

The University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law

Guidance Notes on Outgoing Exchange Programme

2026-2027 (and beyond)

(Subject to the prevailing exchange policies of HKU, the Faculty of Law, and the partner universities from time to time)

This Guidance Notes contain information you need to know about exchange. If you need any further guidance, please contact the Faculty of Law Exchange Team (lawexchange@hku.hk).

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A. Introduction

1. Why spend part of your LLB Studies in another jurisdiction?

- Personal Growth & Enrichment
- Academic Variety & Excellence

2. Responsibilities of exchange students

At HKU

- Punctual compliance with all exchange procedures.
- Be courteous when making inquiries – after making reasonable efforts to find the information yourself.
- Prompt submission of documents, including the EXCHANGE REPORT.

While on exchange

- Remember you are guests in your host's "home" and ambassadors of HKU Faculty of Law. Represent us well.
- Be courteous and considerate toward host institution staff and fellow students at all times.
- Maintain regular communication with host institution administration and advisers, respond promptly to inquiries / requests for information.
- Comply with all academic rules of the host institution (e.g., class attendance, reading and writing requirements, anti-plagiarism).
- ARRIVE on time as required by the host institution.
- DO NOT LEAVE until all assessments and exams at the host institution have been completed. AVOID arranging internships or commitments that start before your return.

3. Plagiarism

- Acknowledging sources of your ideas and words is the minimum standard of academic honesty.
- Ensure you are familiar with the [plagiarism rules at HKU](#) and at the host institution.
- Plagiarism during exchange may result in:
 - Failure of the course (with the need to make up courses at HKU).
 - The inclusion of the plagiarism offence in your HKU record.

4. Two outgoing Exchange Programmes

You may choose to participate in an exchange under **one of the following** programmes:

- [Faculty-based Exchange Programme by the Faculty of Law](#)
- [HKU Worldwide Undergraduate Student Exchange Programme \("HKUWW"\) by International Affairs Office \("IAO"\)](#)

5. If you go through either Exchange Programme

- IAO or the Faculty will handle the initial liaison with the host institution; however, you must complete and submit the formal application yourself, and apply for courses, accommodation, and other requirements as advised.
- You are only required to pay HKU tuition fees.
- With prior agreement from the Faculty of Law Exchange Team, credit transfer is virtually guaranteed.
- You may receive limited financial and other assistance from HKU, and eligibility for certain law scholarships.

6. Grades earned on exchange do not count towards your cGPA

- If you want to improve your cGPA for any reason, you need to think very carefully about your exchange options and courses. Grades earned during exchange DO NOT count towards the cGPA of your HKU degree.
- You will receive a transcript from the host institution showing your exchange results for PCLL admission and future employment. A strong performance could be an advantage.
- Exceptionally high grades during exchange may assist a student who is borderline for a class of honours; however, this is extremely rare, should not be relied upon.

7. Major Differences between two Exchanges Programmes

	Faculty-based Exchange Programme	HKUWW
Which one to join?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join the Faculty-based Exchange Programme if you want to study law courses on exchange. • The Faculty of Law has law specific agreements with some law faculties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join HKUWW if: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) You wish to go on exchange to an IAO partner; and/or ii) You will go on exchange during the first three years of an integrated double-degree programme.
Law course credit(s) transfer (See Part B)	Mostly law courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some institutions do not offer law courses to exchange students. If you wish to study law courses under HKUWW, you need to check with IAO and the host institution carefully. • HKU has university-wide agreements with some institutions. Some of these include formal and informal quotas for students who wish to study law. If a host institution is under both the Faculty-based Exchange Programme and HKUWW Exchange Programme, you will normally be allowed to take law courses under the Faculty-based Exchange Programme only*. In other words, you may not be able to take any law courses under HKUWW. • The Faculty of Law and IAO work together to maximise exchange opportunities for HKU law students. Students who wish to study law on exchange are strongly encouraged to apply through the Faculty-based Exchange Programme only.

	Faculty-based Exchange Programme	HKUWW
Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with a cGPA of 3.3 or above have a relatively higher chance of securing a placement in the programme; however, students who marginally miss the requirement will also be considered. Integrated double-degree programme students may apply on the basis of your overall cGPA – and that is important – however, since you are going as law students to study law, your law grades also matter. Both will be considered. Note: Each cohort will be ranked separately and selection will be made with the aim of achieving a fair distribution among the different programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with a cGPA of 3.0 or above have a relatively higher chance of securing a placement in the programme. have at least a TOEFL (iBT) score of 80 or an IELTS (Academic) overall score of 6.5.
Scholarship(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> HKUWW Scholarship Scheme Scholarship for Faculty-based Outgoing Exchange Programme 	

***Note:**

If a host institution is available under both the Faculty-based Exchange Programme and HKUWW, you may apply to the institution through both programmes; however, if you are shortlisted, **only one final offer will be made**. If you have preferences regarding the list of institutions under the Faculty-based Exchange Programme and HKUWW, please indicate them when submitting your application for the Faculty-based Exchange Programme. The final offer will be determined jointly by IAO and the Faculty.

8. Visiting Student Scheme (VSS)

- This scheme provides an opportunity for students to spend a year studying law at top-ranked institutions that do not have exchange agreements with the Faculty.
- Each year, a maximum of 10 students (among all applicants, regardless of cohort) will be selected for VSS.
- We currently have visiting student arrangements (subject to change) with:**
 - Hertford College, University of Oxford (1-2 full-year students)
 - Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge (1-2 full-year student)
- Other selected students may apply colleges such as St Catherine's College, University of Oxford (normally around 6 full-year students), subject to Faculty's approval.
- Regardless of which institutions you apply to, only students selected for VSS may have their credits transferred toward their HKU LLB degree.** Students NOT selected may still choose to take a gap year and study at any institution of their choice; however, credit transferred will **not** be permitted. **You should seek prior approval from the Director of Exchange (Outgoing) before submitting your application to the host institution and contact the Faculty of Law Exchange Team in advance.**

Eligibility

- Current LLB and Integrated Double-degree students who rank within the top 10% of their respective cohorts at the close of applications.

Fees

- Visiting students must pay overseas fees of the host institution. According to the latest information on the respective institution:
 - Hertford College, University of Oxford: £47,554 (Full-year) (<https://www.law.hku.hk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Hertford-Fees-RVS-Programmes-2025-26.pdf>)
 - Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge: £29,052 (Tuition Fee); and £13,842 (College Fee) (https://www.law.hku.hk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/undergraduate_tuition_fees_2026-27.pdf)
- If you are eligible, please apply for the HSBC Global Scholarship. We will endeavour to secure scholarship support; however, at this stage students should be prepared to self-finance their studies under the VSS.

Application Procedures

- Students intending to participate in the VSS should apply by filling in the VSS application form (this is different from the Faculty-based Exchange Programme application form).
- You will be asked to indicate whether you wish to apply for Hertford College or Gonville and Caius College. Applications are handled by IAO and the Faculty respectively.

Documents Required

- A completed online application form.
- Your C.V.
- A personal statement of no more than 200 words, outlining your motivation for participating in the VSS and explaining your choice of college or institution.
- IELTS test results² may be required for visa applications and by host institutions³; however, they are NOT required for the application to HKU.
- References are NEITHER required nor encouraged. However, you may include a reference if it serves to clarify or address an aspect of your application that might otherwise be problematic.
- Students who intend to defer must submit their study plan together with the exchange application.

Methods of Study (subject to change)

Oxford

- Colleges of University of Oxford have great autonomy. Hertford College offers law, literature, philosophy, and politics courses.
- Visiting students at Oxbridge enjoy the same library access and one on one / one on two tutorial systems available to full time students.
- Oxford students typically take 8 tutorials per subject, 12 tutorials per term. At Hertford College, this has been translated to one “8 tutorial” subject and one “4 tutorial” subject per term, making 6 courses in all.

Cambridge

- Studying non-law subjects may be difficult.
- At Gonville and Caius College, students study 5 full-year subjects per year. This is particularly suited to LLB students who will get an exceptional, in depth understanding of the courses with reduced examination pressure – although Cambridge does have examinations. You will learn to think, analyse and critique at a new level.
- In addition to lectures and seminars, there are the supervisions¹ in Gonville and Caius College. Supervisions are one-on-one or very small group teaching sessions with fellows of the college. As Gonville and Caius has many fellows, supervisions are common. Your personal Director of Studies will meet with you regularly and help you organise your supervisions.

Note: The Faculty does NOT have an agreement with **St Catherine's College, University of Oxford**. **However**, many HKU students have in the past applied by themselves to study there under the VSS. In light of this, we have compiled the following information about St Catherine's College:

- 2026-27 Fees: £17,721 (One term); £35,442 (Two terms); and £53,163 (Three terms, i.e., Full academic year) (<https://www.law.hku.hk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Visiting-Student-Fees-2026-2027.pdf>)
- Number of courses: At St Catherine's College, the preference is now for 8 tutorials for all subjects, with some subjects having written work for only 4 of those tutorials. Any LLB compulsory or PCLL prerequisite courses must be 8 tutorial courses.

¹ “Typically students have between one and four supervisions a week, each lasting an hour. What happens in a supervision varies from course to course, but usually students are expected to write an essay or work through some problems in advance. This work is then discussed in detail with the supervisor. Designed to help you develop the skills to learn independently, supervisions are a fantastic opportunity to explore course material in greater depth and clarify areas of uncertainty. They can also be tailored to your own interests and needs within your course.” (extracted from <https://www.cai.cam.ac.uk/apply-caius/undergraduates/teaching>)

² Some institutions require TOFEL results. More information will be available after you receive an offer in February.

³ Application to the PCLL also requires IELTS test results. With careful planning, a single test may satisfy the application requirements for both the exchange programme and the PCLL.

B. Application

9. Documents Required

- A completed online application form.
- Your C.V.
- A personal statement of not more than 200 words, outlining your motivation for participating in the exchange programme and explaining your choice of institution(s) on your list.
- IELTS test results² may be required for visa applications and by host institutions³; however, they are NOT required for the application to HKU.
- References are NEITHER required or encouraged. However, you may include a reference if it serves to clarify or address an aspect of your application that might otherwise be problematic.
- Students who intend to defer must submit their study plan together with the exchange application.

10. The Faculty of Law Application Form

- Choose up to 5 options from the Faculty of Law's list of partner institutions, ranked in order of preference.
- If you apply to both the HKUWW and the Faculty-based Exchange Programme, please indicate your combined choices of institutions on the same application form.
- You can choose to go to:
 - one partner institution for one semester
 - one partner institution for a full academic year, if permitted by the host institution
- For **Australian and NZ universities**, please note that the study period can be divided into:
 - a. February to June (i.e., 1st semester);
 - b. July to November (i.e., 2nd semester); and
 - c. February to November (i.e., full-year).

Example: If you wish to apply for the University of Auckland in their 2nd semester (July to November), please select "1st semester" on the application form.

11. How to Choose/ Rank Host Institutions

- Conduct thorough research on the partner institutions by yourself first.
- Be realistic & flexible and understand the cGPA and LawGPA requirements.
- Identify subjects and faculty members that align with your interest.
- The purpose of exchange is not to substitute core courses.
- **Only list places you are absolutely willing to go.** If you are open to a range of partner institutions, reflect this in your ranked choices. To indicate willingness to study in Canada, the U.S., Australia, and New Zealand, include partner institutions from these regions in your options.
- If you receive an offer for any host institution on your list (even your no. 5 choice), you are expected to accept it. If you would only consider 2 partner institutions, then list only those 2.

² Some institutions require TOFEL results. More information will be available after you receive an offer in February.

³ Application to the PCLL also requires IELTS test results. With careful planning, a single test may satisfy the application requirements for both the exchange programme and the PCLL.

- If you select “Not willing to negotiate” on the application form, you will NOT be considered for other places if the places on your list are full or unsuitable. You will NOT be given any advantage in the allocation process.

12. Accepting An Offer

- You will receive an offer email from the Faculty of Law Exchange Team on the date the results are released. The email will contain important details, including required documents, deposit payment or stipulated deadlines. Please read it carefully.
- Complete your study plan⁴ at least 4 weeks before the host institution’s course enrolment deadline. This allows the Faculty of Law Exchange Team sufficient time to review and approve your plan and to facilitate your credit transfer application.
- Obtain Leave of Absence approval through the Faculty of Law Exchange Team.

13. Declining An Offer

- If you decline an offer for a host institution on your list, you will likely not receive another offer and will NOT be eligible to apply for the 2nd round exchange programme in the same year.
- Any student who withdraws AFTER accepting an offer will forfeit their deposit unless:
 - The Director of Exchange (Outgoing) is satisfied that the reason for withdrawal is valid and beyond the student’s foreseeable control; and
 - The withdrawal is made as soon as reasonably practicable.

Note: taking up employment or concerns about grades are considered foreseeable reasons.
- Students who indicate willingness to negotiate may be offered a place at a partner institution not included on their list.
- The Faculty of Law Exchange Team works extremely hard and with great care to ensure the fairest possible allocation of places among many eligible students. Inevitably, not all applicants will secure their 1st or 2nd choice. Some may be offered their 5th choice.
- The Faculty of Law Exchange Team’s decision on the allocation is **final**. Request for reallocation will NOT be entertained.
- Students may withdraw their application at any time **prior to accepting an offer**.

⁴ The study plan form can be downloaded in the Faculty’s Outgoing Exchange Programme webpage

14. Important Dates

Faculty-based Exchange Programme and VSS

Year	Date	Activity	Details
Main Round Application (Full Year, Semester 1, and Semester 2)			
2025	19 Nov (Wed)	Application opens	Faculty-based Exchange and VSS – Online application
	19 Nov (Wed)	Resources	Faculty-based Exchange and VSS – Information session
2026	2 Jan (Fri), 9am	Deadline	VSS – Online application
	Mid-Jan	Interview	VSS – Shortlisted candidates
	Mid-Jan	Result Release	VSS – Placement results
	23 Jan (Fri), 12nn	Deadline	Faculty-based Exchange – Online application
	6 Feb (Fri)	Result Release	Faculty-based Exchange – Placement results
	13 Feb (Fri)	Deadline	VSS and Faculty-based Exchange – Acceptance and deposit payment
Second Round Application (Full Year, Semester 1, and Semester 2)			
2026	April	Application opens	Faculty-based Exchange – Online application (subject to the number of places left from the main round)
	April	Deadline	Faculty-based Exchange – Online application

HKU Worldwide Exchange Programme

- **Mid-December (normally)** - application deadline
(please refer to <https://intlaffairs.hku.hk/hku-worldwide-student-exchange>)

C. Transferability of Courses

15. Summary of Transferrable Courses

(i) Electives and LLB Compulsory Courses that are NOT PCLL prerequisites	(ii) PCLL prerequisites	(iii) Non-law equivalent subjects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferrable with the Exchange Team’s prior approval • Taking electives not available in HKU Law Faculty is generally encouraged. • See Point 18 for more details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferrable with the Faculty of Law Exchange Team and PCLL Conversion Examination Board’s prior approval • HKU students are NOT permitted to take conversion examinations for any reason. • See Point 19 for more details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferrable with prior approvals of the Faculty of Law Exchange Team of the Faculty of Law upon recommendation of the respective HKU departments. • See Point 20 for more details.

16. No Course Prerequisite Requirement on Exchange Study

- Some courses in HKU require prerequisites. Yet, there is **NO** such restriction if you study the courses during exchange.
- For example, although Commercial Law is the prerequisite of Business Associations (“BA”) in HKU, you may study BA on exchange and transfer credits back to HKU even though you have not enrolled in Commercial Law before.

17. True Law Elective Rule

Faculty-based Exchange Programme and VSS

- Students going on exchange under Faculty-based Exchange Programme or participating in VSS must take at least **one approved true law elective per semester, which is equivalent to at least 6 HKU law credits (or one full-year course for a full-year exchange)**, that is, NOT a required course for the LLB or the PCLL and not a non-law elective. (e.g., for three semester schools that means three electives)
- Compulsory introductory courses on the host jurisdiction’s legal system are NOT counted as true law electives.
- You are encouraged to take law elective courses that are not offered at HKU. It is not necessary to seek equivalents of HKU electives, as the purpose of participating in an exchange or studying law under VSS is to pursue academic opportunities abroad that are unavailable locally.

HKUWW

- Students participating in **HKUWW** must also comply with the True Law Elective Rule.
- If the host institution does not allow you to take ANY law electives, you should take **at least one non-law elective**, which is, NOT a core or required course.

18. Transfer of Electives and LLB Compulsory Courses that are NOT PCLL Prerequisites

- All law electives are generally accepted given that you have not taken similar courses at HKU

before but prior approval from the Faculty of Law Exchange Team is required.

- For compulsory core courses that are not PCLL pre-requisites (e.g. Admin Law or Legal Theory), you may check the list of approved/ disapproved courses (will be updated regularly) (See: <https://www.law.hku.hk/current-students/outgoing-exchange-programme-introduction/#>)
- If the course is **NOT** on the list at all you may be the first to ask:
 - First, send an email to ask for permission from the relevant HKU course teachers. The email should include the course descriptions.
 - Forward the teacher's opinion to the Faculty of Law Exchange Team (lawexchange@hku.hk) together with your application.
 - The Faculty of Law Exchange Team will consider the course upon reviewing the teacher's opinion.
- If you wish to use an elective that you study on exchange to fulfil the specialisation requirements of HKU, you should obtain approval from the relevant HKU course teacher and the Assistant Dean (Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes) of the Faculty of Law via the Faculty of Law Exchange Team (lawexchange@hku.hk). Each application is considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - **Chinese Law:** PRC courses but courses in other schools will be considered.
 - **Commercial, Corporate and Financial Law AND International Trade and Economic Law:** both common law and civil law courses may be accepted. Name or content need not match any HKU course.

19. Transfer of PCLL Prerequisites

- You are going to practise law, if at all, in HK. **It makes sense to study most of your HK PCLL prerequisites at HKU.**
- To be eligible for admission to the PCLL, you must at least have completed a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) in Hong Kong and demonstrate competence in the following PCLL prerequisites:
 - **Nine Core subjects:** Contract, Tort, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Land Law, Equity, Business Associations, Commercial Law and Evidence; and
 - **Three 'Top-up' subjects:** Hong Kong Constitutional Law, Hong Kong Legal System and Hong Kong Land Law III (for PCLL only).
- HKU students:
 - **MUST** take the three top up subjects at HKU.
 - May take the core subjects at HKU or, **with the express prior approvals of the PCLL Conversion Examinations Board and relevant HKU course teacher**, at a host institution while on exchange or participating in the VSS.
 - Are NOT permitted to take conversion examinations in any event.
- Students should study most PCLL prerequisites at HKU. Exceptions may apply under the following circumstances:
 - The law of the host jurisdiction is substantially the same as that in Hong Kong;
 - You have an opportunity to learn from an exceptional professor;
 - You have no intention of entering the PCLL programme;
 - Your degree structure requires you to take some PCLL prerequisites during exchange.
- To check or obtain approval for the transferability of PCLL pr-requisite, please see Point 21.

20. Transfer of Non-law Equivalent Subjects

- If you intend to take non-law course(s) during exchange for the purpose of satisfying the minor or non-law degree requirements, **you must obtain the recommendation of relevant HKU faculty / department concerning transfer of non-law credits.**⁵
- You are required to forward relevant recommendation to us for approval when you submit your exchange study plan.

Students wishing to satisfy a minor:

- We are happy for you to take a non-law subject(s) at your host institution for the purpose of satisfying the HKU minor requirements **BUT**
 - You need to check with the host institution . They may not allow law students to take non-law credits under Faculty-based Exchange Programme; and
 - You need to consult the relevant HKU faculty / department regarding the transferability of non-law credits – so allow time.

Integrated degree students wishing to fulfil non-law requirements by studying non-law subjects:

- We are happy for our students to fulfil some of the non-law degree requirements at partner institutions IF partner institutions are willing to offer AND relevant HKU faculties / departments approve the courses for credit transfer. But consider:
 - Summer courses for non-law subjects if possible;
 - Our partners are selected for their excellence in law, not necessarily business / public administration, politics or arts;
 - In the U.S. and Canada, 14-15 law credits and 1 non-law subject may be a good option.
 - PRC business courses are also an option.

21. Procedure for finding out whether a PCLL prerequisite has been approved by HKU Teachers and PCLL Conversion Examination Board

- Some students previously went to exchange have asked the course teachers at HKU and PCLL Conversion Examination Board about the transferability of certain PCLL prerequisites. We have gathered the results of the enquiries of all HKU students in the list of already approved / disapproved courses (will be updated regularly)
(See: <https://www.law.hku.hk/current-students/outgoing-exchange-programme-introduction/#>)
- If the course is **NOT** on the list at all you may be the first to ask:
 - First, send an email to ask for permission from the relevant HKU course teachers. The email should include the course descriptions.
 - Forward the teacher's opinion to the Faculty of Law Exchange Team (lawexchange@hku.hk) together with your application.
 - Then, apply to the PCLL Conversion Examination Board yourself by submitting the application form and paying the application fees by the stipulated deadline (More details can be found on their website: <https://www.pcea.com.hk/download> - Information Package). In the application, you should include as much information about the course content, contact hours, assessments, assigned texts as you can.

⁵ Standard application form can be downloaded from our exchange website at: <https://www.law.hku.hk/current-students/outgoing-exchange-programme-application-forms/>.

22. Policy with respect to Pass / Fail Courses

- Some courses in our partner universities that are only marked as pass / fail courses, that is, courses for which letter grades are not available. They may nevertheless be accepted for transfer of credits on a case-by-case basis.
- Include this information in your study plan for the Faculty of Law Exchange Team's consideration. We prefer one or two such courses only.

D. Planning For Exchange (how will credits be transferred)

23. General

- Going on Exchange does **NOT** require a deferral of your studies.
- With reasonable planning, most students can go on exchange **AND** still graduate with their classmates!

24. Number of Credits Transferred to your HKU Degree

- Students should study **the standard load** at the host institution and transfer a full load of HKU credits upon their return from exchange (except for failed courses).
- This rule applies to the Faculty-based Exchange Programme, HKUWW and VSS.
- A standard load of approved courses at a host institution will transfer as 60 HKU credits per year, 30 HKU credits per semester, **irrespective of the number of courses you studied at the host institution**. For example, if the standard load at the host institution is 4 courses per semester, and you study 4 courses at the host in one semester, you will still be able to transfer 30 HKU credits (equivalent to 5 courses at HKU) to your HKU degree.
- Compulsory courses (law & non-law) will transfer the same number of credits as the equivalent HKU courses, **irrespective of the credit value of that course at the host institution**. For example, if the equivalent Equity and Trusts law course at the host is only a semester course (equivalent to 6 credits in HKU), you can still transfer 12 HKU credits for ET to your HKU degree.
- After the credit transfer of compulsory courses (law & non-law), the remaining credits will transfer as free/ discipline elective credits, **irrespective of the number of elective courses taken at the host institution**. For example, in a semester exchange where you study 5 courses at the host (a semester ET course and 4 free electives), after the credit transfer of the ET course, you will have $30-12=18$ credits left. The remaining 4 electives will be transferred as 18 free/ discipline elective credits only to your HKU degree.
- It does not matter if this means that you have more elective credits in your degree (LLB or Integrated Degree) than you strictly require, provided you do not exceed the stated maximum (288 and 360 respectively).
- This means that, while preserving electives for your exchange and for PCLL prerequisites upon your return is important, it will almost always be possible to fulfil your exchange plans

25. No Overloading or Underloading at Host Institution is permitted

- Overloading on exchange is generally **NOT** permitted. Try to overload at HKU instead.
- If you wish to overload or underload on exchange, you should obtain prior approval from the Assistant Dean (Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes) of the Faculty of Law via the Exchange Team. Such an approval will only be granted for a "good reason" in **very exceptional circumstances**, including:
 - Exceptionally strong students for very good reasons;
 - Students who need to take extra credits for a specialisation;
 - Strong integrated degree students who take one semester of maximum credits at a North

- American host or take an additional business or social science course;
- Students wishing to take additional language courses, especially if not seeking to transfer for credit; or
- Students seeking to overload by less than a full subject.
- Note: even if permission to overload is granted by HKU, **the final decisions on course admission is always at the host institution's discretion.**

26. Reordering of Courses

- Going on exchange may require that courses that would ordinarily be taken in Year 3 to be taken in Year 2 or Year 4; courses taken in Year 4 to be taken in Year 3 or other variations between Years 4 and 5.
- Try to keep as many free/ discipline electives available for exchange as possible.
- Some exchange options may require overloading in earlier years so as to free up time for exchange.
- If you wish to reorder courses, please fill in the [special form](#) for applying for reordering courses.

27. If you plan to defer

- A decision to defer is more than an exchange decision. You need to seek the permission of the Assistant Dean (Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes) of the Faculty of Law or the Programme Directors via the Exchange Team.
- **Deferring students who come back from exchange to take a 5th or 6th year will only be allowed to take the required subjects they need to finish their degrees.**
- Specifically, deferring students will NOT be permitted to transfer less than a full load of electives from a host institution and take additional electives in the 5th or 6th year.
- **Students who plan to defer their graduation due to exchange are required to submit their exchange application, together with a study plan for prior approval.** All relevant applications will be considered by the Director of Exchange on a case-by-case basis.
- **As a matter of general policy, students who intend to defer are required to (i) complete as many core courses as possible before their exchange and (ii) provide justifications to explain why they could not graduate on time.** The same policy also applies to students who plan to go on exchange via HKUWW.

Important

- You can never be sure the host institution will offer the required course(s) you wish to take/ permit exchange students to take the course/ allow you to take the course if the quota is exceeded.
- Relying upon taking required courses on exchange in order to complete your degree on time is always risky.
- It is also risky to rely upon taking required courses on exchange in your final year.
- It is dangerous to count on doing compulsory courses on exchange. Something can easily go wrong and you may have to choose between your exchange and deferring.
- You may have to do an extra 6 credits in one semester – for integrated degree students rather more semesters – in order to fulfil both your exchange and your HKU LLB requirements.

28. Reminders on Course Selection at Host Institution

- For transferability of courses, please see Part C above. This point is about general reminders on course enrolment.

- We do not allow incoming exchange students to do our compulsory courses / PCLL prerequisites. Our host institutions may have the same policy, or have quotas on particular courses, or have priorities for local students etc. This is entirely reasonable and must be respected.
- Some students may plan to approach host institution and ask about course selections. **We encourage you to ask returning students or HKU faculty / admin wherever possible.** If you think necessary to ask the host directly, check carefully before sending inquiries to make sure you approach the correct people (please avoid sending your inquiries to all staff members who work in the same office). Please do your best to be precise and polite.
- Please note the following courses from different jurisdictions:

Common Law Jurisdictions	Civil Law Jurisdictions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity and Trusts: increasingly difficult in the U.S. and Canada (some combinations of courses are accepted but not recommended) • Evidence: compulsory for students in Canada so it is hard to get into; US courses are usually not accepted by Conversion Board • Business Associations / Commercial Law: there are always missing parts • Administrative Law: often not offered as separate course and / or too much human rights/ constitutional law content 	<p>Courses in PRC Universities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent for Chinese law and Putonghua, possibly Legal Theory • Courses cannot satisfy any of PCLL prerequisites. <p>Courses in European Universities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent for really interesting law options, a possibility for Legal Theory • Courses cannot satisfy any of PCLL prerequisites.