Faculty of Law – Going on Exchange 18/19 & beyond

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Objectives of the Exchange Team

To enable you to experience law studies in other jurisdictions.

To facilitate transfer of approved courses into your degree as smoothly as possible.
What are the available Exchange Schemes at HKU?

- HKUEE Exchange Scheme: 11%
- HKUWW: 64%
- Faculty Level Exchange Scheme: 100%
Faculty of Law programmes

TWO programmes:

1. Faculty of Law Exchange Programme (reciprocal bilateral exchange agreements)

2. Faculty of Law Visiting Student Programme (without exchange agreement)
Eligibility for exchange

LLB: 3rd or 4th year

Integrated degree: 4th or 5th year
What is the current min. CGPA requirement for law exchange?

- 2.8: 5 responses
- 3: 24 responses
- 3.5: 4 responses
- I don't know: 5 responses

Show leaderboard
Application: Important dates

Find out your choice of hosts

Submit online application until 1 Dec 2017 (same deadline for HKUWW)
Online application will reopen from 15 Jan 2018–21 Jan 2018 (after the release of sem 1 results) to finalize your choice (optional)
Offers will be sent out in late Feb 2018
2nd Round Application deadline: Aug 2018 (depends on the number of places left from the 1st round)
Choosing hosts

- ONLY put down places you are definitely willing to go. If you are given an offer for a host on your list (even No.5), you are expected to accept that offer. If there really are only 2 partners you will consider, just list those.

- If you decline an offer, you will probably not get another offer, certainly not in the same year.

- Please do not ask the Exchange Team to re-consider any allocation to be made.

- You may withdraw an application at any time before accepting the offer.
Withdrawal of offer

- If you withdraw after accepting an offer, your deposit will be forfeited unless the Exchange Team finds your reason for withdrawal convincing and your withdrawal is made as soon as possible.

- Having a job or a concern about the grades are not good reasons
Visiting Student Programme (VSS)

To spend a year at top rank universities with which we do not have exchange agreement

Includes 1-2 FY students for Hertford College, Oxford & 1-2 FY students for Caius College, Cambridge

Other selected students may apply to other colleges eg. St Catherine at Oxford, LSE, Harvard, Yale, Stanford on your own initiative
What is the maximum number of students to be selected under the Visiting Student Scheme?

- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11

10 students are selected.
Application under the VSS

Using the same application form

Selected students take one year leave of absence from HKU

Excused payment of HKU fees but pay host’s fees

Approved courses taken at approved hosts may be transferred into your HKU degree without delay in graduation
Faculty of Law Exchange Programme

Based on reciprocal bilateral exchange agreements

You pay HKU fees

You could graduate with your classmates

Not requiring a deferral of your studies because you may transfer the credits you earn at host university to your HKU degree
*Credit Transfer Guidelines*
How many HKU credits can be transferred if taking normal load of courses for one full year at host university?
Credit transfer

Take normal load of courses for one semester or one full year and will transfer 30 HKU or 60 HKU credits respectively.

Any over- or under-loading must be approved in advance by us.

Different hosts have different courses each semester and some have full year courses only, so the Exchange Team will try to be flexible.
Prior Approval needed

You need to get prior approval for each law subject from the Exchange Team in order to transfer any law credits to your HKU degree.

For each non-law subject, you need to get prior approval from the relevant non-law department eg Department of PPA
Approved courses

You may transfer approved courses into your HKU degrees, including compulsory courses (accepted by the Exchange Team on the advice of the subject teachers) OR PCLL pre-requisites (as approved by the Conversion Examination Board).
Credit transfer for compulsory courses

Compulsory courses (law & non-law) transfer for the same number of credits as the equivalent HKU courses.

The remaining credits transfer as free/discipline elective credits, irrespective of the number of elective courses taken at the host university.
How many HKU credits will be transferred for an approved "Equity & Trust" course taken at host?

- 3 (X)
- 4 (X)
- 6 (X)
- 12 (✓)
- 18 (X)

Show the winner
Restructuring of courses

In order to keep as many free/discipline electives available for exchange, courses that would ordinarily be taken in year 3 should be taken in year 2 or 4; courses taken in year 4 should be taken in year 3 or other variations between year 4 & 5.
**True Law Elective Rule**

Take at least ONE course per semester (including one full year course) which is a true law elective ie NOT a required course for LLB or PCLL and not a non-law elective.

Compulsory introductory courses on host’s legal system are not counted!
Course selection

You should study most PCLL pre-requisites at HKU

Exceptions:

1. the law at host is substantially the same as in HK
2. you have an opportunity to learn from an exceptional professor
3. your degree structure requires you to take some PCLL pre-requisites on exchange
4. you have no intention to enter PCLL ever
Approval for LLB Core

1. Check our website for a list of approved/disapproved courses

2. If the course is NOT on the list, you should obtain the opinion of relevant HKU subject teacher and forward the opinion to Cindy or Tristan at lawexchange@hku.hk together with your application.

3. Your application include course description, unit or credit weighting, contact hours, assessment method, etc.
Transfer of courses

1. Law electives & LLB core courses that are not PCLL equivalents (transferrable with prior approval of the Exchange Team)

2. PCLL pre-requisites (prior approval of the Conversion Board)

3. Non-law subjects (transferrable with our prior approval and appropriate HKU teachers)
Transfer of PCLL pre-requisites

Admission to PCLL requires you to complete the 11 core subjects eg. BA, law law, civil procedure, criminal procedure, evidence... and 3 top-up subjects i.e. Constitutional Law, HK legal system and Land Law.

The top-up subjects must be done in HK

For core subjects, you can take those at HKU or, with the express prior approval of the PCLL Conversion Board, at host while on exchange

If a course has not been approved by the Conversion Examination Board, then you need to make your application to them
General position: No overloading on exchange

- Always at the host’s discretion
- Permission to overload may exceptionally be granted to:
  1. exceptionally strong students for convincing reasons
  2. students who need to take extra credits for a specialization
  3. strong integrated degree students who take one semester of max credits at a North American host
  4. students taking additional language courses not seeking to transfer credits
  5. students trying to overload by less than a full subject
Approval of Individual Study Plan

You MUST obtain from us PRIOR approval of your Study Plan (course specific), including any changes to a previously approved study plan.

Courses NOT approved in advance may not be transferred.

You need to provide Back-Up courses in your Study Plan.
Illustration (Study Plan)

Assuming a LLB student going on exchange at the University of Queensland, Australia during 2nd semester in Year 3

Student proposed to take 4 courses @2 units = 8 units (normal load at U of Queensland)

4 courses: Corporate Law, Civil Procedure, Law & Technology and Psychology & Law

Exchange Team approved to transfer 30 credits back to HKU: 6 Business Associations (approved by Conversion Board) + 6 Civil Procedure (approved by Conversion Board) + 18 law (free) electives.
Final Question: What do you think you should do before you take off?

- Submit your study plan not later than 1 month before departure: 12
- Obtain leave of absence: 10
- Ensure all your courses have been approved: 13
- All of the above: 24
THANKS!

Contact us: lawexchange@hku.hk