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## Study Abroad Program Information Package Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 Semesters

### Important Dates (subject to change):

- February 22, 2016  
BU Law application deadline
- Mid-March, 2016  
Selections made
- March 31, 2016  
HKU application deadline for Fall 2016
- May 2016  
Fall participants must begin visa process with CEDARS at HKU
- End of August 2016  
Fall 2016 Orientation
- September 1, 2016 – November 30, 2016  
Approximate fall semester dates
- December 8, 2016 – December 23, 2016  
Approximate fall exam period\*
- September 1, 2016  
HKU application deadline for spring 2017
- October 2016  
Spring participants must begin visa process with CEDARS at HKU
- January 18 – April 30, 2017  
Approximate spring semester dates
- May 9 – May 28, 2017  
Approximate spring exam period\*

To earn 12 BU Law credits, students must take at least four courses (and, in all cases, receive approximately the same number of contact hours as a 12 credit semester at BU Law). This course load is comparable to the average HKU's student's course load, which is the ABA's governing standard.

BU Law students select courses according to the regulations, procedures and rules of HKU's faculty of law. Acceptance into selected courses will be determined by the Director of Student Exchange for incoming students, in consultation with the teacher-in-charge, if necessary. Students are not permitted to choose more than 6 credits worth of non-law courses in any semester.

None of the grades for the HKU semester will count toward your BU Law GPA or towards academic honors and awards (including the scholarly awards, graduation prizes or degree rankings, such as *cum laude*, *magna cum laude* and *summa cum laude*).

Graduate and International  
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Email: [foreign@bu.edu](mailto:foreign@bu.edu)  
[www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad](http://www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad)

*\*Please note that we have received assurances from Hong Kong that both 2L and 3L participants should be able to schedule their exams early during both the fall and spring semesters.*

We are pleased you are interested in Boston University School of Law's overseas exchange program with the Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong, in Hong Kong, China (HKU). This package gives a general description of the program as well as details about some of its more important aspects. Carefully review this information before deciding whether to apply.

## I. Some Preliminary – and Important – Points

At the outset, we would like to stress several aspects of the program which may be relevant to your decision to apply.

- A. Timing: This is a one-semester program that will be offered in the fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters.
- B. Credits: The program is designed to grant participating students 12 semester credits toward their J.D. degree.
- C. Academic Focus: The program focuses on international and comparative law. Therefore, the list of courses from which students choose is limited for the most part to international and comparative law subjects and laws related to Hong Kong, Asia and the Pacific Rim.
- D. Eligible Students: The program is open to second- and third-year students who have completed at least one full year at BU Law. First-year students cannot participate.
- E. Language: All courses at HKU are taught in English.
- F. Number of Participants: A maximum of four students can participate during the entire year. We may select fewer than four, but under no circumstances can we select more.

## II. Why Study Law at the University of Hong Kong?

### A. Why Hong Kong

Hong Kong is home to one of the most vibrant, innovative and far-reaching economies on earth. As the world's third-largest financial center after New York and London, it is the primary base of law firms, investment banks, and other institutions providing services for transactions in the region. It is also the world's gateway to doing business in China, now the ninth largest trading nation and one of the world's fastest growing economies. Hong Kong's global reach makes it an attractive venue for students who plan to enter transnational practice in Asia or work in corporations and financial institutions conducting business there. As an English-speaking enclave on the South China coast, Hong Kong is also ideally situated for understanding the socialist legal system of the People's Republic of China. Now under Chinese sovereignty as a "Special Administrative Region" of the PRC, Hong Kong today faces the unprecedented challenge of accommodating and interacting with China's legal system. Students interested in human rights issues and the constitutional and legal questions surrounding the handover of Hong Kong to China should therefore find Hong Kong to be a fascinating and stimulating backdrop in which to study law.

### B. Law Studies at the University of Hong Kong

The Faculty of Law is one of nine faculties of the University of Hong Kong, which is the oldest tertiary education institution in Hong Kong and one of the pre-eminent international universities in Asia. The Faculty of Law has a student population of approximately 1,500 and an academic staff

of about 900. The school offers a four-year LL.B. program; four LL.M. degrees; and several post-graduate diploma programs. Its LL.B. curriculum provides basic training in common law, with classes concentrating on Hong Kong law as well as a good deal of English common law (on which Hong Kong law is based).<sup>1</sup>

The Faculty of Law boasts several international centers and institutes, including the Center for Comparative and Public Law and the Asian Institute of International Financial Law, adding to its appeal as a school which caters to students who are interested in comparative and international law topics.

BU Law students will be able to select classes from HKU's LL.B. offerings, as well as from its LL.M. programs, which include:

- The LL.M. in Chinese Law. With the expertise of Chinese law specialists, HKU is one of a few law schools in the world offering an English-taught LL.M. program in Chinese law. These courses cover a wide range of Chinese law subjects, including: constitutional and administrative law, criminal law and procedure, human rights, civil and commercial law, trade and investment, securities and company law, intellectual property law, taxation, dispute resolution, and security and insolvency law in China.
- LL.M. in Corporate and Financial Law. In recognition of Hong Kong's status as a major international business and financial center, classes in this LL.M. program focus on issues relating to corporate activities and financial and securities law and regulations and their interrelationship. Comparisons with overseas systems are made, where appropriate.
- LL.M. in Human Rights Law. This program is unique within Asia as a specialized and comparative LL.M. degree course in human rights law. It focuses on problems and perspectives which are of particular concern to the Asia-Pacific region, while addressing universal human rights issues and the perspectives of other regions. Race, culture and ethnicity, economic social and cultural rights, gender perspectives, and the relationship between globalization and the enjoyment of human rights are addressed throughout the program.
- LL.M. in Information Technology and Intellectual Property Law. Courses offered through the Master of Laws in Information Technology Law (LL.M [ITL]) provide a sound legal understanding of various aspects of the rapidly developing field of information technology. Courses include: Human Rights and Cyberlaw; International and Comparative IP law, PRC Intellectual Property Law and E-Finance: Law and Regulation.
- LL.M. in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution. The aim of this program is to equip professionals with the necessary knowledge, skills and expertise in various dispute resolution methods, including negotiation, mediation and arbitration. Courses include: Dispute Resolution in the PRC, International Commercial Arbitration, International Trade Law and PRC Civil & Commercial Law.

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<sup>1</sup> HKU's LL.B. students take Contracts, Torts, Law and Society, The Legal System, Legal Skills, as well as courses in English for Law, Chinese Language and Communication and basic information technology during their first year. Compulsory second-year courses are Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Criminal Law, Property, Equity, Introduction to Trusts, and Introduction to PRC Law. Second-year students are also required to take general education courses from other university faculties. The only required courses in the third-year are Introduction to Legal Theory and Moot Court.

To be admitted to practice law in Hong Kong, one needs an LL.B. degree, plus a Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) -- a one-year course taught by the Department of Professional Legal Education and the School of Professional and Continuing Education at the University. After the PCLL, to become a solicitor one must spend two years as a trainee in a firm, or in the Department of Justice, while prospective barristers must do twelve months of pupillage.

For more detailed information about HKU and its law faculty, please visit HKU's website:  
<http://www.law.hku.hk/>

### C. The City of Hong Kong

Simply put, few places on earth rival Hong Kong's dynamism. The city offers all the diversions and comforts that any student might seek -- a breathtaking urban panorama; spectacular natural beauty; the densest concentration and greatest variety of shops (and malls) of any place on earth; and, arguably, some of the best food, anywhere. Flip through any travel guide and you'll realize why Hong Kong is one of the world's great destinations:

In its multi-faceted role as a repository of traditional Chinese culture, the front-line state of the Pacific Rim economic explosion, and - until recently - the last jewel in the crown of the British Empire, Hong Kong is East Asia's most extraordinary city. Certain facts speak volumes: the territory's per capita GNP, for example, has doubled in a decade, overtaking that of the old imperial power in the process. With a population of just six million, the territory is currently the largest trading partner of the People's Republic of China, a country of over one billion people. The view of sky-scrapered Hong Kong Island, across the harbour from Kowloon, is replacing Manhattan as the most stunning urban panorama on earth." (*Rough Guides*)

"Hong Kong's dynamism is unforgettable. From the vantage point of Victoria Peak, overlooking the world's busiest deepwater port, you can see a city geared not only to making money but feeling good about it. At night, it's like looking down into a volcano. Despite its British colonial past, Hong Kong has always stuck to its roots and the culture beneath the glitz is pure Chinese." (*Lonely Planet*)

"One of the most striking characteristics of Hong Kong is the interweaving of seeming opposites, this interplay of the exotic and the technically advanced. There are as many skyscrapers here as you're likely to see anywhere--built with bamboo scaffolding. In addition to historic trams, Hong Kong boasts one of the most efficient subways in the world, complete with the world's first "contactless" tickets, cards that are waved over a scanner. Hong Kong has what are arguably some of the best and most sophisticated restaurants in the world, as well as *dai pai dong*, streetside food stalls. Hong Kong boasts one of the world's largest shopping malls, but there are also lively street markets virtually everywhere. Because of these dazzling contrasts, Hong Kong offers visitors something unique--the chance to experience a vibrant Chinese city without sacrificing the comforts of home." (*Frommers*)

To get a flavor of this unique and fascinating city, visit the web site:  
<http://www.discoverhongkong.com/us/index.jsp>

## III. The HKU Exchange Program

### A. What the Program is – and isn't

The exchange program with HKU is designed to offer a serious study of international and comparative law in an international setting, one deeply involved in the economic development of one of the most important areas of the world – Asia and the Pacific Rim. This is definitely not the

same as a college semester abroad. If you are looking for a semester abroad with a light course load and plenty of time to sightsee, shop till you drop and eat dim sum all night long, this is not the program for you. This is not to say that you will have no time to sightsee and familiarize yourself with Asian culture. You will. But we do want to emphasize that this program is much more academically rigorous than many overseas programs on the undergraduate level.

B. Number of Students

As noted above, we will be selecting up to four BU Law students to attend HKU in the fall 2016 or spring 2017 semesters.

C. Program Dates

The following dates are approximate. Actual dates will be confirmed later this spring.

Fall 2016

Orientation week:	Late August 2016
First day of classes:	September 1, 2016
Last day of classes:	November 30, 2016
Exam period:	December 8, 2016 – December 23, 2016

Spring 2017

First day of classes:	January 18, 2017
Last day of classes:	April 30, 2017
Exam period:	May 9 – May 28, 2017

**\*\*Important Note:** For the 2016-2017 academic year, both the fall and spring semester at HKU will extend considerably past BU Law's semesters. Thus, students participating in the fall semester may need to remain in Hong Kong through early January in order to complete final exams. HKU has informed us that most exams will be administered before December 23, 2016 and that BU students will be permitted to schedule early exams; however, the Graduate & International Programs Office cannot guarantee that this will be possible or make arrangements on behalf of selected students. Thus, students interested in studying during the fall semester at HKU must be prepared to meet with each of their professors early in the semester in order to confirm that their exams will not be held late in December or early in January.

Likewise, HKU's spring 2017 semester will run late, considerably past BU Law's spring semester. HKU has confirmed that they are willing to administer spring exams early to accommodate its foreign visiting students' schedules. Still, for third-year students, there is no absolute guarantee that you will be able to complete your HKU studies prior to BU Law graduation or on time for bar certification. Completion dates depend on course timings and the form of assessment. While third-year BU Law students have completed the program in time for graduation, we encourage third-year students to participate during the fall semester. As the spring 2017 exam period at HKU commences only a few days before final grades are needed by the BU Law Registrar's Office for graduation, it is highly unlikely that BU Law will receive grades from HKU in time. Thus, any 3L who participates in the spring 2017 program should expect to march at the BU commencement ceremony "with a dagger."

Likewise, second-year students who are interested in spring term at HKU may need to make special arrangements with their summer employers to begin work in mid-June. While there may be flexibility to leave Hong Kong before the end of May if a student takes seminars for which papers are required, we cannot guarantee that you will be able to arrange to return to the US

prior to the end of May or early June, since it depends on the availability of seminar courses, and the flexibility of the individual professors.

#### D. Course Offerings and Selections

BU Law students should select courses according to the Faculty's regulations, procedures and rules. Acceptance into selected courses will be determined by the Director of Student Exchange for incoming students, in consultation with the teacher-in-charge, if necessary. Students are advised to indicate their choices on the application form for preliminary consideration by the Faculty. For students who are interested in enrolling in courses offered outside the Faculty, approval must be sought from the respective departments and final approval rests with the offering department. However, students are not permitted to choose more than 6 credits worth of non-law courses in each semester.

You are strongly advised to consult the director of student exchange for incoming students in Hong Kong and Assistant Dean Riccardi should you wish to change your intended courses of study on arrival.

Students are invited to visit the HKU Faculty of Law website for a listing of the courses offered during the 2015-2016 academic year: <http://www.law.hku.hk/dm/course/courses-description/>

Course availability does change from year to year, subject to the availability of teaching resources and student enrolment. However, the majority of LLB courses will usually be offered. Exchange students are usually given more flexibility in selecting their courses. Hence, final course selection and registration takes place on arrival at the Faculty of Law after students have received the lectures and tutorials schedule. There is a two-week add/drop period during the start of each semester when students have the opportunity to attend the first one or two lectures before finalizing their study plans.

The following courses are not open to exchange students:

LLAW1008 The Legal System of Hong Kong SAR

LLAW2009 Introduction to Chinese law

LLAW3102 Evidence I

LLAW3105 Land Law III (Conveyancing)

LLAW3203 Guided Research

LLAW3097 Civil Procedure

LLAW3099 Criminal Procedure

Taught postgraduate courses with course code \*\*LLAW6XXX and JDOCXXXX

\*\* JD students from North America will be able to enroll in Taught postgraduate courses (with course code LLAW6XXX)

We expect participating students to take at least four courses (and, in all cases, receive approximately the same number of contact hours as a 12 credit semester at BU Law). This course load would be comparable to the average HKU's student's course load, which is the ABA's governing standard.

Most classes meet for three hours a week (two hours of lecture and one hour of tutorial). Tutorial sections are limited to about 12 students; some courses are as small as seminars.

Participating students will receive more detailed information on course registration procedures as the start of each term approaches.

## E. Exams

Written examination is the normal method of evaluation for classes at HKU. Seminars generally require papers. As with our other exchange programs, HKU will evaluate BU Law students' performances. Upon successfully completing a course, BU Law students will receive a designation of "credit" for the course on their transcripts. The designation would include an asterisk or a footnote indicating that the actual grade is available upon request but that it will be accompanied by an explanation due to the different grading system of the host institution.

## IV. How to Apply

If you decide to apply, you must do two things:

1. Complete an application, available at [www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad](http://www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad), and submit all additional materials.
2. Complete an interview with Assistant Dean John Riccardi and Assistant Director Shannon Supitkowsky, scheduled through the Graduate and International Programs Office.

In screening applicants, we will look for such things as a strong academic record, a favorable faculty recommendation, serious interest in international and comparative law, and experience with different cultures and overseas travel.

The application deadline is February 22, 2016.

\* For first-year students applying to participate in their second year, we will be unable to make a final decision until mid-summer, after we have received your second semester grades.

## V. Student Evaluation and Grades

Your exams will be graded in the first instance by HKU faculty in accordance with HKU's grading system. Because the different grading standards between BU Law and HKU makes a direct translation to BU Law's letter grading system difficult, participating BU Law students will, upon successfully completing a course, receive a designation of "credit" for the course on their transcripts. This designation will include an asterisk or footnote indicating that the actual grade is available upon request, and that it will be accompanied by an explanation of the host institution's different grading system.

ACCEPTANCE OF ANY CREDIT OR GRADE FOR ANY COURSE TAKEN IN THE PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO DETERMINATION BY BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW. We expect, however, that all credits earned at HKU will count towards Boston University School of Law credits.

One final point about grading. None of the grades for the HKU semester will count toward your BU Law GPA or towards School of Law honors and awards (including the scholarly awards, graduation prizes or degree rankings, such as *cum laude*, *magna cum laude* and *summa cum laude*).

## VI. HKU's Program Director and Staff

Dr. Zhou Mi is the Director of Student Exchange for Incoming Students at Hong Kong University; Dr. Marcelo Thompson is the Deputy Director of Student Exchange for Incoming Students; Ms. Angel Chu and Ms. Jacqueline Wong are Administrative Assistants and the primary, day-to-day administrative contacts.

Their addresses and contact information are:

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10/F, Cheng Yu Tung Tower  
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The HKU administrators advise prospective students to visit the following websites prior to planning a semester in Hong Kong:

1. HKU's general website - <http://www.hku.hk/>
2. Faculty of Law Main page - <http://www.law.hku.hk/faculty/index.html>
3. Housing Information - <http://cedars.hku.hk/sections/Accommodation/News/HallsOfRes.php>
4. Visa Information - <http://cedars.hku.hk/nonlocal/visa.html>
5. Tentative Course Schedules - <http://www.law.hku.hk/dm/course/courses-description/>

## VII. Library Facilities

The University of Hong Kong Lui Che Woo Law Library is one of the subject branch libraries of the University Libraries. It is situated near the law school, on the first and second floors of the K.K. Leung Building. It provides study and research facilities for the academics, students and postgraduates of the Faculty, and other staff and students of the University. Members of the legal profession practicing in Hong Kong may also use the library on application.

Reflecting the historical development of Hong Kong, and the Faculty's common law tradition, the Lui Che Woo Law Library has strong collections of material from Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, and the major Commonwealth jurisdictions. In response to the geographical location of Hong Kong, and its commercial relationships, resources from the Asia-Pacific jurisdictions are now being developed. This rapidly expanding collection of more than 62,000 volumes contains texts, official publications, periodicals, law reports and legislation from Hong Kong and other countries, on a wide range of legal topics. The Main Library also has some holdings of legal texts.

For more information on the Library, visit <http://www.lib.hku.hk/lawlib/index.html>.



## VIII. Student Housing and Living Arrangements

Because of the limited inventory of on-campus housing available at HKU for visiting exchange students, HKU does not guarantee on-campus arrangements. The school will, however, entertain students' requests to live in an on-campus apartment as well as help students locate and secure off-campus accommodations. For more information about the residential halls and application details, please visit the website of the Center of Development and Resources for students (CEDARS), <http://cedars.hku.hk/sections/Accommodation/News/HallsOfRes.php>.

## IX. Anticipated Tuition, Fees and Living Costs

Tuition is the same as the tuition at Boston University School of Law. Participating BU Law students will pay Boston University the normal tuition for a semester at BU Law. The anticipated costs below are monthly unless otherwise noted (based on January 2015 conversion rates):

	<u>HKD</u>	<u>USD</u>
• Housing:	\$2,850 - \$4,400	\$370 - \$570
• Food:	\$3,400	\$440
• Local Transportation:	\$ 1,175	\$150
• Books & Supplies (total):	\$6,285	\$810
• Personal Expenses (total):	\$6,000	\$775
• Estimated Total Expenses:	\$49,500- \$57,200	\$6,385 - \$7,375

HKU also requires the payment of a caution fee and several processing fees that will cost approximately HKD \$365. Additionally, if you plan to travel during your stay in Hong Kong, your personal expenses will increase dramatically.

An important note about health insurance: HKU provides comprehensive primary health care to entitled students through a clinic on the main campus. Medical consultations are generally free of charge. Certain medications, preventive services and other items are charged at cost. A nominal charge is also levied for dental treatment and physiotherapy treatment at the University clinic.

Specialist care and hospitalization can be provided at public clinics and general wards of government hospitals. Non-local students without a Hong Kong Identity Card (HKID) are required to pay full fees for services and hospitalization in government hospitals. You are therefore strongly recommended to have covered by insurance the whole period of stay in Hong Kong.

Further details are listed on the CEDARS website at <http://beta.cedars.hku.hk/sections/International/HealthCare.php>.

## X. Program Cancellation Information

We expect the program to go forward as planned and anticipate no obstacles to implementation. However, the ABA requires that we inform you about our contemplated course of action in case of cancellation or change and in case a State Department Advisory is issued for the program area.

### A. General Policy

In the highly unlikely event that the entire program has to be canceled, students selected for the program will be informed immediately by telephone and by mail, email, or in person, and notices of cancellation will be posted on the BU Law website. In addition, individual meetings will be

arranged with any student who wishes one. If in the even more unlikely event that the Program is canceled after students have arrived in Hong Kong, Assistant Dean John Riccardi will contact all participating students by telephone, if possible, or by email.

Should particular courses be canceled or rescheduled, students selected for the program will be informed by email, telephone, or in person, and notices will be placed on the BU Law website.

#### B. State Department Advisories

BU Law will supply participating students with State Department Consular Information Sheets for Hong Kong, which will include any information on "Areas of Instability." We do not anticipate that any State Department Advisory will issue for the Hong Kong area; nor is there any particular reason to believe that such an eventuality will materialize. However, in case an Advisory does issue, we will take the following steps:

**In General** – If an Advisory is issued before students are selected for the program, notice will be posted and all applicants interviewed for the program will be personally informed. If such an advisory is issued after students are selected or during the program term, all participating students will be notified immediately.

**Area of Instability** – If the State Department declares the site to be an Area of Instability, students will be allowed to withdraw from the program. If such an event takes place while the program term is underway, the student will be permitted to choose either a refund of fees billed by Boston University, in accordance with the University's refund schedule (this would exclude room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date the site was declared an "Area of Instability"), or completion of the semester's study at Boston University School of Law if such is feasible. **WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THE OPTION OF COMPLETING THE SEMESTER AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (AND THUS NOT LOSING A SEMESTER'S PROGRESS TOWARD THE J.D. DEGREE).** This option is dependent on resources and the availability of course and independent study opportunities at BU Law. In the event that arrangements at the School of Law are not feasible, or the student elects a refund, the student will be refunded fees as above, in accordance with the University's refund schedule.

**Travel Warning** – If the State Department issues a Travel Warning for Hong Kong, the program will be canceled if the term has not yet begun, or terminated immediately if the term is already underway. If the program is canceled prior to commencement of the term, all students will be refunded in full all fees paid to Boston University (excluding any advance room, board, and travel costs associated with getting to the host country that have been paid). In addition, all students will be integrated into the regular semester at Boston University School of Law. If the program is terminated while underway, a participating student may choose either a refund of fees (except for room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date the Travel Warning was issued), or completion of the semester's study at BU Law if such is feasible. See discussion of declaration of Area of Instability, above.

## XI. Visa Information

BU Law students must obtain a visa in order to study in Hong Kong. To apply, you need to:

Submit your original visa application document to the Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS), who on behalf of HKU will sponsor your visa application, once you are admitted by Law Faculty. CEDARS will forward your visa application document to the Hong Kong Immigration Department for processing, which normally takes four to six weeks processing time. They will inform CEDARS of your results in due course.

If the Hong Kong Immigration Department approves your visa application, CEDARS will send visa label to you by courier. Please stick the label onto your passport and present it to the Immigration Officer upon arrival at the Hong Kong International Airport.

If you do not have a permanent Hong Kong identity card, or if your HKID card has expired, you will need to apply for a student visa for your exchange studies. If you want to renew your HKID card during your stay in Hong Kong, you can apply for the Hong Kong Permanent Residency in person from the Hong Kong Immigration Department. For more details on visa application, please see <http://cedars.hku.hk/nonlocal/visa.html> for details.

## XII. Program Reports

Please note that all BU Law students selected to participate in a study abroad program will be required to submit to the Graduate and International Programs Office:

1. A one-page mid-semester written report, assessing their experiences in light of their academic goals
2. A two-page report at the end of their program, evaluating their experiences

Students will not receive academic credit until they submit these reports.