

## Common Law Certificate (CLC) Programs

### @ Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SUFU)

#### The Roots of Common Law Education in China

Common Law education has its roots in China’s modernization process. The program’s precursor was the Soochow University Law School (Soochow), also known as the comparative Law School of China, which was found in Shanghai, China in 1915, shortly after the founding of the Republic of China by Dr. Sun Yat-Sun. Soochow Law School was funded by the American lawyers to teach Chinese law students comparative law with a focus on Anglo-American style class room experiences. Students enrolled in a standard program of first year American law school courses, with a comparative law curriculum in the upper years. Graduates of the school were deemed to be able to work as lawyers in both Western and Chinese legal systems, and the School was considered one of the two institutions that actually rose to prominence in international legal circles.

#### Introduction to the Program

Inherited the Soochow Law heritage, SUFU Law is now the only law school in mainland China that offers a Common Law Certificate Program which fully replicates the 1<sup>st</sup> year U.S. JD curriculum by incorporating precious Chinese elements. This program is fully English taught by U.S. or U.K. trained faculty members who possess excel in Socratic teaching skills and practical legal experiences. The Program is built upon and therefore does not impact students’ learning of standard Chinese law courses. A sample Common Law Certificate curriculum is found here:

	Course Name	Class Hours	Course Unit	Semester								Note	
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
	Introduction to Common Law I	51	3	3									Required Courses
	Introduction to Common Law II	51	3		3								
	Common Law: Contract	51	3			3							
	Common Law: Torts	51	3				3						
	Common Law: Property	51	3					3					
	Legal Research and Legal Writing	51	3						3				
	American Constitutional Law	34	2							2			
	American Administrative Law	34	2							2			

Financial Law	34	2							2			Electives
US Jurisprudence and Legal System	34	2								2		
Civil Procedure	34	2								2		

## Selection Process

A comprehensive exam composed of both a written analytical assessment test and an English oral exam will be given to each applicant to determine their fitness into this program and capability of coping with high pressures associated with common law learning processes. There is no set score for admission and students are generally admitted according to their rankings.

## Mooting Programs

Moot Court is a unique process of Common Law learning and SUFE Law is not an exception. Right now SUFE Law hosts two mooting clubs, the Jessup Club that is established in preparation of the Phillip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court and the ADR Club that is affiliated with SUFE Law Free Trade and ADR Research and Development Center which featuring a series of moot arbitration competitions including the Vis Moot, Moot Shanghai, International ADR Moot and FDI Moot.

## Professional Career Network

CLC faculty has strived to connect students enrolled in the program with professional legal communities by organizing law firm tours, interactive sessions with senior lawyers, in-house counsels, arbitrators and judges and workshops with a series academic flavor. In the past, our students have secured internship and full-time employment opportunities at King & Wood Mallesons, Boss &Young, Guatrecasas, Goncalves Pereira, K&L Gates and a few other prominent international law firms with operations in Shanghai.

## Study Abroad

In additional to regular study abroad programs offered through the university, students enrolled in the program are given additional opportunities to study one semester or a year at institutions located at common law jurisdictions and with a top notch common law curriculum. Previously our students have been sent to prestigious schools in the United States, Hong Kong and Taiwan for additional common law exposures.

## Research Fellowships

Hands on research experiences are a valuable part of formal legal education, and common law students who are interested in academics are generally selected to work closely with faculty members as research assistants and given opportunities to participate in research studies and publish in journals. Research centers affiliated with SUFE Law that have sponsored Common Law Certificate students include:

- SUFE Financial Law and Financial Consumer Protection Law Research Center (headed by Professor Xiaoyan Song)
- SUFE Free Trade and ADR Research and Development Center (Headed by Professor Hong Ma and directed by Assistant Professor Carrie Shu Shang)

- Comparative Intellectual Property Law Research Center (Lead by Associate Professor Ling Hu and Assistant Professor Jinling Wang)
- International Environmental Law Research Center (Headed by Professor Mark Postie, Oriental Scholar)

## **Legal Hotline**

The only English legal hotline sponsored by law schools in Shanghai are the Foreign Investors Legal Hotline runs through faculty members and students of the SUFE Law Common Law Certificate Program. Students participate in the legal hotline are given opportunities to advise foreign clients directly, by taking calls and participating in face-to-face legal consultancy sessions with foreign entrepreneurs who have asked for legal help. The entire working process is under close supervision under experienced faculty members with practical legal experiences.

### **For other inquires please do not hesitate to contact:**

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