

# Faculty of Law, HKU

## Going on Exchange 2010-2011

Michael Jackson

Acting Director of Student Exchange (Outgoing)

# Why Spend Some of your LLB Study Time in Another Jurisdiction?

Personal Growth & Enrichment

\*\*\*

Academic Variety & Excellence

\*\*\*

Professional Advantage

and its Great! Exciting! Challenging!  
Rewarding! Stimulating!

# Two Exchange Schemes

## 1. Law Faculty Exchange

<http://www.hku.hk/law/students/exchange.html>

Mr Michael Jackson (academic issues): [mjackson@hku.hk](mailto:mjackson@hku.hk)

Ms Young In (academic issues): [youngin@hku.hk](mailto:youngin@hku.hk)

Ms Priscilla Wong (general issues): [priscilla.wong@hku.hk](mailto:priscilla.wong@hku.hk)

## 2. HKU Worldwide Exchange

<http://www.hku.hk/liaison/oise>

Ms Katherine Wan, Programme Director [kwan@hku.hk](mailto:kwan@hku.hk)

Ms Kim Tam, Programme Manager: [kimtam@hku.hk](mailto:kimtam@hku.hk)

Office of International Student Exchange

## A Third Option: Going it Alone

It is possible to go on exchange to a university of your choice entirely on your own initiative, self funded etc.

You would still need permission to defer your studies or to transfer credits in accordance with an approved study plan but it can be done.

And I, as Director of Student Exchange (Outgoing) would be happy to help you do this.

# The Basic Idea

HKU & Law Faculty  
have entered into exchange agreements  
with a range of other university partners.

## If You Go Through One of Our Two Exchange Programmes:

1. HKU or the Faculty does the liaison with the host school **although** you have to fill out & send the formal application yourself;
2. you only have to pay HKU tuition fees;
3. you can be sure of being able to transfer your credits; and
4. you can receive financial and other assistance from us.

## What if I Want to Apply to the UNIVERSITY Scheme?

1. You will have a different range of choices
2. You could go in your second LLB undergraduate year but difficult for law
3. You would be competing with students from all HKU faculties
4. You should fill in the OISE form on line only

## What if I am Interested in the Faculty Exchange Scheme?

1. Fill in the faculty form only
2. Get priority for faculty places
3. Choose 3-5 options, ranked in priority.
4. You can choose to go to:
  - one place for one semester
  - one place for a full year if host school permits
  - two places in one year
    - (i) civil law country + common law country
    - (ii) mainland China + any other country



## When Should I Apply for BOTH Exchange Schemes?

You should apply for both schemes

if

you wish to apply for one of the institutions not listed on the Faculty of Law exchange website and you also wish to apply for Faculty of Law institutions (for instances: U of Nottingham or U of Southampton).

**Note:** If you want to apply for an exchange place at [King's College London](#) or [University of Bristol](#), you only have to apply through the Faculty Student Exchange Programme.

## If You Want to Apply to Both Schemes

You must:

(i) Fill in and submit BOTH forms:

- the OISE form on line and
- the Faculty of Law form in hard copy.

(ii) Indicate on the Faculty of Law form that you have applied for HKU as well.

## Transfer of Credits

'Going on Exchange'  
**does NOT** require a deferral of your studies.

You can transfer the credits you earn at the partner institution to your HKU LLB degree.

With reasonable planning, most students can go on exchange **AND** still graduate with their classmates!

## How many credits can I transfer?

A standard HKU LLB students takes 30 credits (5 courses) per semester, 60 credits (10 courses) per year, some mixed degree students a few more.

Most of our partner universities have similar expectations but some believe in fewer courses with more reading per course, some go for more.

**A FULL LOAD** at any partner university will be transferred as a full load at HKU- somehow.

## Do the Grades I Earn on Exchange Count Towards My CGPA?

**NO** - grades earned on exchange neither help nor hurt your CGPA.

1. If you want to improve your CGPA for whatever reason, you need to think very carefully about your exchange options and courses; &
2. You will have a transcript of your exchange results to show the PCLL admissions and future employers. If you do well, this could help you.

# Which Courses Can I Transfer?

## LLB Compulsory Courses -

1. All the different forms of LLB offered here at HKU require students to have passed a number of compulsory courses before they can be awarded the degree.
2. For the purposes of the LLB alone, it is possible to satisfy these compulsory requirements by taking approved equivalent courses during your exchange **OR** change your order of study (ie. satisfy the compulsory requirements before or after exchange).

**BUT** some courses are more difficult to match than others (for instance: Civil & Criminal Procedure courses)

**AND**

Some Jurisdictions are less like Hong Kong than others

Furthermore:

If you intend to practice law in Hong Kong, it makes sense to study most of the core subjects of Hong Kong law **HERE**.

and

Spending your valuable overseas experience only studying foreign equivalents of our compulsory core subjects or PCLL prerequisites – it may not be making the best use of your opportunity.



## Applications for APPROVAL for the LLB Core Subjects or PCLL Prerequisites

Check website for list of already approved /  
disapproved courses

See: <http://www.hku.hk/law/students/exchange>

If the course is not on the list, you should obtain  
opinions of relevant HKU course teachers well in  
advance.

continued

Apply to Director, Student Exchange (Outgoing)  
(include course descriptions, unit or credit weighting, contact hours, assessment, content information)

Specific approval of Head of Department (Law) required for:

- Acceptance as satisfying Directed Research Course
- Acceptance as part of Specialisation
- deferral of compulsory mooting
- over or under loading at HKU or exchange institution

# For PCLL Admission

**IMPORTANT!**

CHECK the PCLL WEBSITE

<http://www.hku.hk/pcll/>

for existing admission requirements

# PCLL Admission Prerequisites

If you do not study these three subjects in HK,  
you will need to do

**TOP UP CONVERSION EXAMINATIONS.**

1. HK Legal System
2. HK Constitutional Law
3. Land Law III (HK Conveyancing)

**PLAN TO STUDY THESE COURSES AT HKU!**

IN ADDITION, you must demonstrate competence in the following core subjects:

1. Contract
2. Tort
3. Equity & Trusts
4. Criminal Law
5. Commercial Law
6. Business Associations
7. Civil Procedure
8. Criminal Procedure
9. Evidence

Applicants to the PCLL with an HKU LLB of whatever kind may demonstrate competence in these courses by:-

1. passing the relevant course as part of their HKU LLB, whether as core course or law option; or
2. passing an APPROVED equivalent course while on exchange (obtain prior approval of your study plan and a Certificate of Completion after your return); or
3. passing a conversion examination where offered

# Conversion Examinations

- Civil Procedure
- Criminal Procedure
- Commercial Law
- Evidence
- Business Associations

**NOT EQUITY!!!!**

## Conversion Examinations

The current plan is to hold conversion examinations for these subjects twice a year at varying times

- January 2010 and July 2010 -

See: <http://www.pcea.com.hk/>

PASS RATES HAVE NOT BEEN ENCOURAGING



## Where Can You Find Equivalents for These Courses?

- Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure and Land Law III tend to be relatively jurisdiction specific.
- It's a good idea to plan to do these courses during your LLB degree here or, if you are confident, as a conversion examination.

## Common Law Jurisdictions

- **Equity and Trusts**: difficult in USA and Canada (some combinations of courses accepted)
- **Business Associations**: missing partnership
- **Commercial Law**: missing agency and mortgages
- **Administrative Law**: often not offered as separate course and / or too much human rights content
- Compulsory courses like Criminal Law / Evidence are not always available to exchange students and may in any case be too short.

See our website for a list of courses  
that have been accepted this year.

<http://www.hku.hk/law/students/exchange/ApprovednDisapprovedCourses.pdf>

**Use as an indication only**

Courses may change

&

So may the attitude of the HKU Faculty.

# Civil Law Jurisdictions

## PRC Universities

- Excellent for Chinese law and Putonghua
- Courses cannot satisfy any of PCLL core.

## European Universities

- Excellent for really interesting law options,  
a possibility for Legal Theory and DRC
- Courses cannot satisfy any of PCLL core.

# Can I Go on Exchange and Still Fulfill My Specialisation Requirements?

**YES!** We approve each application personally though so allow time

**Chinese Law:** PRC courses of course but courses in other schools will be considered,

**Commercial, Corporate and Financial Law AND International Trade and Economic Law:**

Courses offered at both common law and civil law institutions may be accepted – name or content match to HKU course not necessarily required.

## What If I Want to Do a Minor?

- LLB regulations permit LLB students to take between 36-48 non-law credits, enough for a minor in another discipline.
- We are happy for you to take non law subjects at your host University for this purpose **BUT**
  1. You need to check with the host University - they may not allow law students to take non-law credits;  
&
  2. We need to consult relevant HKU department re transfer of non-law credits – so allow time.

## What if I am a Fast-Track Student?

Please note that:

1. You need to obtain 174 law credits for your LLB degree;
2. 120 of those must be obtained at HKU (ie. 54 law credits can be obtained at an exchange institution)
3. But, if you intend to enter the PCLL, plan to go on exchange for one semester only.

## LLB(BBA) and LLB(Gov't & Laws) Students Non Law Subjects

We are happy for our students to fulfill some of these non-law requirements at partner universities **IF** partner universities are willing **AND** relevant HKU departments approve the courses for credit transfer.

### **But consider:**

If you pass a full load of law courses at the partner university, that will be transferred to HKU LLB as 60 credits. Even if you have to do all the non law in Year 5, the overload is minimal.



# Application Deadlines

## For Faculty Exchange Programme:-

First Round of Application:

Late November / Early December 2009 (to be confirmed)

(starting Sept / Oct 2010 AND (Australia) Jul – Nov 2011)

Second Round of Application (**subject to availability of places**):

August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010

(starting Jan 2011 AND (Australia) Mar – Jun 2011)

## For HKU Worldwide Exchange Programme:-

Briefing session in November 2009

Application Deadline Early December 2009

## Financial Assistance / Scholarships

HKU Worldwide Exchange:-

Students who obtain places at partner universities under **EITHER** exchange programme **AND** have a CGPA of 3 or above, will be awarded an HKU Worldwide Scholarship. See OISE website for more info: <http://www3.hku.hk/oise/eng/intro.php>

# **Holman Fenwick & Willan Scholarship and Madam Lau Kit Fong (Sau Chee) Scholarship**

These are privately funded scholarships, awarded annually to students on the Faculty Exchange programme.

Details for each scholarship are posted on our website:

<http://www.hku.hk/law/students/exchange3d.html>

# HSBC SCHOLARSHIP

Up to HK\$ 250,000

To study at LISTED university

Law and Mixed Degree Students  
with CGPA 3.3 or above should seriously consider

**Note: Application Deadline is Early December 2009!**

**Please visit OISE website for updated information:**

<http://www3.hku.hk/oise/eng/intro.php>

## Am I Qualified to Apply?

- CGPA of 2.8 for worldwide exchange scheme, CGPA of 3 for scholarship
- CGPA of 2.8 under Faculty exchange scheme, although some specific exchange partners require CGPA 3.0 or above
- LLB students usually go in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year
- LLB(BBA), LLB(G&L) in 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> year
- LLB(Civ-Eng) in 5<sup>th</sup> year
- Personality

## What to Submit

1. Completed application form
2. Official copies of academic transcripts
3. Official class ranking (only LLB students are required to submit their Ranking)
4. CV and Personal letter stating reasons for applying exchange
5. TOEFL or IELTS test result (this is optional BUT your TOEFL/IELTS result may be helpful for the host university to consider your application)

# Golden Rule

**ONLY**

apply for any institution  
you are prepared to go to  
- even as your 5th choice.

# How to Choose?

1. Do your research about the universities
2.  $\text{CGPA} \geq 3.0$ , apply according to preference only
3.  $\text{CGPA} \leq 3.0$ , be realistic & flexible (not KCL, UCL, Duke, Cornell and USC (unless very close))



## Before You Take Off

- Complete your study plan around one month before departure. You may download the form at Faculty's Exchange website:  
<http://www.hku.hk/law/students/exchange3c.html>
- Obtain Leave of Absence from the Dean through Head of Department of Law.
- Apply for Compulsory Moot referral (if needed).

# Faculty Partners

last updated 7 Sept 2009

Country	Exchange Institution	Quota per year
Australia	Monash University*	2
Canada	Queens University#	3
	U of British Columbia#	2
	U of Victoria	4
	U of Western Ontario	2
Singapore	National U of Singapore#	2
	Singapore Management U	2
U.K.	King's College London	1
	University College London	4
	U of Bristol	2
	U of Kent	2
	U of Nottingham#	3

Country	Exchange Institution	Quota per year
U.K.	U of Southampton	2
	U of Warwick	3
Scotland	U of Edinburgh#	2
	U of Glasgow#	2.5
U.S.A.	Boston U	2
	Cornell U Law School	2
	Duke U	1
	Indiana U school of Law	2
	Tulane U (Tulane only accepts 1 semester exchange)	1
	U of Southern California	1
	U of Washington (Seattle)	1
	U of Washington (St Louis)	2

Country	Exchange Institution	Quota per year
Denmark	U of Copenhagen	2
Germany	Bucerius Law School (Bucerius only accepts first semester exchange)	1.5
The Netherlands	Erasmus University Rotterdam (Erasmus only accepts 1 semester exchange)	2
Israel	U Radzyner School of Law (Radzyner only accepts 1 semester exchange)	2
Switzerland	U of Zurich (graduates with German)	2
P.R. China	China U of Political Science & Law	2.5
	Fudan U*	-
	Peking U*	-
	Tsinghua U	1

# This university has entered into exchange agreements with both Worldwide & Faculty exchange programmes.

\* This is a HKU worldwide partner, you will need to apply via HKU worldwide scheme as well.

## Relative Rankings for Some of Our Partners

### UK Times (Good University Guide 2010, Law)

04	U of Nottingham
05	University College London
06	Kings College London
07	U of Warwick
11	U of Edinburgh
12	U of Bristol
13	U of Southampton
14	U of Glasgow
16	U of Kent
22	U of Warwick

## Canada (September 2008 – Maclean's Magazine)

01	U of Toronto
04	U of British Columbia
05	U of Victoria
08	Queen's University
12	U of Western Ontario

## USA (B Leiter's Law School Ranking: student LSAT)

12	Duke University
13	Cornell University
17	U of Southern California
21	Boston University
24	U of Washington, St Louis