

Information Session

16 January 2019

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>



C M E L

The University of Hong Kong
Centre for Medical Ethics and Law

- ☀ *Who?*
- ☀ *Why?*
- ☀ *For?*
- ☀ *What?*
- ☀ *When?*
- ☀ *How?*
- ☀ *Q & A*



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Centre for Medical Ethics and Law

LLM in Medical Ethics & Law

☀ Who?

- The Centre for Medical Ethics & Law (CMEL)
<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 doctors, 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: ‘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 and 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
- ★ Inaugural launch date:
week of 2 September 2019
- ★ 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?*

☀ 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 – must total at least 9 credits)



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☀ *What?*

☀ Semester II

- ☀ Capstone Experience: *either* a Dissertation (8,000-10,000 words), or a Practicum (5,000 word or equivalent + attachment)
- ☀ Core Module C: The Beginning & End of Life
- ☀ Core Module D: 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 (6:30-9:30pm) for the compulsory core modules
- Except Introduction to Medical Law module – 4-5 day intensive including weekend for non-lawyers / non-LLB holders
- Some electives may be offered as regular day-time courses, or as intensives

☀ Teachers



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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

Biomedical Research

Elective(s)

Capstone Experience: Dissertation or Practicum



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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. Biomedical Research

*This sample programme is given only as an example. Please refer to the Regulations 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.



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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. Biomedical Research

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★ *When?*

● Key Dates:

- Semester 1 begins 2 September 2019
- Intensive 4-5 day Introduction to Medical Law likely to be held over 4-8 September weekend
- Application portal is now open
- Applications will close on 28 February 2019
- Admission offers on a rolling basis



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☀ *How?*

- How Much? Currently:
- Full-Time:
\$153,300 p.a. (local and non-local students)
- Part-Time:
\$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/>



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Thank You!

Q & A



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