THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF LAW
香港大學法律學院

Faculty-based Outgoing Exchange Programme and Visiting Student Scheme (VSS) 2027/28 & Beyond

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DIRECTOR OF EXCHANGE (OUTGOING)

Subject to the prevailing exchange policies of HKU, the Faculty of Law and the partner institutions from time to time

Role of the Faculty of Law Exchange Team

- To enable students to experience law studies in other countries and legal systems
- To ensure the smooth transfer of approved courses into the degree programme

What are the available outgoing exchange programmes?

- Faculty-based Exchange Programme administered by the Faculty of Law ("Faculty-based Exchange Programme");
- HKU Worldwide Undergraduate Student Exchange Programme ("HKUWW") administered by the International Affairs Office of the Academic Liaison Office of the Registry ("IAO");
- Faculty Visiting Student Scheme ("VSS").

If a host institution is available under both the Faculty-based Exchange Programme and HKUWW, students may apply to the institution through both programmes. However, for short-listed students, only one final offer will be made. The final offer will be determined jointly by IAO and the Faculty.

If you have preferences regarding the list of institutions for the above exchange programmes, please indicate them when submitting your application for the Faculty-based Exchange Programme.

Faculty of Law Programmes

Two Programmes

Law Faculty-based Exchange Programme (reciprocal bilateral exchange agreements)

Faculty of Law Visiting Student Scheme (VSS) (without exchange agreement)

Faculty-based Exchange Programme

- Established under reciprocal bilateral exchange agreements
- HKU tuition fees apply
- Graduate together with your cohort
- With careful planning, do not require a deferral as credits earned at the host university can be transferred to your HKU degree

Eligibility for Law Exchange Programmes

LLB Programme: 3rd or 4th Year

Integrated Double-degree Programmes: 4th or 5th Year

Students with a cGPA of 3.3 or above generally have a higher chance of securing a place in the programme; however, students who narrowly miss this requirement may also be considered

Faculty of Law Visiting Student Scheme (VSS)

- Open only to LLB and integrated double-degree students who rank within the top 10% of their respective cohorts at the close of applications
- Spend a year at top-ranked institutions where no Faculty-based exchange agreement exists
- Selected candidates may be invited for an interview
- The maximum number of students to be selected under VSS is currently set at 10

Faculty of Law Visiting Student Scheme (VSS)

Participating institutions

The Faculty currently has visiting student arrangements (subject to change) with:

- Hertford College, University of Oxford (normally 1 to 2 full-year students); and
- Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge (normally 1 full-year student).

Other selected VSS students may apply to institutions including but not limited to:

- St Catherine's College, University of Oxford (normally around 6 full-year students); or
- The London School of Economics and Political Science (normally 1 full-year student)

Application under the VSS

- Use the VSS application form (this is different from the Faculty-based Exchange Programme application form)
- Applications open: 18 November 2026; Applications close: 4 January 2027
- Exempt from HKU tuition fees; host institution fees apply
- Subject to approval of the study plan, courses taken at approved host institutions may be transferred to your HKU degree, avoiding delays in graduation

Comparison of the programmes

	Faculty-based Exchange Programme	Faculty Visiting Student Scheme	HKUWW
Administered by	Faculty of Law	Faculty of Law	HKU International Affairs Office
Duration	One-semester or full-year	One-semester or full-year	One-semester or full-year
Eligibility	Both LLB and integrated double-degree students Students with a cGPA of 3.3 or above generally have a higher chance of securing a place, although students who narrowly miss this benchmark will also be considered. Both overall cGPA and LawGPA will be taken into account.*	Both LLB and integrated double-degree students - Top 10% of their respective cohorts Both overall cGPA and LawGPA will be taken into account.*	Both LLB and integrated double-degree students Students with a cGPA of 3.0 or above generally have a higher chance of securing a place. Minimum English language requirement of either a TOEFL (iBT) score of 80 or an IELTS (Academic) overall score of 6.5 *(subject to the requirement of individual institutions and/or visa applications)*

*Applicants are ranked within their respective cohorts, with a view to achieving a fair distribution across the different programmes.

Comparison of the programmes

	Faculty-based Exchange Programme	Visiting Student Scheme	HKUWW
Suitable for	Students wishing to study law courses while on exchange.	Students wishing to study law courses while on exchange.	Students wishing to attend institutions not available through the Faculty-based Exchange Programme and/or students undertaking exchange during the first three years of an integrated double-degree programme.
Courses available for credit transfer	Predominantly law courses.	Predominantly law courses.	Availability of law courses varies by institution, and some institutions do **not** permit exchange students to enrol in law courses. If a host institution is available under both exchange programmes, students wishing to take law courses will normally be allocated through the Faculty-based Exchange Programme **only**.
Tuition fees	HKU tuition fees	Fees charged by the host institution	HKU tuition fees

Securing the Best Exchange Options

- We take both the overall cGPA and the Law GPA into account.
- We strive to ensure fairness across different programmes when allocating the best places.

Timeline for Faculty-based Exchange and Visiting Student Scheme (VSS) 2027-28

Year	Date	Activity	Details
Main Round Application (Full Year, Semester 1, and Semester 2)			
2026	18 Nov (Wed)	Application opens	Faculty-based Exchange and VSS – Online application
	18 Nov (Wed)	Resources	Faculty-based Exchange and VSS – Information session
2027	4 Jan (Mon), 11:59pm	Deadline	VSS – Online application
	Mid-Jan	Interview	VSS – Shortlisted candidates
	Mid-Jan	Result Release	VSS – Placement results
	22 Jan (Fri), 11:59pm	Deadline	Faculty-based Exchange – Online application
	5 Feb (Fri)	Result Release	Faculty-based Exchange – Placement results
	12 Feb (Fri)	Deadline	VSS and Faculty-based Exchange – Acceptance and deposit payment
Second Round Application (Semester 2)			
2027	21 May (Fri)	Application opens	Faculty-based Exchange – Online application (subject to the number of places left from the main round)
	22 Jun (Tue), 11:59pm	Deadline	Faculty-based Exchange – Online application

Choosing Hosts – Read Carefully

- ONLY list places you are absolutely willing to go. **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 two institutions, then list only those.**
- You may withdraw your application at any time **before** accepting an offer.
- If you **decline an offer**, you will certainly not receive another one within the same year.
- Please **do not** ask the Faculty of Law Exchange Team to reconsider any allocation once it has been made.

Withdrawal of Offer

- If you withdraw after accepting an offer, your deposit will be forfeited unless the Faculty of Law Exchange Team finds your reason for withdrawal convincing and you notify us as soon as possible.
- Having a job or concerns about grades are not considered valid reasons.
- Withdrawing may result in the loss of exchange allocations and could affect the opportunities for other applicants. Please plan your exchange strategy thoughtfully before committing.

Planning your HKU exchange studies

- **Timing of exchange and cGPA considerations:** Grades obtained during exchange are not included in the calculation of the cGPA for an HKU degree.
- **Degree and PCLL admission requirements:** Students may not ultimately be able to enrol in all of their preferred courses at the host institution. For this reason, relying on the exchange programme to satisfy compulsory degree or PCLL admission requirements carries significant risk.
- **Reordering of courses:** Students wishing to do so should submit the prescribed special form for reordering courses. The application period is around August each academic year before the add-drop period. Applications will be considered in accordance with the Faculty's policies and procedures.

Course Selection Guidelines

Restructuring of courses

To maximize the availability of free/discipline electives for exchange:

- LLB students should take courses normally planned for Year 3 in Year 2 or Year 4.
- Integrated double-degree students should take courses normally planned for Year 4 in Year 3, or other variations between Years 4 and 5.

Course Selection Guidelines

Credit transfer (1)

- Take a **normal** course load for one semester or a full academic year, which will result in the transfer of 30 HKU or 60 HKU credits, respectively.
- Students are generally expected to undertake the standard study load prescribed by the host institution. Overloading or underloading during exchange is not normally permitted. Approval will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and where there is a compelling academic justification.
- Different host institutions offer different courses each semester, and some institutions offer full-year courses only. Students should plan well in advance.
- If a host institution is under both Faculty-based and HKUWW Exchange Programmes, students are normally be allowed to take law courses under the Faculty-based Exchange Programme only.

Course Selection Guidelines

Credit transfer (2)

- Students should note that the host institution may not allow students to take all desired courses; flexibility in course selection is required.
- Compulsory courses (law & non-law) shall transfer for the same number of credits as the equivalent HKU courses.
- Remaining credits shall transfer as free/discipline elective credits, irrespective of the number of elective courses taken at the host institution.

Course Selection Guidelines

Illustrative example of credit transfer

- A student completes five courses during a one-semester exchange, consisting of:
  - one Equity and Trusts course approved as equivalent to the HKU compulsory course; and
  - four elective courses.

- The Equity and Trusts course transfers as 12 HKU credits, the student will have 18 credits remaining from the semester's standard load of 30 HKU credits. Those remaining credits will be transferred as 18 discipline elective or free elective credits, irrespective of the fact that four elective courses were completed.

Course Selection Guidelines

PCLL prerequisites

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.
- The student has an opportunity to learn from an exceptional professor.
- The student has no intention of entering the PCLL programme.
- The student's degree structure requires him/her to take some PCLL prerequisites during exchange.

Course Selection Guidelines

LLAW3105 Land Law III

- Students admitted in AY2023/24 or before are strongly encouraged to complete LLAW3105 Land Law III **before** going on exchange, as the course will be phased out shortly.
- If students plan to take LLAW3105 Land Law III in the second semester of AY2027/28 upon their return to HKU, there may be a timetable conflict issue that needs to be taken into consideration.

Course Selection Guidelines

True Law Elective Rule

- Students participating in an exchange programme are expected to complete at least one approved True Law Elective per semester (or one full-year law elective for a full-year exchange), equivalent to at least 6 HKU law credits. For example, students attending institutions that operate on a three-semester academic calendar would normally be expected to complete at least three True Law Electives during the exchange programme.
- A True Law Elective must:
  - ❖ be a law course;
  - ❖ not be a LLB compulsory course; and
  - ❖ not be a PCLL prerequisite course.
- Compulsory introductory courses on the host jurisdiction's legal system will not normally satisfy this requirement.
- Where a host institution participating in the HKU Worldwide Exchange Programme does not permit exchange students to enrol in any law electives, students should normally take at least one non-law elective that is neither a compulsory nor a required course.

Course Selection Guidelines

Transfer of courses

- Law electives and LLB core courses that are not PCLL equivalents can be transferrable only with the prior approval of the Faculty of Law Exchange Team.
- PCLL prerequisites require prior approval from the PCLL Conversion Examination Board. Students should submit their application to the Board by the stipulated deadline(s), namely end of February or end of August every year. Students should refer to the Board's website for updated information.
- For each compulsory non-law subject, students should obtain prior approval from the relevant non-law faculty or department first, and then from the Faculty of Law Exchange Team. The Application for Credit Transfer form available on the Faculty's website should be used to seek formal approval from the HKU course-offering faculty or department concerned.
- Non-law subjects can be transferrable only with the prior approval of the Faculty of Law Exchange Team.

Course Selection Guidelines

Approval for LLB core courses

- Students should check the Faculty website for the list of approved/not approved courses, which is updated regularly. The list is for reference only. Although courses have been reviewed and approved by HKU course teachers, final approval of subject enrollment rests with the host institution.

- If a course is NOT on the list, students should obtain the opinion of relevant HKU subject teacher and forward the opinion to the Faculty of Law Exchange Team at lawexchange@hku.hk together with the application.

- Applications should include the course description, unit or credit weighting, contact hours, assessment method, etc.

Course Selection Guidelines

Approval for PCLL prerequisites

- Admission to the PCLL requires completion of nine (9) core subjects (e.g., Business Associations, Land Law, Evidence) and three (3) top-up subjects, namely Constitutional Law, Hong Kong legal system, and Hong Kong Land Law. The top-up subjects must be completed in Hong Kong.
- Core subjects can be taken at HKU or, with the express prior approval of the PCLL Conversion Examination Board, at the host institution during exchange.
- If a course has not been approved by the PCLL Conversion Examination Board in advance, students need to submit an application to the Board.

Study Plan Preparation

When to submit exchange study plan

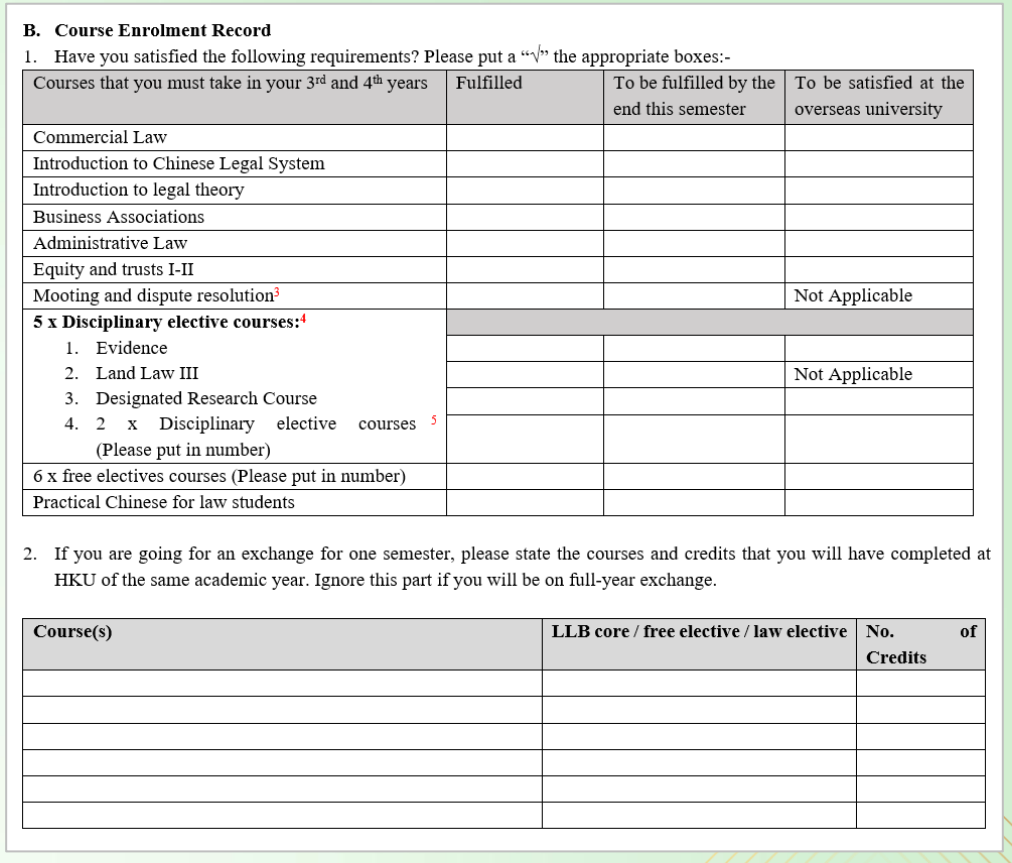
- Students should submit their study plan and unofficial transcript and obtain approval of leave of absence at least **four (4) weeks** prior to departure. If course selection has not yet been finalized/study plan approval has not yet been obtained, the application for leave of absence should be submitted first.
- Students should ensure that all courses have been approved by both the host institution and the Faculty of Law Exchange Team.

Study Plan Preparation

Exchange study plan template

Please fill in information such as:

- Normal load at host institution
- Course code/name at host institution
- Equivalent HKU course
- Law elective/free elective
- Related HKU offering faculty/ department



B. Course Enrolment Record

1. Have you satisfied the following requirements? Please put a "√" the appropriate boxes:-

Courses that you must take in your 3rd and 4th years	Fulfilled	To be fulfilled by the end this semester	To be satisfied at the overseas university
Commercial Law			
Introduction to Chinese Legal System			
Introduction to legal theory			
Business Associations			
Administrative Law			
Equity and trusts I-II			
Mooting and dispute resolution[3]			Not Applicable
5 x Disciplinary elective courses:[4]			
1. Evidence			
2. Land Law III			Not Applicable
3. Designated Research Course			
4. 2 x Disciplinary elective courses[5] (Please put in number)			
6 x free electives courses (Please put in number)			
Practical Chinese for law students			

2. If you are going for an exchange for one semester, please state the courses and credits that you will have completed at HKU of the same academic year. Ignore this part if you will be on full-year exchange.

Course(s)	LLB core / free elective / law elective	No. of Credits

Study plan can be downloaded at Faculty's Outgoing Exchange Programme website

Brief Note for Integrated Double-degree Programme Students

- Students can decide whether to undertake a BA, BBA, BSc or BSocSc exchange, OR a law exchange. It is not possible to do both.
- Students opting for a BA, BBA, BSc or BSocSc exchange may only transfer a maximum of twelve (12) HKU law credits, and possibly fewer, at the discretion of the Faculty of Law Exchange Team. Applications should be submitted through the relevant faculty/department in the usual manner, clearly indicating the intention to study some law and providing full details. The faculty/department concerned will liaise with the Faculty of Law Exchange Team.

Financial Support

University level

- University International Affairs Office Scholarships for Semester Exchange - HKU International Affairs Office
- University Scholarships Office For overseas/exchange activities - Academic Advising and Scholarships Office
- HSBC Global Scholarship (up to HK$300,000; HK$25,000 for Chinese Mainland Stream) HSBC Global Scholarship - HKU International Affairs Office

*In all the merit-based funding administered by the Registry offices in support of study abroad, each student is only eligible to receive the value that equals the largest award throughout his/her undergraduate studies. Should a student receive more than one award, he/she may be required to return the prior award to the University.

Financial Support

Faculty level scholarships

- Holman Fenwick Willan Scholarship for Student Exchange 2025-26 (up to HK$15,000; for students going for one-semester exchange)
- 1972 Law Graduates Scholarship (up to HK$25,000 for one semester; up to HK$50,000 for full year)

Note: After acceptance, the Faculty will send an email to eligible outgoing exchange students for scholarship application.

Financial Support

Faculty level bursary (reimbursement basis)

The HKU Law Outreach Subsidy aims to support undergraduate law students with financial need to participate in overseas or offshore learning and professional development opportunities, specifically:

- one-semester or full-year Faculty-based exchange programmes; and
- unpaid or unsubsidized offshore internships.

Priority may be given to students who are in receipt of Government or UFA scheme, subject to the Faculty's funding availability and prevailing policies.

Destination	One Semester (HK$) Up to	Full Year (HK$) Up to
United Kingdom & Scotland, Ireland, United States and Europe	$14,000	$20,000
Australia, Canada and New Zealand	$10,000	$15,000
Countries in Asia and Middle East	$5,000	$8,500

Important Note for all students

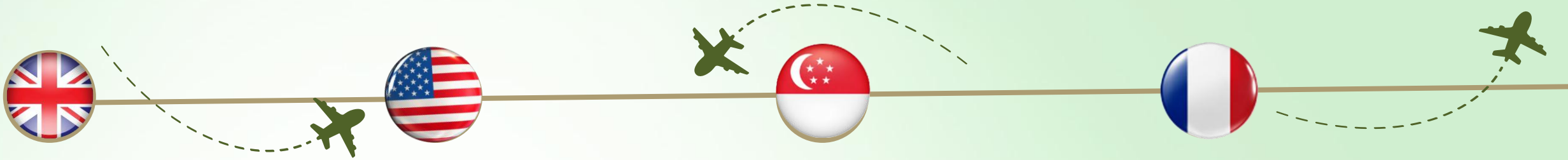
- Exchange is a privilege and an important academic opportunity. It does not come without a cost. Students may need to use some or all of their overload allowance of 72 credits per year in earlier years to create sufficient space for exchange, particularly for a full-year exchange.
- Students should aim to have as many law elective and free elective credits available for exchange as is possible. Even with careful planning, students may end up earning more law elective credits than strictly required for graduation. This should be regarded as an educational benefit rather than a concern.
- Conversely, students should try to clear away as many compulsory/PCLL prerequisites as possible in order to maximize their exchange options.

Important Note

Please read the following documents carefully:

- Notes on Exchange
- List of Exchange Institutions (e.g. Year 4 LLB and Year 4 onwards for Double Degree are eligible to apply for exchange in Melbourne University)
- Lowest accepted cGPA in the past two academic years
- List of Approved and Not Approved Courses

Student sharing



Wei Zi Liew
LLB

Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge



Full-year

Maverick Leung
BBA(Law)&LLB

Cornell University



Semester 1

Emily Sang
BSS(GL)&LLB

National University of Singapore



Semester 2

Cindy Lo
BA&LLB

Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po)



Semester 2

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Faculty-based Exchange Programme

Q. What is the evaluation criteria?

Applicants will be evaluated based on their academic performance (e.g., cGPA and LawGPA), personal statement, and other related factors. Each cohort will be ranked separately. Decisions will be made with the objective of ensuring a fair distribution across the different programmes.

Q. If I reject the offer in the first round, am I still eligible to apply for the second-round Faculty-based Exchange Programme?

If you receive an offer for a host institution on your list, you are expected to accept it, even if it is the 5th choice on your list. If you decline any offer for a host institution on your list, you will likely not receive another offer in the same academic year.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Faculty-based Exchange Programme (Con't)

Q. Will I be allowed to transfer law credits under HKUWW exchange programmes?

Some institutions under HKUWW do not offer law courses to exchange students. If you wish to take law courses under HKUWW, you must check carefully with both the International Affairs Office (IAO) and the host institution, and obtain prior approval from the Faculty of Law Exchange Team. Additionally, if a host institution is available under both Faculty-based and HKUWW exchange programmes, you will normally be allowed to take law courses under the Faculty-based exchange programme only.

Q. Do I need to seek approval for course mapping of law electives taken at the host institution?

No. Law electives taken at the host institution do not need to be mapped to HKU law electives. If you have taken approved law courses at the host, the credits transferred will count as law elective.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Faculty-based Exchange Programme (Con't)

Q. For my exchange studies, do I need to pay tuition fees at the host institution?

Under an exchange agreement, students only need to pay HKU tuition fees. However, you are responsible for your own costs, such as insurance, food, and accommodation. From our understanding, insurance is often a compulsory cost for overseas universities, though details vary by institution. You should check with your host university directly.

Q. How do I apply for a "Certificate of Completion" of PCLL prerequisite for exchange?

Complete the application form for the "Certificate of Completion" of PCLL prerequisite and submit it to the Faculty of Law Exchange Team for processing.



HKU LAW

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Thank you.