HKU Presidential PhD Scholar Programme Features

All faculties have committed to offer the Presidential Scholar Programme with effect from 2021-22 admission. The Programme emphasizes cross-disciplinary interactions and training, individualization and flexibility, with the following features:

(a) Individualized Advisory Committee
- An Advisory Committee will be formed for each student in the Presidential PhD Scholar Programme.
- There will be around 3 to 4 Faculty members, including the student’s supervisor(s), in the Committee to provide advice to the student’s research and training.
- Members of the Committee, except the supervisor(s), can be appointed by the Faculty as Internal Examiners for the student’s thesis examination in due course.
- The Committee will meet at least once a year; and will be involved in confirming the student’s probationary candidature based on the student’s oral presentation and other requirements as set by the Department / Faculty.

(b) Rotation (Optional and Flexible)
- Rotation among laboratories, teams, Departments or even across Faculties upon admission. The student has an option of up to 3 rotations, and each rotation can be 2 to 6 months. Rotation is optional and it is very flexible.
- Each student will have a nominal supervisor upon entry. After rotation, the student has an option to change the supervisor.

(c) Additional Year of Study for Highly Selected Scholars (Optional)
- An additional year of study beyond the normative study period, with financial support at the same level as the normative period of study will be offered to highly selected Scholars who have demonstrated high ability and potential in research, for them to enhance their research and wrap up their thesis. This additional year is optional and is on the recommendation of the Faculty, for selection by the University.

(d) Training
- Flexibility to re-organize/to be exempted from some generic courses so as to allow more time and opportunities for specialized courses, training and cross-disciplinary exposure.

(e) Open Final Defence
- The oral examination will be open to public, with an oral presentation by the Scholar and Q & A session with audience and examiners.

Note: Items (c) and (d) of the HKU-PS package overlap with the HKPF award provided by the RGC. HKU-PS recipients who are concurrently awarded HKPF, will receive items (c) and (d) from the RGC for their first three years of study. Other parts of the HKU-PS package, plus the postgraduate scholarships and travel allowance for remaining normative study period, will be provided by HKU.

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