



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

JUPAS CODE: JS6810

**BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
(GOVERNMENT & LAWS) & BACHELOR OF LAWS
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

GOVERNMENT & LAWS

ADMISSIONS 2025



HKU POLITICS & LAW: 1924

The study of Government and Laws at The University of Hong Kong (HKU) harks back to 1924, when the Cambridge-educated jurist George Keeton LLD FBA (1902-1989) accepted an appointment to become the inaugural Lecturer of Political Science and Jurisprudence and later Reader in Law and Politics at HKU.

During Professor Keeton's stint at HKU, the future Dean of Laws and Vice-Provost of University College London (UCL) and heroic anti-Nazi intellectual proposed the creation of a 5-year double degree programme in political science and law. He co-established with his HKU students an academic society and a student-edited academic journal on law and public affairs of the highest standard, copies of which were circulated in university libraries across the world, illuminating topics ranging from ancient customary law to Traditional Chinese law to the latest legal reforms in Europe.

Keeton's departure from Hong Kong in 1927 and all the chaos in the lead up to the Second World War resulted in a premature end to all of the eminent jurist's visionary initiatives. In 1972, Keeton returned to HKU to be honoured with a Doctor of Laws (LLD) degree. In 1999, one decade after his death, his vision was fulfilled when the Bachelor of Social Sciences (Government and Laws) & Bachelor of Laws Double Degree Programme (HKU GLaws) opened its doors to some of the brightest students from Hong Kong and beyond.



WHAT IS HKU GLAWS?

HKU GLaws is a prestigious undergraduate programme that no serious student interested in law and public affairs can afford to overlook.

Since 1999, HKU GLaws has brought forth cohort after cohort of outstanding lawyers in public and private practice, administrative officers (AOs), business professionals, professors, journalists, and leaders of the non-profit sector. The Programme's mission is to educate principled leaders who will advance the public interest and the rule of law by offering innovative solutions to problems confronting our society and beyond.

WHY THIS COMBINATION?

Unlike the stand-alone law degree, HKU GLaws draws on multiple disciplines such as comparative politics, political philosophy and ethics, international relations, and public administration to nurture top-notch thinkers who are competent at attacking legal problems from all angles.

The most important developments in our present age regularly feature the intersection of government and laws, be it public health emergency responses to pandemics, transnational humanitarian crises, trade disputes between major powers, and so on. It is virtually impossible for anyone interested in a career in law, public service, international governance, international commerce, and non-governmental organisations to stand out from a crowd without a grasp of government and laws.

GLaws students enjoy the flexible option of graduating with one BSocSc (Govt & Laws) degree in 4 years, or an BSocSc (Govt & Laws) degree plus an LLB degree in 5 years. They are entitled to make an informed choice on whether to pursue the 4-Year Track or the 5-Year Track at the end of their second year.



**Good laws, if they are not obeyed,
do not constitute good government.**

ARISTOTLE (384-322 BC)

WHY HKU?

Be Part of an Eminent Tradition. HKU counts among its alumni Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the founding president of Modern China; Lim Bo Seng, Singapore's national hero; Fu Bingchang, China's ambassador to Belgium and the Soviet Union; judges of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal, and numerous first-class legal minds whose impact can be felt beyond Hong Kong.

Politics and public administration have been taught at HKU for more than one century, since 1915, training generations after generations of public servants. The combined study of law and politics at HKU dates back to 1924. The HKU LLB was first offered in 1969.

Study at Asia's Global University. HKU's Department of Politics and Public Administration and Faculty of Law are consistently ranked among the top in Asia and worldwide.





I recommend the HKU GLaws Programme without reservation. I have learnt to think critically about not only what the law is, but more importantly what the law ought to be, bearing in mind the justice and needs of our society. During my undergraduate studies, I was particularly inspired by the courses in political philosophy and international relations. I have grown tremendously in terms of analytical, interdisciplinary and empathy skills, all which are essential traits for any successful professional career and meeting the challenges of today's world.

VICTOR LUI, '14

Barrister, Temple Chambers
LLM, University of Cambridge



The HKU GLaws Programme has always been the correct choice for me. It was not just the training in analytical and critical thinking which proved to be invaluable to my career but my social awareness was greatly aroused. Glaws students will develop correct social values, gain positive attitudes and learn skill sets in human relations, leadership and management - all most useful for one's personal development.

ANGIE LO, '04

Partner,
Holman Fenwick Willan



The study of politics and law provided me with critical and analytical trainings. It equipped me with confidence in showing to the public who I am and what I believe, as an intellectually-nurtured GLawyer and singer. Although my career may appear to be irrelevant to this Programme, knowledge that I have acquired here helped me a lot in my daily life to tackle all kinds of problems - after all, we live a world in which politics, public administration and law abound.

SINNIE NG, '21

Singer-Songwriter
Member of Cantopop Girl Group and Vocal of Independent Band



The HKU GLaws Programme provides students with a unique, rigorous and in-depth intellectual exposure to various academic disciplines. The Programme structure allows for great flexibility, thus supporting students to pursue an intellectual journey of their choice and also thoroughly prepares a student for their professional career in the future. Furthermore, the Programme has opened doors for academic careers not just in Politics and Law, but also in Philosophy, and in my case, History. It was an amazing experience that not only had a positive impact on my career path but also my life.

DR. AMANDA ZHANG, '15

Lecturer, School of Historical Studies,
Birkbeck, University of London
DPhil, University of Oxford

4-YEAR TRACK: BSOCSC (GOVT & LAWS)

The 4-Year Track is especially suitable for students who are primarily interested in public service, journalism, non-profit management, or other non-law fields, such as business, but would like to gain a background in law.

Year 1

PPA Major Courses

Making Sense of Politics
One Faculty of Social Sciences Core
Introductory Course

Law Core Courses

Law of Contract I; Law of Contract II
Legal System of the Hong Kong SAR
Criminal Law I; Criminal Law II
Legal Research and Writing

Common Core Courses

One Common Core Course

English Language Courses/ Free Electives

Core University English or Free Electives

Year 3

PPA Major Courses

3 PPA Electives
Global Citizenship or Social Innovation

Law Core Courses

Guided Research

Common core courses

One Common Core Course

Chinese Language Courses/ Free Electives

Practical Chinese and Free Electives

Year 2

PPA Major Courses

Research Methods in PPA
Two PPA Gateway Courses

Law Core Courses

Law of Tort I; Law of Tort II
Constitutional Law
Administrative Law

Common Core Courses

Three Common Core Courses

Year 4

PPA Major Courses

5 PPA Electives and Capstone course

Law Core Courses

Introduction to Legal Theory

Common core courses

One Common Core Course

Chinese Language Courses/ Free Electives

Free Electives

5-YEAR TRACK: BSOCSC (GOVT&LAWS) & LLB

The 5-Year Track is designed for students who are keen on earning a qualifying law degree, which entitles one to apply for a place on a Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) programme, a prerequisite for legal practice in Hong Kong.

Year 1

PPA Major Courses

Making Sense of Politics
One Faculty of Social Sciences Core
Introductory Course

Law Core Courses

Law of Contract I; Law of Contract II
Legal System of the Hong Kong SAR
Criminal Law I; Criminal Law II
Legal Research and Writing

Common Core Courses

One Common Core Course

English Language Courses/ Free Electives

Core University English or Free Electives

Year 3

PPA Major Courses

3 PPA Electives
Global Citizenship or Social Innovation

Law Core Courses

Land Law I; Land Law II
Commercial Law
Business Associations

Chinese Language Courses/ Free Electives

Practical Chinese and Free Electives

Year 2

PPA Major Courses

Research Methods in PPA
Two PPA Gateway Courses

Law Core Courses

Law of Tort I; Law of Tort II
Constitutional Law
Administrative Law

Common Core Courses

Three Common Core Courses

Years 4-5

PPA Major Courses

5 PPA Electives and Capstone Course

Law Core Courses

Introduction to Chinese Legal System
Introduction to Legal Theory
Equity and Trusts I; Equity and Trusts II
Capstone Requirement
Disciplinary Electives

Chinese Language Courses/ Free Electives

Free Electives

CAREER PATHS

Employers look not only for employees who are skilled in one professional discipline, but also in possession of knowledge in multiple fields to address significant issues that confront modern public and private organisations.

HKU GLaws would enable you to acquire critical skills from a wide range of disciplines: political economy, philosophy, and law to strengthen your competitiveness. Knowledge of the law is considered an asset in many areas of employment. Most HKU GLaws graduates have found positions in the legal and government sectors, but others have also excelled in a diverse variety of careers such as journalism, business, academia, and non-governmental organisations.



The interdisciplinary and philosophical training offered by HKU GLaws has provided me with a strong foundation for rigorous intellectual analysis of complicated legal issues in litigation and arbitration.

GISELLE YUEN, '11

Vice President and
Assistant General Counsel,
JP Morgan
LLM, King's College London



Even with the benefit of hindsight and as a barrister now, I had absolutely no hesitation in choosing HKU GLaws over other options. The Programme was a precious and fruitful experience of self-discovery.

CONNIE LEE, '06

Barrister-at-Law,
Des Voeux Chambers
BCL, University of Oxford
Bar Scholar



I was very fortunate to have the privilege of reading the HKU GLaws double degree. The Programme is enriching, stimulating, and opens doors to diverse career paths. Among the many valuable things students learn is the ability to analyse the intricate dynamics between law and public administration. I have developed a keen interest in public law since university days and have benefited tremendously from the Programme in my current practice which has a public law element.

BONNIE CHENG, '07

Barrister-at-Law, Temple Chambers
LLM, Harvard University
MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy,
University of Oxford
Bar Scholar



I have made a lot of lifelong friends in my five years of university studies in HKU GLaws, and a lot of them have become my best friends. GLaws is also very intellectually nurturing. It prepares students with analytical thinking and a general awareness of what's happening around us. I found what I learned in classes to be truly relevant to my day-to-day work in the financial industry, even if my job is not directly related to politics, public administration or law.

EUGENIA CHAN, '11

Director, Barclays



Diverse and limitless - are the right words to describe the career paths of HKU GLaws graduates, whether belonging to the four-year or five-year tracks. Our diverse choices of career include becoming lawyers, public officials, professors, investment bankers, consultants, startup founders, Fortune 500 brand managers and airline pilots. The cross-disciplinary curriculum that characterises the GLaws experience offers students a unique view of the world and a deep understanding of both local and international issues. This definitely helps us to excel in our professional roles.

ANDREW KO, '13

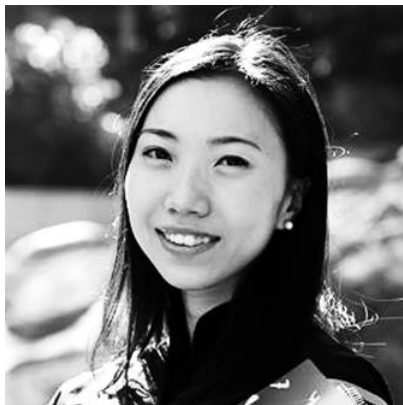
Pilot,
Cathay Pacific Airways



Speaking as a partner of a leading law firm, I affirm the fact that HKU GLaws would always be my first choice over all other options. GLaws blends knowledge and skills in politics with those of law, and takes the best of both worlds. This integration deeply challenged my critical thinking capabilities and allowed me to develop a unique angle in approaching problems and finding solutions, which in turn gave me an edge in advancing and sustaining my career. In view of the current political climate, Hong Kong needs lawyers and leaders who are not only good at legal techniques but also passionate about defending the rule of law and judicial independence.

ALVIN HO, '07

Partner and Head of Hong Kong,
Pinsent Masons



HKU GLaws is a multidisciplinary and challenging study programme, which allows students to have a broad perspective on international politics and law, while looking in-depth into political concepts and local social issues. With vibrant interaction with renowned professors and bright peers, the Programme has equipped us with the essential organisation and analytical skills, and critical thinking, which are important for any career, be it in law, public services or elsewhere.

VERONICA TSE, '09

Chief Corporate
Communications Manager,
MTR Corporation



I am proud to be a graduate of HKU GLaws. The Programme's interdisciplinary approach enabled me to broaden my perspectives of the society and the world, to think critically and creatively, and to become part of a wide network of outstanding alumni working in a vast range of sectors. These benefits continue to bring positive impact to my personal development and career progression.

LILY CHAN, '07

Structurer,
Huatai Financial Holdings
(Hong Kong) Limited

Masters in Finance, London Business
School
Chartered Financial Analyst



The HKU GLaws Programme perfectly blends the study of political science and law, while nurturing students to develop a holistic worldview in public affairs. The multidisciplinary approach in GLaws encourages us to reflect beyond statute books and cases, but analyse the nuances that bring about these circumstances. I particularly appreciate the international focus of GLaws that equips students with a long-term outlook of contemporary global challenges. GLawyers are also eager to innovate out-of-classroom learning experience for their peers and contribute to public policy debates, which is manifested in the work of the Government and Laws Committee.

ANFIELD TAM, '24

PCLL Candidate, The University of Hong Kong
Director (2020-2021),
Government and Laws Committee
Undergraduate Representative,
BSS (GL) & LLB Board of Studies (2021-2022)



The study of politics and law involves rigorously training your analytical and public speaking skills. You also develop an ability to be comfortable with uncertainty, as the legal and political landscape is something that constantly evolves. Further, for those particularly interested in learning about or seeking a career in Asia, studying GLaws at HKU will allow you to learn up-close about political, economic, social developments in Hong Kong, mainland China and Asia, as well as engage in discussions with top-class professors in this area. As part of your graduation Capstone, you will also have the opportunity to directly help their research.

IRENE HARIM LEE, '22

Trainee Solicitor, Latham & Watkins
International graduate,
Republic of Korea



GOVERNMENT & LAWS COMMITTEE HKU

LEX INJUSTA NON EST LEX

Government and Laws Committee HKU (GLC) is the flagship student-led experiential learning initiative of the GLaws Programme at HKU.

Bringing together students, practitioners, and experts from all over the world, GLC promotes robust debates about cutting-edge legal and policy problems that lie at the nexus of the international and domestic levels. GLC has held numerous webinars featuring real time discussions with some of the most prominent jurists and public servants alive including but not limited to a former Chief Justice of Canada, a former Chief Justice of Australia, a former President of the International Criminal Court, a former Vice President of the International Court of Justice, and a former Vice President of the European Court of Human Rights.

As the sole official student community of the GLaws Programme, GLC has organised orientation activities for 7 GLaws cohorts, together consisting of some 350 freshers.



STUDENT-LED EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Since 2018, GLC has published over 1,200 pages of high-quality content on law and public affairs in no less than 2 dozen issues of *Public Jurist*, the official student magazine of HKU GLaws and 3 volumes of *Hong Kong Journal of Public Affairs*, now recognised as a student-edited journal of the Faculty of Law by the Faculty's official Legal Scholarship Blog.

Contributors to *Public Jurist* hail from world-leading universities such as Harvard, Cambridge, and the National University of Singapore, among numerous others.

GLC publications featured interviews with preeminent leaders in law and public affairs, including Lord Hoffmann and Hon. Beverley McLachlin, non-permanent judges of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal; Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, former President of the United Kingdom Supreme Court; Professor Pascal Lamy, former Director of the World Trade Organization; and Dr. Tonio Borg, former Deputy Prime Minister of Malta and European Commissioner for Health.

Follow GLC: [@hku_glaws](https://www.instagram.com/hku_glaws) (Instagram) | www.facebook.com/hkuglc (Facebook)





The GLaws Programme has offered me a rewarding experience on multiple fronts. On the one hand, it cultivates intellectual rigour on the intricate and interconnected areas of politics and law thanks to its well-structured curriculum. On the other hand, it opens doubled academic and career opportunities - supported by some of the brightest minds in the Department of Politics and Public Administration and Faculty of Law. Furthermore, the Government and Laws Committee, the flagship student body of GLaws, significantly enhances international exposure for GLawyers through its esteemed publication, *Public Jurist*. My involvement in the Committee has truly been irreplaceable, without which my journey at GLaws will be incomplete.

CARRSON PANG

BSocSc (Govt&Laws) & LLB II
President (2024-2025),
Government and Laws Committee



The GLaws Programme not only provides students with insights on the theoretical aspects of the political-legal interface, but also offers them the chance to incorporate knowledge when understanding real-life public affairs. The interdisciplinary training that I received from GLaws has enabled me to critically evaluate pressing issues through the lenses of political science, public administration and law, which is of indisputable importance to obtaining a comprehensive understanding of the world. My experience on the Government and Laws Committee endowed me with opportunities to meet celebrated scholars from around the globe, which proved to be precious learning experiences beyond the regular curriculum.

ALICE LAI

BSocSc (Govt&Laws) & LLB V
President (2021-2022),
Government and Laws Committee



The HKU GLaws Programme has offered me an all-rounded and inspiring education. Backed by two faculties, GLawyers are encouraged to think across disciplines, conduct in-depth analyses, and be proactive to explore more. My involvement in the Government and Laws Committee has profoundly enriched my journey as a GLawyer. The Committee is dedicated to providing GLawyers with the opportunities to delve into the intricate nexus between public affairs and law through various initiatives and perspectives, where GLawyers can exchange ideas and interact with individuals within and beyond campus. I sincerely invite all of you to join us in uncovering the vast realm of knowledge and invaluable experiences that await.

CAROL CHAN

BSocSc (Govt&Laws) & LLB III
Director (2023-2024),
Government and Laws Committee
Undergraduate Representative,
BSS (GL) & LLB Board of Studies (2023-2024)



The GLaws Programme has made me increasingly proficient in comprehending problems that intertwine political science and public law. I am attracted to the specialist streams offered by the Department of Politics and Public Administration, which are tailored to students' interests in various public issues. In the study of International Relations, I have developed global perspectives that I can apply in my role as editor of Government and Laws Committee's various publications, as well as to the wide array of career options available to GLaws graduates. Without hesitation, I am confident that GLaws is and will be pertinent to both the legal and political spheres.

JENNY MA

BSocSc (Govt&Laws) & LLB II
Director (2024-2025),
Government and Laws Committee

THE PROGRAMME DIRECTORS

The Directors from the Department of Politics and Public Administration and the Faculty of Law are the academic leaders of the Programme.

Professor Wai-Fung Lam Director (Politics and Public Administration) of HKU GLaws

Professor Lam finished his undergraduate study at the Chinese University of Hong Kong; and received a Ph.D. in Public Policy from Indiana University, Bloomington. He is an expert in institutional policy analysis, the commons, sustainability, social innovation, water management, civil society, and public governance.

Professor Lam is Director of the Centre for Civil Society and Governance at HKU, which conducts academic/impact research on rural sustainability, social inclusion, business sustainability, AI and public governance, and nonprofit governance. Professor Lam has served on the editorial committees of *Public Administration Review* (PAR), *International Review of Administrative Sciences* (IRAS), *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis* (JCPA), *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* (NVSQ), and *Asian Politics and Policy* (APP), and is co-editor of *The Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Administration* (APJPA).

Professor Peter Chau, '06 Co-Director (Law) of HKU GLaws

Professor Chau is an alumnus of HKU GLaws. After completing his double degree, he completed an MPhil and a DPhil at the University of Oxford, specializing in legal and political philosophy. He has a broad interest in philosophy of criminal law and private law, and has written on topics such as the rationales of punishment, poverty as a mitigating factor in criminal sentencing, exclusion of improperly obtained evidence in criminal trials, and justification of tort liability. His research has appeared in, amongst others, *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, *Criminal Justice Ethics*, *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence*, and *Criminal Law and Philosophy*.

Professor Trevor T. W. Wan, '22 Co-Director (Law) of HKU GLaws

Professor Wan graduated from HKU GLaws with double First Class Honours and obtained an LLM from Harvard Law School afterwards where he was the Hong Kong Jockey Club Fellow. His research harnesses interdisciplinary approaches drawn mainly from political science, among other fields, to study comparative constitutional and administrative law, coronial law and forensic jurisprudence. His work has appeared, or is forthcoming, in leading peer-reviewed periodicals including the *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, *Public Law*, *German Law Journal*, *Judicial Review*, *Asian Journal of Comparative Law*, *Statute Law Review*, and *Journal of Criminal Law*.

JUPAS ADMISSIONS

Minimum Entrance Requirements for HKDSE

Core Subjects	Minimum Level
CHINESE LANGUAGE	4
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	5
CITIZENSHIP AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	Attained (A)
MATHEMATICS COMPULSORY PART	3
ANY 2 SUBJECTS	3

GLaws is consistently amongst the top 10 HKU programmes in terms of JUPAS admissions. In 2024, a total of 398 students applied to GLaws (JS6810). As with previous years, only a minority of applicants who placed GLaws in Band A were given offers.

Admissions Scores of HKDSE Applicants Admitted (2024)

Selection Principle	Upper Quartile	Median	Lower Quartile
Best 6 subjects	39	38	36

For applicants with more than one sitting of the HKDSE, only the best results in Years 2024 and 2025 will be considered.

NON-JUPAS ADMISSIONS

Applications based on qualifications other than the HKDSE will be assessed based on the supporting documents provided, such as past academic records, personal statements, and referees' report. Interviews may be required.

TUITION FEES

Tuition fees for the first four years of studies will be the same as the standard fees for other undergraduate programmes. For the optional year(s) of studies for the LLB, tuition fees will be set at a level higher than the standard fees.



GOVERNMENT & LAWS
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

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The information in this publication is correct at the time of publishing in October 2024. The Department of Politics and Public Administration and The University of Hong Kong reserve the right to alter or withdraw courses and amend other details without prior notice.