



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

**JUPAS CODE: JS6810**

**BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
(GOVERNMENT & LAWS) &  
BACHELOR OF LAWS**

# **GOVERNMENT & LAWS**

**ADMISSIONS 2024**



# 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 LL.D. 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 (LL.D) 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.

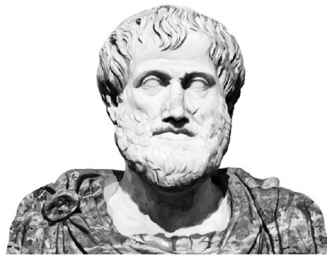
Since 1999, HKU GLaws has brought forth cohort after cohort of outstanding lawyers in public and private practice, administrative officers (AOs), business professionals, professors, journalists, and leaders of the non-profit sector. The Programme's mission is to educate principled leaders who will advance 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)**

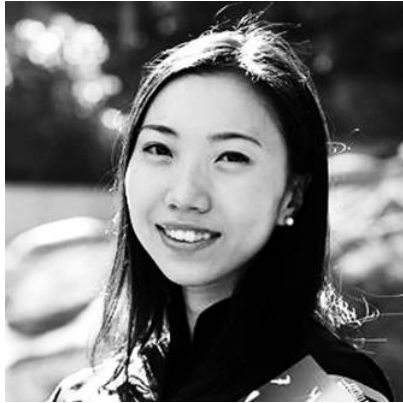
# WHY HKU?

**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.





**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



**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



**I commend 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 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**

Research Fellow,  
School of Modern Languages,  
University of St Andrews  
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  
Law and Society  
Legal Research and Writing I

### Common core courses

Two Common Core Courses

### English language courses/ free electives

Core University English or Free Elective

## 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  
Two PPA Gateway Courses

### Law core courses

Law of Tort I; Law of Tort II  
Constitutional Law  
Legal Research and Writing II  
Administrative Law

### Common core courses

Two 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  
Law and Society  
Legal Research and Writing I

### Common core courses

Two Common Core Courses

### English language courses/ free electives

Core University English or Free Elective

## Year 3

### PPA major courses

3 PPA electives  
Global Citizenship or Social Innovation

### Law core courses

Criminal Law I; Criminal Law II  
Land Law I; Land Law II

### Chinese language courses/ free electives

Practical Chinese and Free Electives

## Year 2

### PPA major courses

Research Methods  
Two PPA Gateway Courses

### Law core courses

Law of Tort I; Law of Tort II  
Constitutional Law  
Legal Research and Writing II  
Administrative Law

### Common core courses

Two Common Core Courses

## Years 4-5

### PPA major courses

5 PPA electives and Capstone course

### Law core courses

Introduction to Chinese Law  
Commercial Law  
Introduction to Legal Theory  
Business Associations  
Mooting and Dispute Resolution (Capstone)  
Equity and Trusts I; Equity and Trusts II  
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



**The thought-provoking education offered by HKU GLaws has empowered me to always challenge my own limits. This ethos has landed me positions far removed from government and laws, such as working with the directors' office of a Hong Kong listed conglomerate, as well as taking up leading positions in various non-profit communities. Today, I am advancing my career in a leading law firm, backed by solid training in government and laws and diverse experiences in business. HKU GLaws is the right choice for every outstanding student who would not settle for less; who would constantly explore new opportunities and acquire multidisciplinary knowledge to understand the world better than their peers.**

**SHARON TAM, '13**  
Senior Associate,  
Mayer Brown



**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,  
Pinsent Masons



**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



**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



**Reading HKU GLaws opened up a world of possibilities for me. The interdisciplinary legal and political studies offered by the Programme had sharpened my inquisitiveness and analytical power. With an inspired and enriched mind, I was always encouraged to look for creative solutions to problems.**

**I was formerly Assistant Representative of Hong Kong, China to the World Trade Organization, a role that constantly requires me to deploy solid research skills and sophisticated techniques of negotiations.**

**HEIDI IP, '09**

Principal Assistant Secretary for  
Transport and Logistics  
Hong Kong SAR Government



**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**

PCLL candidate,  
The University of Hong Kong  
International student,  
Republic of Korea



## GOVERNMENT & LAWS COMMITTEE HKU

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Government and Laws Committee HKU (GLC) is the flagship student-led experiential learning initiative of the BSocSc (Govt&Laws) & LLB 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 6 GLaws cohorts, together consisting of some 300 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 Lord Sumption, 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 and Consumer Policy.

Follow GLC: IG [@hku\\_glaws](#) | [www.facebook.com/hkuglc](http://www.facebook.com/hkuglc)





**GLaws has offered a sturdy education on understanding the cutting-edge issues that lie at the nexus of law and public affairs in the world. With the robust support from both faculties surrounded by the sharpest minds, we are trained to think inter-disciplinarily, to discuss critically and to solve issues innovatively. Serving in Government and Laws Committee outside of the classroom has also been equally enlightening, GLC has launched different initiatives including the Global Dialogues Sepentia which gives me invaluable international exposure. These dynamic experiences have been undoubtedly transformative, and I invite you to join us on this journey.**

**SCARLET WONG**

BSocSc (Govt&Laws) & LLB V  
President (2020-2021),  
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 IV  
President (2021-2022),  
Government and Laws Committee





**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**

BSocSc (Govt&Laws) & LLB V  
Undergraduate Member,  
BSS (GL) & LLB Board of Studies  
(2021-2022)



**Besides offering a gratifying studying experience, the GLaws programme guarantees comprehensive intellectual development: the study of law rigorously trained my analytical abilities, while political science enhanced my empirical knowledge and introduced me to the nuances of normativity. Meanwhile, participating in the Government and Laws Committee has been a formative experience in my life, not least by allowing me to interview renowned politicians and world leaders, from whom I learnt priceless lessons I could never have learnt otherwise.**

**JASPER JUNG**

BSocSc (Govt&Laws) & LLB V  
Director (2020-2021),  
Government and Laws Committee

# MEET THE PROGRAMME DIRECTORS

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

## **DR KWAN NOK CHAN** **Director (PPA) of HKU GLaws**

Dr Chan's primary research concerns the institutions that shape the consumption and distortion of information in comparative settings. His current research explores how bureaucrats and other policy actors process policy information and the impact of political institutions on their choices. His most recent projects deal with these issues in the context of digital governance and regulation.

He holds a PhD Degree in Public Policy from the O'Neill School and the Department of Political Science, Indiana University Bloomington. His research has appeared in *Governance, Regulation & Governance, Policy Studies Journal, Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis, and Journal of Politics*.

More recent studies on social perceptions have been published by *Nonprofit & Voluntary Sector Quarterly* and *World Development Sustainability*.

## **DR PETER CHAU, '06** **Director (Law) of HKU GLaws**

Dr 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*.

# JUPAS ADMISSIONS

## Minimum entrance requirements for HKDSE

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

GLaws is consistently amongst the top 10 HKU programmes in terms of JUPAS admissions. In 2023, a total of 410 students applied to HKU 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 (2023)

Selection Principle	Upper Quartile	Median	Lower Quartile
Best 6 subjects*	41	38	38

\*The baseline may be modified for intakes of 2024-25 due to curriculum change for Citizenship and Social Development / Liberal Studies

For applicants with more than one sitting of HKDSE, only the best results in Years 2023 and 2024 will be considered.

## NON-JUPAS ADMISSIONS

Applications based on qualifications other than the HKDSE will be assessed based on 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 (the fee for 2023-2024 was HK\$42,100 per year). 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

**Department of Politics and Public Administration**

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The information in this publication is correct at the time of publishing in October 2023. 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.