

## **New Entry Requirements for the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws**

**This statement is issued by the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training. It applies to all students seeking admission to study the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws in Hong Kong from September 2008 onwards.**

### **Core Subjects**

To be eligible for admission to the PCLL, all students will have to demonstrate competence in 11 Core Subjects. These are

Contract	Civil Procedure
Tort	Criminal Procedure
Constitutional Law	Evidence
Criminal Law	Business Associations
Land Law	Commercial Law
Equity	

Graduates who hold a Bachelor of Laws degree from a university, other than one of the three universities offering such degrees in Hong Kong, or other recognized law qualification, acceptable to the PCLL providers may be able to demonstrate competence in these 11 Core Subjects when such have been completed as follows:

- (a) as part of their non-Hong Kong common law qualification; and / or
- (b) as a visiting “internal” student in one of the three universities awarding LLB degrees in Hong Kong and passing the requisite examination; and / or
- (c) by passing the relevant subject in the *Hong Kong Conversion Examination*

*for PCLL Admission.*

### **Top-up Subjects**

Students who have not passed all of the following three subjects at a university LLB / LLB double degrees / JD course in Hong Kong must also demonstrate competence in the following three Top-up Subjects:

Hong Kong Constitutional Law  
Hong Kong Land Law

Hong Kong Legal System

Such students can demonstrate competence in the three Top-up Subjects in any one of the following ways:

- (a) as a visiting “internal” student in one of the three universities awarding LLB degrees in Hong Kong and passing the requisite examination; and / or
- (b) as part of the Graduate Diploma in English and Hong Kong Law taught and awarded in Hong Kong; and / or
- (c) by passing the relevant subject in the *Hong Kong Conversion Examination for PCLL Admission*.

### **Transitional Arrangements**

Students who, on or before 1 September 2006, have successfully completed courses in Business Associations and / or Evidence which are currently recognized for admission to the PCLL will be exempted from the above requirements in respect of these two Core Subjects.

### **The Hong Kong Conversion Examinations for PCLL Admission**

Students who do not meet the above eligibility requirement for PCLL admission are **not** required to attend any conversion courses. There will not be any

mandatory Conversion Courses. Students may prepare for the Hong Kong Conversion Examinations for PCLL Admission through self-study or attend courses to prepare themselves for the Conversion Examinations. The attendance at such courses is in itself insufficient to demonstrate competence in the Core Subjects or Top-up Subjects.

Conversion Examinations will be offered twice a year in the following subjects,:

Core Subjects	Civil Procedure Criminal Procedure Commercial Law Evidence Business Associations
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Top-up Subjects	Hong Kong Constitutional Law Hong Kong Legal System Hong Kong Land Law
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**All other Core Subjects must be completed as part of a student's main law qualification.**

### **Arrangements for Conversion Examinations in 2007 and 2008**

Conversion Examinations will be offered on four separate occasions to enable students to meet the requirements for admission to the PCLL in September 2008 as follows:

April and August 2007 and  
January and June 2008

Exact dates will be notified in due course.

Students will not be required to complete all Conversion Examinations they need to sit in one attempt. Students are therefore encouraged to plan completion of the requisite subjects in stages. A student can also make a subsequent attempt at a

failed subject at a later examination session.

All PCLL providers will take into account a student's results obtained in an attempt at the Conversion Examination in June 2008 for admission to the PCLL in September 2008.

### **Application and Registration for the Hong Kong Conversion Examinations**

The Conversion Examinations will be supervised by the Conversion Examination Board set up by the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training. Full details of the Conversion Examinations, including syllabus outlines, application deadlines and fees, and examination timetables will soon be published in a comprehensive **Information and Application Pack**.

Enquiries regarding the Conversion Examinations should be directed to the Conversion Examination Board c/o:

Room S8, 3/F Admiralty Centre  
18 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong  
Phone Number: 3761 1123  
Fax Number: 2527 0489

### **For students who are completing or have completed their legal studies other than at one of the three universities in Hong Kong that award the LLB**

1. If you consider that you may be able to demonstrate your competence in all or any of the Core and Top-up Subjects without sitting the Conversion Examinations, you may submit an application to the Conversion Examination Board for an evaluation of your status. If you are evaluated as required to sit one or more Conversion Examinations you will be informed as soon as possible.
2. When you have been informed of your need to sit one or more Conversion Examinations, you can decide how and when you wish to attempt to complete the Examination(s). You will be informed of the latest date to register for the Examination of your choice.

3. If you do not submit an application for evaluation of your status, you may still register to sit for the Examination(s) directly.
4. It is entirely within your discretion to decide the sequence of subjects in which you will be examined. There is neither a minimum nor maximum number of subjects that any student can attempt at any one session. There will be no limit on the number of students who can sit an examination at one time, and no limit on the number of attempts. The standard of the examinations will be set and marked to be equivalent to the standard of an LLB degree awarded in Hong Kong.
5. The following deadlines in respect of the examinations in April 2007 should be noted:  
  
Deadline for submission of all materials for evaluation: 1 December 2006.  
Deadline for application to sit the Conversion Examination: 15 February 2007.
6. There will be fees payable for evaluation of your status and for registration to sit the Conversion Examinations. Details will be made available in the Information and Application Pack that will soon be published.

### **Exchange Students**

Graduates of one of the universities offering LLB degree in Hong Kong who completed some of the core courses in an overseas university as an exchange student should enquire whether they would be subject to the requirements set out in this document. Past graduates holding LLB degrees from a university in Hong Kong should also check their eligibility in light of the new requirements.

**IMPORTANT:** Even if you have been evaluated as meeting the eligibility requirements, or if you have passed all necessary Conversion Examinations, or hold a Bachelor of Laws degree or other recognized law qualification acceptable to the PCLL providers, there is no guarantee that you will be offered a place to study the PCLL at one of the providers in Hong Kong.

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