

## REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS IN ARBITRATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION [LLM(ARB&DR)]

*These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the LLM(ARB&DR) curriculum in the academic year 2025-2026 and thereafter.*

*(See also [General Regulations](#) and [Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula](#).)*

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### **LLMADR1. Admission Requirements**

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Laws in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, a candidate

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
  - (b)
    - (i) shall hold the degree of Bachelor of Laws with at least second class honours of this University, or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; or
    - (ii) shall hold a degree in a discipline other than law with at least second class honours of this University, or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and have at least two years of relevant experience and professional qualifications; or
    - (iii) shall have obtained either the Common Professional Examination of England and Wales or the Common Professional Examination Certificate of this University provided that in either case the candidate has also obtained a degree with at least a second class honours of this University, or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
  - (c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b).
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### **LLMADR2. Advanced Standing**

Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully no more than 5 years before admission to the curriculum. Candidates who are awarded Advanced Standing will not be granted any further credit transfer for those studies for which Advanced Standing has been granted. The amount of credits to be

granted for Advanced Standing shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty of Law, in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) a candidate may be granted a total of not more than 9 credits (one course) for Advanced Standing unless otherwise approved by the Senate; and
  - (b) credits granted for Advanced Standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty of Law but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.
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### **LLMADR3. Period of Study**

- (a) The curriculum for the degree of Master of Laws in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution shall normally require one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester including summer semester.
  - (b) Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years in the case of full-time candidates and three academic years in the case of part-time candidates, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty of Law.
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### **LLMADR4. Completion of Curriculum**

To complete the curriculum for the degree of Master of Laws in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, a candidate shall

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed under TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
  - (b) satisfactorily complete 72 credits in the case of a full-time study in one academic year, including a capstone experience, or 36 credits in the case of a part-time study in each of the two academic years of study, including a capstone experience.
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### **LLMADR5. Selection of Courses**

- (a) Candidates shall select their courses in accordance with these regulations and the guidelines specified in the syllabus before the beginning of each semester. Changes to the selection of courses may be made only during the add/drop period of the semester in which the course begins, and such changes shall not be reflected in the transcript of the candidate. Requests for changes after the designated add/drop period of the semester shall not normally be considered.
- (b) Withdrawal from courses beyond the designated add/drop period will not be permitted, except for medical reasons or with the approval of the Board of the

Faculty of Law. Withdrawal without permission will result in a fail grade in the relevant course(s).

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**LLMADR6.                      Dissertation**

- (a) Candidates must successfully complete LLAW6022 Advanced Research Methodology in order to be eligible to submit a dissertation.
  - (b) Candidates, whether full-time or part-time, who elect to submit a dissertation shall propose a title for the dissertation, secure a supervisor, and secure the approval of the Programme Director by November 30 of the academic year in which they intend to submit a dissertation. Candidates shall submit the dissertation no later than May 1 of that academic year.
  - (c) In exceptional circumstances a candidate may apply to the Board of the Faculty of Law for an extension of the period within which the dissertation must be submitted. Such application must be made at least one month before the prescribed date of submission. Late applications for extension will not be considered, except for medical reasons or with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law.
  - (d) The candidate shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents his or her own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree. The examiners may require an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation.
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**LLMADR7.                      Progression in Curriculum**

- (a) Candidates shall normally be required to undertake a combination of courses and study requirements as prescribed in these regulations and the syllabus, and in the manner as specified below, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty of Law:
  - (i) Candidates who are on a one-year full-time mode of study shall normally be required to take not fewer than 27 credits nor more than 36 credits in any one semester (not including the summer semester).
  - (ii) Candidates who are on a two-year part-time mode of study shall normally be required to take not fewer than 9 credits nor more than 18 credits in any one semester (not including the summer semester).
  - (iii) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty of Law may give permission for candidates to exceed the required curriculum study load of 72 credits.
  - (iv) In each case under (i) or (ii) above, the total number of credits taken shall not exceed the required curriculum study load of 72 credits for the normative period of study specified in LLMADR3(a).

- (b) Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The combined total number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing and credit transfer shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the curriculum of the candidates during their candidature at the University.
  - (c) Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty of Law, candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:
    - (i) failed to complete successfully 45 or more credits (under one-year full-time study) or 18 or more credits (under two-year part-time study) in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters, or
    - (ii) failed to achieve an average semester GPA of 1.5 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester); or
    - (iii) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in LLMADR3(b).
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#### **LLMADR8. Exemption**

Candidates may be exempted, with or without special conditions attached, up to 9 credits (one course) of the requirements prescribed in the regulations and the syllabus governing the curriculum with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law, except in the case of a capstone experience. Approval for exemption of a capstone experience may be granted only by the Senate with good reasons. Candidates who are so exempted must replace the number of exempted credits with courses of the same credit value.

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#### **LLMADR9. Assessment**

- (a) Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.
- (b) Candidates suspended under Statute XXXI shall not be allowed to take, present themselves for, and participate in any assessments during the period of suspension, unless otherwise permitted by the Senate.
- (c) Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.

- (d) Candidates are required to make up for failed courses in the following manner:
    - (i) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
    - (ii) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
    - (iii) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
    - (iv) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.
  - (e) Where candidates are permitted or required to present themselves for re-assessment/ re-examination/ re-submission/ assessment in an alternative course under (d) above, the new grade obtained together with the previous F grade shall be recorded on the transcript and be included in the calculation of the semester GPA, year GPA and the cumulative GPA. Such candidates shall not be eligible for any mark of distinction.
  - (f) There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.
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#### **LLMADR10. Absence from Examination**

Candidates who are unable through illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the First Semester of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within seven calendar days of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

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#### **LLMADR11. Requirements for Graduation**

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Laws in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, candidates shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) complete the curriculum requirements prescribed in the regulations and syllabuses within the maximum period of registration and satisfy the examiner in not fewer

than 72 credits in accordance with the regulations governing examinations procedures, which shall include the successful completion of a capstone experience as specified in the syllabus; and

- (c) have achieved a Cumulative GPA of 1.50 or above.

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**LLMADR12.            Grading System**

Individual courses shall be graded in accordance with TPG9 (a) or (c) of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula as determined by the Board of Examiners.

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**LLMADR13.            Classification of Awards**

Upon successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded the degree with distinction as determined by the Board of Examiners, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

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# **SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS IN ARBITRATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

## **COURSEWORK**

The Board of Examiners shall decide what proportion of the final assessment for each course shall be determined by written or other work carried out during the course of study. Candidates will be informed at the beginning of the course of the relative proportions of the final assessment to be derived from coursework and from written examinations which will be held at the end of the teaching programme.

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## **OBJECTIVES**

Hong Kong is an ideal venue for the arbitration and mediation of disputes arising from international commercial and financial investment in Hong Kong, Mainland China and the rest of Asia. As the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has stated its goal of further enhancing Hong Kong as a leading regional and international centre for dispute resolution, the Faculty of Law is offering the degree of Master of Laws in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution to train professionals with the necessary knowledge, skills and expertise in dispute resolution methods, particularly negotiation, mediation and arbitration. This specialised postgraduate degree programme is part of a comprehensive arbitration and dispute resolution teaching and research initiative of the Faculty of Law. This initiative seeks to (a) better serve the dispute resolution needs of Hong Kong's business, commercial and broader community; and (b) advance the Faculty as a regional and international centre of excellence in the teaching and research of negotiation, mediation, arbitration and dispute resolution generally.

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## **DISSERTATION**

An 18-credit dissertation shall comprise a paper with required length ranging from 16,000 to 20,000 words on a legal topic approved by the Programme Director.

A 9-credit dissertation shall comprise a paper with required length ranging from 8,000 to 10,000 words on a legal topic approved by the Programme Director.

The dissertation must provide evidence of original research work and a capacity for critical legal analysis and argument.

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## **STRUCTURE**

Candidates are required to complete 72 credits, including the required compulsory courses and a capstone experience in accordance with the regulations for this degree and the syllabus as set out in either A or B below.

In relation to candidates with a degree in law to whom Course List A. below applies, in

addition to the three compulsory courses and one capstone course, candidates must choose at least two designated electives. Candidates may choose up to two other electives from courses not listed on the Course List below, but listed as Electives on the Course List for the General LLM programme.

In relation to candidates with a degree in a discipline other than law to whom Course List B. below applies, in addition to the six compulsory courses and one capstone course, candidates must choose one designated elective.



## COURSE LIST

*(Each of the courses listed below carries 9 credits unless otherwise stated)*

### **A. Candidates with a degree in law<sup>1</sup> shall follow the following syllabus:**

#### **Compulsory Courses (27 credits)**

*(Candidates must complete three of the following courses)*

LLAW6138 Arbitration law

LLAW6157 Arbitration practice, procedure and drafting

LLAW6161 Mediation

#### **Capstone Course (9 credits)**

*(Candidates must complete the following course)*

LLAW6135 Alternative dispute resolution

#### **Designated Electives (18-36 credits)**

*(Candidates must complete at least two of the following courses)*

LLAW6054 9-credit Dissertation#

LLAW6022 Advanced research methodology

LLAW6241 Arbitration award writing

LLAW6185 China investment law

LLAW6186 China trade law

LLAW6238 Comparative arbitration in Asia

LLAW6174 Family mediation

LLAW6222 Financial dispute resolution: Hong Kong and international perspectives

LLAW6099 International commercial arbitration

LLAW6321 International commercial litigation

LLAW6007 International dispute settlement

LLAW6294 International investment: structuring, protecting, and resolving related disputes

LLAW6230 Law and practice of investment treaty arbitration

LLAW6324 Mediation advocacy

LLAW6163 Negotiation: settlement and advocacy

LLAW6196 Preventative law: approaches to conflict prevention and resolution

*# Enrollment in this course requires prior approval by the Programme Director. Candidates must successfully complete LLAW6022 Advanced Research Methodology in order to be eligible to submit a dissertation.*

#### **Other Electives (0-18 credits)**

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<sup>1</sup> Candidates with a degree in law from a non-common law jurisdiction may take up to three 9-credit courses of foundational law courses among the eight 9-credit courses of this programme, subject to approval of the Programme Director. Any of these foundational courses may also be used in place of the elective(s). The foundational law courses are as follows:-

LLAW6158 Contract law

LLAW6159 Evidence

LLAW6160 Legal system and methods

*Candidates should refer to the Electives listed under the Course List for the syllabus for the general degree of Master of Laws. No more than two courses may be taken from any single Cluster in the Electives except for the Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Cluster.*

**B. Candidates with a degree in a discipline other than law shall follow the following syllabus:**

First Year (36 credits)

**Compulsory Courses (27 credits)**

*(Candidates must complete three of the following courses)*

LLAW6158 Contract law

LLAW6159 Evidence

LLAW6160 Legal system and methods

**Capstone Course (9 credits)**

*(Candidates must complete the following course)*

LLAW6135 Alternative dispute resolution

Second year (36 credits)

**Compulsory Courses (27 credits)**

*(Candidates must complete three of the following courses)*

LLAW6138 Arbitration law

LLAW6157 Arbitration practice, procedure and drafting

LLAW6161 Mediation

**Designated Electives (9 credits)**

*(Candidates must complete one of the following courses)*

LLAW6022 Advanced research methodology

LLAW6241 Arbitration award writing

LLAW6185 China investment law

LLAW6186 China trade law

LLAW6238 Comparative arbitration in Asia

LLAW6174 Family mediation

LLAW6222 Financial dispute resolution: Hong Kong and international perspectives

LLAW6099 International commercial arbitration

LLAW6321 International commercial litigation

LLAW6007 International dispute settlement

LLAW6294 International investment: structuring, protecting, and resolving related disputes

LLAW6230 Law and practice of investment treaty arbitration

LLAW6324 Mediation advocacy

LLAW6163 Negotiation: settlement and advocacy

LLAW6196 Preventative law: approaches to conflict prevention and resolution

***NOTE: Not all courses will be offered in any given year. For actual courses available, please refer to annual course offerings.***

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