

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
FACULTY OF LAW AND FACULTY OF SCIENCE**

**Bachelor of Science (BSc) and Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Curricula**

**CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT**

**The LLB curriculum**

The LLB curriculum consists of six different types of courses which are taught in distinctive learning modes. All courses in the LLB curriculum are 6-credit in value. We use 150 hours of student learning activities (including 36 contact hours) as the norm for a 6-credit course, except for the experiential courses which normally involve 120 to 150 hours of student learning activities (including approximately 36 contact hours). Some of the courses are assessed with 100% continuous assessment. For courses assessed by a combination of coursework and examination, the actual percentages may range from 20 to 80% of respectively continuous assessment and in-hall examinations or vice versa. The Head of Department, on this basis, will ensure a proper balance in the allocation of weight to different modes of assessment. The six categories of law courses are summarised as follows:

**1. Introductory courses (6 credits, 150 hours of student learning activities)**

These are mostly first year courses emphasizing foundational legal concepts; basic institutional framework; essential legal skills such as case reading, legal research and writing and communication skills, and statutory interpretation. They also include courses on cross-disciplinary knowledge, as well as linguistic/technical skills. Introductory courses are taught mainly in lecture/tutorial format and assessments are in the form of periodical assignments, short research papers and in-hall examinations, with a total output of approx. 5000 to 6000 words.

**2. Foundation/survey courses (6 credits, 150 hours of student learning activities)**

These courses are the core building blocks of legal education and the foundation for legal practice. Each course in this category provides a comprehensive survey of a specific area of law. These courses are taught in lecture/tutorial format and assessments are mainly in the form of in-hall examinations, with a total output of approx. 5000 to 6000 words.

**3. Seminar courses (6 credits, 150 hours of student learning activities)**

These courses offer specialized/advanced legal or cross-disciplinary knowledge. They are taught in seminar format with heavy reliance on extensive reading before the seminars and active participation in class discussion. These courses aim to further enhance students' knowledge of legal concepts as well as analytical and evaluative skills. Assessment for this category of courses is by way of a combination of class presentation, take-home examination and/or research papers, with a total output of approx. 5000 to 6000 words.

#### **4. Research courses (6 credits, 150 hours of student learning activities)**

These courses aim to provide students with theoretical insights and cross-disciplinary knowledge, as well as an opportunity to pursue advanced and independent research. These courses try to help students develop original and critical thinking through independent research. Research courses are assessed by a single research paper of at least 6,000 words or a combination of a research paper and a class presentation.

#### **5. Experiential courses (6 credits, 120 to 150 hours of student learning activities)**

Experiential courses include internships and placements in Hong Kong and Mainland China, and the clinical legal course. These courses aim to familiarize students with the social environment in which law operates and the practical dimension of legal studies. They aim to offer opportunities for students to apply and test their legal knowledge and critical and analytical legal skills they have learned in other courses. Students in this category of courses are assessed by a report of approx. 5000 words with intensive feedback from academic staff and/or practitioners.

#### **6. Compulsory moot competition and mediation training (6 credits, 150 hours of student learning activities)**

Compulsory moot and mediation training aim to train students to integrate legal knowledge with various types of legal skills including conducting legal research, writing of submissions and memorandums, mediation and advocacy skills. Students in this course are assessed by their written submission and a mediation report of approx. 2500 words each and performance in mediation and advocacy.

Study load of 156 credits of Law Professional Cores usually requires 3120 to 3900 of student learning hours.

### **The BSc curriculum**

The BSc degree curriculum consists of six major types of courses based on the learning activities. The majority of courses in the programmes are 6 credits. Examples of the contact hour requirements for the six categories of courses are described as follows:

#### **1. Lecture-based courses (6 credits, 120 to 180 hours of student learning activities)**

Contact hours for 6-credit course: 36 hours of lectures and 12 hours of tutorial/discussion

These courses are taught predominantly by lectures and tutorials. Assessment is by a combination of examination (0-80%) and continuous assessment (20-100%). Continuous assessment tasks include written assignments (totaling no more than 8,000 words) such as essays and project reports, and oral presentations. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.

## **2. Lecture with laboratory component courses (6 credits, 120 to 180 hours of student learning activities)**

Contact hours for 6-credit course: 24 hours of lectures, 24 hours of laboratory and 6 hours of tutorial

These courses are taught by a combination of lectures and laboratory/practical sessions. Assessment is by a combination of examination (0-70%) and continuous assessment (30-100%). Continuous assessment tasks include written assignments (totaling no more than 8,000 words) such as essays, laboratory reports, and project reports, and oral presentations. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.

## **3. Laboratory and Workshop courses (6 credits, 120 to 180 hours of student learning activities)**

Contact hours: 48 hours of laboratory or workshop and 12 hours of tutorial

These courses aim at enriching the student's research skills and encourage group work through hands-on activities in which science research is introduced. Students are expected to spend an additional 100 hours on self-study, preparation work for the laboratory, and writing reports. Continuous assessment tasks (100%) include written assignments (totaling no more than 8,000 words) such as laboratory report for each experiment (normally no more than 10 experiments) and essays. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.

## **4. Project-based courses (6 credits, 120 to 180 hours of student learning activities; or 12 credits, 240 to 260 hours of student learning activities)**

Contact hours: 36 to 45 hours for 6-credit course, 72 to 90 hours for 12-credit course

These courses aim at providing students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interest under the supervision of a teacher. The teacher normally meets with the student weekly to discuss project progress. Assessment task is normally through research reports or a dissertation (totaling no more than 10,000 words for a 6-credit course and 20,000 words for a 12-credit course). Oral presentation will form part of the assessment. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.

## **5. Field camps (6 credits, 120 to 180 hours of student learning activities)**

Contact hours: at least 72 hours in the field

These courses aim at giving practical experience in a variety of contexts. Fieldwork may be conducted locally or overseas during reading week or summer. Fieldwork courses have a small number of lecture hours but are predominately practical in nature. Assessment tasks (100%) normally include the following outputs (totaling no more than 8,000 words): field assignments and reports (normally no more than 10 field assignments). Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.

## **6. Internship (6 credits, 180 hours of student learning activities)**

Students have to undertake at least 160 hours of internship work

Internships aim to offer students the opportunity to gain work experience related to their major of study. The teacher meets with the student regularly to discuss work progress. Students have to undertake at least 160 hours of internship work arranged formally. Assessment tasks (100%) normally include the following outputs: a written report of no more than 2000 words and feedback from the internship supervisor and an oral presentation on students' internship experience. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.

Study load of 96 credits of BSc major usually requires 1920 to 2880 of student learning hours.

### **Law and Science Interdisciplinary courses (6 credits, 150 hours of student learning activities)**

Contact hours: a norm of 36 hours for a 6-credit course

Law and Science interdisciplinary courses consist of two core courses (Law, Science and Innovation; and Patent Law) and two elective courses, the latter to be chosen from a list of options. The former are intended to provide a solid foundation for students enrolled in the double degree to pursue further study in areas where law and science intersect. Further study will be taken in the form of interdisciplinary elective courses to be chosen from a designated list. These courses mainly concern the regulation of science and innovation but also covers aspects of the application of technology to solving legal problems. The courses are taught in seminar format with heavy reliance on extensive reading before the seminars and active participation in class discussion. These courses aim to further enhance students' knowledge of legal and scientific concepts as well as analytical and evaluative skills.

Assessment for this category of courses is by way of examination (typically no more than 80%) and continuous assessment (the remainder; consisting of e.g. class presentation and/or essays/research papers), with a total output of approx. 5000 to 6000 words.