



2019-20

MPhil & PhD
studies@Faculty of
Social Sciences, HKU



香港大學社會科學學院

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES • THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



香港大學
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

HKU

The University of Hong Kong

Founded in 1911, the University of Hong Kong, as a leading international institution of higher learning in Asia, strives to attract and nurture outstanding postgraduate students from around the world. The University is organized into more than 100 teaching departments and sub-divisions of study, and currently has over 28,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students who come from over 80 countries. Among these, about a third of students come from Mainland China and overseas. The University's faculty is truly international, with over half coming from overseas or Mainland China. The University seeks to contribute to the advancement of society and the development of leaders through a global presence, scholarly activities with a regional impact and significant engagement with the rest of China.



FOSS

Faculty of Social Sciences

The Faculty of Social Sciences was established in 1967 and has since then undergone rapid expansion and significant transformation. Through over 50 years of development and growth, the Faculty has become one of the leading schools in social and political science education and research globally. The Faculty takes great pride in its academic and professional excellence, diversity of its faculty and students, and contribution to the well-being of the community and international networking.

Today, the Faculty stands with top social sciences universities in the world. In 2018, we are ranked 4th in Asia and 40th in the world according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. In QS World University Ranking 2018, five of our core disciplines, Geography, Politics and Public Administration, Psychology, Social Work & Social Administration and Sociology, have been ranked in top 5 in the Asia respectively.

The Faculty currently comprises 6 core departments and 7 multidisciplinary research centres. All units aim to promote and lead multi-disciplinary and international collaborative research endeavours. The Faculty has achieved recognition in three research clusters areas that it seeks to grow: Cities 2050, Contemporary China and Mental Wellness.

Research Areas

There are about 239 research postgraduate students in the Faculty pursuing degrees of Master of Philosophy or Doctor of Philosophy in the following research areas of the Faculty:

- **Cities 2050** *
- Comparative Asian and International Studies
- **Contemporary China** *
- Criminology
- Culture and Heritage
- Environment, Urban Planning and Sustainable Development
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Media
- **Mental Wellness** *
- Methodology
- Political Theory and Philosophy
- Population and Mental Health
- Psychosocial Intervention and Processes
- Public and Social Policy, and Governance
- Transnationalism and Global Migration

* *Faculty's Research Clusters*



Research Areas

Specialist Areas



Department of Geography

Major Research Areas

- Belt and Road initiative
- Climate change and paleoclimate studies
- Cultural and political geography
- Environmental and resource economics; urban forestry and urban greening; urban ecology; environmental management
- Environmental science, biogeoscience, and fluvial geomorphology
- Geographical information systems and cartography
- Global environmental change and geospatial technologies
- Human dimensions of environmental change
- Transport geography and infrastructure
- Transportation, e-technologies and society
- Transportation and economic development
- Urban and regional development in China, and economic geography

<http://geog.hku.hk>

Postgraduate Admissions Advisor

Professor P.C. Lai

Tel: 3917 2830

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Email: pclai@hku.hk

Major Research Areas

- Comparative politics
- International relations
- Political theory
- Public administration and public policy

Postgraduate Admissions Advisor

Dr. U.B. Stainhoff

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Department of Politics and Public Administration



<http://ppaweb.hku.hk>

Specialist Areas



Department of
Psychology

<http://psychology.hku.hk>

Major Research Areas

- Behavioral neuroscience
- Clinical psychology and neuropsychology
- Cognition and perception
- Educational and developmental psychology
- Social psychology

Postgraduate Admissions Advisor

Dr. Z. Chen

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Email: chenz@hku.hk

Major Research Areas

- Ageing and gerontology
- Children and youth
- Death and bereavement
- Family violence and child welfare
- Gender and sexuality
- Mental health

- NGO management
- Population health and demographic studies
- Psychophysiology and expressive art therapies
- Social work in health care
- Social work in mental health care
- Social work service, planning and community building

Postgraduate Admissions Advisor

Professor P.S.F. Yip

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Department of Social
Work and Social
Administration



<http://www.socialwork.hku.hk>



Department of
Sociology

<http://sociology.hku.hk>

Major Research Areas

- Asian societies and globalisation
- Criminology
- Media and culture

Postgraduate Admissions Advisor

Professor N. Pun

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<http://jmsc.hku.hk>



Journalism and Media Studies Centre

Major Research Areas

- Computational social sciences
- Digital media
- Digital research method
- International journalism
- Journalism education
- Media and journalism in Greater China
- Misinformation ecosystem
- News literacy
- Press freedom
- Public health communication
- Social media analytics

Postgraduate Admissions Advisor

Professor K.W. Fu

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Major Research Areas

- Hubs, mobilities and Asian Urban
- Science, technology and medicine in Asian societies
- Spirituality and religion in Asia

Postgraduate Admissions Advisors

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Dr. J. Li

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Dr. G. Santos

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Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (Incorporating the Centre of Asian Studies)



<http://www.hkihss.hku.hk>

Major Research Areas

- Bayesian statistics
- Compositional data analysis
- Computerised survey data collection
- Internet and world-wide web policy
- Longitudinal surveys
- Opinion and electoral polls
- Privacy and data protection
- Social and medical statistics
- Telephone survey methodology

Postgraduate Admissions Advisor

Professor J.H. Bacon-Shone

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Social Sciences Research Centre

<http://www.ssrc.hku.hk>

Awards and Financial Aid

Hong Kong PhD Fellowships (HKPF)

- HK\$25,100 (US\$3,216)/month scholarship
- HK\$12,600 (US\$1,600)/year conference or travel grant

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

Postgraduate Scholarship (PGS)

- Basic level of HK\$16,660 (US\$2,135)/month (subject to University's approval)

University Postgraduate Fellowships (UPF)

- HK\$70,000 (US\$8,970) for entire studies on top of the Postgraduate Scholarship

Scholarships and Conference/Travel Support

- RGC Conference Support for RPg students
- RGC Travel Support for RPg students for International Academic Training/Research Activities
- Doris Zimmern HKU-Cambridge Hughes Hall Scholarship

For more information: <http://www.gradsch.hku.hk/gradsch/web/apply/guide1920>

Facilities of The Faculty of Social Sciences and HKU

Postgraduate Hub (Faculty-based)

The Faculty has set up a postgraduate hub, which spreads over two levels, exclusively for our postgraduate students. With individual workstations for each student and shared common space, supervisors and students from different disciplines can come together to interact in a dynamic learning environment to nurture research excellence.

Postgraduate Housing

Student Housing is provided exclusively for postgraduate students at various locations and is able to accommodate nearly 500 students. Online application is available through the website of CEDARS at http://apps.cedars.hku.hk/pg_housing/

Student Services

HKU fosters a whole-person approach to education. The Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS) provides guidance and assistance in financial matters, accommodation, disability issues, visas, student activities and any issues of general concern students may have on campus life.

University Health Service

All entitled students may use the University Health Service (UHS). Students with a physical disability affecting mobility, sight or hearing etc. should report to the UHS and CEDARS so that assessment can be made to provide special assistance during their time at the University.

Sports

HKU has two sports centres including two swimming pools operated by the Centre for Sports and Exercise. The Institute also provides a wide range of activities for students at a nominal fee.

Awards &
Financial
Aid

Facilities



Faculty Academic Activities

Overseas Experience for RPg Students

Full-time PhD students are encouraged, with possible funding support, to gain overseas exposure by undertaking research courses or short-term stays at laboratories of partner universities to enhance their research skills.

Annual Research Postgraduate Conference

This multidisciplinary Conference provides a valuable platform for the Faculty's research postgraduate students and academics to engage in cross-disciplinary and international research interaction.

HKU Postgraduate Summer School: Social Science Research Methods (SSRM)

SSRM is designed to expose postgraduate students and researchers to advanced methodologies for conducting social science research. Covering both qualitative and quantitative techniques, the courses offer students and researchers a unique opportunity to meet leading scholars in their areas, to develop professional networks and to broaden their set of research skills.

Public Lecture

- Contemporary China Studies Public Lectures
- Social and Cognitive Neuroscience Public Lectures
- Public Policy Public Lectures



Activities

Quick Glance: The Faculty of Social Sciences (FOSS)

Departments

- Geography
- Politics and Public Administration
- Psychology
- Social Work and Social Administration
- Sociology
- Journalism and Media Studies Centre

Multidisciplinary Research Centres

- Centre on Behavioral Health
- Centre for Civil Society and Governance
- Centre for Criminology
- Centre for Water Technology and Policy
- The HKJC Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention
- International Centre for China Development Studies
- Sau Po Centre on Ageing

Service Centre

- Social Sciences Research Centre
- Public Opinion Programme

Professoriate Staff No. (2017): 101

Student No. (2018)

	Student No.
Undergraduate Students	1825
Taught Postgraduate Students	1407
Research Postgraduate Students	MPhil 40
	PhD 199
Total	3471

Quick Glance

Employment / Career Prospects

In 2017, 81% of HKU research postgraduates on graduation successfully secured employment and 8.9% of graduates decided to pursue further studies. Education continued to be the largest employment sector for HKU research postgraduates and 67.4% of graduates joined the education sector. In education, "Teaching and Research Profession" was the most popular occupational group (62.6%).

Prospects

Admission

General Qualifications for Admission

The basic qualification necessary for admission to research postgraduate studies is a good honours degree from this University or an equivalent qualification from a comparable institution. Qualifying examinations to test the applicants' abilities to follow the prescribed courses and/or interviews may be conducted.

English Requirement (for applicants holding a first degree from a university where the language of teaching and/or examination is not English)

- (a) an overall score of 550 or above (paper-based test) or 80 or above (internet-based test) in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL); or
- (b) a minimum overall band of 6 with no subtest lower than 5.5 in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (Academic module); or
- (c) grade C or above in the Overseas General Certificate of Education (GCE), International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), or Cambridge Test of Proficiency in English Language (CPE).

Application deadline

Application Round	Application Period
Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (HKPF) Scheme	Initial application to the Research Grant Council (RGC)*: September 1 noon – December 1, 2018 noon Full application to HKU: September 1 – December 1, 2018
Main Round	September 1 – December 1, 2018
1 st Clearing Round	December 2, 2018 – April 30, 2019
2 nd Clearing Round	May 1 – August 31, 2019

* For details on the HKPF Scheme, please visit RGC's website at <http://www.rgc.edu.hk/hkphd>.

Contact Us

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