



Chow Yei Ching  
School of Graduate Studies

香港城市大學  
City University of Hong Kong

# Admissions Handbook

Research Degree Programmes

2025 Entry



**Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies**  
**City University of Hong Kong**  
Tat Chee Avenue  
Kowloon  
Hong Kong

**Enquiries**

Tel : (852) 3442-9076  
Fax : (852) 3442-0332  
Email : [sg@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:sg@cityu.edu.hk)  
Website : <http://www.cityu.edu.hk/sgs>



Published in September 2024

### **IMPORTANT NOTES**

The information contained in this Handbook is correct at the time of publication. Please note that there may be changes to the information from time to time without prior notification. Applicants should always refer to the [Postgraduate Admissions](#) website of the Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies (SGS) for the most updated information, or they may contact SGS if they have any queries.

This Handbook only serves the purpose of providing information regarding research degree applications; it does not form part of a contract between any person and City University of Hong Kong.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1	INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1	City University of Hong Kong.....	1
1.2	Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies.....	1
2	ADMISSIONS .....	3
2.1	Minimum Entrance Requirements .....	3
2.2	English Proficiency Requirements.....	3
2.3	Application Period .....	5
2.4	Application Procedures .....	5
2.5	Funding Sources of Support for Research Studies .....	7
2.6	Application Fee .....	8
2.7	Acceptance Fee .....	8
2.8	Use of Application Information .....	8
2.9	Change of Contact Information after Submission of Application .....	9
2.10	Applicants with Physical or Other Disabilities .....	9
2.11	Enrolment.....	10
2.12	Enquiries .....	10
3	RESEARCH AREAS FOR MPhil/PHD PROGRAMMES .....	11
3.1	College of Business.....	11
3.2	College of Computing.....	13
3.3	College of Engineering .....	15
3.4	College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.....	18
3.5	College of Science .....	21
3.6	Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences .....	23
3.7	School of Creative Media .....	25
3.8	School of Energy and Environment.....	25
3.9	School of Law .....	26
4	RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES .....	27
4.1	Programme Aims and Structure.....	27
4.2	Study Period and Residence Requirement .....	28
4.3	Annual Progress Reports.....	29
4.4	Medium of Instruction/Assessment and Thesis Presentation .....	29
4.5	Award of MPhil/PhD Degree.....	29
4.6	Learning Outcomes and Assessment Indicators of Research Degree Programmes .....	30
5	FINANCIAL AWARDS/ASSISTANCE .....	31
5.1	Postgraduate Studentship .....	31
5.2	Research Tuition Scholarship .....	31
5.3	Conference Grants .....	32
5.4	Research Activities Fund .....	32

5.5	Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Entrance Scholarships .....	32
5.6	Government Grants and Loans and External Financial Awards/Assistance .....	32
5.7	Tuition Wavier Scheme for Local Research Postgraduate Students Studying Full-time UGC-funded Programmes .....	32
6	MERIT AWARDS IN RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE.....	33
6.1	Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Scholarships .....	33
6.2	Outstanding Academic Performance Award .....	33
6.3	Outstanding Research Thesis Awards .....	33
6.4	Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Outstanding Doctoral Research Award .....	33
7	FEES .....	35
8	STUDENT ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT TO STUDENTS' STUDIES .....	36
8.1	Student Accommodation.....	36
8.2	Student Development Services .....	37
9	INFORMATION FOR NON-LOCAL APPLICANTS .....	38
9.1	Definition of "Non-local" Students .....	38
9.2	Student Visa/Entry Permit .....	38
9.3	Global Engagement Office .....	38
9.4	Personal Accident and Medical Insurance/Travel Insurance.....	39
9.5	Cost of Living .....	39

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Below is a list of abbreviations used in this Handbook.

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Full Term</b>
BGS	Board of Graduate Studies
CET6	Mainland China's College English Test Band 6
CITI	Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative
CityUHK	City University of Hong Kong
CMP	Committee on Master's Programmes
CRDC	Committee on Research Degrees Candidature
GEO	Global Engagement Office
GMAT	Graduate Management Admission Test
GPA	Grade Point Average
GRE	Graduate Record Examinations
HKPFS	Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme
IANG	Immigration Arrangements for Non-Local Graduates
IELTS	International English Language Testing System
MPhil	Master of Philosophy
NOL	No Objection Letter
PD	Professional Doctorate
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
QE	Qualifying Examination
SDS	Student Development Services
SGS	Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies
SHR	Student Halls of Residence
SRO	Student Residence Office

TOEFL

Test of English as a Foreign Language

UGC

University Grants Committee

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 City University of Hong Kong

Established in 1994, City University of Hong Kong (hereinafter “CityUHK” or the “University”) is a rapidly growing institution with a burgeoning local and global reputation for professional education and research. CityUHK is strongly committed to creating an internationalised space for professional education, pursuing a research agenda designed to benefit society, establishing a culture of innovation and discovery, and nurturing the talents of our students. The University currently has a student enrolment of over 20,000, of which over 9,000 are postgraduates. Its programmes provide a wide range of learning opportunities from undergraduate and postgraduate studies to continuing education. For more information about the University and its academic and supporting units, please visit our website (<http://www.cityu.edu.hk>).

The University provides a modern teaching and learning environment with the latest design in educational technology to support quality teaching and research activities. Moreover, a wide range of facilities and services are provided to support students’ studies and recreational activities. Students’ halls are also available on campus to provide students with residential accommodation and an avenue for academic and cultural exchange.

## 1.2 Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies

Postgraduate education facilitates the advancement of knowledge and provides high-level academic education and professional training to cater for the society’s needs. The University continuously strives to promote this important area of postgraduate education. Master’s programmes are offered for different professional needs. On the research study side, diverse areas of study are provided to suit individuals’ research interests.

To provide a better focus for the further development of its postgraduate programmes, the University established the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) in 1994. SGS coordinates and offers strategic direction to the University’s taught and research postgraduate provision. It aims to provide better coordination and strategic direction to ensure the continued development of postgraduate studies at the University. SGS is committed to providing an environment conducive to learning for postgraduate students. The principal role of SGS is to facilitate the educational experience of its postgraduate students.

SGS received a generous donation from Dr. Chow Yei Ching, and was named the “Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies” in 2006.

### 1.2.1 Mission of SGS

The mission of SGS is to promote excellence in postgraduate education and ensure consistency and high standards across the University. In addition to sharing responsibility for postgraduate studies with Departments, Colleges and Schools, and operating through a system of collegial governance, consultation and leadership, SGS defines and administers university-wide regulations for postgraduate education.

SGS also organises services and financial assistance to postgraduate students; encourages a close relationship between research and graduate training; and represents the foundation of postgraduate education at CityUHK in the wider academic and general community.

### *1.2.2 Administrative Structure of SGS*

The Dean, the Deputy Dean and the Associate Deans of Graduate Studies oversee SGS and the coordination and management of postgraduate education within the University. They provide academic guidance for programme development, planning and decision making in the postgraduate education. As the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies (BGS), the Dean of Graduate Studies plays the key role in managing the quality of postgraduate programmes provision. He is supported by the Deputy Dean and the Associate Deans in overseeing quality matters related to postgraduate programmes through the Committee on Master's Programmes (CMP) and the Committee on Research Degrees Candidature (CRDC).

The Director (Graduate Studies Administration) and a team of administrative staff provide overall administrative support for postgraduate studies, including student admissions and records, financial support, study and research progress, examinations and graduation, student forums and workshops, research conferences and seminars, student statistics as well as publications relating to postgraduate studies.

### *1.2.3 Governance, Leadership and Quality*

The Board of Graduate Studies (BGS) was established to review and make recommendations on the academic regulations, rules and procedures governing all postgraduate programmes and studies. It has a role to develop, implement, monitor and review policies pertaining to postgraduate work. The BGS reports to the Senate on matters relating to postgraduate teaching and learning.

There are two sub-committees under the BGS, namely the Committee on Master's Programmes (CMP) and the Committee on Research Degrees Candidature (CRDC). The CMP oversees matters related to Master's programmes as assigned by the BGS, while the CRDC oversees the admission, supervision, progress and examination of candidates of Master of Philosophy (MPhil), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Professional Doctorate (PD).

## 2 ADMISSIONS

### 2.1 Minimum Entrance Requirements

2.1.1 Applicants seeking admission to a research degree programme should satisfy the following minimum entrance requirements:

**(a) Master of Philosophy (MPhil)**

- hold a relevant Bachelor's degree with first or second class honours (or equivalent qualification) from a recognised university.

**(b) Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**

- be a current MPhil student in the University who seeks transfer to PhD candidature; or
- hold a higher degree by research (or equivalent qualification) from a recognised university; or
- hold a Master's degree (or equivalent qualification) from a recognised university; or
- hold a Bachelor's degree with first class honours (or equivalent qualification) from a recognised university.

2.1.2 Equivalent qualifications mentioned above include relevant professional qualifications or other scholarly achievements recognised by the University.

2.1.3 In addition to the above, individual Departments/Schools may prescribe further entrance requirements.

### 2.2 English Proficiency Requirements

2.2.1 Applicants whose entrance qualification was obtained from an institution where the language of teaching is not English should satisfy the minimum English proficiency requirements specified by both the University and individual Colleges/Schools.

2.2.2 The University's minimum English proficiency requirement for research degree programmes is a total score of 79 (in one single internet-based test) in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) OR an overall band score of 6.5 in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Equivalent qualifications may also be accepted. TOEFL and IELTS scores are considered valid for two years from the test date and must be valid at the time of submission of application.

2.2.3 Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)/Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) scores are not accepted in fulfilment of the University's English proficiency requirement for RPg programmes, but can be submitted as supplementary information for reference if available.

2.2.4 In addition to the University's requirement given above, individual Colleges/Schools set higher standards or equivalent acceptable qualifications, as appropriate for their disciplines as follows:

**(a) College of Business**

- a minimum total score of 85 (internet-based test) in TOEFL;
- a minimum overall band score of 6.5 in IELTS; or
- other test scores that may be regarded as equivalent to TOEFL 85 (internet-based test).

(A high score in GRE or GMAT with supporting proof will be an added advantage though this is not a mandatory requirement. Please note that individual Departments in the College may adopt a higher standard.)

**(b) College of Computing**

- a minimum total score of 79 (internet-based test) in TOEFL;
- a minimum overall band score of 6.5 in IELTS;
- other test scores that may be regarded as equivalent to TOEFL 79 (internet-based test); or
- a minimum score of 490 in the Chinese mainland's College English Test Band 6 (CET6) may be accepted.

(Please note that individual Departments in the College may adopt a higher standard.)

**(c) College of Engineering**

- a minimum total score of 79 (internet-based test) in TOEFL;
- a minimum overall band score of 6.5 in IELTS;
- other test scores that may be regarded as equivalent to TOEFL 79 (internet-based test); or
- a minimum score of 490 in the Chinese mainland's College English Test Band 6 (CET6) may be accepted.

(Please note that individual Departments in the College may adopt a higher standard.)

**(d) College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences**

- a minimum TOEFL score of 88 (internet-based test), with a minimum of 21 for Reading, 21 for Listening, 25 for Writing, and 21 for Speaking; or
- a minimum IELTS 6.5 for overall band score and for the sub-categories of Writing, Speaking, Listening and Reading.

(Please note that individual Departments in the College may adopt a higher standard.)

**(e) College of Science**

- a minimum total score of 79 (internet-based test; sum of Reading, Listening and Writing section scores) in TOEFL;
- a minimum overall band score of 6.5 in IELTS;
- other test scores that may be regarded as equivalent to TOEFL 79 (internet-based test); or
- a minimum score of 490 in the Chinese mainland's College English Test Band 6 (CET6) may be accepted.

(Please note that individual Departments in the College may adopt a higher standard.)

#### **(f) Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences**

- a minimum total score of 79 (internet-based test) in TOEFL;
- a minimum overall band score of 6.5 in IELTS;
- other test scores that may be regarded as equivalent to TOEFL 79 (internet-based test); or
- a minimum score of 490 in the Chinese mainland's College English Test Band 6 (CET6) may be accepted.

(Applicants are strongly recommended to satisfy the English requirement with valid TOEFL or IELTS result. Please note that individual Departments in the College may adopt a higher standard.)

#### **(g) School of Creative Media**

- a minimum total score of 79 (internet-based test) in TOEFL; or
- a minimum overall band score of 6.5 in IELTS.

#### **(h) School of Energy and Environment**

- a minimum total score of 79 (internet-based test) in TOEFL;
- a minimum overall band score of 6.5 in IELTS; or
- other test scores that may be regarded as equivalent to TOEFL 79 (internet-based test).

#### **(i) School of Law**

- a total score of 97 (internet-based test) in TOEFL;
- a minimum overall band score of 7 in IELTS; or
- a score of 520 in the Chinese mainland's College English Test Band 6 (CET6)<sup>#</sup>.  
(<sup>#</sup>CET6 scores should be obtained within three years immediately preceding an application to the School of Law.)

### **2.3 Application Period**

2.3.1 Applications are accepted throughout the year and will be considered mainly in one admission round that the application deadline is normally the first week of December 2024, and the application result will be announced before end of March 2025. Please refer to our website for details (<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/pg/research-degree-programmes/steps-and-procedures>). The applicant shall assume his/her application unsuccessful if no notification is received within one year after the application submission.

2.3.2 Final-year undergraduate and postgraduate students who are expected to complete their studies can also apply; a conditional offer may be granted to suitable applicants.

### **2.4 Application Procedures**

2.4.1 Applications for admission should be made online at our website (<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/pg/research-degree-programmes/apply-now>).

2.4.2 To apply for admission to a research degree programme, applicants are required to perform the following:

- (a) complete an online application form;
- (b) pay the application fee online;
- (c) upload the image of the following supporting documents through the online application system:
  - (i) **official certificates and transcripts of academic qualifications** (Certificates and transcripts that are not in English should be accompanied by a formal certified translation in English.) [If the degree classification and/or GPA obtained by the applicant is not shown in the relevant degree's certificate or transcript, the applicant is required to also submit copies of any other official documents that indicate the formal degree classification or GPA.]
  - (ii) **certificates of professional qualifications**, if applicable (Certificates that are not in English should be accompanied by a formal certified translation in English.)
  - (iii) (in support of the applicant's publication record, if applicable) **the front page of the papers** (for papers that have been published) or **the letter of acceptance** (for papers that have been accepted for publication). [If applicants to the School of Law have already published academic work, they may submit full copies of up to three publications. Where any publication is submitted in a language other than English, it must be accompanied by an abstract in English.]
  - (iv) **international English language test results**, if applicable (see Section 2.2 above). [For TOEFL results, applicants may submit a copy of their score record or arrange with the TOEFL service centre to send the record directly to the University (Institution Code: 3401).]
  - (v) For applicants who are in the process of completing a programme, in addition to the interim transcript, an official document issued by the programme offering institution indicating that they are studying the relevant programme and the expected completion time is also required.
  - (vi) For applicants applying for admission to the following College/Schools, a **research proposal/statement** with clear objectives and proposed methodology is required:
    - College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
    - School of Creative Media
    - School of Energy and Environment
    - School of Law

The guidelines of the respective College/Schools for preparing a research proposal/statement are available at: <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/pg/research-degree-programmes/research-proposal-guidelines>

- (d) nominate two academic referees who can comment on their academic performances (proposed supervisor and persons from non-academic circles are normally not acceptable as academic referees).

For applicants applying for regular MPhil/PhD study, CityUHK will invite the nominated referees by email directly to complete an online Referee's Report on the applicant and submit it via an online platform.

For applicants who are applying for PhD study through the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS), they are required to download and send the HKPFS-specific Referee's Report Form (available at: <http://www.cityu.edu.hk/sgs/> → "Prospective Students" → "Download" → "Referee's Report for Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme") to the nominated referees for completion. Academic referees will be invited to return the completed reports directly to SGS by mail, by fax or via email under confidential cover.

- 2.4.3 Please note that incomplete submission may delay the processing of the application. Submitted documents will not be returned. Original documents will need to be submitted/presented for verification at a later time, upon request by the University. Provision of any false or misleading information as identified by the University before or after the admission offer, or failure to provide the full documentation for verification, will lead to disqualification of the admission application and any offer or enrolment made will be rescinded. All fees paid will not be refunded.

Applicants SHOULD NOT:

- Entrust their application to a third party or an intermediary agency;
- Create/submit any application on behalf of others.

- 2.4.4 Applicants are strongly advised to discuss their proposed research areas with the Research Degree Coordinator of the relevant Department/School before submitting an application. The contact information of Research Degree Coordinators is available at: <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/pg/research-degree-programmes/research-areas>.
- 2.4.5 Shortlisted applicants will be required to present themselves for an admission interview to assess their research potential and English language ability.
- 2.4.6 To facilitate verification of academic qualifications, students admitted to the research degree programmes may be required to arrange for the relevant institutions to send the University an original copy of their official transcript for the Bachelor's and/or Postgraduate degree(s) they have obtained.

## 2.5 Funding Sources of Support for Research Studies

Research studies can be undertaken on a government-funded or a self-financing basis, subject to the availability of student quota and funding. Qualified full-time candidates admitted to a research degree programme will be considered for postgraduate studentship supported by government fund or external funds. The application procedures, entrance and English proficiency requirements, and programme requirements for these two types of students are the same.

Tuition fee levels and entitlement to financial awards and services are different for government-funded and self-financing students, reflecting the different sources of funding. Government-funded students are required to pay tuition fees at a rate set by the government.

Quotas for government-funded places for each university in Hong Kong are also set by the government. As self-financing places are not subsidised, these students are required to pay a higher level of tuition fees. In addition, self-financing students are not eligible to apply for financial awards (e.g. postgraduate studentships, research tuition scholarships, conference grants, etc.) financed by government funds.

The funding support can be on University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded basis, self-financing basis, or a combination of both. Applicants are advised to contact the Department/School concerned for the details of financial arrangements.

## **2.6 Application Fee**

2.6.1 A non-refundable application fee of HK\$500 will be charged for each online application. Settlement of the application fee shall be made via online credit card payment.

2.6.2 Applications will not be processed if the payment of the application fee has not been settled.

## **2.7 Acceptance Fee**

2.7.1 To accept an offer of admission to the University, an applicant is required to pay an acceptance fee upon acceptance of admission offer. Candidates who fail to pay the acceptance fee by the stipulated deadline will have their admission offer relinquished.

2.7.2 The acceptance fee is neither refundable nor transferable, except under the following circumstances:

- (a) when the applicant fails to meet the condition(s) for admission offer resulting in a withdrawal of offer by the University;
- (b) when the applicant subsequently accepts another offer of an award programme of the University in the same semester/term of admission and has paid the relevant acceptance fee; or
- (c) when the programme for which an offer is made is subsequently cancelled by the University.

2.7.3 Currently, the prevailing rate of the acceptance fee is HK\$7,416, irrespective of the student's study mode and funding source.

2.7.4 The acceptance fee will be credited towards the student's account for use in settling the tuition fee upon the students' enrolment in the University. Waiver or deferral of payment of acceptance fee will not be entertained.

## **2.8 Use of Application Information**

2.8.1 The information provided in the application form will be used for the following purposes:

- (a) as a basis for various types of processing in relation to your application;
- (b) as a basis for selection of applicants for admission to research degree programmes offered by the University and for other relevant or related purposes;

- (c) for identifying multiple applications and checking records of academic/professional qualifications with the parties concerned;
  - (d) to obtain, from the relevant examination authority, assessment body or academic institution in Hong Kong and elsewhere, information about your examination results, records of studies or professional qualifications if deemed appropriate;
  - (e) to carry out checks on your applications, and any records of studies at the University and other institutions in Hong Kong and elsewhere if deemed appropriate;
  - (f) to carry out checks on other information mentioned in your application (e.g. employment records, professional qualifications) with the relevant party/parties if deemed appropriate;
  - (g) for transferring information to the student records system of the University, partner institutions under collaboration arrangements and/or other parties supporting financial schemes/awards, if applicable upon your successful enrolment at the University; if and when the application is successful;
  - (h) for statistical and research purposes (with personal identifiers removed); and
  - (i) for direct marketing of the University's programme and activities (if deemed appropriate).
- 2.8.2 For non-local candidates who need to apply for a student visa/an entry permit for the purpose of studying in Hong Kong, a copy of their academic transcripts and certificates may be sent, upon request, to the parties concerned for processing the visa/entry permit application.
- 2.8.3 Any false information and misrepresentation provided in the application form and during the application process will result in disqualification of the applicant for admission to the University.
- 2.8.4 In accordance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Chapter 486, Laws of Hong Kong), applicants have the right to access all personal information relevant to their applications and the right to correct the personal information contained in the application forms, as well as the right to request a copy of such data (with a charge) during the admission exercise. You may be charged a fee for each request. To obtain more details about this, please write to SGS.

## **2.9 Change of Contact Information after Submission of Application**

Please inform SGS immediately in writing or through e-mail ([sg@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:sg@cityu.edu.hk)) of any changes to your correspondence address and contact phone number during the application period. In the notification, please state clearly your name and online application reference number.

## **2.10 Applicants with Physical or Other Disabilities**

The admission of an applicant to a programme is based on academic criteria and any other entrance requirements specified by individual Departments/Schools. Applicants with physical or other disabilities can choose not to declare their disabilities at the application stage. Such applicants, however, are advised to select programmes with which they are physically able to cope. If they have any queries in this regard or wish to have information on facilities available

for students with special education needs generally, they should consult the Research Degree Coordinator of the relevant Departments/Schools. The contact information of Research Degree Coordinators is available at:

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/pg/research-degree-programmes/research-areas>

## 2.11 Enrolment

- 2.11.1 Upon being informed of acceptance, applicants must pay the required fees (including relevant tuition fee less the acceptance fee that has already been paid at the time of accepting the offer, the HK\$400 graduation fee, and the premium of the CityUHK-contracted insurance plan (if applicable)) and register in person with SGS by the deadline stated in the letter of admission. Those who fail to do so will be deemed to have declined the offer.
- 2.11.2 Non-local students should register with the University within six months from the offer of admission. They should inform SGS of the expected arrival date immediately after the approval of their student visa/entry permit.
- 2.11.3 The starting date of study is normally the first day of September to fit with the beginning of an academic year. SGS may approve other starting dates, which will be the first day of the first month of Semester B or Summer Term, if so recommended by the supervisor.
- 2.11.4 Upon registration, students are required to produce for verification the original copy of the supporting documents for qualifications claimed in the application forms.
- 2.11.5 Students are not allowed to register simultaneously in another programme of study in the University or in any other institution (both within or outside Hong Kong) without the prior permission of SGS. This also applies to students who are interrupting their studies or on study leave.

## 2.12 Enquiries

For further information, please contact the Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies (SGS):

Telephone: (852) 3442-9076  
Fax: (852) 3442-0332  
E-mail: [sg@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:sg@cityu.edu.hk)  
Website: <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/pg/research-degree-programmes>  
By mail: Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies  
(Research Degree and Professional Doctorate Programmes)  
City University of Hong Kong  
Tat Chee Avenue  
Kowloon  
Hong Kong

### 3 RESEARCH AREAS FOR MPhil/PHD PROGRAMMES

The University offers research degree studies in a wide range of research areas and places strong emphasis on research postgraduate education in professional fields. The University also promotes and encourages interdisciplinary research in order to synergise our expertise and research strengths. Research degree studies at CityUHK are offered in six Colleges and three Schools covering a wide range of strategic areas to suit individuals' research interests. For more information on a specific research area or research expertise in individual Departments/Schools, applicants may contact the Research Degree Coordinator of respective Colleges/Departments/Schools: <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/pg/research-degree-programmes/research-areas>.

#### 3.1 College of Business

We aim to be a globally-oriented business school, producing innovative and impactful business knowledge, and nurturing leaders for a sustainable future: a key business education hub — in China for the world. The College of Business is internationally accredited by AACSB International and EQUIS. According to the latest UTD World Rankings of Business Schools, the College is also ranked 39<sup>th</sup> worldwide and 5<sup>th</sup> in Asia based on its recent research contributions. With a team of over 200 faculty members recruited from around the world, the six academic departments in the College will admit and nurture research students in a diverse range of inter-disciplinary research areas. Our demonstrated strength and international competitiveness in some main research areas are listed below.

##### 3.1.1 Department of Accountancy

Research in accounting covers a broad spectrum of issues in the areas of financial accounting, auditing, and corporate governance. The major foci in the department include: **(1) various accounting issues related to Debt Contracting** such as debt covenant violation, debt monitoring, credit quality assessment and the **Credit Market** in general and **Credit Pricing** in particular (particularly the market for credit instruments such as credit default swaps); **(2) Corporate Governance** and **External Monitoring** issues in the China, US, and international settings as they relate to ownership structures, institutional infrastructures, legal regimes, information environments; **(3) Fraud Detection** and **Tax Avoidance** issues such as financial restatement and accounting and auditing enforcement by regulators such as the SEC and/or the CSRC and economic consequences of corporate tax avoidance, economic consequences of internal control reporting, accounting quality versus credit quality, tax complexity and tax compliance; **(4) Accounting Disclosure** issues such as disclosure and audit quality, earnings management, accounting conservatism, voluntary disclosures or management earnings guidance, and audit pricing.

##### 3.1.2 Department of Economics and Finance

Economics research expertise of the Department includes: **(1) International Economics:** Trade Policy; Intellectual Property Protection; FDI and Global Sourcing; International Migration; International Financial Crises; Exchange Rate Economics; Purchasing Power Parity; Capital Mobility; Globalization; **(2) Microeconomics:** Auction Theory; Mechanism Design; Experimental Economics; Game Theory; Industrial Organization; Contract Theory; Political Economy; **(3) Macroeconomics:** Business Cycles; Endogenous Growth; Structural Change; Fiscal and Monetary Policy; Real Estate and Urban Economics; Labor Economics; Consumer Credit; and **(4) Econometrics:** Econometric Theory; Economic Forecasting; Bayesian Econometrics.

Finance research expertise includes: **(1) Corporate Finance:** Capital Structure; Payout Policy; Capital Raising; Real Investment; Firm-bank Relationship; Mergers and Acquisitions; Restructuring; Hedging; Corporate Governance and Control; **(2) Asset Pricing:** Equilibrium Asset Pricing; Equity Return-risk Relationship; Term Structure of Interest Rates; Derivatives Pricing; Financial Engineering; and **(3) Investments and Capital Markets:** Financial Investments; Market Microstructure; Anomalies; International Financial Management; Financial Services and Intermediation; Fund Management; Credit Risk Management.

### 3.1.3 *Department of Information Systems*

The Doctor of Philosophy Program in Information Systems provides comprehensive training to analyze, develop, implement, evaluate, and manage information systems in various contexts, i.e., from individual to organizational and societal contexts. The research training draws on theories, concepts, and methods from domains such as business information systems, design science, management, operations research, cognitive and social psychology, strategy, and/or economics to study complex and advanced information systems. Particular emphasis is placed on the links between theory and practice and the practical application of **innovative information systems methods and techniques to create business values and societal impacts**. The research methodologies employed include behavioural methods (qualitative and quantitative), technical modeling, and econometrics. The main areas of research include (1) Digital Transformation and Digital Society; (2) Technological Innovation and Entrepreneurship; (3) Generative AI and Machine Learning; (4) Business Analytics and Big Data; (5) Sustainability and Green IS; (6) Social Media and Platform Economy; (7) Smart City, Smart Health, and FinTech; (8) Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technology.

### 3.1.4 *Department of Management*

Research foci/expertise in the Department include **(1) Organizational Behaviour:** Leadership; Motivation; Decision-making; Creativity and Proactivity; Citizenship and Counterproductive Work Behaviour; Conflict Resolution and Negotiation; Risk and Uncertainty Management; Ethics; Organizational Justice; Work Stress; Emotions; Job Attitudes; Team Dynamics; Cross-Cultural Management, etc; **(2) Human Resources Management:** Strategic Human Resource Management; Recruitment & Selection; Training & Development; Selection and Assessment, etc; **(3) International Business:** Internationalization Strategy; International Entry Modes; MNC Control and Staffing; Intercultural Communication; Comparative Management; Culture and Cognition, Cross-Cultural Research Methods, etc; **(4) Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship:** Corporate Strategy; Corporate Governance; Competitive and Cooperative Strategy; Strategies in Emerging/Transition Economies; Organizational Decision-making; Organizational Changes; Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A); Top Management Teams; New Venture Creation and Management; Venture Capital Firm; IPO; Organizational Innovation and Management, etc; **(5) Corporate Social Responsibility:** Business Ethics; Stakeholder Management; Corporate Social Responsibility, etc.

### 3.1.5 *Department of Management Sciences*

Research expertise in the Department can be grouped into two streams: (1) Operations research and operations management in a broad sense, including specific areas such as healthcare management, inventory management, revenue management, financial engineering, sustainable operations, supply chain and logistics management, and interdisciplinary research between operations and risk management/marketing/finance/accounting; (2) Business analytics in a board base sense, including big data analytics, data mining, econometrics, credit risk

management, optimization, simulation/decision models, marketing analytics, healthcare analytics, and market research.

### 3.1.6 Department of Marketing

The Department of Marketing is renowned for its robust research in areas such as quantitative marketing, consumer behavior, and marketing strategy. The department excels in interdisciplinary research, integrating insights from economics, psychology, statistics, and digital marketing methods to better understand market dynamics and consumer decision-making. Additionally, the faculty's research expertise on digital transformation in marketing analytics, competitive strategies, and the implications of emerging technologies on consumer interactions positions the department as a leader in the academic and professional marketing communities.

## 3.2 College of Computing

The College of Computing serves as a center of excellence providing professional education programmes in the interdisciplinary fields of **Biostatistics**, **Computer Science** and **Data Science**. These fields are closely related to the advancement of AI and hold tremendous potential for innovation and societal transformation. The College is poised to conduct cutting-edge, collaborative research that develops advanced analytical tools and AI-empowered solutions to tackle complex global challenges. The areas of research excellence and global competitiveness of the College are highlighted by the recent international rankings below.

### U.S. News and World Report University Rankings 2024

- Computer Science: 28<sup>th</sup>
- Artificial Intelligence: 23<sup>rd</sup>

### ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2023

- Computer Science and Engineering: 29<sup>th</sup>

### QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024

- Computer Science and Information Systems: 77<sup>th</sup>
- Data Science and Artificial Intelligence: 39<sup>th</sup>

### Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024

- Computer Science: 64<sup>th</sup>

### Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities by National Taiwan University by Subject 2023 (NTU Rankings)

- Computer Science: 13<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> in Hong Kong)

### 3.2.1 Department of Biostatistics

The Department's research expertise and focus encompass several areas, including: (1) **Computational Statistics**, which covers topics such as Bayesian hierarchical models, empirical Bayes, Markov chain Monte Carlo, statistical machine learning, and large-scale data analysis; (2) **Functional Data Analysis**, which includes Bayesian inverse problems in physical oceanography, trajectory analysis in life course epidemiology, and oceanography; (3) **Inferential Statistics**, which involves efficient estimation for semiparametric models, model selection, empirical likelihood, knockoff statistics, non-standard asymptotic theory, and post-selection inference; (4) **Statistical Genetics Genomics Omics**, which covers the analysis of whole-genome sequencing data and

integrative analysis of multi-omics data; (5) **Survival and Event History Analysis**, which includes competing risks models for HIV/AIDS data, network survival models, counting process, and martingale methods; (6) **Time Series Analysis**, which covers inference for stochastic processes, statistical finance, and risk management; (7) **Causal Inference**, which deals with methods for identifying causal relationships from observational or experimental data, with applications in medical research; (8) **Spatial Statistics**, which focuses on the analysis of data with spatial or spatio-temporal structure, including applications in epidemiology and public health; and (9) **Deep Learning**, which involves the development of algorithms and models for learning from complex and high-dimensional data, with applications in medical imaging, diagnosis, and treatment.

### 3.2.2 *Department of Computer Science*

Research focus and expertise in the Department include: **(1) Multimedia Computing:** Computer Vision; Computer Graphics; Audio Analysis; Speech Processing; Natural Language Analysis; Computer Games; Virtual Reality; Augmented Reality; Mixed Reality; Medical Imaging; Image Processing; Image and Video Coding; Human Motion Analysis; Perception, Neuroscience and Brain Informatics; Multimedia Analytics; Multimedia Information Retrieval; Wearable Computing; Social Media; Mobile Media; Pen Computing; Human Computer Interaction; Multi-modal Data Fusion; **(2) Computer Systems and Security:** Information Security; Cloud Computing; Internet of Things (IoT); Mobile Computing; Distributed Algorithms and Systems; Data Center Networks; Cyber-Physical Systems; Vehicular Networks; Sensor Networks; Wireless Security; Wearable Sensing; Traffic Estimation; Urban Computing; **(3) Applied Algorithms:** Bioinformatics; Data and Internet Security; Equilibrium Algorithms; Scheduling; Applied Cryptography; Algorithmic Game Theory; Heuristics; Blockchain; Cryptocurrency; **(4) Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Analytics:** Knowledge Management; Data Science; Big Data Analytics; Machine Learning; Artificial Intelligence; Database; Optimization; Text Mining; Information Retrieval; Semantic Object Modeling; Data Mining; Data Warehousing; Multimedia Data Indexing; XML and Interoperability; Workflow and Web Services; Recommender Systems; Sentiment Analysis; Deep Learning; Generative Models; Supervised Learning; Semi-supervised Learning; Unsupervised Learning; Neural Networks; **(5) Systems, Software Engineering and Internet Applications:** Internet Applications; Embedded Systems; Parallel Architecture; Real-time Systems; Software Engineering; E-commerce; E-learning; Innovative Technology for Education; Programming Languages and Systems; Empirical Software Engineering; Software Data Analytics; Software Quality; System Modelling; Software Defect Prediction; Software Effort Estimation; Software Testing; Software Project Management; Machine Learning in Software Engineering; Decentralized Application; Program Debugging; Intelligent Transportation Systems; Storage Systems; **(6) Evolutionary Computation:** Multiobjective Optimization; Swarm Intelligence; Multi-agent Evolutionary Optimization; Neurodynamic Optimization; Intelligent Control; Intelligent Marine Vehicles; Decomposition Based Algorithms; Computational Intelligence; Fuzzy Systems.

### 3.2.3 *Department of Data Science*

The Department of Data Science at CityUHK is one of the first in the world dedicated to leading the development of this new discipline. The Department comprises an interdisciplinary faculty team of leading academics in multiple areas including data science foundations (machine learning, statistics, optimization, and AI for Science) as well as data science powered applications (smart cities, Industry 4.0, FinTech, energy, public health, and precision medicine). Our PhD programme aims to offer students solid fundamentals of data science, which cover machine learning, statistics, computing, data analytics, and optimization, and nurture them to produce state-of-the-art research in data science. Selected research areas include:

- Machine Learning Theory and Algorithms (including deep learning, statistical learning, optimization, and reinforcement learning, etc.)
- Artificial Intelligence for Science
- Smart Cities and Industrial AI (Internet of Things, smart manufacturing, intelligent transportation, power and energy systems, smart healthcare and precision medicine, etc.)
- Business Data Analytics and Financial technology (FinTech)
- Data Science for Social Media, Innovation, and Policy

### 3.3 College of Engineering

The College comprises six academic units providing quality education programmes with an emphasis on interdisciplinary studies: Architecture and Civil Engineering; Biomedical Engineering; Electrical Engineering; Materials Science and Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; and Systems Engineering.

The College has a strong international reputation in research, as evidenced by recent international rankings:

#### U.S. News and World Report Global University Rankings (2024)

By subjects

- Artificial Intelligence: 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Chemical Engineering: 33<sup>rd</sup>
- Civil Engineering: 78<sup>th</sup>
- Computer Science: 28<sup>th</sup>
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering: 29<sup>th</sup>
- Engineering: 20<sup>th</sup>
- Green and Sustainable Science and Technology: 41<sup>st</sup>
- Materials Science: 9<sup>th</sup>
- Mechanical Engineering: 42<sup>nd</sup>
- Nanoscience and Nanotechnology: 10<sup>th</sup>

#### ShanghaiRanking Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (2023)

- Automation & Control: 8<sup>th</sup>
- Chemical Engineering: 47<sup>th</sup>
- Civil Engineering: 27<sup>th</sup>
- Computer Science & Engineering: 29<sup>th</sup>
- Electrical & Electronic Engineering: 45<sup>th</sup>
- Energy Science & Engineering: 9<sup>th</sup>
- Instruments Science & Technology: 32<sup>nd</sup>
- Library & Information Science: 1<sup>st</sup>
- Materials Science & Engineering: 21<sup>st</sup>
- Mechanical Engineering: 46<sup>th</sup>
- Metallurgical Engineering: 10<sup>th</sup>
- Nanoscience & Nanotechnology: 17<sup>th</sup>
- Telecommunication Engineering: 36<sup>th</sup>
- Transportation Science & Technology: 32<sup>nd</sup>
- Biomedical Engineering: 51<sup>st</sup> - 75<sup>th</sup>



### Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings

World University Rankings: 62<sup>nd</sup> (2025)

Asia University Rankings: 17<sup>th</sup> (2024)

By subjects (2024)

Top 100 in:

- Architecture & Built Environment
- Computer Science & Information Systems
- Data Science and Artificial Intelligence
- Engineering – Civil & Structural
- Engineering – Electrical & Electronic
- Materials Science

### Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities by National Taiwan University (NTU Rankings)

By fields – Engineering (2023): 22<sup>nd</sup>

By subjects (2023)

- Biomedical Engineering: 49<sup>th</sup>
- Chemical Engineering: 41<sup>st</sup>
- Civil Engineering: 85<sup>th</sup>
- Computer Science: 13<sup>th</sup>
- Electrical Engineering: 11<sup>th</sup>
- Energy Science & Engineering: 14<sup>th</sup>
- Materials Science: 16<sup>th</sup>
- Mechanical Engineering: 18<sup>th</sup>

Furthermore, the remarkable achievements of the College are exemplified by the State Key Laboratory of Terahertz and Millimeter Waves, the Chinese National Engineering Research Center: Hong Kong Branch of National Precious Metals Material Engineering Research Center, and a number of research centres in Advanced Structural Materials, Complexity and Complex Networks, Robotics and Automation, etc.

#### *3.3.1 Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering*

Research expertise in the Department mainly focuses on Sustainable Development of the Built Environment which includes: **(1) Civil Engineering** (including Structural, Geotechnical Engineering, Transportation, Smart City and Intelligent Construction Engineering and Management): Advanced Construction Materials (3D printing concrete; geopolymer concrete, ultra-high performance concrete; fiber-reinforced polymer composites, fiber-reinforced cementitious composites); Rheology control of cementitious materials; Carbon capture; Waste recycling and upcycling; Environmental microbiology and biotechnology; Computational mechanics; Engineering mechanics; Nano-mechanics; Composite structures; Multiscale modeling; Wind engineering; Hydrology; Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD); Seismic response and disasters; Structural integrity and diagnosis; Repair and strengthening of existing structures; Climatic change and hazard mitigation; Experimental soil mechanics; Micromechanics of soils; Machine learning and data analytics in geotechnical engineering; Geotechnical risk; Reliability and uncertainty; Landslides; Transportation; Pedestrian flow; Pavement materials and structures; Smart city development; Big data for construction project management; Construction robotics and human-robot interaction; Building information modeling and digital twin; AI-generated contents. **(2) Architectural Engineering:** Building systems and facilities management; Building sustainability; Building energy efficiency; Green and low-carbon buildings; Advanced ventilation; Natural and artificial lighting; Thermal comfort; Indoor and regional air quality; Fire safety engineering, Fire Evacuation. **(3)**

**Architecture:** Construction and land economy; Architectural design, history, theory, ecology and technology; Landscape architecture; Architectural science. **(4) Surveying and Urban Planning:** Building information modelling; Building contracts and laws, and Disputes and resolutions; Real estate development, Urban climate; Urbanism, urban design and planning; Digital twin; Blockchain.

### 3.3.2 *Department of Biomedical Engineering*

The Department offers BEng, MSc and MPhil/PhD degrees in Biomedical Engineering. Research areas of the Department include: **(1) Biomedical Imaging and Bioinstrumentation:** Advanced biophotonics and novel imaging systems, Image analysis and image-guided interventions, Bioinstrumentation for imaging, disease diagnosis, and therapeutics. **(2) Cell and Tissue Engineering:** Micro/nanotechnology for cellular engineering, Biomaterial design and engineering for regenerative medicine, drug delivery and nano-medicine, Biomechanics and mechanobiology. **(3) Robotics and Artificial Intelligence for Biomedical Applications:** Bio/medical robotics and control systems, Artificial intelligence for biomedical applications. **(4) Biosensors and Health Informatics:** Biosensor and largescale biomedical data, Machine learning facilitated biomedical clouds/service, integrative microfluidic platform for precision medicine, and wearable/smart materials for healthcare.

### 3.3.3 *Department of Electrical Engineering*

The Department offers research degree studies in a wide range of research themes: (1) **Antenna Design:** computational electromagnetics, antenna theory, and metasurfaces; (2) **Big Data, Machine Learning, and Artificial Intelligence:** pattern recognition and machine learning in biomedical applications; (3) **Bioinformatics:** genomic sequence analysis and genome annotation; (4) **Biomedical Systems, Biosensors, and Bioelectronics:** biomedical imaging, neural prosthesis, visual prosthetics, and visual electrophysiology; (5) **Computer Engineering:** computer graphics and vision, cloud computing, computer architecture, embedded systems, and evolutionary computing; (6) **Control Systems and Optimization:** intelligent and networked control, complex networks, and nonlinear circuits and systems; (7) **Microelectronic Devices and Circuits:** micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS), biomedical sensors, and microsystems; (8) **Nanotechnology and Nanodevices:** nanophotonics, nanomaterials, and nanofabrication; (9) **Networking and Internet of Things:** optical networks, wireless networks, computer networks, queueing theory, performance evaluation; and security and cryptography; (10) **Photonics:** fiber and integrated optics, plasmonics, microwave photonics, and optical communications; (11) **Power Electronics and Systems:** power electronics and smart grids; (12) **Signal and Image Processing:** biomedical image processing and analysis, image segmentation and registration, and image compression; (13) **Terahertz and Millimeter Waves:** terahertz science and technology, active terahertz devices, and millimetre-wave circuits; (14) **Wireless Communications:** wireless communications, wireless sensor networks, information theory, coding theory and techniques, visible light communications, and data storage systems.

### 3.3.4 *Department of Materials Science and Engineering*

The Department has state-of-the-art fabrication and characterization facilities for a wide range of research areas related to materials science and engineering. The faculty members of the Department carry out both fundamental and applied research under the three major targeted areas, namely, Functional materials, Structural materials and Computational materials. For **(1) Functional materials**, key elements include nanomaterials, organic light-emitting diode material, photovoltaic materials, energy storage related materials, sensing and detection, as well as photonics and optoelectronics materials. For **(2)**

**Structural materials** section encompasses phase transformations, SMT solder joints, creep and life assessment, in-service behaviour of materials, stress analysis, structural materials design, surface science and engineering, thin films and coatings, metals and alloys, plastics and composites, shape memory alloys, and electrical ceramics. For (3), **Computational materials** include density functional theory calculation, molecular dynamic simulation, phase field modelling and multiscale modeling of mechanics of materials. In addition, members of the Department have collaborations around the world and are well-recognised in their research expertise. The ultimate goal of the department is to prepare graduates with professional knowledge, exploring spirit and leadership skills for the future world.

### 3.3.5 *Department of Mechanical Engineering*

Academic programmes offered by the Department span from BEng degrees with Mechanical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, and Nuclear and Risk Engineering majors, MSc degree in Mechanical Engineering, to MPhil/PhD degrees in disciplines such as Nano/Molecular Engineering, Sustainable Manufacturing, Materials Engineering, Thermal Fluid, Aerospace Materials/Systems, Robotics/Mechatronics/Automation and Nuclear and Risk Engineering. Research areas of the Department include **(1) Mechanical Engineering:** Mechanical Design; Rapid Prototyping; Flexible Assembly Systems; Solid Mechanics; Fluid Mechanics; Multiphase Flow and Heat Transfer; Physical Metallurgy & Material Forming; Experimental Mechanics; Tribology; Surface Engineering & Thin Films; Structural Materials; Neural-Controlled Robots; Micro/Bio/Nano Robotics; Mobile/Flying Robots; Industrial Robots; Intelligent Control; Remote Sensing & Control; Intelligent Sensor Networks; Radio Frequency Identification (RFID); Automatic Materials Handling; Automation for Entertainment & Healthcare; Machine Vision. **(2) Aerospace Engineering:** high temperature alloys; advanced aerospace composites; combustion and propulsion; noise and vibration control; aerospace structures; aerospace system. **(3) Nuclear and Risk Engineering:** Nuclear Safety; Nuclear Power Management; Nuclear Materials; Nuclear Medicine; Risk Assessment and Management; Emergency Management.

### 3.3.6 *Department of Systems Engineering*

The Department provides high quality educational and research experiences in disciplines related to systems engineering, intelligent manufacturing and industrial engineering, preparing graduates for professional and leadership roles in industry and academia. The Department carries out research in a number of multidisciplinary areas. Research in the Department includes Manufacturing systems, Semiconductor Manufacturing, Cyber-physical systems, Automation, Operations management, Industrial statistics, Reliability Engineering, Logistics and Supply Chain, Human Factors Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Project Management, Quality Management, etc.

## 3.4 **College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences**

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) at City University provides leading educational programmes in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences. It is home to seven academic units spanning a wide range of subjects. These are the Departments of Chinese and History; Linguistics and Translation; English; Media and Communication; Public and International Affairs; Social and Behavioural Sciences; and Chan Feng Men-ling Chan Shuk-lin Language Centre.

In the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024, CLASS is ranked 100<sup>th</sup> in Social Sciences and Management and 151<sup>th</sup> in Arts and Humanities among over 1000 universities. With respect to individual subjects, CLASS also puts in a strong performance, in which Linguistics is ranked 51<sup>st</sup> amongst world's top universities by QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024. The College prides itself in its research reputation, and is also concerned to provide excellent opportunities for research degrees at the level of MPhil and PhD studies.

The following academic units of CLASS offer Research degree studies:

#### 3.4.1 *Department of Chinese and History*

Research foci and expertise in the Department include: **(1) Chinese Language and Literature:** Classical Chinese Literature, Modern Chinese Literature, Chinese Classical Studies (*jingxue*), Chinese Literary Criticism, Chinese Philosophy, Classical Chinese Language; **(2) Cultural Heritage and Cross-cultural Studies:** Art History, Anthropology, Cultural Heritage, Digital Humanities, Comparative Literature; and **(3) Chinese History:** Archaeology, Tang-Song-Yuan Studies, Ming-Qing Studies, Modern History, Urban History, History of Buddhism, History of Medicine, History of Cultural Exchange. The programme places equal importance on the use of both Chinese and English languages.

#### 3.4.2 *Department of English*

Research strengths in the Department include: **(1) Discourse Analysis:** conversation analysis, corpus-assisted discourse analysis, critical discourse analysis, genre analysis, mediated discourse analysis, multimodal discourse analysis, pragmatics, semiotics, and text analysis; **(2) Applied Linguistics and Language Teaching:** identity, intercultural communication, language policy and planning, pedagogical grammar, second language acquisition, second language writing, self-access learning, language teacher identity; **(3) Professional Communication:** business communication, English for specific purposes, language and law, persuasive communication, rhetoric of science, health and risk communication; **(4) Language, Technology, and Media:** computer-assisted language learning, digital literacies, language and mobile communication, and online discourse; and **(5) English-medium Instruction:** incidental language acquisition in the English-medium environment, pedagogical approaches to teaching and learning in EMI settings, professional discursual skills in EMI; and **(6) Literary Studies:** World literature in English, postcolonial literature, modern and contemporary novel, nineteenth-century literature and culture, crime fiction, travel writing and comparative literature. **(7) Theatre and Performance Studies:** Modern and contemporary drama, performance studies; **(8) Cultural Studies:** Film studies and visual culture, fashion studies, creative industries and popular culture.

#### 3.4.3 *Department of Linguistics and Translation*

The Department of Linguistics and Translation takes a systematic approach to the study of language from a number of different perspectives with a broad range of methodologies. Research foci and expertise cover **(1) Empirical and Experimental Linguistics,** including computational linguistics, corpus linguistics, neurolinguistics, and psycholinguistics; **(2) General Linguistics,** including formal linguistics, e.g. semantics, syntax, morphology, phonology, phonetics (and their interfaces), functional linguistics, historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, and text linguistics; **(3) Pedagogical Linguistics,** including applied linguistics, second language learning and teaching, linguistics-based pedagogy to language teaching, contrastive linguistics of English and Chinese, and teaching Chinese to speakers of other languages; **(4) Translation and Interpretation,**

including translation and interpretation studies, translation theories, computer-aided translation, machine translation and terminology.

#### 3.4.4 *Department of Media and Communication*

Research foci of the Department include: **(1) New Media and Technology**: diffusion, use, and effects of communication technology; impact of online and mobile media; computer-mediated communication; human-computer interaction; policy and regulation; business strategy; **(2) Media Institutions and Society**: state-society-media relationships; news production; media organizations; journalists and professionalism; social influence of media content; **(3) Political Communication**: public opinion, civic and political participation, political campaigns; **(4) Media Psychology and Effects**: cognitive processing, media effects; interactive advertising; **(5) Computational Communication Research**: social media/network analysis, big data mining; computational social science; **(6) Health Communication**: persuasion, healthcare narratives, health message processing; **(7) Strategic Communication**: public relations, advertising, integrated marketing communications.

#### 3.4.5 *Department of Public and International Affairs*

The Department of Public and International Affairs (PIA) is an internationally-leading research hub for public policy, international studies, philosophy, and urban governance. Our staff come from top universities around the world, and our PhD students are very successful in gaining positions in government, academia, business, and with non-governmental organizations. We are one of the leading departments for winning HKPFS awards, and guarantee excellent training and resources for our doctoral students. Studying in PIA exposes students to leading debates and techniques across the field and its subdisciplines as well as provides students with the opportunity to discuss their research with visiting scholars from around the world.

PIA graduates are people who can communicate effectively, possess strong leadership skills and have the necessary analytical skills to dissect societal problems and make improvements to the world. Our faculty have well established track records in taking their academic research and making an impact on Hong Kong and global institutions. PIA professors are frequently interviewed in the international and local media on issues of daily concern.

The personal and professional development of PhD students is central to PIA's education strategy. Students will have opportunities to gain international experience, publish their research, and develop their pedagogical skills alongside top faculty members; all of which leaves our PhD students well-placed for careers in academia, thinktanks, private and public sectors after graduation. Joining PIA means joining one of the leading departments in Hong Kong and across Asia. According to the QS World University Rankings 2023, CityUHK ranks the 54<sup>th</sup> in the world, and the 4<sup>th</sup> for the "top 50 under 50". As for the 2023 Global Ranking of academic subjects, our public administration is the 1<sup>st</sup> in Hong Kong, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Asia, 23<sup>rd</sup> in the world, while political science is also the 1<sup>st</sup> in Hong Kong.

#### 3.4.6 *Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences*

The Department's research expertise encompasses a broad range of topics across several disciplines, including: **(1) Applied Sociology**: work, labour, class, organization, community, family, gender, ethnicity, deviance, welfare, politics, quality of life, social capital, social movement, social policy, social problem, civil society, and social development; **(2) Psychology**: cognitive biases, self-concept, educational psychology, intimate relationship, stress and emotional regulation, health psychology, positive ageing, creativity, aggression, resilience, and human values; **(3) Social Work**: casework,

groupwork, community work; working with children, youth, elderly and family; population ageing, social determinants of health, family violence, empowerment-oriented practice with socially disadvantaged groups, conflict management and mediation, volunteerism, and social work management and supervision; **(4) Counselling:** cognitive behavioural therapy, narrative therapy, family therapy, parent education and support, marriage enrichment, and psychotherapy process; school bullying, childhood and adolescent aggression, peer victimization, depression and suicide; and **(5) Criminology:** restorative justice, youth justice, organised crime, juvenile delinquency, Chinese criminology, anti-corruption, policing, crime prevention, school bullying, gang and outreach youth work, and cybercrime. Existing research works often tap on the expertise of different disciplines. For example, the development of caregiver assessment model is supported by a team from social work, and psychology disciplines.

### 3.5 College of Science

The College of Science (CSCI) strives to offer quality research degree programmes in the departments of **Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics**. Drawing upon the diverse expertise of the internationally recognised faculties and the state-of-the-art research facilities, the College offers focused curriculum and rigorous research training to our research degree students. With a vision to generate research of regional and global impact in theoretical and applied sciences, the College equips the students with transferrable skills and attributes necessary for a career in academia, entrepreneurship and beyond.

The excellence in research as accomplished by the College can be highlighted by the State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution (City University of Hong Kong), the Liu Bie Ju Centre for Mathematical Sciences, and the Centre for Neutron Scattering. In addition, the College has a strong international reputation in research and our outstanding academic rankings are highlighted below.

#### Nature Index 2021 Young Universities

6<sup>th</sup> in Chemistry

9<sup>th</sup> in Physical Sciences

#### US News & World Report: Best Global Universities Rankings 2024

9<sup>th</sup> in Condensed Matter Physics

9<sup>th</sup> in Physical Chemistry

14<sup>th</sup> in Optics

33<sup>rd</sup> in Chemical Engineering

49<sup>th</sup> in Mathematics

53<sup>rd</sup> in Chemistry

#### ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (GRAS) 2023

43<sup>rd</sup> in Chemistry

47<sup>th</sup> in Chemical Engineering

#### Nature Index: Leading Institution of Research Leader 2024

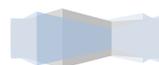
47<sup>th</sup> in Physical Sciences

58<sup>th</sup> in Chemistry

#### Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings by subject, 2024

52<sup>nd</sup> in Chemical Engineering

65<sup>th</sup> in Physical Sciences



### 3.5.1 Department of Chemistry

The Department is very unique in a multidisciplinary nature by integrating Chemistry, Biology, and Environmental Science. Research focus/ expertise in the Department include:

- (1) **Synthetic Chemistry:** green chemistry; spectroscopy and catalysis; catalyst design and synthesis; organic electroluminescent devices; inorganic photo-responsive and luminescent chemosensors; organometallic chemistry; homogeneous catalysis;
- (2) **Materials Chemistry:** green materials/manufacturing; organic and inorganic functional materials; nanoscience and nanotechnology; organic light-emitting devices; crystal phase control; solar cells;
- (3) **Biological Chemistry:** chemical biology; bioinorganic chemistry; bioorganic chemistry; developmental and cell biology; nano-biotechnology and biosensing; DNA and RNA chemistry; genomics and biotechnology; proteomics and metabolomics;
- (4) **Computational Chemistry:** energetics and reactivities of chemical species; mechanisms of chemical reactions;
- (5) **Environmental Chemistry:** freshwater and marine pollution; aquatic ecology and conservation; renewable energy, energy storage and management, energy efficiency and conservation; ecotoxicology; environmental monitoring; environmental impact and risk assessment.

### 3.5.2 Department of Mathematics

Research strengths/disciplines of the Department include: (1) **Applied Analysis:** approximation theory, asymptotic analysis, harmonic analysis, inverse problems, kinetic theory, learning theory, partial differential equations, random matrix theory, and special functions; (2) **Computational Mathematics:** complexity theory, computational electromagnetics, image processing, numerical analysis, numerical linear algebra, and scientific computing; (3) **Mathematical Modelling:** control and system theory, fluid mechanics, general relativity, granular materials, mathematical biology, mathematical elasticity, mathematical finance, mathematical modelling of waves, and mathematics of new materials; (4) **Probability and Statistics:** Bayesian statistics, high dimensional data analysis, mean field games, probability theory, statistical learning theory, stochastic analysis, stochastic controls, and stochastic processes.

### 3.5.3 Department of Physics

Research focus/expertise in the Department include: (1) **Theoretical and Computational Physics:** condensed matter theory, computational solid state physics, computational electrodynamics, computational chemistry, computational biology physics, quantum computation and information, quantum simulation with cold atoms, machine learning; (2) **Spectroscopy and Imaging:** sophisticated experiments involving quantum beams such as synchrotron x-ray, neutron, electron, coherent light, and NMR, structure and phase transition in glass and liquids, Boson peak and the dynamics of glass and liquids, quantum

interactions such as spin-orbit coupling in multiferroics, single molecule electronics; (3) **Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics**: mechanism of noise and decoherence, open quantum system and quantum entanglement, multi-photon interference, non-equilibrium physics in AMO system, nonlinear optical spectroscopy, opto-mechanics, photonic crystals and metamaterials; (4) **Quantum Materials**: topological quantum computing and Majorana fermions, Dirac and Weyl semimetals, Bose-Einstein condensation and spin-orbit coupling, quantum Hall Effect, transport phenomena, superconductivity, frustrated magnetism, 2D materials, heterostructures and interfaces; (5) **Soft Matter and Biophysics**: dynamics of protein and subcellular processes, emergent phenomena in live cells, non-equilibrium mechanisms in active living matter, biological networks, biological and clinical experiments, novel physics-based data acquisition protocol, instrumentation in biomedical imaging, radiation biophysics, ion-track technology; (6) **Astrophysics and Particle Physics**: dark matter, black holes, gravitational waves, cosmology, and high energy theory.

### 3.6 Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences

The College strives to be at the frontier of veterinary and biomedical research and discovery. Our cutting-edge research in these areas thematically operates under the “One Health” concept, which recognizes the interconnectedness of human and animal health. The College fosters interdisciplinary collaborations involving a wide range of scientific disciplines aimed at achieving optimal health outcomes for people, animals and the environment within a local, regional and international context.

The College offers five PhD programmes at college and departmental levels:

1. Doctor of Philosophy in Veterinary Medicine (offered at college level);
2. Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences;
3. Doctor of Philosophy in Infectious Diseases and Public Health;
4. Doctor of Philosophy in Neuroscience;
5. Doctor of Philosophy in Veterinary Clinical Sciences.

#### 3.6.1 Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences

The Interdisciplinary PhD Programme in Veterinary Medicine (VM/P) is open to outstanding graduate students who wish to conduct state-of-the-art basic, clinical and translational life sciences research alongside research professionals. The students will participate in research programmes leading to PhD degrees in one of the following areas and will be jointly supervised by a faculty advisor from CityUHK and a faculty advisor from Cornell University.

- Comparative Biomedical Sciences
- Immunology & Infectious Disease
- Molecular & Systemic Neuroscience
- Public Health & Epidemiology

The programme is student-centred and led by faculty who are accessible, engaged and committed to ensuring that our postgraduate students reach their full potential in research, teaching and professional development. In addition, students will be provided the unique opportunity with financial sponsorship to conduct research work at the Cornell University co-supervisor’s laboratory at Ithaca, New York, for a period of 3 to 12 months during their senior years of studies.

### 3.6.2 *Department of Biomedical Sciences*

The Department carries out internationally competitive research and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration in biomedical sciences. Its research programmes aim to understand fundamental mechanisms of biological processes and diseases, and translate new knowledge into the development of novel diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for prediction, prevention, and treatment of human diseases. Departmental research focuses on four strategic areas:

- Cancer biology and therapy;
- Genomics and bioinformatics;
- Vascular, metabolic and regenerative biology; and
- Infectious diseases and immunity.

Multidisciplinary approaches are employed and supported by a wide range of state-of-the-art equipment with cutting-edge techniques in areas including molecular and cell biology, genetics and genomics, physiology and pharmacology, systems biology and bioinformatics, microbiology and immunology, and biotechnology and nanotechnology.

### 3.6.3 *Department of Infectious Diseases and Public Health*

The Department focuses on One Health, an area spanning the health of animals, humans and the environment. Our principal research areas include:

- enhancing an understanding of the pathogenesis and natural history of infectious diseases in animals, with the overarching aim of improving methods for their diagnosis and control
- improving animal health and welfare through application of more effective disease control methods
- supporting the efficient and economic production of safe, both terrestrial and aquatic, animal-based food and other derived products
- monitoring current and emerging infectious diseases in animals that may impact on human health, including drug-resistant pathogens
- fostering collaborations between medical and veterinary personnel in the provision of targeted public health measures
- improving animal welfare through research, teaching and public education

### 3.6.4 *Department of Neuroscience*

Neuroscience is a rapidly growing discipline that acknowledges the remarkable importance of the brain, the most complicated biological machine. Modern neuroscientists have skills suited for a variety of career options including research, education, industry and medicine, to name a few. The field is driven by discovery and translational research that is interdisciplinary in nature and benefits from City University's strong programs in biomedical sciences, computational science, applied mathematics and engineering. Neuroscience is entering a period of extraordinary opportunity for translating basic findings into treatments for diseases such as stroke, dementia and Parkinson disease. Research is conducted across a broad range of topics from the molecules that underlie neuronal communication to the mechanisms of sensory perception to the events that underlie memory and learning. Major research areas include:

- The physiology and neurochemistry of memory and learning
- Psychophysics of visual and auditory perception
- Normal and abnormal functions of neuronal circuits
- Neurophysiology of animal behavior

- The pathophysiology of nerve and brain injury and repair
- Neuroglial cell functions in normal and disease states

### 3.6.5 *Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences*

The Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences has a clear vision to be Asia's preeminent body advancing veterinary clinical science in response to evolving societal needs.

The research mission of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences is to advance animal health through cutting-edge clinical research. We seek to deliver translational solutions for common and emerging clinical problems. Our research themes include:

- Disease emergence in shelter-housed animals
- Viral oncology
- Advancing animal welfare
- Advancing veterinary medical education
- Production diseases in farm animals
- Equine diseases and welfare

## 3.7 **School of Creative Media**

Established in 1998, the School of Creative Media at City University of Hong Kong is the birthplace of a new generation of transmedia specialists, who are skilled in the technologies of digital media and in the analysis of digital media content and form. The School has now established itself to be a leader in creative media education in Asia.

The School's interdisciplinary research activities encompass and combine all aspects of art and new media creation, incorporating methodologies based in the sciences, the humanities, and the social sciences: multimedia technology, video and image computing, distributed mobile computing and wireless networking, artificial intelligence and data management systems, software engineering and internet applications, multimodal interface design, interactive and embodied media, virtual and augmented reality, the cinematic arts, photography, computer graphics and animation, sound art and musical composition, installation arts, urban media art, game design, physical computing, digital cultural heritage, and the historical, theoretical, and critical analyses of all of these areas, including the ethical, social and aesthetic implications of emerging technologies on art and new media creation. The Run Run Shaw Creative Media Centre, designed by the world-renowned architect Daniel Libeskind, provides purpose-built facilities for the School in nurturing the next generation of transmedia specialists and has become an iconic landmark in the territory. It is a hub for creative professionals from all over the world seeking new opportunities for collaboration in the rapidly-evolving creative industries. The School is equipped with state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities with VR/AR development kits, 4K cameras, advanced immersive digital visualization systems, including a 360-degree 3D projection environment and one of the industry's best 24-camera optical motion capture systems.

## 3.8 **School of Energy and Environment**

As a core strength of the School of Energy and Environment, we employ multi- and interdisciplinary approaches to address various cutting-edge issues in Energy and Environment. Our research covers a diverse scope, ranging from energy conversion and generation, energy efficiency and storage, to atmosphere and climate change, water and waste, as well as to sustainability and policy. Our visions are to conduct both fundamental research and to

develop novel technologies that will eventually enhance the energy and environmental sustainability.

Research at the School of Energy and Environment takes a system approach to develop innovative science and engineering solutions and to provide empirically based evidence and insight from the evaluation of these solutions, eventually to understand how they can be successfully applied to our cities.

Research focus/expertise in the School includes three major areas:

**(A) Energy**

Energy Conversion; Clean and Green Fuel; Energy Efficiency; Energy Storage

**(B) Environment**

Air and Water Pollution Control and Management; Climate Change Modelling, Mitigation and Adaptation; Waste to Energy and Resources

**(C) Sustainability**

Urban Sustainability for Smart Cities; Energy and Sustainable Economics; Low-Carbon Innovation; Policy Design and Analysis

### 3.9 School of Law

The School of Law at CityUHK fosters a culture of integrated research and teaching, drawing on the expertise of its faculty and a diverse and representative student body, thus contributing to relevant and fundamental research in Hong Kong, Mainland China, and beyond. The School aspires to attract dedicated postgraduate students to contribute to the School's varied research activities. Graduate students will benefit from the School's research culture, which emphasises both fundamental and applied aspects of legal studies and research. The School likewise encourages research with local relevance, comparative insights, and critical analyses. The study of law in any given jurisdiction presupposes and necessitates particularity, context, and geographical specificity. Law students can therefore first and foremost expect to be trained in the laws of Hong Kong. But this approach does not imply parochialism. The law school's approach is premised on a proper appreciation of the broader regional, cultural, and international contexts that shape the development of the law as a dynamic field of study. This is especially important in the case of Hong Kong, with its service-based economy, multicultural population and common law heritage.

The subject areas offered and research specialisations available at the School of Law include the usual and expected core curriculum of legal studies, namely private law (the law of persons, contract law, tort law etc.), commercial law (company law, consumer protection law, competition law etc.), criminal justice (criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence, and criminology), public law (constitutional law, administrative law, and human rights etc.), and international law, including public international law. In addition to the core curriculum, the School makes it a priority to teach and engage in research in strategic areas that add value to its core curriculum, attract postgraduate students, and provide staff with opportunities to develop existing areas of law and to expand the School's impact in specific areas of expertise. These strategic research areas include, but are not limited to, Chinese and Comparative Law, Maritime Law, and Arbitration and Dispute Resolution.

## 4 RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES

### 4.1 Programme Aims and Structure

4.1.1 Research degree programmes aim to provide advanced education to nurture people who can:

- contribute to the advancement of knowledge through independent and original research;
- demonstrate specialist subject knowledge and a high level of transferable skills, including analytical, communication and leadership skills; and
- enhance economic, social and cultural development.

4.1.2 The University offers two types of research degree programmes, namely, Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), which consist of both coursework and independent research studies culminating in the submission of a thesis. The requirements of these two programmes are listed below:

#### (a) Minimum Coursework Requirements

Students are required to fulfil the following minimum coursework requirements within their study period:

MPhil: 7 credit units (including at least 2 credit units of research methodology and ethics course at postgraduate level);

PhD: 14 credit units (including at least 9 credit units of core courses and at least 2 credit units of research methodology and ethics course at postgraduate level)

AND

a compulsory 1 credit unit course: Teaching Students: First Steps (SG8001)

AND

a compulsory online training course on research integrity: Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Programme.

Individual Departments/Schools may stipulate a higher credit unit requirement.

#### (b) Confirmation of Candidature

All MPhil and PhD students will have their MPhil/PhD candidature confirmed only after they have successfully passed the following:

- Qualifying Report and Oral Presentation (for both MPhil & PhD students)

MPhil students, both full-time and part-time, are required to submit and pass the Qualifying Report and Oral Presentation within 10-12 months from commencement of study.

PhD students, both full-time and part-time, are required to submit and pass the Qualifying Report and Oral Presentation within 10-24 months from commencement of study.

A Qualifying Report should include a survey of the relevant literature, an identification of a specific research topic, the research methodology and a discussion on possible outcome.

The Qualifying Report shall be assessed by the respective Qualifying Panels. Assessment will include a compulsory Oral Presentation and any other assessments as may be required by the Qualifying Panel.

MPhil and PhD students who cannot pass the Qualifying Report and Oral Presentation within the stipulated period will result in termination of study.

and

- Qualifying Examination (QE) (mandatory for PhD students)

PhD students, both full-time and part-time, are required to take and pass the QE within 10-24 months after commencement of PhD studies. The QE aims to test students' knowledge of major subject areas of their research disciplines and assess their readiness to conduct research in their specific research disciplines.

The QE shall consist of written examination only. A maximum of two attempts will be allowed. Those PhD students who fail the QE after two attempts will be recommended for termination of study.

**(c) Thesis**

An MPhil thesis should present the results of research investigation, give evidence of a sound understanding of the area of study, its context and applicability, and make a contribution to knowledge. A PhD thesis, in addition to the above, should make a substantial original contribution to knowledge in the subject area concerned.

## 4.2 Study Period and Residence Requirement

4.2.1 Research studies can be undertaken in full-time or part-time mode. The University has stipulated the following normative study periods for research degree programmes, and students are required to complete their studies, including the submission of their theses, within the said periods:

Programme of Study	Full-time	Part-time
MPhil	2 years	3 years
PhD	4 years	6 years

4.2.2 Students who have special grounds for not being able to comply with the above may submit an application for an extension of their study period, together with a proposed study plan, before their original study period expires. Such cases will only be approved in exceptional circumstances. The maximum number of extensions that a student can apply for and his/her maximum study period (i.e. normative study period plus the maximum extension period allowed (if approved)) are as follows:

Programme	Mode of Study	Maximum Number of Extension (if approved)	Maximum Study Period
MPhil	Full-time	Maximum of ONE extension not exceeding 12 months	3 years
	Part-time	Maximum of TWO extensions with each extension not exceeding 12 months	5 years
PhD	Full-time	Maximum of TWO extensions with each extension not exceeding 12 months	6 years
	Part-time		8 years

Failure to complete the study by the end of the approved extension period will lead to termination of study unless there are truly extenuating circumstances. Such cases should be approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

- 4.2.3 A student who is receiving regular supervision in Hong Kong or in a designated location approved by the University is classified as being in residence. To fulfil the requirement, physical residence is required. The residence requirement for full-time and part-time research degree students are as follows:

Degree	Mode of Study	Residence Requirement*
MPhil Students	Full-time	2 Regular Semesters
	Part-time	2 Regular Semesters
PhD Students	Full-time	4 Regular Semesters
	Part-time	4 Regular Semesters

\* A "Regular Semester" refers to Semester A or Semester B of the academic year.

### 4.3 Annual Progress Reports

After their PhD candidature has been confirmed, PhD students are required to submit progress reports (typed and in English) on an annual basis until they have submitted the final version of their theses for oral defense and completed any other academic requirements.

### 4.4 Medium of Instruction/Assessment and Thesis Presentation

- 4.4.1 The normal medium of instruction and assessment at the University is English. Research students should write and present their theses in English, unless they give very strong justifications for using another language.
- 4.4.2 Students with valid reasons to support using a language other than English in thesis writing may apply to SGS in writing within the first six months of their studies. Applications submitted after the said period will normally not be considered. Such applications should be forwarded to the relevant Departments and Colleges/Schools for recommendation and the final approval rests with the CRDC.

### 4.5 Award of MPhil/PhD Degree

To be recommended for the award of an MPhil or a PhD degree, students must have successfully completed the coursework requirements with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above, fulfilled the residence requirement as mentioned in Section 4.2.3 above, and satisfied the examiners, in respect of the thesis submitted, in an oral defense on the thesis and area of study concerned, and in any written and/or practical examinations as required.

#### 4.6 Learning Outcomes and Assessment Indicators of Research Degree Programmes

To assess the quality outcome of research degree programmes effectively, the BGS has approved the establishment of six performance indicators in evaluating achievement of learning outcomes by research degree students. The six performance indicators are:

- i. Good quality research output — the type of research output can be discipline-specific, including journal article, book chapter, conference paper and/or artwork exhibition;
- ii. Attendance in key academic conference(s) — the conference can be held either locally or overseas, in which students must have paper presentation;
- iii. Coursework performance in terms of GPA obtained;
- iv. Training in teaching by completing SG8001 course;
- v. Ability to receive prizes, and/or awards; and
- vi. Ability to receive scholarships.

On graduation, CityUHK research postgraduate students will be able to achieve the following:



Research Degree Students

## **5 FINANCIAL AWARDS/ASSISTANCE**

### **5.1 Postgraduate Studentship**

- 5.1.1 The postgraduate studentship is granted on the basis of academic merit.
- 5.1.2 Eligible new full-time students will be considered for the award of the studentship as part of their application for admission to a research degree programme. Separate applications are not required.
- 5.1.3 There are two different studentship rates, namely the Basic Rate and the Advance Rate. Basic Rate will normally apply to all eligible full-time research students. Advance Rate will be awarded to those PhD students who have passed the QE.
- 5.1.4 The studentship is normally renewed on a yearly basis. Continuation and renewal of the award are subject to satisfactory study progress, achievement in coursework results and performance in any academic-related duties assigned. Individual Departments/Schools may stipulate additional requirements.
- 5.1.5 PhD students may be granted the studentship for a maximum of four years (irrespective of their entry qualifications), and the studentship award period should not exceed the students' stipulated study period. In the 2024/25 academic year, the studentship Basic Rate is HK\$18,700 per month and Advanced Rate is HK\$19,200 per month. Studentship is subject to revision in September of every year, and any revision to the rate will apply to both current and new students.
- 5.1.6 Studentship recipients are normally required to undertake not more than 10 hours per week on average of teaching and/or research support duties, as assigned by their respective Departments/Schools. They shall not engage in any paid employment without the prior approval of SGS.

### **5.2 Research Tuition Scholarship**

- 5.2.1 The purpose of the Research Tuition Scholarship is to recognise and reward students with outstanding academic performance. It is a meritorious award and is granted on a strictly competitive basis.
- 5.2.2 The Scholarship is in the form of an exemption for students from paying tuition fees. If granted a Scholarship, full-time students will be exempted from paying one year's tuition fees. Notwithstanding the above, the award period should not exceed the students' stipulated study period.
- 5.2.3 The Scholarship is not a cash award and cannot be held concurrently with other awards covering tuition fees.
- 5.2.4 Only full-time research students are eligible to apply for the Scholarship. All eligible new UGC-allocated/UGC-related students will be considered for the award of the Scholarship as part of their application for admission to a research degree programme. Separate applications are not required.

### **5.3 Conference Grants**

After confirmation of candidature and within the normal study period, UGC-funded and Non-UGC/Institutional funded research students can apply for conference grants for attending local and overseas conferences. The maximum value of a grant is HK\$10,000.

### **5.4 Research Activities Fund**

After confirmation of candidature and within the normal study period, UGC-funded and Non-UGC/Institutional funded research students can apply for funding support to undertake research related activities outside Hong Kong, which are beneficial and related to their MPhil/PhD studies. The monthly allowance is HK\$5,000. Depending on the university/institution to be visited and the visit duration, the maximum cumulative amount of funding provision during the entire candidature of study may be up to HK\$60,000.

### **5.5 Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Entrance Scholarships**

The purpose of the Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Entrance Scholarships is to encourage outstanding international students to undertake MPhil or PhD studies at the University with a view to promoting academic exchange and enhancing the international mix of the University's student population.

The Scholarship is to cover students' tuition and university student hall accommodation fees in their first year of research studies. If granted a Scholarship, the student's full-time tuition and hostel accommodation fees in the first year of study will be off-set by the Scholarship.

### **5.6 Government Grants and Loans and External Financial Awards/Assistance**

The Hong Kong government and the University offer various kinds of grants and loans to help students who are in financial need. There are also various kinds of external financial awards and assistance granted on the basis of academic merit or financial need.

### **5.7 Tuition Waiver Scheme for Local Research Postgraduate Students Studying Full-time UGC-funded Programmes**

In 2018/19, the UGC has launched a Tuition Waiver Scheme for local research postgraduate students. All eligible local students enrolled in UGC-funded research postgraduate programmes will be provided with tuition waiver to cover the entire tuition fee during their normal study period. The University will waive the tuition fees of the local students upon verification of their eligibility. Application is not required for the tuition waiver. For eligibility and other details, please see: [https://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/funding\\_opport/tws.html](https://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/funding_opport/tws.html). In case of any dispute, decision of the UGC and the UGC Secretariat shall be final.

## **6 MERIT AWARDS IN RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

### **6.1 Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Scholarships**

- 6.1.1 The purpose of the Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Scholarships is to recognize and reward students with outstanding academic performance.
- 6.1.2 Students who are within their normal/stipulated period of study and have undertaken their current MPhil/PhD studies for at least twelve calendar months of study counting from the starting date of study up to the starting date of the award period (excluding period of study interruption, if any) are eligible to apply for the Scholarship.
- 6.1.3 The Scholarship is a one-off cash award and students will be presented a certificate of award issued by SGS.

### **6.2 Outstanding Academic Performance Award**

- 6.2.1 The purpose of the Outstanding Academic Performance Award for research students is to recognise students with outstanding academic performance in their research studies.
- 6.2.2 All research degree students who have completed at least twelve calendar months of study counting from the starting date of study up to the starting date of the award period (excluding period of study interruption, if any) and are within their (normal) study period are eligible to apply for the Award.
- 6.2.3 The award is a one-off cash award and students will be presented a certificate of award issued by SGS.

### **6.3 Outstanding Research Thesis Awards**

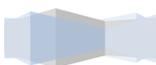
- 6.3.1 The purpose of the Outstanding Research Thesis Awards is to recognise and reward research students who have produced a thesis of outstanding quality and achievement in their relevant research area.
- 6.3.2 SGS will identify those theses that have satisfied the award criteria and forward the cases to the relevant Departments/Schools, which will be invited to confirm their suitability for the award. Upon receipt of the confirmation from the Departments/Schools, the students concerned will be granted the award.
- 6.3.3 Awardees will receive a certificate of award issued by SGS and a gift coupon.

### **6.4 Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Outstanding Doctoral Research Award**

- 6.4.1 The purpose of the Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Outstanding Doctoral Research Award is to recognize exceptional work by PhD graduates and to encourage the highest levels of research and writing.
- 6.4.2 Students who have fulfilled the requirements specified for the Outstanding Research Thesis Award (See Section 6.3 above) and have been conferred a PhD degree in the same

Commencement year will be invited by their home department to apply for the Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Outstanding Doctoral Research Award.

- 6.4.3 The award is a one-off cash award and students will be presented a certificate of award issued by SGS.



## 7 FEES

The following are the major fees for MPhil/PhD programmes. Please note that fees are subject to revision from time to time without prior notification, and any adjustments to fees will apply to both new and current students.

### Acceptance Fee

<i>Type of Student</i>	<i>Amount</i>		<i>Remarks</i>
	<i>Full-time</i>	<i>Part-time</i>	
UGC-allocated and UGC-related/External Funds/Self-financing/Self-financed (Institutional funded)	HK\$7,416		Non-refundable; payable upon acceptance of admission offer.  The acceptance fee will be credited towards the tuition fees upon student's successful enrolment in CityUHK.

### Annual Tuition/Continuation Fees (normally adjusted in September every year)

<i>Type of Fee</i>	<i>Mode of Study</i>		<i>Remarks</i>
	<i>Full-time</i>	<i>Part-time</i>	
<b>UGC-allocated Students and UGC-related Students</b>			
Tuition fee	HK\$44,496	Not applicable	Non-refundable
Continuation fee	HK\$11,124	HK\$5,562	Non-refundable
<b>External Funds/Self-financing Students/Self-financed (institutional-funded)</b>			
Tuition fee	HK\$88,992 HK\$120,600 (non-local self-financing students)	HK\$44,496 HK\$60,300 (non-local self-financing students)	Non-refundable
Continuation fee	HK\$22,248 HK\$30,150 (non-local self-financing students)	HK\$11,124 HK\$15,075 (non-local self-financing students)	Non-refundable

\* Tuition/continuation fees will be collected on a semester/term basis, that will be in September/January/May or June.

### Other Fees for All Students

<i>Type of Fee</i>	<i>Mode of Study</i>		<i>Remarks</i>
	<i>Full-time</i>	<i>Part-time</i>	
Examination fee	HK\$1,000 (MPhil) HK\$1,500 (PhD)		Non-refundable
Re-examination fee	HK\$1,000 (MPhil) HK\$1,500 (PhD)		Applies to students who are required to undertake a second oral defense; non-refundable
Graduation fee	HK\$400		Charged upon registration; refundable upon study withdrawal or study termination

## 8 STUDENT ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT TO STUDENTS' STUDIES

### 8.1 Student Accommodation

- 8.1.1 The University offers student hall accommodation for full-time research students in UGC-funded programmes. However, due to the very limited residence places and increasing demand, the University is unable to offer residence places to UGC-funded research students for their entire study period. Furthermore, there is no guarantee at all that students will be granted residence places during their studies.
- 8.1.2 Student Hall of Residence (SHR) application and contract are on annual basis and hence research degree students are reminded/required to submit hall application before/by the deadline stated in the homepage of Student Residence Office (SRO). Late application will not be entertained.
- 8.1.3 Full-time research degree students studying in UGC-funded programs are eligible to apply for SHR. Higher priority for hall residence at Whitehead hostel compound (Ma On Shan) shall be granted to research degree students (including those being awarded with prestigious scholarships under SGS or admitted via Express Admission of Research Talents for PhD Programme) for their 1<sup>st</sup> year of study (i.e. Academic Year 2024/25) subject to their timely submission of hall application. This privilege is for 1<sup>st</sup> year only and cannot be transferred to any subsequent years of study. From 2<sup>nd</sup> year onwards, lot-drawing mechanism shall be applied for all research degree students, subject to their submission of hall application, for hall residential places at Cornwall Street hostel Compound or Jockey Club House on campus.
- 8.1.4 Since the University is unable to offer residential place for the entire study period of research degree students, sound family financial support is expected and mandatory for securing the needed housing in local private property market.
- 8.1.5 If the residence application is not successful, students are advised to visit the website of SRO for more information on searching off-campus accommodation.
- 8.1.6 Successful applicants who are offered places at the Student Residence will be required to accept the residence offers by paying a non-refundable confirmation fee by the specified deadline. Students who fail to pay the confirmation fee before the specified date will be regarded as withdrawal and their places will be allocated to other students.

For enquiries, please contact the SRO:

Phone: (852) 3442 1111

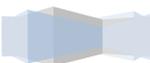
Email: [sropga@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:sropga@cityu.edu.hk)

Website: <http://www.cityu.edu.hk/sro>

## 8.2 Student Development Services

The Student Development Services (SDS) is committed to enriching students' educational experience and whole person development at CityUHK and to nurturing the body, mind and spirit of students through various direct services, the provision of developmental programmes and funding support so that students can attain personal and professional excellence, cherish life-long learning and contribute to the society: For the details about SDS, please visit the following website:

[https://www.cityu.edu.hk/sds/web/index\\_main.shtml](https://www.cityu.edu.hk/sds/web/index_main.shtml)



## 9 INFORMATION FOR NON-LOCAL APPLICANTS

### 9.1 Definition of “Non-local” Students

- 9.1.1 Persons holding a “Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card” or the right to land in Hong Kong or a One-way Permit for entry to Hong Kong are considered as “local students” for student enrolment at the University.
- 9.1.2 Those holding an employment visa or any other valid visa/entry permit issued by the Immigration Department not stated in paragraph 9.1.3 below are also considered as “local students”.
- 9.1.3 Students holding a valid visa/entry permit under the following categories for the purpose of study in Hong Kong are defined as “non-local students”:
- student visa/entry permit;
  - visa/entry permit under the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG); or
  - dependant visa/entry permit for students who were 18 years old or above when they were issued with such visa/entry permit by the Director of Immigration of Hong Kong.

### 9.2 Student Visa/Entry Permit

Full-time non-local students must obtain a student visa or an entry permit to study in Hong Kong.

Students admitted from overseas countries should direct their applications for a visa to the Chinese Embassy or Consulate General in their place of residence or to the Immigration Department in Hong Kong. As part of the application for a visa, applicants are required to nominate a Hong Kong resident aged 18 or above to act as a sponsor. Those who have difficulty in nominating a sponsor may write to the Global Engagement Office (GEO) of CityUHK to act in this capacity. According to the regulations of the Hong Kong Immigration Department, the University will act as a sponsor for students admitted from mainland China and assist them in applying for an entry permit to Hong Kong.

Students holding a student visa/an entry permit for studying in Hong Kong and the necessary “No Objection Letter” (NOL) issued by the Hong Kong Immigration Department at the time of visa approval are allowed to undertake part-time employment during their stay in Hong Kong under the stipulated conditions.

### 9.3 Global Engagement Office

The Global Engagement Office (GEO) provides assistance and support to non-local students, including student visa/entry permit application, orientation programmes, on-arrival assistance, and pastoral care and advice on personal and learning related issues. The website of GEO (<http://www.cityu.edu.hk/geo/>) contains useful information about studying in Hong Kong and at CityUHK.

#### **9.4 Personal Accident and Medical Insurance/Travel Insurance**

It is mandatory for non-local students to have adequate insurance for the entire study period at CityUHK. The insurance should, at minimum, cover travel, personal accidents, medical expenses (accident and non-accident), hospitalisation, and emergency evacuation/repatriation. It is recommended that students also discuss with their insurer whether their policy provides coverage to strikes, riots, civil commotion, and diseases, including but not limited to epidemic and pandemic diseases. Students are advised to take out a travel and medical insurance policy before departing for Hong Kong. For further information, please visit the website of GEO.

#### **9.5 Cost of Living**

The cost of living in Hong Kong is generally high, but the studentship award should be sufficient to support students' daily living expenses. The estimated basic cost of living for a single student is around HK\$100,000 – HK\$110,000 per 2 semesters to cover food, lodging and general living expenses, depending on the type of accommodation selected and the level of living and personal expenses.



