The Master of Laws in Medical Ethics and Law Programme
LLM (MEL)

The University of Hong Kong
The Faculty of Law &
The Centre for Medical Ethics & Law
https://llm.law.hku.hk | https://www.cmel.hku.hk
* Who?
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**Who?**

- The Centre for Medical Ethics & Law (CMEL)
  [https://www.cmel.hku.hk](https://www.cmel.hku.hk)
- About the Centre, the Faculty of Law, and the Faculty of Medicine
- Groundbreaking cross-disciplinary programme, focus on law, policy, clinical and research ethics and social issues
- Offered by the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong – a Master of Laws programme, but one designed for healthcare providers, allied health, lawyers and others
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Why?

- Medical science and medical technology is changing rapidly
- The role of physicians and the organizational context in which they work is also changing
- Legal responsibilities of hospitals, healthcare maintenance organizations, insurers and other institutional stakeholders?
- Legal responsibilities of other professionals in the healthcare sector, such as dentists, pharmacists and nurses?
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Why?

- The public is more educated than in the past, access to information (good and bad) more readily available, patients expect more
- Impact of modern doctrines such as patient autonomy and right to self-determination
- And their impact on the rapidly changing law – cf recent dramatic changes in the law relating to consent in 2015
- Will current legal assumptions favouring the medical professions (the ‘Bolam Rule’) change?
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*Why?*

- Professionals should engage the wider public in addressing concerns/fears that new science generates
- Such informed dialogue hopefully leads to better policy guidance and implementations of regulations, laws, etc.
- To better equip healthcare professionals with the tools to take ownership and leadership in shaping guidance and regulation in their own fields for the future
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Why?

- New technologies lead to new legal paradigms: in the age of large-scale electronic medical records (EMR) databases, the imminent advent of the widespread application of precision medicine and whole genome sequencing in clinical practice, what new legal responsibilities for doctors / institutions?
- And for researchers? Data custodian obligations?
- A better understanding of the law leads to greater confidence in professional practice, gives clarity on how and why the law operates as it does, and how to have the law on your side
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For?

- Lawyers (HKU LLB with at least 2nd class honours or equivalent)
- Doctors (HKU MBBS or equivalent)
- Professionals in relevant fields and others: ‘degree in a discipline other than law or medicine’ with at least 2nd class honours or equivalent qualification AND ‘have at least two years of relevant experience OR professional qualifications’
- Non-local grads may need to satisfy current Faculty of Law requirements for TOEFL / IELTS
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**What?**

- ONE-year full-time / TWO-year part-time
- 6 core modules + minimum of 3 electives (for total of 72 – 78 credits)
- Of the 3 electives (or equivalent), at least one must be a law elective, and one non-law
- Electives: Faculty of Law, the School of Public Health, and the Department of Social Work & Social Administration
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What?

- Courses offered in Semester I
- Introductory Module: Introduction to Medical Law (intensive)
  or Introduction to Medical Practice
- Core Module A: Bioethics Foundations
- Core Module B: Physician-Patient Relationship
- Elective (Law electives are 9 credits, School of Public Health’s are 3 credits, SOWK are 6 credits)
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**What?**

- **Courses offered in Semester II**
  - Capstone Experience: *either* a Dissertation (8,000-10,000 words), or a Practicum (writing project + attachment)
  - Core Module C: The Beginning & End of Life
  - Core Module D: Regulation of Biomedical Research
  - Elective (as for Semester I, note requirement that at least one elective must be a Law elective, and at least one be a non-Law)
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*What?*

- **Classes**
  - Generally evening seminars (6:30pm-9:30pm) for the compulsory core modules
  - Except Introduction to Medical Law module – intensive for non-lawyers / non-LLB holders
  - Some electives may be offered as regular daytime courses, or as intensives
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*Current Teaching Faculty:*
- HKU Law Faculty (Permanent)
- Visiting Faculty

Professor James Badenoch QC is an eminent UK Queen's Counsel who has specialized for over 35 years in clinical negligence, medical law, and professional discipline.

Dr Lucy Frith is Reader in Bioethics and Social Science at the University of Liverpool, UK.

Dr Michael Dunn is Associate Professor at the Ethox Centre, University of Oxford, where he is also the Director of Undergraduate Medical Ethics and Law Education in Oxford’s Clinical School and Director of the Ethox Centre’s Graduate Training Programme.
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* Possibly an opportunity for qualifying students to have overseas research exposure

University of Cambridge

McGill University
FULL-TIME (ONE-YEAR PROGRAMME):

SEMESTER 1

- Introduction to Medical Law (Intensive) / Introduction to Medical Practice*
- Bioethics Foundations
- The Physician-Patient Relationship
- Elective(s)

SEMESTER 2

- The Beginning & End of Life
- The Regulation of Biomedical Research
- Elective(s)
- Capstone Experience: Dissertation or Practicum
SAMPLE* PART-TIME (TWO-YEAR PROGRAMME):

FIRST YEAR:

YEAR 1 / Semester 1
- Introduction to Medical Law (Intensive) / Introduction to Medical Practice
- Core Module A
  Or
  Core Module B**

YEAR 1 / Semester 2
- Core Module C
  Or
  Core Module D**
- Elective(s)

Core Modules:
A. Bioethics Foundations
B. The Physician-Patient Relationship
C. The Beginning & End of Life
D. The Regulation of Biomedical Research

*This sample programme is given only as an example. Please refer to the Regulations and Syllabus for the formal requirements.
**The actual sequence of core modules to be taken in a part-time programme will be determined by the Director of the LLM (MEL) programme for each student individually.
SAMPLE* PART-TIME (TWO-YEAR PROGRAMME):

SECOND YEAR:

YEAR 2 / Semester 1
- Core Module A
  Or
- Core Module B**
- Elective(s)

YEAR 2 / Semester 2
- Core Module C
  Or
- Core Module D**
- Capstone Experience: Dissertation or Practicum

Core Modules:
A. Bioethics Foundations
B. The Physician-Patient Relationship
C. The Beginning & End of Life
D. The Regulation of Biomedical Research

*This sample programme is given only as an example. Please refer to the Regulations and Syllabus for the formal requirements.
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*When?*

- Key Dates:
  - Semester 1 begins **1 September 2021**
  - Intensive course Introduction to Medical Law likely to be held in late August and early September
  - Application portal is now open
  - Applications will close on 1 March 2021 at (GMT +8) 12:00 noon
  - Admission offers on a rolling basis
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How?

- How Much? Currently:
  - Full-Time: HK$153,300 p.a. (local and non-local students)
  - Part-Time: HK$76,650 p.a. (part-time candidacy is open only to local students)
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🌟 How?

Use this QR Code:

Or go to the Faculty of Law’s webpage for the LLM (MEL) programme:

https://llm.law.hku.hk/mel/
Centre for Medical Ethics & Law
The University of Hong Kong

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Thank You!

Q & A