

CUPL Master/PhD of International Law in English

I. Introduction

China has become the third largest trading power of the world. With its steady political system and dynamic economic developments in last twenty years, no one in the world can afford to ignore China and its potentials. For those who wish to trade and invest in China and for those who wish to pursue a China related career, understanding Chinese law is essential for them to really understand China. In the present century, anyone with an international vision would have to know something about China one way or another. China factor is not only a factor in the world economy, but also a factor in social, political and cultural arena of the world. This is also why studying China and Chinese law are important for anyone who wish to be successful in the present century.

China University of Political Science and Law (hereinafter referred to as CUPL), which is one of the best legal study institutions in China, understands the difficulties for many foreign students and legal professionals to study Chinese law in Chinese language, as well as their desire to acquire basic knowledge of Chinese law, and accordingly offers LLM and PhD programs in Chinese law to be taught in English. The programs were formally launched in September 2006 and students can join the programs twice a year in the Fall semester or Spring semester respectively. Presently, the programs are offered and managed by the Faculty of International Law, CUPL. The relevant information is set out below.

II. LLM Program (English Mode)

1. The Program

The LLM program includes three specific research fields, i.e. LLM in Chinese and Comparative Law, LLM in International Law. Students are able to pursue their interests in either commercial law or general comparative law by choosing different courses offered by the program.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the program is to provide advanced and practical knowledge of Chinese law to students & practitioners across the world, who feel more comfortable in using English as a medium of study. To promote further, wider legal exchange and co-operation between CUPL and foreign students or practitioners is also one of the major concerns of the program.

3. Admission Requirements

The program is open only to foreign nationals. Anyone with a formal undergraduate degree as recognized by the Ministry of Education of China is welcome to apply for admission. An undergraduate degree in law is, however, an advantage.

4. Period of Study

The program is normally for two years. Please see next section on the courses offered and credits awarded to each course for detail.

5. Curriculum and Credits Awarded

A LLM candidate must obtain a minimum of 26 credits to fulfill the requirements for the award of the LLM in International Law (English Mode). Students can obtain credits by attending lectures or seminars and writing research papers as directed by

their supervisor. The credits for each course offered by the program are set out as follows:

- 1) Compulsory subjects (2 credits each, 12 credits in total)
 - Introduction to Chinese Law 36 contact hours
 - Legal Research and Writing 36 contact hours
 - International Trade Law 36 contact hours
 - International Investment Law 36 contact hours
 - Public International Law 36 contact hours
 - Private International Law 36 contact hours

- 2) Optional subjects (2 credits each, optional courses offered each term may be adjusted depending on the availability of lecturers)
 - Human Rights in China 36 contact hours
 - Foreign Trade Law of China 36 contact hours
 - Criminal Law and Criminal Procedures 36 contact hours
 - Civil Law and Civil Procedures 36 contact hours
 - Company Law of China 36 contact hours
 - Intellectual Property Law of China 36 contact hours
 - International Law and Chinese Practices 36 contact hours
 - China and the Law of WTO 36 contact hours
 - Arbitration Law of China 36 contact hours
 - Maritime Law of China 36 contact hours
 - Securities Law of China 36 contact hours
 - Competition Law of China 36 contact hours
 - Commercial Laws of Mainland China and Hong Kong in Comparison 36 contact hours
 - Chinese Labor Law 36 contact hours
 - Introduction to the American Legal System 36 contact hours
 - International Capital Markets 36 contact hours
 - International Business Transactions 36 contact hours
 - Family Law of China 36 contact hours
 - Chinese Legal Culture 36 contact hours
 - Tax Law 36 contact hours
 - International Air Law 36 contact hours

Students may obtain credits by writing study reports and research papers. During the course of study, each student must complete at least two study reports and two annual research papers (each carries 1 credit). Students may also attend prescribed public seminars and be accredited for so doing.

The staff of the Overseas Development Office, Faculty of International Law, will provide advice to each candidate on how to organize his or her study plan.

6. Dissertation and Supervision

A LL.M candidate must submit a dissertation of about 30,000 words in length to fulfill the requirements for the LL.M degree. Only those candidates who have acquired minimum credits for graduation and defended their LL.M dissertations successfully in front of an examination panel of three members are eligible for the award of LL.M in

International Law. A LL.M candidate will be assigned a supervisor during the course of his/her study, and the supervisor is responsible for guiding the candidate's researches and dissertations.

7. Cost of Study

The total cost for the award of the LL.M is RMB87,000, covering the minimum courses (or equivalents) for 26 credits and a LL.M dissertation.

9. Application for Admission

See Section IV of this brochure for further information on admission.

III. PhD Program (English Mode)

1. The Program

The program is formally known as PhD in International Law, majoring in International and Comparative Law. The program welcomes research proposals in a wide range of research areas, such as international law, comparative law, commercial law, human rights law, maritime law, law of WTO, law of the seas, international environmental law, and etc.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the program is to provide advanced academic trainings to candidates who feel more comfortable in using English as a medium of study. To promote advanced and high leveled legal exchange and co-operation between CUPL and foreign students or academics is also one of the major concerns of the program.

3. Admission Requirements

The program is open only to foreign nationals. The applicant must possess a formal master degree recognized by the Ministry of Education of China, and demonstrate an ability to pursue independent academic researches in the area of study as proposed by him/her. Due consideration will be given to the relevance between the applicant's educational backgrounds and working experiences on one hand, and the proposed research area on the other.

4. Period of Study

A PhD degree normally takes about three years to complete. An extension of time may be available upon the request by the relevant candidate, and the maximum period of study is six years from the date of admission. In case of extension, an extension fee as determined by the program shall apply.

5. Curriculum and Credits Awarded

A PhD candidate must obtain a minimum of 16 credits to fulfill the requirements for the award of the PhD degree. A candidate may obtain credits by attending designated courses and writing research papers as directed by his/her supervisor. The courses offered to PhD students are set out as follows:

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| ➤ Introduction to Chinese Law (compulsory) | 2 credits, | 36contact hours |
| ➤ Legal Research and Writing | 2 credits, | 36contact hours |
| ➤ Selected Issues of Public International Law | 2 credits, | 36contact hours |
| ➤ Selected Issues of Private International Law | 2 credits, | 36contact hours |

- Selected Issues of International Economic Law 2 credits, 36contact hours
- One special course as designated or offered by supervisor, each course may carry 2-3 credits depending on actual contact hours (36 or 54 contact hours).

Besides the compulsory course of Introduction to Chinese Law, the supervisor of a PhD candidate shall direct the candidate to take any of the courses offered in the LLM program as she/he deems necessary for the completion of the proposed PhD research. The supervisor may also decide to offer a special course relating to the area of research as proposed by the candidate. Each PhD candidate must submit at least two study reports and two annual research papers during the term of his/her candidacy. Each of such report or paper is worth 1 credit. A candidate must obtain a minimum of 16 credits by attending taught courses and writing study reports and annual research papers to be qualified for the submission of his/her PhD dissertation.

6. Dissertation and Supervision

A PhD candidate must submit a dissertation of about 100,000 words in length to fulfill the requirements for the award of the PhD degree. A supervisory panel consisting of 3 academic members of the Faculty of International Law, CUPL, will be appointed for each PhD candidate during the first academic year of his/her candidacy. An outside member may be invited to join the supervisory panel as the Dean of the Faculty of International Law deems necessary. A candidate must have obtained the minimum 16 credits for graduation and defended his/her dissertation successfully in front a panel of five members before the PhD degree can be awarded.

7. Cost of Study

The total cost for the award of the PhD in Law is RMB99,000 for a standard 3-year program.

8. Application for Admission

See Section IV of this brochure for further information on admission.

IV. Application for Admission

No application deadline applies for the potential candidates. In other words, the potential candidates may apply the admission during the whole year. However the Overseas Development Office will assign the candidates into Spring Semester (normally from the end of February to middle of July) or Fall Semester (normally from the beginning of September to the beginning of January) according to the application date of each candidate. The candidates may be awarded LL.M and PhD degree on the condition that they obtain the required credits and satisfy the defense of the dissertation.

Inquiries and applications should be made to:

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