



# DOCTOR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION





**Wai-Fung Lam**

Professor of Politics and Public  
Administration  
DPA Programme Director

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Increasingly complex public problems have rendered a focus on “government” inadequate; effective use of public authority for problem-solving in the public realm requires that one pay attention to the design and operation of “governance”. A governance perspective focuses our attention on collaborative management straddling the divides between the state, markets and civil society; collective action at multiple jurisdictional levels and scales; and civic engagement in policymaking and the administration of public affairs.

The Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) degree programme under the Department of Politics and Public Administration at the University of Hong Kong aims to enhance the scholarly expertise of experienced managers in different sectors who are interested in forging ahead with effective governance and leadership. Candidates who pursue a DPA can make significant contributions to the development of knowledge

and practice in public affairs. By integrating academic and professional knowledge, candidates will be better equipped to achieve more effective public leadership and meet those challenges arising from the rapidly changing global environment. The DPA programme prepares individuals to assume careers at the highest level of public administration in government and the non-profit sector as well as in academia.

With over 40 years of extensive experience offering academic and professional programmes on public policy and administration, our faculty in the Department of Politics and Public Administration is well-equipped to train the next generation of leaders in public affairs. The University of Hong Kong, as one of the premier institutions in the world, offers an array of incredible opportunities.

We welcome your interest in our DPA programme and look forward to the class of students in 2023.

# PROGRAMME AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The DPA degree is an academically rigorous, applied-research postgraduate degree in the field of public administration that confers the title of “Doctor” to candidates who successfully complete the programme.

It is designed to extend the graduates’ understanding of current critical issues in governance, policy and public administration, and to provide the conceptual knowledge and capacity to enable them to develop their research and analytical skills through the completion of a core curriculum culminating in an original thesis.

Through the integration of scholarly and professional knowledge, candidates will be well-placed to meet those challenges arising from the rapidly changing global environment to achieve more effective public leadership.

**UNIQUE FEATURES OF DPA**

- The only professional doctorate in Public Administration in Greater China
- Advanced curriculum combining academic rigor with a professional orientation
- Excellent teaching team with internationally renowned scholars and extraordinary practitioners
- Diverse student body with experience from the public, business, nonprofit, and social sectors
- “Intensive semester” mode with maximum flexibility in learning schedule



## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

### PROGRAMME DESIGN

Our DPA has been carefully designed to accommodate the working professional with candidates expected to complete the programme on a part-time basis within four to six years. A typical cohort size is small, targeting up to 12 students.

The programme will be administered across two stages. In the first two years, candidates focus on coursework and must take and pass 9 courses including a research ethics course for graduate students offered by the Graduate School. In the following years, candidates will conduct research and produce a dissertation in an area of professional public administration practice under the guidance of members of our faculty. The dissertation should be an original contribution to the application of knowledge on the understanding of practical problems and issues in public governance and contain material worthy of publication.

### THE INTENSIVE SEMESTER MODE

An academic year consists of two semesters, with courses offered in an intensive semester format over both semesters. DPA students will take two courses per semester with each intensive semester divided into the following components:

1

a directed preparatory reading period in which students familiarize themselves with the literature (about 4 weeks), and

2

two days of class time per course scheduled around 3 weekends (a total of 6 days or 36 hours per course). The intensive mode allows students to interact



STUDY  
MODE



1<sup>ST</sup>  
YEAR OF STUDY

September	Admission to Programme	
September to November (1st semester)	Complete 2 taught courses: POLI6601, POLI6602	
January to April (2nd semester)	Complete 4 taught courses: POLI6603, POLI6604, GRSC6101 and GRSC6102*	

2<sup>ND</sup>  
YEAR OF STUDY

September to November (1st semester)	Complete 2 taught courses: POLI6605, POLI6606	Thesis supervisors assigned to students
January to April (2nd semester)	Complete 2 taught courses: POLI6607, POLI6608	Confirmation of candidature by 31 August (Probation interview)

3<sup>RD</sup>  
YEAR OF STUDY

	Work on Thesis POLI9609
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4<sup>TH</sup>  
YEAR OF STUDY

1st semester	Work on Thesis POLI9609	
2nd semester	Submit the Thesis on or before	Tender notice of intention to submit a thesis for examination at least 3 months prior to the expected date of submission.
	» Oral examination to be arranged » Corrections and amendments may be required by Board of Examiners, with or without another Oral examination » Conferment of DPA degree	



# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

YEAR  
1

## **POLI6601. Governance: politics, policies and networks**

This course provides an understanding of the key concept of governance in politics and public administration, and its applicability to the study of relevant issues in Hong Kong and China. It addresses different approaches to governance, both normative and empirical, and the “good governance” agenda. Attention is given to the relationship between governance and public sector reform in terms of new public management and the network mode of service delivery, as well as to the dynamics of collaborative governance, civil society and the diversity of organisations involved in policy formulation and service delivery. (Assessment: 100% coursework)

## **POLI6602. Policy analysis: skills and practice**

Conventional policy analysis has a strong connotation of rational planning and is anchored in the concept of efficiency. New modes of governance have challenged the adequacy of looking at policy analysis simply as a means to achieving efficiency. Policy analysis within new modes of governance requires appreciation and knowledge of designing institutions to harness the dynamics of collective action in multiple scales and levels, as well as the necessary skills to juggle the concerns of efficiency, transparency, accountability, and democracy. (Assessment: 100% coursework)

## **POLI6603. Workshop in governance research**

This course introduces to students the logic and practice of social research design and methods. Specifically, it examines the logic of inference, issues involved in qualitative and quantitative inquiries, and alternative approaches to research design. The purpose of the course is pragmatic—it strives to equip students with necessary knowledge and skills to design a research project that can lead to a dissertation or research papers. The course will also examine the challenges and constraints that a researcher might face in conducting social research, and the possible ways to meet these challenges. (Assessment: 100% coursework)

## **POLI6604. Collaborative management**

A governance perspective focuses our attention on the management of the “extended state.” The course examines various issues involved in the more complex nature of managing public services straddling the great divides between the state, markets, and civil society. In particular, the course focuses on inter-jurisdictional collaboration, third-party governance, network governance, collective action in multiple scales, and the engagement of civil society in policymaking and governance. (Assessment: 100% coursework)

## **GRSC6101. Responsible conduct of research\***

## **GRSC6102. Stream-based responsible conduct of research\***

\* The formal requirements relating to such coursework shall be determined by the Graduate School from time to time. Please refer to Graduate School for their latest update: [https://gradsch.hku.hk/current\\_students/coursework/general\\_coursework\\_requirements](https://gradsch.hku.hk/current_students/coursework/general_coursework_requirements)

YEAR  
2

## **POLI6605. Ethics and public affairs**

One of the central principles of a liberal society is that citizens irrespective of race, gender, religion, or other irrelevant characteristics should have an equal opportunity to access to rights, goods and services available in a given society. Although well enshrined in anti-discrimination laws in many liberal societies, this intuitively simple principle conceals conceptual difficulties and moral controversies. This course explores these difficult questions by analyzing the concept, principles and hard cases of discrimination, with reference to such policy issues as race, gender, sexual orientation, and age. (Assessment: 100% coursework)

## **POLI6606. Supervised reading in specialty of public administration**

The course is tailor-made for one-to-one supervision concerning particular bodies of literature that are relevant to individual specialties and research interests. Through intensive reading and a focus on research methods supporting a critical evaluation of relevant literature, an important end product of the course is a robust literature review of major theoretical and policy issues on which the dissertation research can be formulated and undertaken. The course will enable a fine-tuning of dissertation writing and research methodology skills. (Assessment: 100% coursework)

## **POLI6607. Seminar on governance and public affairs in China**

The course is focused principally on governance experience in China, including Hong Kong. The coordinator will invite senior practitioners from government, policy advocates, and political actors to discuss critical policy issues on the understanding that Chatham House rules apply. Departmental members would also make significant contributions to the seminar based, for example, on their research, such as on civic engagement and participatory governance. (Assessment: 100% coursework)

## **POLI6608. Seminar on governance and public affairs in East Asia**

The course provides an opportunity for students to learn the latest developments in public governance and policy in East Asia, and will be organized in a workshop format emphasizing intensive learning and active participation of students. Distinguished scholars from various East Asian countries will be invited to contribute to the teaching of the course. The topics to be covered may vary each year, but they will cover governance issues, such as hybrid public-private partnerships, transnational linkages, civic engagement, and network governance. (Assessment: 100% coursework)

# PROGRAMME FACULTY

The DPA curriculum is taught by faculty members from The University of Hong Kong as well as by prominent international scholars and distinguished practitioners.



**Wai Fung LAM**

(B.Soc.Sc.CUHK; Ph.D. Indiana)  
Professor, The University of Hong Kong

**EXPERTISE:** public policy analysis, institutional analysis, public management, common-pool resources management, self-governance



**Patrick T.K. NIP**

(B. Soc. Sc., HKU; MPA, Harvard)  
Adjunct Professor, The University of Hong Kong

**EXPERTISE:** human resource management in the public sector, crisis management, public governance in Hong Kong



**John P. BURNS**

(B.A., St. Olaf; B.A., M.A., Oxford; Ph.D., Columbia)  
Emeritus Professor and Honorary Professor, The University of Hong Kong

**EXPERTISE:** politics and public administration of China, including Hong Kong; public sector human resource management



**Alan N. LAI**

(BA., MPA, HKU)

Adjunct Professor, The University of Hong Kong  
**EXPERTISE:** public governance in Hong Kong.



**Peter H.L. LAI**

(BA. HKU)

Adjunct Professor, The University of Hong Kong  
**EXPERTISE:** public governance in Hong Kong.



**Rosemary O'LEARY**

(J.D. Kansas; Ph.D. Syracuse)  
Edwin O. Stene Distinguished Professor of School of Public Affairs and Administration, The University of Kansas

**EXPERTISE:** public management, environmental policy, collaborative management, dispute resolution, and Law.



**Beryl A. RADIN**

(B.A. Antioch; M.A. Minnesota; Ph.D. Berkeley)  
Professor, Georgetown University

**EXPERTISE:** public policy analysis, public accountability, public leadership



**Ian THYNNE**

(B.A., Ph.D. Wellington)

Visiting Professor, The University of Hong Kong  
**EXPERTISE:** public governance, public organization, administrative law, and organizational change.



**James L. PERRY**

(B.A. Chicago; M.P.A., Ph.D. Syracuse)  
Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Chancellor's Professor Emeritus, Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University

**EXPERTISE:** public service motivation, government and civil service reform, public management, public human resource management, national and community service, performance-related pay, public organizational behavior



**Larry SCHROEDER**

(B.A. Iowa; M.A. Northern Illinois; Ph.D. Wisconsin)  
Professor Emeritus of Public Administration and International Affairs, Syracuse University

**EXPERTISE:** public finance, development studies, research methods



**Andrew WONG**

(B.B.A., CUHK)  
Adjunct Professor, The University of Hong Kong

**EXPERTISE:** public governance in Hong Kong, leadership in the public sector



# STUDENTS

2021  
▼  
2025

**Ms. Chan So Kuen**  
Senior Executive Director; The HK Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry

**Mr. Cheng Man Tat Matthew**  
President & CEO; DDB China Group

**Mr. Chow Chung Yan Jafe**  
Executive Editor; The South China Morning Post

**Mr. Lai Ping Wah Jonathan**  
Deputy Director of Education Services, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (Anglican/ Episcopal Church)

**Mr. Poon Chi Him**  
Chief Manager (Media and Engagement), Chief Executive's Office, The Government of Hong Kong SAR

**Mr. Seah Ang**  
Chief Executive Officer; Digital Domain Holdings Limited

**Ms. Shi Ran**  
Head of APAC Structured Products; Wells Fargo Securities

**Ms. Yeung Kin Ha Yvonne**  
Chief Executive; HKYoung Women's Christian Association

**Mr. Yiu Wai Kei Ricky**  
Assistant Secretary (Works Policies), Development Bureau

2019  
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2023

**Dr. IP Ching Loi**  
General Manager, Group Development & Corporate Affair, WM Group Limited

**Mr. JIA Peng**  
Director, Department of Healthcare & Pharmaceutical Industry, China Merchants Group

**Miss JIANG Ying**  
Assistant Director; The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

**Mr. KAN Man Kit**  
President; Disciplined Services Consultative Committee

**Miss LAU Ming Yin May**  
Manager; Lee Kum Kee Family Foundation

**Ms. NG Ching Ching Anita**  
Principal Valuation Surveyor; The Government of Hong Kong SAR

**Miss NG Tze Kwun Kathy**  
Head, Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section, Development Bureau

**Dr. SITT Wing Hung Edward**  
Consultant; The Heart Clinic Central

**Miss TSE Lee**  
Director (Fixed Income Division); Hong Kong Monetary Authority

# DPA APPLICATION PROCESS AND ADMISSIONS

## APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE DPA PROGRAMME SHALL:

1. hold a Bachelor's degree and a taught Master's degree in Public Administration or the equivalent;
2. have at least 8 years' professional experience in public administration or other related disciplines as may from time to time be judged appropriate by the Programme Committee;
3. good knowledge of public affairs in Greater China, including Hong Kong.
4. satisfy the English language requirements of HKU;
5. be required to attend an admissions interview with a panel, and
6. if deemed necessary, satisfy examiners in a qualifying examination.

## APPLICATION PROCESS:

Online application system: <http://hku.hk/tpg>

## TUITION FEE:

Information can be found on line at <http://ppa.hku.hk/dpa>

## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The University of Hong Kong's Department of Politics and Public Administration is a founding department of the Faculty of Social Sciences and has played a leading role in research and teaching in Public Administration in Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific region since 1969. The Department is a core teaching unit at the University, offering a Bachelor of Social Sciences, Master of Public Administration (MPA), Master of International and Public Affairs (MIPA) and Doctor of Public Administration (DPA). Our programmes are amongst the most renowned in Hong Kong and our graduates are now serving in the upper echelons of the HKSAR Government. At the forefront of Politics and Public Administration education is a commitment to excellent in training our students to become future leaders in the public, private and non-profit sectors.

## THE HKU VISION

The University of Hong Kong, as a leading institution of higher learning in Asia, strives to attract and nurture outstanding scholars from around the world through excellence and innovation in teaching and learning, research and knowledge exchange, contributing to the advancement of society and the development of leaders through a global presence, regional significance and engagement with the rest of China.







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