

KCL-HKU Double LLB Degree Programme

FAQ

Q1: What is the curriculum for the five year programme? And how does it differ from two straight LLBs?

A: See curriculum outline attached. This indicates the general curriculum flow over all five years with effect from 2012 (when the new four year UG degree programme commences at HKU). It indicates the compulsory courses you will need to take at KCL and then at HKU and also broadly notes equivalent courses (ie. courses taken at one institution which will be treated as satisfying either compulsory requirements of the other institution or professional admission requirements). Your curriculum includes space for electives, although you must first ensure you have completed all your compulsory LLB courses, and also all professional requirements in each jurisdiction. A wide range of law electives are available at HKU (see the course list at <http://www0.hku.hk/law/programmes/1112/CourselistLLB201112.pdf>, which contains links to detailed course descriptions).

Q2: At HKU, what is my status as a student? For example, am I treated as exchange students or normal HKU students?

A: Students admitted to the KCL-HKU Double LLB Degree programme are considered to be full LLB students at HKU from day one, not visiting or exchange students. This is why you must register at HKU from year 1, and will be given a 2012 Student No. at HKU. Although you are an LLB student at HKU from year 1, you will be treated as being 'on leave' for the first two years, so that HKU fees etc are not payable.

Q3: When I commence my third year of LLB studies at HKU, what year student will I be at HKU?

A: Students will commence studies at HKU in 2014 as 'third year' students, with a 2012 HKU Student Number. In terms of curriculum flow, you will be in a similar position to second year LLB students, or third year HKU joint LLB degree students.

Q4: Will I be able to participate in the Exchange and MOEI programmes at HKU?

A: Subject to being able to complete all compulsory LLB and professional requirements, you would be permitted to apply for a place on either HKU's Worldwide exchange programme or the Faculty of Law's exchange programme, although you may not be permitted to return to the UK on exchange! Equally, you should be able to apply to participate in the MOEI programme run by the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Q5: What is the registration process for us before we arrive in Hong Kong?

A: If you are admitted to this Joint LLB Degree programme, you must register at both KCL and also HKU from Year 1. You will be contacted in the second semester of your second year of study at KCL for details of course enrolment (via the Student Information System (SIS) at HKU).

Q6: In Year three, when will I need to arrive in Hong Kong?

A: In general, HKU teaching begins on 1 September, so you will need to arrive before then.

Q7: What are the semester dates for study, examinations and vacation?

A: This changes from year to year, but you will be able to determine the relevant dates from the LLB Course List when it is posted before the commencement of each new academic year.

Q8: Does HKU arrange for health insurance for us?

A: No. HKU provides general medical consultations and health and dental care to all students via the University Health Service. Beyond that, you will need to arrange your own private health insurance.

Q9: What are the accommodation arrangements for us in Hong Kong? For example, do I apply for HKU halls of residence through KCL or do I apply when I arrive in HKU?

A: You are advised to apply directly via CEDARS during your second year at KCL. For details of the application dates and procedures, please visit the website of CEDARS, <http://beta.cedars.hku.hk/showext.php?id=slr>

Q10: Does HKU provide for accommodation for only our 1st year or for the full 3 years?

A: It is provided year by year, ie. annual application is required.

Q11: Am I permitted to live at home in Hong Kong?

A: Yes.

Q12: How much are accommodation fees per month?

A: Please refer to CEDARS website which provides an estimated cost for each hall.

Q13: With regard to the payment of fees, do I continue to pay KCL our fees once I commence my third year at HKU, or do I pay directly to HKU?

A: You will pay HKU tuition fees and related fees directly to HKU.

Q14: I have a British passport but also have a HK ID and Visa, what sort of tuition fees will I have to pay? Will I pay local fees or international fees and how much are they?

A: In general, students who require a student visa to study in Hong Kong will be required to pay non-local fees. Students who do not need a student visa to study in Hong Kong (eg. you hold a valid permanent HK ID card) will be treated as local students, and pay only local tuition fees. For information on HKU fees, see http://wp.cedars.hku.hk/web/studentlife/files/2010/10/Schedule_of_fees_2009-10.pdf . Note: non-local composition fees for 2011-12 are now HK\$119,000 pa, and may be further revised upwards in the future.

Q15: I am in the process of obtaining a full HK ID but in the meanwhile I have a HK ID and Visa. Do I need a Student Visa of any sort?

A: A valid student visa must be obtained before entering into HK for commencing your third year of study at HKU, unless you have a permanent HKID card which allows you to stay in HK for studying. If you need to obtain a student visa, you can get the assistance from CEDARS which can act as your sponsor on behalf of HKU in applying for a student visa. You will find details of procedures and further information on the CEDARS website.

Q16: How will graduation take place at the end of the 5 years (2015) – will I graduate both in London and in HK?

A: You will receive degrees from both KCL and HKU, but the logistics of graduation have still to be worked out!!

Q17: If I am from overseas and want to do the PCLL at HKU after completion of the five year programme, can I just apply for that automatically on the website, or is there some kind of process I have to go through before I can apply?

A: Graduates of the KCL-HKU Joint LLB Degree programme will apply for admission to the PCLL along with all other applicants in the normal way. No places are guaranteed, but graduates from this double degree programme should have completed all eligibility requirements during their five years of study.

Q18: Why do I need to do three more years at HKU after two years at KCL? Why can I not get full credit for the two years of study at KCL towards our HKU LLB degree?

A: HKU does not permit all courses taken at KCL to count towards your HKU LLB degree. If this were done, this would amount to completing seven years of curriculum requirements (three years at KCL and four years at HKU) in only four years, and would amount to taking two LLB degrees concurrently with full cross-crediting. This is contrary to HKU's General Regulations (available at <http://www0.hku.hk/pubunit/ugdr2011/>). Specifically, Reg G6 provides:

"(b) (i) A person who is registered as a candidate for a degree, diploma or certificate of the University listed in Statute III shall not register as a candidate for any other degree, diploma or certificate of the University or for any other post-secondary qualification at any educational institution except with the approval of the Senate given in

advance. A candidate in breach of this regulation may be required to discontinue his studies in the University.
(ii) A person who is registered for any post-secondary qualification at any educational institution shall not be registered as a candidate for a degree, diploma or certificate of the University listed in Statute III except with the approval of the Senate given in advance."

This differs from advanced standing (which may be granted under UG2 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula, available at <http://www0.hku.hk/pubunit/ugdr2011/>), whereby credit may be given at HKU for studies completed elsewhere prior to admission to HKU. Students admitted to the KCL-HKU Joint LLB Degree programme are admitted to HKU from Year 1, not only after two years at KCL. Were you to simply complete two years at KCL towards your KCL LLB, and then apply to transfer to HKU, you could apply for up to two years of advanced standing, but would not be permitted to remain concurrently registered as an LLB student at KCL (concurrent registration would be in breach of G6(b)). If you were to remain registered as an LLB student at KCL, then you could not 'transfer' to HKU as an LLB student, although you could attend HKU as an exchange or visiting student (nor could you apply later for credit towards your HKU LLB degree of courses completed at HKU while an exchange or visiting student; see G15(c): "A visiting student shall not change his status to that of a candidate for a degree, diploma or other University qualification; and shall not be granted any exemption from any part of the curriculum for any degree, diploma or other University qualification on the basis of work done during any period of his attendance as a visiting student.")

Pursuant to G6(b), HKU's Senate has exceptionally permitted you to concurrently register for two LLB degree programmes, ie. at both HKU and KCL, but on the basis you must, after first completing two years at KCL, then complete three further years of study at HKU before you will be entitled to the award of your LLB degree at HKU.