us We are CUHK LAW!

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This brochure contains information as at September 2021.

The University has the right to change its rules, regulations and procedures at any time.



香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong