



Research Studies at One of the Top Universities in the World

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG 2019-20

Financial Support

- Full Tuition Waiver for Local Research Postgraduate (RPg) Students
- Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (HKPF) Scheme
US\$38,610 (HK\$301,200) per year
- HKU University Postgraduate Fellowships (UPF)
At least US\$27,870 (HK\$217,420) per year**
- Postgraduate Scholarships (PGS)
At least US\$25,630 (HK\$199,920) per year#

* Combined value of UPF and PGS

Subject to University's approval



The University of Hong Kong (HKU) is Hong Kong's oldest university. As an **English-medium** university with a history that stretches back more than 100 years, it has grown with and helped shape the city from which it takes its name.

Today, HKU is recognized internationally as a dynamic and comprehensive university of **world-class standing**. With its distinguished excellence in research and outstanding performance in teaching, it attracts **first-class teaching and research staff and brilliant students** from around the world.

The University's research students enjoy opportunities to work with leading international researchers and a peer group of resourceful and committed students from different nations in advanced facilities, producing cutting-edge and internationally recognized research work, and developing skills essential for future careers and lifelong learning.

HKU ranked
25th best university in the world

[Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2019]

Research Postgraduate Degrees

HKU offers the following research postgraduate programmes in both full-time and part-time modes:

- Master of Philosophy (MPhil)
- 3-year Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- 4-year Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Joint PhD Programme (between HKU and King's College London) (full-time mode only)
- Joint Educational Placement for PhD (between HKU and the University of Toronto) (full-time mode only)
- Joint Education Programme for PhD (between HKU and Southern University of Science and Technology) (full-time mode only)

Why Pursue an MPhil/PhD Degree at HKU?

High value placed on research postgraduate students at HKU

With HKU's commitment to research excellence, research postgraduate students are an important and valued part of the University. They currently represent 10% of the total student population and make a valuable contribution to the University's research work and environment.

Research excellence

HKU has won a proud reputation as a world-class comprehensive research university. Its research is of proven quality and utility, and it has a very successful record in the competitive local market for research funding. It has the highest number of awards among government-funded institutions, e.g. Croucher Foundation Senior Research Fellowships, Croucher Innovation Awards, academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and academicians of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

World-class teaching

HKU has been consistently pursuing a vision of high quality education and it adopts a student-centred approach in research postgraduate education. Its academics are recruited from leading universities across the world, and many are highly regarded in the global academic community.

International focus

The University has academic links with more than 400 overseas universities and hosts over 10,000 international students. About 66% of its academic staff comes from overseas. Research postgraduate students have opportunities to take part in overseas training and international research collaboration.

Wide range of fields of study

HKU offers MPhil and PhD programmes in a wide range of subjects under the Faculties of Architecture, Arts, Business and Economics, Dentistry, Education, Engineering, Law, Medicine, Science and Social Sciences.

Use of English as the medium of instruction

A distinctive position as an English-medium university in Asia is one of HKU's great strengths.

Well-designed coursework component

In addition to the long-established one-to-one mentorship system of supervision, a coursework element on discipline-specific knowledge, language and research skills is usually included to help students undertake their research work and prepare for thesis writing.

State-of-the-art support facilities

HKU's students have access to first-class libraries (with over 4.96 million e-books, 155,136 e-journals and 1,031 e-databases) as well as computer, and sports and leisure facilities. The University also provides residential accommodation for a proportion of its students.

Career prospects

Many of HKU's graduates are employed in high-level positions in universities, government, business and industry in Hong Kong and around the world. According to the most recent employment survey on postgraduates, over 81.1% of the respondents are employed and around 8.9% are furthering their studies.



Awards and Financial Assistance

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (HKPF) Scheme

- Established in 2009 by the Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC).
- New applicants to full-time PhD programmes in government-funded institutions in Hong Kong, irrespective of their country of origin and ethnic background, are eligible to apply.
- Applicants should demonstrate outstanding academic performance, research ability/potential, communication and interpersonal skills, and leadership abilities.
- The HKPF provides each awardee with a monthly scholarship of HK\$25,100 (US\$3,210) and a conference and research related travel allowance of HK\$12,600 (US\$1,610) per year for a period up to three years. For HKPF awardees who are admitted to a 4-year PhD programme in 2019-20, the University will provide a monthly scholarship and travel allowance at the same level as the HKPF for their fourth year of study.

On-line application for HKPF 2019-20 opens in September 2018.

For further details, please visit <http://www.rgc.edu.hk/hkphd>.

Note: HKPF awardees will not concurrently be awarded UPF and PGS.



University Postgraduate Fellowships (UPF)

HKU University Postgraduate Fellowships are available for selected full-time PhD applicants with an excellent academic record. The Fellowship is worth HK\$70,000 (US\$8,970), which is awarded on top of the Postgraduate Scholarship (see below)*.

*US\$2,990 per year x 3 years or US\$2,242 per year x 4 years, depending on whether it is 3- or 4-year PhD programme.

Postgraduate Scholarships (PGS)

Full-time MPhil and PhD students who hold a first degree with second-class honours first division (or equivalent) or above are normally considered eligible to receive a Postgraduate Scholarship during the normative study period. Candidates' results in Master's degrees may also be considered. The amount of PGS is not less than HK\$16,660 (US\$2,130) per month for 2018-19 (subject to University's approval).

Other Scholarships and Financial support for conference attendance/travel

The University administers a number of scholarships that are awarded to postgraduate students for outstanding academic achievements. MPhil and PhD students are also eligible for financial support for conference attendance and/or travel.

Composition Fees

HK\$42,100 (US\$5,400)[#] per year for full-time studies and HK\$63,000 (US\$8,070)[#] per year for part-time (self-funded mode) studies.

[#] Subject to revision

Tuition Waiver Scheme for Local Research Postgraduate (RPg) students

The scheme will provide entire tuition fee to all eligible local students enrolled in full-time UGC-funded RPg programmes. For further details, please visit the RGC's website (<http://www.rgc.edu.hk>)

High quality supervision

At HKU, supervisors are dedicated to providing guidance and support to their research postgraduate students in the pursuit of research excellence.

What our students say*

“Dr Chow has been an excellent mentor, teacher and supervisor. As a research postgraduate student under her supervision, I have been inspired by her passion for research and teaching. Dr Chow is not only knowledgeable in research methodology, she teaches us to ask constructive research questions that can benefit the society. I have learned more under the supervision of Dr Chow than I have in any classroom through her method of experiential learning where we all have hands-on experience with data sets, teaching tutorials, research and literature review. The successful experience in muddling through the process develops our confidence to move on our own studies.”

Monica BORSCHEL, PhD student of Dr Amy Y.M. CHOW, Dept of Social Work and Social Administration

“Professor Loo’s approach has been extremely useful in helping me accustoming myself quickly to the standards and expectations of academia. Within the first year of my doctoral studies, I already made three presentations at local and overseas conferences. This experience, made possible by Professor Loo, is important because it has helped me recognize my potential as a productive research student.”

Alice CHOW, PhD student of Professor Becky P.Y. LOO, Dept of Geography

“Professor Chan pays considerable effort in encouraging her students to take part in her research projects and providing her students with sponsorship to attend international conferences so as to enable her students to explore the cutting edge of science and develop networks for collaboration with international experts. Her passion for research has influenced us and given us positive reinforcement to work hard, while enjoying the learning process. I am deeply impressed by her spirit of never giving up.”

David C.N. WONG, PhD Student of Professor Sophia S.C. CHAN, School of Nursing

“Professor Zhou has extensive contacts with research institutes and universities in China and countries in the West, enabling some of his students to gain research experience in laboratories in addition to those at HKU. For instance, I had several opportunities to work in laboratories in the United States and China as part of my PhD studies, which were very useful in establishing links to researchers that I am currently collaborating with.”

K.N. PANG, PhD student of Professor Meifu ZHOU, Dept of Earth Sciences

“Dr Shih’s passion of interacting with students, generous office hours in helping student’s learning difficulties, efforts in quality course development, and innovative teaching methods are surely a great lesson for us who will also be teachers in the future .”

Yuanyuan TANG, PhD student of Dr Kaimin SHIH, Dept of Civil Engineering

* Extracted from students’ citations published in the programme books of HKU Award Presentation Ceremony for Excellence in Teaching and Research.

Application Period for Admissions 2019-20

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (HKPF) Scheme

Initial application to the Research Grants Council (RGC):

Early September* – **December 1, 2018 noon***

Full application to the University: September 1 – **December 1, 2018**

Main round application

September 1, 2018 – **December 1, 2018**

1st clearing round

December 2, 2018 – **April 30, 2019**

2nd clearing round

May 1, 2019 – **August 31, 2019**

* Exact dates to be announced by the RGC at its website (<http://www.rgc.edu.hk/hkphd>)

Further information

Please visit <http://www.gradsch.hku.hk/gradsch/prospective-students/how-to-apply> for admission requirements, application procedures and other programme details.

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