



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
FACULTY OF LAW



# MASTER OF LAWS IN HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME DETAILS



## AIMS AND PHILOSOPHY

The LL.M in Human Rights was established by the Faculty of Law at The University of Hong Kong in 1999 to meet the increasing demand for practical and theoretical knowledge about human rights throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Its goals are to equip students with a thorough understanding of the relevant international, regional and domestic human rights norms and mechanisms, and how to use them effectively. Teaching focuses on substantive and procedural international law as it relates to the practice of human rights, but also draws on international relations, history, politics, philosophy, sociology and other disciplines to provide a complete and contextual grounding in the study of human rights. It also emphasizes practical skills. While the Programme is international and encompasses human rights developments around the world, it pays close attention to issues of particular importance in Asia.

The LL.M in Human Rights at the University of Hong Kong is designed to:

- promote the values of human rights, rule of law and democracy;
- develop and enhance expertise in human rights law and practice;
- engage with Asian scholars, lawyers, activists, advocates, independent human rights bodies, and government officials on human rights issues; and
- create and promote a network of human rights expertise throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

The Programme is led by Kelley Loper (Director) and Tony Carty (Sir Y K Pao Professor of Public Law), and Karen Kong (Deputy Director) and includes a strong team of teachers and visiting experts specializing in human rights and international law.

## THE PROGRAMME

All students are required to take a total of eight courses. Full-time students complete the programme in one academic year and part-time students complete the programme in two years. There are three compulsory courses:



*Human Rights: History, Theory and Politics* considers human rights in its historical, theoretical and political context, and uses some of the key issues in human rights today to illustrate the powerful influences that have shaped how we think and act on human rights. *International and Regional Protection of Human Rights* focuses on the role and functions of international human rights law through the United Nations human rights system, and the African, Inter-American and European regional human rights systems. A number of selected rights are studied in detail, drawing from international jurisprudence. These foundational courses prepare students for the second semester's *National Protection of Human Rights* which examines the domestic protection of human rights in constitutional, statutory and administrative frameworks and considers the important role of national human rights commissions and other domestic implementation bodies.

In addition to the compulsory courses, students may choose from a range of electives. Options in recent years have included:

- Business and Human Rights
- Clinical Legal Education Course (Refugee Stream)
- Comparative Constitutional Law
- Corruption in China: Comparative Perspective
- Current Issues in Human Rights
- Dealing with Legacies of Human Rights Violations
- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Equality and Non-discrimination
- Ethnicity, Human Rights and Democracy
- Human Rights and Governance
- Human Rights in China
- Human Rights in Cyberspace
- Human Rights in Hong Kong
- Human Rights Research, Sources, and Methodology
- International Criminal Law
- International Environmental Law
- International Humanitarian Law
- International Protection of Refugees and Displaced Persons
- Multiculturalism and the Law
- Rights and Remedies in the Criminal Process
- The Rights of the Child



## TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

Teachers on the Programme are committed to high quality teaching and adopt a flexible and imaginative approach. Class sessions may include a mix of lectures, seminars, and group work, and require active student participation. Students sometimes take part in simulated exercises such as a diplomatic conference on an ASEAN human rights mechanism and a video-conference in the World Bank's Global Dialogue. Class sizes vary and fellow students may also include PhD students, exchange or visiting students and other Masters level students.

Professors teaching on the LL.M in Human Rights are experts in their fields. Faculty members who specialize in human rights and international law include:

- Tony Carty *Sir Y.K. Pao Chair of Public Law*
- Johannes Chan SC *Professor and Dean, Faculty of Law*
- Albert Chen *Chan Professor in Constitutional Law*
- Fu Hualing *Professor*
- Chin Leng Lim *Professor*
- Farzana Aslam *Senior Teaching Consultant*
- Cora Chan *Assistant Professor*
- Anne Cheung *Associate Professor*
- Richard Cullen *Visiting Professor*
- James Fry *Assistant Professor*
- Puja Kapai *Assistant Professor*
- Karen Kong *Assistant Professor and Deputy Director LLM (HR)*
- Jolene Lin *Assistant Professor*
- Kelley Loper *Assistant Professor and Director LLM (HR)*
- Simon Young *Associate Professor and Director, Centre for Comparative and Public Law*



Former teaching staff and visitors have included:

- Andrew Byrnes *University of New South Wales*
- Jill Cottrell *University of Hong Kong*
- Virginia Dandan *University of the Philippines*
- Robyn Emerton *University of Hong Kong*
- Yash P. Ghai *Emeritus Professor and former Sir Y.K.Pao Chair of Public Law*
- Asbjørn Eide *Norwegian Center for Human Rights*
- Hurst Hannum *Fletcher School*
- Suzannah Linton *University of Bangor*
- Stephen P. Marks *Harvard University*
- Raul Pangalangan *University of the Philippines*
- Carole J. Petersen *University of Hawaii*
- Bart A. Rwezaura *University of Hong Kong and Boona-Baana Centre for Children’s Rights, Tanzania*
- Henry Steiner *Harvard University*
- Lyal Sunga *Raul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law*
- Li-Ann Thio *National University of Singapore*
- Deepika Udagama *University of Colombo*

Students also benefit from the Rights Talks and conferences that are regularly organized by the Faculty and the Centre for Comparative and Public Law, as well as visiting experts who conduct research and contribute to the Programme by giving talks and guest lectures. Whether a particular course is offered depends on student interest and staff availability. Subject to approval, a student may also apply to do a relevant course in another department in the University.



## OUR STUDENTS

The Programme is one of the most internationally diverse in the university. Students have come from a number of Asian countries, including the People's Republic of China, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. The Programme has also attracted students from Europe (the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, Romania, Turkey, France, and the Netherlands), the Pacific (Australia, New Zealand and Fiji) and the Americas (Canada, the United States, and Puerto Rico).

Students have included high ranking state officials, judges, prosecutors, practising lawyers, academics, journalists, civil society activists and staff of national human rights institutions. Upon graduating from the Programme, they continue to contribute to human rights promotion and protection throughout the region. Graduates of the programme regularly return to teach or speak about their work on human rights. Their participation in the LL.M Programme has deepened their knowledge and developed their skills, allowing them to work effectively at the forefront of the promotion and protection of human rights. Graduates are part of the larger community working to improve the quality of human life inside and outside Asia.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Over the years, the Programme has been successful in obtaining financial support for students from the Asia Foundation, the European Union in conjunction with the Danish Centre for Human Rights, the Ford Foundation, the Pam Baker Scholarship in Human Rights, and Dr. Helmut Sohmen who made a generous personal donation to provide scholarships to students from Asia who are engaged in human rights work in their countries. For information on available scholarships and application procedures see: [www.hku.hk/ccpl/human\\_rights/index.html](http://www.hku.hk/ccpl/human_rights/index.html).

## WHAT KIND OF STUDENTS ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The Programme seeks students with demonstrated commitment to human rights and the potential to contribute effectively to the promotion and protection of human rights. We encourage applications from those who have been directly engaged in human rights work, for example as practising lawyers, journalists, or staff of human rights commissions or non-governmental organisations.

Applicants must 1) have obtained a degree of Bachelor of Laws or a degree in another appropriate discipline with good honours or an equivalent qualification; or 2) have been admitted to the professional practice of law in Hong Kong or in a territory or country other than Hong Kong.

Applicants may be required to pass a qualifying examination (IELTS or TOEFL) or submit satisfactory evidence of English proficiency if English is not their first language.

## ENQUIRIES

For further information, please view the LL.M in Human Rights website at [http://www.hku.hk/ccpl/human\\_rights](http://www.hku.hk/ccpl/human_rights).

For enquires, please contact Pamela Tam at [lawpgs@hkusua.hku.hk](mailto:lawpgs@hkusua.hku.hk).



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