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The information contained in this Handbook is correct at the time of publication in April 2017. Please note that there may be changes to the information from time to time without prior notification. Applicants may contact the Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies if they have any queries.

This Handbook is provided for information and to facilitate research degree applications and does not form part of a contract between any person and the University.
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 City University of Hong Kong

Established in 1984, City University of Hong Kong is a modern, hi-tech institution committed to providing a quality learning environment for its students and the community. The University currently has a student enrolment of over 19,200 (excluding sub-degree students), of which over 6,440 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 (http://www.cityu.edu.hk/sro/) are also available on campus to provide students with residential accommodation and an avenue for academic and cultural exchange. The University also has an official postgraduate student body, namely, CityU Postgraduate Association, with its membership covering both research and taught postgraduate students. The Association serves as a communication channel between postgraduate students and the University. More information about the Association is available at: http://www.cityu.edu.hk/cupa.

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. Taught postgraduate 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. The School aims to provide better coordination and strategic direction to ensure the continued development of postgraduate studies at the University. The School is committed to providing an environment conducive to learning for postgraduate students. Its principal role is to facilitate the educational experience of its postgraduate students.

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

Mission of SGS

The mission of SGS is to promote excellence in postgraduate education and ensure consistency and high standards across the University. 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 organizes services and financial assistance to postgraduate students; encourages a close relationship between research and graduate training; and represents the foundation of postgraduate education at CityU in the wider academic and general community.
**Administrative Structure of SGS**

The Dean and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies oversee the School and the coordination and management of postgraduate education within the University. They provide academic guidance for programme development, planning and decision making in the School. As Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies, the Dean of Graduate Studies plays a role in managing the quality of postgraduate programmes. He is supported by the Associate Dean in overseeing quality matters related to postgraduate programmes through the Committee on Taught Postgraduate Programmes and the Committee on Research Degrees Candidature.

The Director (Graduate Studies Administration) and a team of administrative staff provides 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.

**Governance, Leadership and Quality**

A Board of Graduate Studies 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 policy pertaining to postgraduate work. The Board of Graduate Studies reports to Senate on matters relating to postgraduate teaching and learning.

There are two sub-committees under the Board of Graduate Studies, namely the Committee on Taught Postgraduate Programmes (CTPP) and the Committee on Research Degrees Candidature (CRDC). The CTPP oversees matters related to taught postgraduate programmes as assigned by the Board of Graduate Studies, while the CRDC oversees the admission, supervision, progress and examination of candidates for the MPhil, PhD and professional doctorate programmes.
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 and Schools may prescribe further entrance requirements.

2.2 English Proficiency Requirements

2.2.1 Applicants 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 and Schools. The University’s minimum English proficiency requirement for research degree programmes is 550 (paper-based test) or 79 (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 are also acceptable.

2.2.2 In addition to the University’s requirement as given above, individual Colleges and Schools have set a higher standard, or equivalent acceptable qualifications, suitable for their disciplines as follows:

(a) College of Business

- a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based) or 79 (internet-based); or
- a minimum IELTS score of 6.5; or
- other test scores that may be regarded as equivalent to TOEFL 550 (paper-based) or 79 (internet-based).

(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 Liberal Arts and Social Sciences**
- a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based) or 79 (internet-based); or
- an overall band score of 6.5 in IELTS, with a minimum of 6 for each of the sub-categories including Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking
(Please note that individual Departments in the College may adopt a higher standard.)

(c) **College of Science and Engineering**
- a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based) or 79 (internet-based); or
- a minimum overall band score of 6.5 in IELTS; or
- other test scores that may be regarded as equivalent to TOEFL 550 (paper-based) or 79 (internet-based); or
- a minimum score of 490 in the Chinese mainland’s College English Test Band 6 may be accepted.
(Please note that individual Departments in the College may adopt a higher standard.)

(d) **College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences**
- a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based) or 79 (internet-based); or
- a minimum overall band score of 6.5 in IELTS; or
- other test scores that may be regarded as equivalent to TOEFL 550 (paper-based) or 79 (internet-based); or
- a minimum score of 490 in the Chinese mainland’s College English Test Band 6 may be accepted.
(Please note that individual Departments in the College may adopt a higher standard.)

(e) **School of Creative Media**
- a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based) or 79 (internet-based); or
- a minimum IELTS score of 6.5; or
- other test scores that may be regarded as equivalent to TOEFL 550 (paper-based) or 79 (internet-based).
(Please note that Chinese mainland’s College English Test Band 6 is not accepted.)

(f) **School of Energy and Environment**
- a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based) or 79 (internet-based); or
- a minimum IELTS score of 6.5; or
- other test scores that may be regarded as equivalent to TOEFL 550 (paper-based) or 79 (internet-based).

(g) **School of Law**
- a minimum TOEFL score of 580 (paper-based) or 92 (internet-based); or
- a minimum overall band score of 7 in IELTS; or
- a score of 520 in the Chinese mainland’s College English Test Band 6.
(Take note that the School has stipulated a validity period of three years for results of the above tests. Thus, only test results obtained within three years immediately preceding an application to the School of Law, will therefore be considered valid.)

2.3 **Application Period**

2.3.1 Applications are accepted throughout the year and will be considered mainly in one admission round. The application deadline for 2018 entry is 1 December 2017 and the application results will be announced in early March 2018.

2.3.2 Final-year undergraduate and postgraduate students who are expected to complete their studies in 2018 can also apply in the above admission round; 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 (http://www.cityu.edu.hk/sgs/rpg/admission).

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; and

(b) pay application fee online; and

(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.) [Applicants who obtained degrees from institutions that gave degree classification and/or grade point average but are not shown in the certificate or transcript are required to also send copies of any other official documents that indicate their formal degree classification or grade point average.]

(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). [Applicants to the School of Law must also submit a self-assessment (of not more than 400 words) of their publications together with full copies of their best 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 pages 3-4). [For TOEFL results, applicants may send in 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 applying for admission to the following College/School, a research proposal/statement with clear objectives and proposed methodology is required. Please refer to the respective guidelines for preparing a research proposal/statement given in Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4:

- College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
- School of Creative Media
- School of Energy and Environment
- School of Law

(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 PhD/MPhil study, CityU will invite the nominated referees by email directly to complete an online Referee’s Report on you and submit it via an online platform.

For applicants who are applying for PhD study through Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme, 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”) to the nominated referees for completion. Academic referees will be invited to return the completed reports directly to the School of Graduate Studies 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.

2.4.4 Applicants are strongly advised to discuss their proposed research area with the relevant coordinator (see pages 22-23) before submitting an application.

2.4.5 Shortlisted applicants will be required to present himself/herself for an admission interview to assess their research potential and English language ability.

2.4.6 To facilitate verification of academic qualifications, students admitted onto 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.

2.4.7 CityU staff seeking admission to a research degree programme should follow the normal admission procedures. Full-time academic staff, Teaching Fellows and Instructors of the University are not allowed to pursue a research degree in their own Department/School under the supervision of colleagues from the same Department/School.

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. Applicants should indicate their intention to pursue government-funded or self-financing studies in their application form.

Tuition fee levels and entitlement to financial awards and services are different for these two types of 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.

Applicants who have not obtained a research master’s degree or a master’s degree with a thesis/project/dissertation before admission are admitted for direct entry to 4-year PhD studies. The funding support can be on UGC-funded basis, self-financing basis, or a combination of both. Applicants are advised to contact the Department/School concerned for details of financial arrangements.
2.6 **Application Fee**

2.6.1 A non-refundable application fee of HK$200 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 non-refundable or 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; or

   (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 An acceptance fee, irrespective of student’s study mode and funding source, is set in multiples of two times the monthly UGC full-time tuition fee. The rate for 2018/19 is HK$7,016.

2.7.4 The acceptance fee will be credited towards the monthly tuition fee payable upon students’ enrolment in the University. Waiver or deferral of payment of acceptance fee will not be entertained. Candidates who fail to pay the acceptance fee by the stipulated deadline will have their admission offer relinquished.

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; and

   (d) for transferring information to the student records system of the University, if and when the application is successful.

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, on request, to the parties concerned for processing the visa/entry permit application.
2.8.3 Any false information and misrepresentation will result in disqualification of the applicant for admission to the University.

2.8.4 In accordance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, applicants have the right to access all personal information relevant to their application and the right to correct the personal information contained in the application form. To obtain more details about this, please write to the School.

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

Please inform the School immediately in writing or through e-mail (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 and Schools. Applicants with physical or other disabilities can choose not to declare their disability 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 people with disabilities generally, they should consult the relevant coordinator (see pages 22-23).

2.11 **Enrolment**

2.11.1 Applicants on being informed of acceptance must pay the required fees and register in person with the School within the prescribed period. Those who fail to do so will be deemed to have declined the offer.

2.11.2 Upon registration, students are required to produce for verification the original copy of the supporting documents for qualifications claimed in the application form.

2.11.3 The start date of study is normally the first day of September to fit with the beginning of an academic year. (The School may approve other starting dates, which will be the beginning of Semester B or the first day of a month, if so recommended by the supervisor.)

2.11.4 Non-local students should inform the School of the expected arrival date immediately after the approval of their student visa/entry permit.

2.11.5 Students are not allowed to register simultaneously in another programme of study in the University or in any other institution without the prior permission of the School. This also applies to students who are interrupting their studies or on study leave.

2.11.6 Full-time students are not allowed to undertake full-time jobs without the prior approval of the School.
2.12 Enquiries

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

- **Telephone:** (852) 3442-9076
- **Fax:** (852) 3442-0332
- **E-mail:** sg@cityu.edu.hk
- **Website:** [http://www.cityu.edu.hk/sgs/rpg/admission](http://www.cityu.edu.hk/sgs/rpg/admission)
- **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. In the 2016-2019 triennium, the University has identified the following thirteen research areas of demonstrated strength (critical mass, staff and student publications, research grants and awards):

- Accountancy, Economics and Finance
- Applied Mathematics
- Business and Management (Big Data, Knowledge and Innovation, and Healthcare)
- Chinese, Comparative and Commercial Law
- Computer Science
- Electronic Engineering
- Environmental Science, Energy and Built Environment
- Global China Studies (Business, Language, Law, Society)
- Language, Communication and Creative Media
- Life Sciences (Biomedical Science, Molecular Science) and Biomedical Engineering
- Materials Science and Applied Physics
- Mechanical Engineering and Sustainable Manufacturing
- Policy and Administration

The University also promotes and encourages interdisciplinary research in order to synergise our expertise and research strengths. Research degree studies at CityU are offered in four Colleges and three Schools covering a wide range of strategic areas to suit individuals’ research interests.

3.1  College of Business

The College of Business aims to be a key business education hub – in China for the world. With a team of about 180 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 interdisciplinary research areas. Our demonstrated strength and international competitiveness in some main research areas are listed below. The College is amongst a small group of elite business schools worldwide that are internationally accredited by AACSB International and EQUIS. The College is also ranked 28th worldwide and 2nd in the Asian Pacific Region based on its research contributions in 2012-2016 according to the latest UTD World Rankings of Business Schools.

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 & 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.
**Department of Economics and Finance**

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**: Game theory; Industrial organization; Energy and environmental economics; Contract theory; Political economy; (3) **Macroeconomics**: Business cycles; Endogenous growth; Structural change; Fiscal and monetary policy; Real estate and urban economics; (4) **Corporate Finance**: Capital structure; Payout policy; Capital raising; Real investment; Firm-bank relationship; Mergers and acquisitions; Restructuring; Hedging; Corporate governance and control; (5) **Asset Pricing**: Equilibrium asset pricing; Equity return-risk relationship; Term structure of interest rates; Derivatives pricing; Financial engineering; (6) **Investments and Capital Markets**: Financial investments; Market microstructure; Anomalies; International financial management; Financial services and intermediation; Fund management; Credit risk management.

**Department of Information Systems**

Information Systems (IS) research is especially concerned with socio-technical issues surrounding the application of web-based technologies in business and organizations for improving efficiency, effectiveness, and competitiveness. The research foci of the Department include: (1) behavioral aspects of IS; (2) IS related organizational issues; (3) technical design of information systems; and (4) IS related policy and economic analysis. Specifically, recent topics researched span across different frontiers, including healthcare, cybersecurity, electronic/mobile commerce, business analytics, social networking, among others. The research methodologies employed range from behavioural methods (both qualitative and quantitative), technical modelling to econometrics.

**Department of Management**

Research foci/expertise in the Department include: (1) **Organizational Behaviour**: Leadership; Motivation; 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; Organizational Change; (2) **Human Resources Management**: Strategic Human Resource Management; Recruitment & Selection; Training & Development; Selection and Assessment; (3) **Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management**: New Venture Creation & Management; Venture Capital Firm; IPO; New Product Management; Innovation & Creativity; (4) **International Business**: Internationalization Strategy; international Entry Modes MNC Control and Staffing; Intercultural Communication; Comparative Management; Culture and Cognition, Cross-Cultural Research Methods; (5) **Strategic Management**: Corporate Strategy; Corporate Governance; Competitive & Cooperative Strategy; Strategies in Emerging/Transition Economies; Decision-Making; Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A); Top Management Teams; (6) **Corporate Social Responsibility**: Business Ethics; Stakeholder Management; Corporate Social Responsibility.

**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 broad base sense, including big data analytics, data mining, econometrics, credit risk
management, optimization, simulation/decision models, marketing analytics, healthcare analytics, and market research.

**Department of Marketing**

Research foci/expertise in the Department include: (1) **Business Markets**: marketing channels, interfirm governance, relationship marketing, network theory; (2) **Strategic Marketing and International Business**: international strategic alliance, foreign direct investment, global sourcing strategy, knowledge management, organizational learning; (3) **Internet Marketing**: online consumer behaviour, online advertising, online gaming, social media, and online retailing; (4) **Consumer Behaviour**: psychological, social and cultural aspects of consumer behaviour; (5) **Quantitative Marketing and Marketing Modeling**.

3.2 **College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences**

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at City University provides leading educational programs in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences. It is home to seven departments spanning a wide range of subjects. These are the Departments of Applied Social Sciences; Asian and International Studies; Chinese and History; Linguistics and Translations; English; Media and Communication; and Public Policy.

In the latest QS World University Rankings by Faculty, CLASS is ranked 54th for Arts and Humanities and 56th in Social Sciences and Management among 900 universities. With respect to individual subjects, CLASS also puts in a strong performance. Three of the departments in the College are now ranked in the Top 50. Linguistics is ranked 26th amongst world's top universities by QS World University Rankings by Subject 2017, which has been in the Top 50 for seven consecutive years since 2011.

In the same ranking exercise, Communications and Media Studies is ranked 27th while Social Policy & Administration is ranked 47th in the world; Development Studies, English Language and Literature, Modern Languages, and Politics & International Studies are ranked in the Top 100. In the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2014, Communications and Media Studies is ranked first in Hong Kong. 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.

**Department of Applied Social Sciences**

Research focus/expertise in the Department include: (1) **Applied Sociology**: work, labour, class, organization, community, family, gender, ethnicity, deviance, welfare, politics, life quality, social capital, social movement, social policy, social problem, deviance, welfare, life quality, social capital, social movement, social policy, social problem, social policy, social problem, social policy, deviance, welfare, life quality, social capital, social movement, social policy, social problem, social policy, social problem; (2) **Psychology**: self-concept, educational psychology, intimate relationship, stress and negative emotions, health psychology, positive ageing, creativity, idol worship, humor, aggression, resilience, and human values; (3) **Social Work**: casework, groupwork, community work; working with children, youth, elderly and family; 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, client experience, and psychotherapy process; and (5) **Criminology**: restorative justice, youth justice, organized crime, juvenile delinquency, Chinese criminology, anti-corruption, policing, crime prevention, school bullying, gang and outreach youth work, and cybercrime.
Department of Asian and International Studies

The mission of AIS is researching explaining the ‘new Asia’, generating knowledge about important socio-political, economic and cultural processes of change in Asia while situating these changes in the broader international context. AIS is a multi-disciplinary department (with a particularly strength in political science, political economy and international relations but also composed of sociologists, anthropologists, literature and cultural studies scholars, and Asian language experts). AIS is backed by the Southeast Asia Research Centre or SEARC, the only such research centre for the study of this region in Hong Kong. Our staff come from 13 different countries and speak 17 languages, with degrees from some of the world’s leading universities.

Our faculty publish in top tier journals and presses, while making regular high impact contributions to the international press (including the BBC, CNBC, the Financial Times, the Huffington Post, the Guardian, the New York Times, and the Washington Post). We have what is perhaps the most international PhD programme in Hong Kong with 24 students, a majority of them male, from 18 countries spread across 4 continents speaking 18 different languages and including five recipients of the prestigious Hong Kong PhD Fellowship and over twenty other holders of scholarships and awards. International reviewers have praised AIS's recruitment of PhD students from world-leading universities (such as Sciences Po, Edinburgh, and NUS) and its MA student graduates have secured PhD positions at top institutions like Berkeley and Cambridge. In the 2016 QS survey of universities, CityU ranked first for citations per paper in the area of politics and international relations, and for H-index citations for development studies. In addition, ‘politics and international relations’ and ‘development studies’ were both ranked within the top 51 – 100 universities in the world. Both ‘politics and international relations’ and ‘development studies’ are core areas of AIS.

Department of Chinese and History


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; (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) Literary and Cultural Studies: aesthetics, Asian diaspora literature, Asian writing in English, children’s literature, colonial and postcolonial literature, creativity, creative writing, contemporary literature, fashion studies, narrative studies, popular culture, and Victorian literature.
Department of Linguistics and Translation


Department of Media and Communication

Research foci of the Department includes: (1) New Media: diffusion, use, and effects of communication technology; impact of online and mobile media; computer-mediated communication; human-computer interaction; policy and regulation; (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.

Department of Public Policy

The research foci of the Department include, but are not limited to: (1) China Studies: political economy of market transition; state and society relationships since 1949; public administration and governance; socioeconomic development; Hong Kong politics and Mainland interaction (2) Politics: regional and international politics; comparative politics; the state and civil society; contemporary Chinese politics; ethics in government (3) Public Management: collaborative governance; human resources management; e-government; public budget and finance; organizational behaviour, public sector performance, public executive management, policy development and implementation, and current governance and management issues in Hong Kong (4) Comparative Philosophy and Applied Ethics: East Asian philosophies; social and political theories; health Care; justice, law, and civil society; environment (5) Urban Studies: urban governance and urban politics; neighbourhood change and the contemporary city; urban policy; housing policy; and (6) Environmental Policy: sustainable development; environmental governance and management; energy and climate policy.

3.3 College of Science and Engineering

With our unique combination of science and engineering under one roof, the College of Science and Engineering aims to break with convention to create innovation in teaching, learning and research. The College comprises of nine academic departments (see sections below) and the Division of Building Science and Technology.
Through the concerted efforts of the academic units, the College has achieved international competitiveness in areas such as applied mathematics, bioengineering, molecular and life sciences, computer science, electronic engineering, and materials science and engineering. Our collective success is evidenced by recent international rankings:

**Academic Ranking of World Universities 2016**
24th in the World’s Top 200 Universities in the field of Engineering/Technology and Computer Sciences

**Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2017**
46th in Mathematics
46th in Civil & Structural Engineering

Top 100 in the subjects of:
- Architecture / Built Environment
- Computer Science & Information Systems
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Materials Science

Furthermore, the remarkable achievements of the College are exemplified by the two State Key Laboratories in CityU – specialising in the fields of millimeter waves and marine pollution, a Chinese National Engineering Research Centre, two joint laboratories with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and thirteen research centres and applied strategic development centres.

**Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering**

Research expertise in the Department mainly focuses on Built Environment which includes: (1) **Civil, Structural and Geotechnical Engineering**: Computational mechanics; Engineering mechanics; Nano-mechanics; Composite structures; Wind engineering; Hydrology; Environmental engineering; Seismic response and disasters; Structural integrity and diagnosis; Construction materials; Tunnelling; Geotechnics and geology; Infra-structural engineering; Transportation; Pedestrian flow; Construction Engineering Management. (2) **Architecture and Architectural Engineering**: Building systems and facilities management; Energy, natural and artificial lighting; Thermal comfort, indoor and regional air quality; Building sustainability; Fire safety engineering, Evacuation; Building information modelling; Building contracts and laws; Disputes and resolutions; Real estate development, Construction and land economy; Architectural design, history, theory, ecology and technology; Urbanism, urban design and planning; Landscape architecture.

**Department of Chemistry**

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

(1) **Chemistry**: Green and synthetic chemistry; green materials/manufacturing; sustainable development; spectroscopy and catalysis; catalyst design and synthesis; organic electroluminescent devices; inorganic photo-responsive and luminescent chemosensors; organometallic chemistry; homogeneous catalysis; biological chemistry; materials chemistry; computational chemistry; environmental chemistry.

(2) **Biology**: Chemical biology; developmental and cell biology; nano-biotechnology and biosensing; microbiology and bioactive compounds; genomics and biotechnology; proteomics and metabolomics; environmental biology.
(3) **Environmental Science:** Freshwater and marine pollution; aquatic ecology and conservation; sustainable development in marine ecosystem; renewable energy, energy storage and management, energy efficiency and conservation; environmental physiology; ecotoxicology; environmental biotechnology; environmental physics; environmental monitoring; environmental measurement; remediation technologies; environmental impact and risk assessment.

**Department of Computer Science**

Research focus and expertise in the Department include: (1) **Multimedia Computing:** Computer Vision; Computer Graphics; Music, Speech and Language Processing; Games and Virtual Environments; Augmented/Mixed Reality; Medical Imaging; Image Processing; Image and Video Coding; 3D Human Motion Capture, Analysis and Animation; Perception, Neuroscience, Brain Informatics; Multimedia Analytics; Multimedia Information Retrieval; Multimedia Sensing and Wearable Computing; Social Media and Mobile Media; (2) **Distributed Mobile Computing and Wireless Networking:** Information Security; Cloud Computing; Internet of Things (IoT); Mobile Computing; Distributed Algorithms and Systems; Internetworking; Wireless Networks; WDM Optical Networks; (3) **Applied Algorithms:** Bioinformatics; Data and Internet Security; Equilibrium Algorithms; Scheduling; Applied Cryptography; (4) **Data Science and Knowledge Management:** Data Science Techniques; Big Data Analytics; Machine Learning; Artificial Intelligence; Database; Optimization; Text Mining; Information Retrieval; Semantic Object Modeling; (Web) Data Mining and Warehousing; Mobile/Multimedia Data Indexing and Caching; XML and Interoperability; Workflow and Web Services; (5) **Systems, Software Engineering and Internet Applications:** Embedded System; Parallel Architecture; Real-time Systems; Software Engineering; E-commerce; E-learning; Innovative Technology for Education; (6) **Evolutionary Computation:** Multiobjective Evolutionary Computation; Swarm Intelligence; Synergy between Machine Learning, Traditional Optimization and Evolutionary Computation; Multi-agent Evolutionary Optimization.

**Department of Electronic Engineering**

The Department offers research degree studies in a wide range of research areas which include (1) **Applied Electromagnetics:** antenna theory and design; millimetre-wave devices and circuits; terahertz science and technology; computational electromagnetics; electromagnetic compatibility; (2) **Optoelectronics, Electronics, Nanotechnology and Biosystems:** fiber and integrated optics; plasmonics/metasurfaces; semiconductor lasers; nanomaterials; nanofabrication; micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS); biomedical sensors and microsystems; neural implants and prosthetics; holo- graphy; power electronics; smart grids; electronic product reliability; and computational neurosciences; (3) **Wireless Communications:** wireless communications; wireless sensor networks; information theory; coding theory and techniques; signal processing theory and methods; visible light communications; and data storage systems; (4) **Networking:** optical networks; wireless networks; computer networks; neural networks; machine learning; visualization and graphics; queueing theory; performance evaluation; and security and cryptography; (5) **Computer Engineering and Control Systems:** intelligent and networked control; complex networks; nonlinear circuits and systems; signal processing; pattern recognition; biomedical imaging; bioinformatics; artificial intelligence; machine learning; computer graphics and vision; cloud computing; computer architecture; embedded systems; and evolutionary computing.

**Department of Mathematics**

Research strengths/disciplines of the Department include: (1) **Applied Analysis:** asymptotics and perturbation methods, dynamical system, kinetic theory, learning theory, partial differential equations, special functions, approximation theory, stochastic analysis; (2) **Computational Mathematics:** complexity theory, numerical analysis, scientific computation, computational electromagnetics; (3) **Mathematical Modelling:** control and system theory, fluid mechanics,
elasticity, granular materials, mathematical biology, mathematical finance, mathematics of new material, plate and shell theory; (4) **Probability and Statistics**: statistical machine learning and data mining, model selection and assessment, high dimensional data analysis, biomedical statistics.

**Department of Materials Science and Engineering**

The Department has state of the art fabrication and characterization facilities for wide range of research areas related to materials science and engineering. The research area “materials science” of City University of Hong Kong has been ranked number 1 in RAE (Research Assessment Exercise conducted by Research Grants Council of Hong Kong) 2014 results. The faculty members of the Department carry out both fundamental and applied research under the framework of (1) **Biomaterials** with subfields as biophotonics, biomedical materials and devices; (2) **Computational Materials**; (3) **Functional Materials** with subfields as materials physics, nanomaterials, organic light-emitting diode, photovoltaic materials, magnetic materials and spintronics, materials for renewable energy, plasma science and processing, sensing and detection, optical spectroscopy, photonics, optoelectronics; and (4) **Structural Materials** with subfields as phase transformations, SMT solder joints, creep and life assessment, in-service behaviour of materials, stress analysis, electron microscopy, structural materials design, surface science and engineering, thin films and coatings, metals and alloys, plastics and composites, shape memory alloys, and electrical ceramics. In addition, the members of the Department have collaboration around the world and are well recognised in their research expertise. The ultimate goal of the department is to prepare graduates with professional and leadership skills for the future world.

**Department of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering**

Academic programmes offered by the Department span from BEng degrees with Bioengineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mechatronics, Manufacturing Engineering, Nuclear Engineering and Quality Engineering majors to MPhil/PhD degrees in disciplines such as Bio/Biomedical Engineering, Nano/Molecular Engineering, Sustainable Manufacturing, Materials Engineering, and Robotics/Mechatronics/Automation. Research areas of the Department include (1) **Mechanical Engineering, Product Design, Manufacturing, and Quality Engineering**: Engineering Design; Rapid Prototyping; Flexible Assembly Systems; Powder Metallurgy & Material Forming; Experimental Mechanics; Nondestructive Testing; Process Monitoring; Magneto-rheological Suspensions & Lubrication; Surface Engineering & Thin Films; Metrology; Smart Materials. (2) **Robotics/Mechatronics/Automation**: 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. (3) **Bio/Biomedical Engineering**: BioMEMS/Bio-Fluidics; MEMS/Nano/Bio Sensors; Cell/Tissue Engineering; Nano/Bio Materials; Nano Drug Delivery; Prosthetic Devices; Medical Robots; Medical Instrumentation; Biomedical Imaging; Biophotonics; Health Maintenance. (4) **Nuclear and Risk Engineering**: Nuclear Safety; Nuclear Power Management; Nuclear Materials; Nuclear Medicine; Risk Assessment and Management; Emergency Management. The Department also offers postgraduate MSc degrees in Advanced Technology and Management, and Mechanical Engineering, with the revamping of the former to a Biomedical Engineering programme from 2018/19 onwards.

**Department of Physics**

Research focus/expertise in the Department include: (1) **Theory and Computational Physics**: condensed matter theory to study quantum transport, correlated electrons, spintronics and optical processes, computational solid state physics to study structural, electronic, exciton, phonon and magnetic properties of novel systems such as topological and 2-dimensional systems, computational chemistry to develop and use quantum mechanical methods to calculate the
structures and properties of molecules, computational biology physics to illuminate the structure and function of supramolecular systems in the living cell, quantum computation and information, quantum simulation with cold atoms; (2) **Spectroscopy and Imaging**: sophisticated experiments involving quantum beams such as synchrotron x-ray, neutron, electron, coherent light, and NMR to determine the structure and dynamics of materials, the structure and phase transition in glass and liquids, Boson peak and the dynamics of glass and liquids, quantum interactions such as spin-orbital coupling in multiferroics; (3) **Atomic, Molecular, Optics, and Low-Dimensional Systems**: mechanism of noise and decoherence, open quantum system and quantum entanglement, non-equilibrium physics in AMO system, topological quantum computing and Majorana fermions, Dirac and Weyl semimetals, topological and dynamical phenomena and Bose-Einstein condensation and spin-orbit coupling, quantum Hall Effect, transport phenomena, superconductivity, frustrated magnetism, topological superconductors, graphene, 2D materials beyond graphene, heterostructures and interfaces; (4) **Soft Matter and Biophysics**: dynamics of protein and subcellular processes (DNA, RNA, membrane), emergent phenomena in live cells with single molecule sensitivity, non-equilibrium mechanisms in active living matter, biological networks, biological and clinical experiments, novel physics-based data acquisition protocol and instrumentation in biomedical imaging; and (5) **Radiation Physics**: environmental radiation, radiation biophysics, radiation-induced biointerfaces, ion-track technology.

**Department of Systems Engineering and Engineering Management**

The Department provides high quality educational and research experiences in disciplines related to industrial and systems engineering and engineering management, preparing graduates for professional and leadership roles in industry and academia. The Department carries out research in a number of multidisciplinary areas. Research in **Systems Engineering** includes Reliability Engineering, Risk Analysis, System Informatics, Data Mining, Operation Research, Decision Sciences, Green Manufacturing Systems, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Human Factors Engineering, etc. Research in **Engineering Management** includes Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Project Management, Production and Operations Management, Knowledge Management, Quality Engineering and Management, Engineering Asset Management, etc.

**3.4 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 CVMLS currently offers the following three (3) types of PhD programmes at college and departmental levels:
1. Interdisciplinary PhD Programme in Veterinary Sciences at college level;
2. Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences;

**College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences**

The PhD programme in Veterinary Sciences is an interdisciplinary programme, jointly supervised by CityU and faculty from Cornell University, open to outstanding graduate students who wish to conduct state-of-the-art basic, clinical and translational life sciences research alongside highly experienced research professionals. The Programme is student-centered 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.
The students which are admitted to the programme will be eligible to undertake research work as research interns for up to 12 months at the Cornell University. The students will participate in research programmes leading to PhD degrees in one of the following areas:
• Comparative Biomedical Sciences
• Immunology & Infectious Disease
• Molecular & Systemic Neuroscience
• Public Health & Epidemiology

**Department of Biomedical Sciences**

The Department pursues research excellence in the study of physiological and pathological processes related to human health and diseases, covering specific areas of life sciences including molecular and cell biology, genetics and genomics, physiology and systems biology, and microbiology and immunology, with the aims to understand fundamental mechanisms of disease initiation and progression, and to translate new knowledge in biomedical sciences for disease detection, prevention and eradication. The expertise of the current faculties in the Department includes: (1) Cancer Biology; (2) Neuroscience; (3) Regenerative Medicine; and (4) Biotherapy and Nanomedicine.

**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

3.5 **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 – professionals who are not only skilled in the technology of digital media but who can also integrate a multiplicity of media forms. 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, musical composition and performance, sound art, installation arts, urban media art, game design, physical computing, digital cultural heritage, and historical, theoretical, and critical analyses of all of these areas, including ethical, social and aesthetic implications of emerging technologies on art and new media creation.

The School is equipped with state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities with numerous 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. 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.

3.6 School of Energy and Environment

The School of Energy and Environment aims to (a) advance research in targeted themes of benefit to societal needs in energy, environment, and sustainability, (b) educate engineers and professionals adopting holistic approaches which provide innovative solutions to local and regional problems in energy, environment, and sustainability, and (c) maintain a collaborative and supportive atmosphere for students, faculty, alumni and other stakeholders in advancing our interdisciplinary research and educational objectives.

In our research degree programme, the School provides opportunities for high quality research students to engage in research activities related to energy or environment that lead to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Faculty members in the School have extensive international experience in areas currently including renewable energy, energy storage, energy efficiency and conservation, meteorology and climate, air pollution, water and waste treatment, environmental and energy economics and sustainability.

Research focus/expertise in the School includes two major areas: (A) Energy-related (1) Renewable Energy: Solar cells; Wind; Marine; Biofuels; (2) Energy Storage and Conversion: Fuel cells; Batteries; Mechanical energy harvesting; Power transmission; Electric motors (3) Energy Efficiency, Energy Economics, Conservation and Management: Building physics; Advanced refrigeration and air conditioning; Carbon management; Economics of energy transitions; (B) Environment-related (1) Meteorology and Climate: Tropical Meteorology, Climate diagnostics, Climate modeling, Climate and hydrological change and impact studies, Atmospheric Remote sensing; (2) Air Pollution: Outdoor and indoor air pollution monitoring, modelling and control; Air Pollution exposure and impacts; Aerosol science (3) Water and Waste Treatment: Waste-water treatment; Biowaste utilisation; (4) Sustainability.

3.7 School of Law

The School of Law at CityU 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, 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 advanced legal studies and research, while local relevance, comparative insights, and critical analyses are encouraged. 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 law of Hong Kong. But this fundamental 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 impact on the development of the law as a dynamic field of study.

The subject areas offered, and research specialisation areas 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, and tort law etc.), commercial law (company law, consumer protection law, competition law etc.), criminal justice (criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence and criminology), public law (notably constitutional law, administrative law, and human rights), and international law, including public international law. In addition to the general core curriculum, the School also makes it a priority to teach and do 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 and Transportation Law, and Arbitration and Dispute Resolution.
# Research Degree Coordinators

For more information on a specific research area or research expertise in individual Departments/Schools, please contact the Research Degree Coordinators of respective Departments/Schools:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College of Business</th>
<th>Name of Coordinator</th>
<th>Tel. No.</th>
<th>Fax No.</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College of Business</td>
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<td><strong>College of Science and Engineering</strong></td>
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<td>Department of Materials Science and Engineering</td>
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<td>3442-0892</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Systems Engineering and Engineering Management</td>
<td>Prof. Min XIE</td>
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<td>3442-0173</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences</td>
<td>Dr. Linfeng HUANG</td>
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<td>Department of Biomedical Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Infectious Diseases and Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>School of Creative Media</strong></td>
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<td>3442-0408</td>
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<td><strong>School of Energy and Environment</strong></td>
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<td>3442-0688</td>
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<tr>
<td>(For enquiries, please contact Ms Debbie LEUNG)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>School of Law</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Andre JANSSEN</td>
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<td>3442-0190</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

(a) Coursework Requirement

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

**MPhil:** 7 credit units (including a core course of at least 2 credit units which shall be a research methodology or foundation course(s) at postgraduate level);

**PhD:** 14 credit units (including core course(s) of at least 4 credit units which shall include at least 2 credit units of research methodology or foundation course at postgraduate level)

and

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

Individual Departments and Schools may stipulate a higher credit unit requirement. Research students in the College of Business are required to take a stipulated set of taught courses. Please refer to Appendix 5 for its “Research Degree Programme Structure”.

(b) 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 study periods for research degree programmes, and students are required to complete their studies, including the submission of their theses, within the said periods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme of Study</th>
<th>Full-time</th>
<th>Part-time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPhil</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD (students with a master’s degree)</td>
<td>3 years / 4 years</td>
<td>6 years / 8 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD (students with a bachelor’s degree)</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>8 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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. Moreover, only a maximum of two extensions can be granted, with each period not exceeding six months, irrespective of the student’s mode of study. Failure to complete the study by the end of the second extension will lead to termination of study unless there are truly extenuating circumstances. Such cases should be approved by the School.

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. The required residence period for research degree studies is equivalent to half of the relevant study period.

4.3 **Report Submission**

4.3.1 **Qualifying Report**
Students are required to submit a qualifying report (typed and in English) within the specified qualifying periods as follows:

- Full-time students: within 6-12 months from commencement of study
- Part-time students: within 9-18 months from commencement of study

The qualifying report should include a survey of the relevant literature, an identification of a specific research topic, the research methodology and a discussion of the possible outcomes.

4.3.2 **Annual Progress Report**
Students who have been permitted to continue their studies after the qualifying period are required to submit a progress report (typed and in English) on an annual basis until they have submitted the final version of their theses for assessment.

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 thesis 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 the School in writing within the first six months of their studies. Applications submitted after the said period will normally not be considered. Such applications will be forwarded to the Department and College or the School for recommendation and final approval rests with the Committee on Research Degrees Candidature.

4.5 **Award of MPhil/PhD Degree**

To be recommended for the award of an MPhil or PhD degree, students must successfully complete the coursework requirements, and satisfy the examiners in respect of the thesis submitted, in an oral examination on the thesis and area of study concerned, and in any written 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 Board of Graduate Studies 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, City University research postgraduate students will be able to achieve the following desirable learning outcomes:
5 FINANCIAL AWARDS/ASSISTANCE

5.1 Postgraduate Studentship
(Applicable to government-funded students only)

5.1.1 The Postgraduate Studentship is granted on the basis of academic merit. Full-time research students who have obtained at least a bachelor’s degree with upper second class honours (or equivalent) or a good master’s degree before admission are eligible to apply for the Studentship. (Exemption from the above may be considered if the student has a good publication record.)

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 The Studentship is normally granted 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 department/school may stipulate additional requirements.

5.1.4 MPhil students will normally be granted the Studentship for a maximum of two years and PhD students a maximum of three years (irrespective of their entry qualifications), and the Studentship award period should not exceed students’ stipulated study period. The Studentship rate for 2017/18 is HK$16,200 per month (subject to approval). Studentship (tentative) is subject to revision in September of every year, and any revision to the rate will apply to both current and new students.

5.1.5 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 the Department/School. They shall not engage in any paid employment without the prior approval of the University.

5.2 Research Tuition Scholarship
(Applicable to government-funded students only)

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 fees. Notwithstanding the above, the award period should not exceed 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 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 Grant**  
(Applicable to government-funded students only)

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**  
(Applicable to government-funded students only)

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. Normally, the maximum cumulative amount of funding provision during the entire candidature of study is HK$30,000.

5.5 **Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Entrance Scholarships**  
(Applicable to government-funded students only)

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 on-campus hostel accommodation fees in their first year of research studies (equivalent to approximately HK$71,496). If granted a Scholarship, the student’s full-time tuition and hostel accommodation fees in the first year of study will be offset by the award.

5.6 **Government Grants and Loans and External Financial Awards/Assistance**  
(Applicable to all students)

The 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.
6 MERIT AWARDS IN RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

6.1 Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Scholarships
(Applicable to government-funded students only)

6.1.1 The purpose of Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Scholarships is to recognize and reward students with outstanding academic performance.

6.1.2 All students who are within their (normal) period of study and have undertaken their current MPhil/PhD studies for at least one full year 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 the School.

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 one full year of MPhil/PhD studies 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 the School.

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 The School 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. On receipt of the confirmation from the Departments/Schools, the students concerned will be granted the award.

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 Only awardees of the Outstanding Research Thesis Award will be eligible to compete for the award.

6.4.3 Each awardee will receive an award certificate issued by the School and a one-off cash prize of HK$20,000.
The following are the major fees (tentative rates for 2018/19) 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Study</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government-funded and self-financed students</td>
<td>HK$7,016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Fee</th>
<th>Mode of Study</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government-funded Students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition fee</td>
<td>HK$3,508</td>
<td>HK$1,754 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuation fee</td>
<td>HK$877 per month</td>
<td>HK$439 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-financing Students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition fee</td>
<td>HK$7,016 per month</td>
<td>HK$3,508 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuation fee</td>
<td>HK$1,754 per month</td>
<td>HK$877 per month</td>
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</table>

### Other Fees (for all students)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Fee</th>
<th>Mode of Study</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership fee for CityU Postgraduate Association</td>
<td>HK$300</td>
<td>HK$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination fee</td>
<td>HK$1,000 (MPhil)</td>
<td>HK$1,500 (PhD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-examination fee</td>
<td>HK$1,000 (MPhil)</td>
<td>HK$1,500 (PhD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation fee</td>
<td>HK$400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8 STUDENT ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT TO STUDENTS’ STUDIES

8.1 Student Accommodation

8.1.1 The University offers on-campus accommodation for full-time research students in UGC-funded programmes. 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. Application for residence places is made on yearly basis and lot-drawing is primarily used in allocating residence places for UGC-funded research students. Students who are interested to reside in the student residence can submit online application during the specified application period.

If the residence application is not successful, students are advised to visit SRO website for more information on searching off-campus accommodation.

8.1.2 Students who are interested to reside in the student residence in 2018/19 can submit online application during the application period from mid-April to mid-May 2018. For details, please refer to the SRO website in times of application.

8.1.3 Applications after 15 May 2018 should be sent directly to sropga@cityu.edu.hk. These applications will be put on waiting until all applications submitted on time had been processed.

8.1.4 Results will be released in early June 2018. Applicants who have submitted applications on or before 15 May 2018 will receive notifications via emails.

8.1.5 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 Student Residence Office:
Phone: (852) 3442 1200
Email: 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, through lectures and training courses on counselling, career development, wellness, leadership development, inter-personal relationship, communication, and stress management.
9 INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS FROM OVERSEAS AND THE CHINESE MAINLAND

9.1 Definition of Non-local Applicants

"Non-local" applicants are defined as persons entering Hong Kong for the purpose of education with a student visa/entry permit.

9.2 Global Services Office

The Global Services Office (GSO) 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 web site of GSO (http://www.cityu.edu.hk/gso/) contains useful information about studying in Hong Kong and at CityU.

9.3 Student Visa/Entry Permit

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

A local sponsor is required for a student visa or entry permit application. The local sponsor can be a Hong Kong resident who is at least 18 years old or the University. The University will usually act as a student's local sponsor if an applicant is accepted by the University to take up full-time studies at the postgraduate level.

In accordance with the regulations of the Immigration Department in Hong Kong, students holding a student visa/an entry permit for studying in Hong Kong are allowed to undertake part-time paid employment during their stay in Hong Kong under stipulated conditions.

9.4 Personal Accident and Medical Insurance / Travel Insurance

It is mandatory for non-local students to purchase a personal accident and medical insurance/travel insurance policy during their study period at the University. For further information, please visit the website of the Global Services Office (GSO).

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$10,000 per month to cover tuition fees, food, lodging and general living expenses, depending on the type of accommodation selected and level of living and personal expenses.
Appendix 1: Guidelines for Preparing a Research Proposal for Graduate Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Introduction

It is critical that you submit your Research Proposal to an appropriate member of the College prior to making a formal application for admission into either the MPhil or PhD programme.

You should seek comments on your proposal draft by discussing it with a College member in the subject closest to the topic of your research/or the College member most likely to be involved in supervision.

While there are considerable differences in the approach to research among the various disciplines of the College, and prospective candidates should write in an appropriate manner for their discipline, there are some general guidelines which should be more or less adhered to.

Contents of the Research Proposal

The guiding principle for a good Research Proposal is that you must have a serious question in mind that is worthy of careful, thorough research. That is, you must be able to state a proposition (or a series of related propositions) which is worthy of detailed research and analysis.

The proposal should be written in English and include:

(a) A clear statement of the aims of the research and why it is a worthy and/or interesting topic.

(b) An outline of the research background of the topic, giving an overview of some current findings in the area, with references. From this background material it should be clear to a reader what the research problem is, and what theory, questions (hypotheses), or phenomena you wish to investigate.

(c) The methods you intend to apply to the research questions. For example, how you will collect your data, who might be the appropriate respondents, whether you will use an established data base, case studies, experimental methods, questionnaires, etc. It should be clear to a reader the methodology to be used, its source, and its appropriateness for the purpose of investigation.

(d) A brief summary.

(e) A list of works cited in your proposal.

The proposal should be around three pages and single-spaced, including a list of work cited.

It is likely that, in the process of conducting your research, details of the outline will be adjusted. That is, the statement of your research topic may be refined.
Appendix 2: Guidelines for Preparing a Research Proposal for Graduate Studies in the School of Creative Media

Introduction

To apply for admission to either the MPhil or PhD programmes at the School of Creative Media (SCM), each applicant is required to prepare a research proposal.

The proposal has to be written concisely and clearly to help the SCM School Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) make a judicious decision regarding the research project. The applicant may consider the following aspects:

- Research topic, objectives and definitions;
- Relevance to the mission of the School;
- The state of the art in the proposed research;
- Its importance to the area of creative media;
- Research plan;
- The scope of the proposed research project.

It is highly recommended that you seek comments on your proposal by discussing it via email with a faculty member whose expertise is closest to the topic of your research/or the faculty member most likely to be involved in supervision before finalising it.

Contents of the Research Proposal

(a) Abstract

A clear statement of the aims of the research and why it is a worthy and/or interesting topic. You also need to briefly define your methodology.

(b) Introduction

An outline of the research background of the topic should give an overview of existing literature (critical discourses and similar studies), some current findings in the area, with references, and the intended research to be proposed. Setting out the background will help you to state clearly what you consider the research problem to be, what hypotheses you wish to test, and what conceptual paradigms you want to use.

(c) Literature Review

A detailed list of related research (publication date, page numbers, volumes and publishers, etc.) you have read and cited, with a brief assessment.

(d) Research Problems

From the background material stated above, it should be clear to a reader what the research problem is, and what theory, questions (hypotheses), or phenomena you wish to investigate.

(e) Methodology

You need to explain the method you intend to use in the research. It should be clear to a reader the methodology to be used, its sources, and its appropriateness for the purpose of
For qualitative and critical research, the “methodology” section should also address the modeling process, theoretical debates and key concepts that would advance knowledge and inform the investigation.

For example, you may describe how to model the problem, what you would do differently from the more conventional methods, approaches that might lead to a better outcome, how to collect your data, who might be the appropriate respondents, whether you will use an established data base, case studies, experimental methods, open-ended interviews, semi-overt participant observation, archival data, etc.

(f) Relevant research experience

The applicants should explain their previous research experience, if any, in relevant areas.

(g) Bibliography/references

Length of the Research Proposal

Since the School is interdisciplinary in nature, we welcome applicants with backgrounds in media art or digital-media technology. All proposals should be typed, double-spaced with 12 pt. font size, and include a list of references cited.

(1) Media Art:
   a. For the MPhil degree programme, the proposal should be around 5-10 pages.
   b. For the PhD degree programme, the proposal should be around 10-20 pages.

(2) Media Technology:
   a. For the MPhil degree programme, the proposal should be around 3-5 pages.
   b. For the PhD degree programme, the proposal should be around 5-8 pages.

The applicant should be reminded that the proposal is only the first step toward a potential research degree. After being admitted, as with most research endeavours the candidate may have to adjust the actual details in the proposed research during the course of the programme, which will be a continuous process under the guidance of his/her supervisors.
Appendix 3: Guidelines for Preparing a Research Statement for Graduate Studies in the School of Energy and Environment

Introduction

When submitting an application to the PhD programme at the School of Energy and Environment, each applicant is required to enclose a research statement, which demonstrates the applicant’s knowledge in the area of interest and approach to developing research ideas for the programme.

If at all possible, the applicant is advised to seek comments on their statement by discussing it with the faculty member of the School whose expertise is closest to the topic of the research project or the faculty member is most likely to be involved in the supervision if the application is accepted. Applicant should indicate on his/her application form of his/her preferred supervisor.

Content of the Research Statement

The statement should be written in English and include the following items:

(a) proposed title for the research;

(b) objective(s) of the research;

(c) background to the research idea including an overview of key scientific problems along with thoughts about relevant theory or hypotheses;

(d) proposed approach for the research and the extent to which it needs laboratory work, field observations, modelling, data analysis or new theory; describing any methods that seems critical to the research;

(e) expected outcomes of such research project in terms of novel science and perhaps broader societal impact.

Length of the Research Statement

The proposal should be typed, single-spaced with 12 point font size in no more than 2 pages to which a short list of pertinent references should be appended to the two pages.

The applicant should be reminded that the statement is only the first step toward a potential research degree. After being admitted, as with most research endeavours the candidate may have to adjust the actual details of any research during the course of the programme, which will be a continuous process under the guidance of his/her supervisors.
Appendix 4: Guidelines for Preparing a Research Proposal for Graduate Studies in the School of Law

Introduction

To apply for admission to either the MPhil or PhD programmes offered by the School of Law (SLW), each applicant is required to prepare and submit a research proposal. A research proposal can best be described as a "roadmap" of the intended project. It must set out the various components of the problem in enough detail in order to guide the evaluator(s) through the underlying assumptions, problems, arguments, questions and basic literature that would enable the evaluator(s) to make an informed decision about the viability of the project. In a sense, the research proposal can also be described as a kind of distillation of the envisaged thesis; obviously without all the nuances, analyses, arguments and conclusions that would constitute the final work.

Applicants are advised to consult the Research Degree Coordinator of the School of Law with regard to their proposed research topic and proposal, or to seek comments on the proposal from a faculty member with relevant expertise and/or research interests. Applicants who have already published their academic work - e.g. book chapters or journal articles - are also encouraged to submit a representative publication together with their application materials.

Contents of the Research Proposal

It is useful to keep in mind, when making decisions about your research topic and when you design the research proposal, that ultimately, an MPhil thesis must make a substantial contribution to knowledge in the particular subject area while a PhD thesis must make a substantial original contribution to knowledge in the subject area concerned. For a PhD thesis (approx. 100,000 words) your study must demonstrate originality and a mere reproduction of existing knowledge will not be enough. And for an MPhil thesis (approx. 45,000 words), your contribution to the field of knowledge must be significant enough so as to demonstrate your research competency and command of the subject area. Applicants must therefore take care in choosing an appropriate research topic that will allow them to ultimately meet these criteria; a research topic that is relevant and warranting of further research, but is also narrow enough in scope to ensure the practical feasibility of the proposed study.

A research proposal usually includes the following key components, and is usually between 15 to 25 pages in length:

(a) **Title**

   A working title for the proposed project (e.g. "A critical analysis of directors' fiduciary duties in comparative perspective").

(b) **Abstract**

   A short, maximum 350 word summary of your research proposal.

(c) **Background / Literature Review / Theoretical Foundation**

   A brief, but sufficiently detailed and comprehensive introduction outlining the general area of study and demonstrating your knowledge and competency in conversing about your subject area. This substantial part of the research proposal will therefore provide an overview of the existing literature and/or theory and current state of knowledge, as well as recent debates, controversies, and/or new developments in the selected field of study. In addition, specific shortcomings or problem areas in the subject area will also be highlighted in order to contextualise the research question(s) and objectives that the proposed research project will
focus on. It is vital that the evaluator of the research proposal is convinced that the applicant is aware of the current debates in the subject area, and that the applicant has read widely and inquisitively in order to gain the necessary insight into the subject matter at hand. A good background and solid literature review presuppose thorough preparation, reading, and pre-study. This will also enable the applicant to position the research proposal in terms of schools of thought, methodological approaches, and a general theoretical context. The preliminary title may also inform this aspect, for instance "critical analysis", "comparative study", "historical analysis", etc.

(d) **Research Question(s)**

After having outlined your subject area, it is necessary to articulate the primary (and secondary) research question(s) that will guide the research activity. A good research question (or hypotheses) is clear and concise, and will serve as a golden thread throughout the thesis, leading to the conclusion or conclusions and final proposals/answers.

(e) **Rational and Objectives**

Explain why this research project is a worthy undertaking and important for the particular field of study. Also provide a clear statement of the objectives or aims of the research, in other words, what you intend to achieve and the contribution that your research will make. Since postgraduate research is not intended to only be a summary of existing literature, but also to add value, it is important to clearly justify the intended research project. The rational does not have to be the invention of a totally new theory. It can take many different forms, as long as it is clear that the research will add some value to the field of law.

(f) **Research Methodology**

A particularly important part of a research proposal relates to the research methods that you intend to use in considering and answering the research question(s). These research methods must be explained and justified in sufficient detail, and must be appropriate for the purpose of the research project, in other words, it must be appropriate in answering the research question(s) posed, and in achieving the research aims and objectives identified. The background, basic problem statement, and literature review (see point (c) above) must be formulated in conjunction with the methodology section, since the background and basic problem will inevitably inform the chosen methodology. For instance, a critical analysis necessitates a certain theoretical approach, while a historical or comparative study will obviously require comparative or historical methods. In natural sciences and many social sciences it is customary to elaborate extensively on methodology; an aspect often neglected in legal studies. While it is not necessary to write extensively on methodology in a legal studies research proposal, it is advisable to explain in clear terms how the research problem will be tackled and why the particular approach or approaches were chosen.

(g) **Chapter Outline and Timeline**

A preliminary chapter outline and timeline for the proposed research project. The chapter outline sketches the structure of your thesis by providing a list of chapter headings with a short explanation on the content of each chapter. The chapter outline should carefully be considered in order to reflect the flow and underlying argument of the thesis; building up to the final conclusion or recommendations.

The timeline provides a preliminary indication of the intended progress. Keep in mind the prescribed study periods for MPhil and PhD degree programmes: An MPhil degree normally takes 2 years to complete for full-time students and 4 years for part-time students. PhD students who already hold a research master’s degree or a master’s degree with a
thesis/project/dissertation normally take 3 years full-time or 6 years part-time to complete the PhD programme. And PhD students without a research master’s degree or a master’s degree with a thesis/project/dissertation usually take 4 years full-time and 8 years part-time to complete the PhD programme.

(h) Bibliography

As a first step, list all the works cited in your proposal. Additionally, the bibliography of a research proposal is also indicative of whether the applicant is aware of the most important, and most recent primary and secondary sources of the subject area. Thus, the bibliography will normally include works read/cited and works that have been identified as potential sources. But the bibliography should not be seen as exhaustive, since the period of active writing may very well lead to the identification of new and additional sources.

A research proposal is an essential starting post for any research project, but it is also important to remember that the research process is dynamic, and it is therefore likely that adjustments and further refinements to the research proposal will transpire during the course of the research process.

The better the research proposal, the easier the writing process will be.

Please note: Applicants must write and submit their own work. Please ensure that you read through, and understand the City University of Hong Kong’s Rules of Academic Honesty, available at [http://www.cityu.edu.hk/provost/academic_honesty/rules_on_academic_honesty.htm](http://www.cityu.edu.hk/provost/academic_honesty/rules_on_academic_honesty.htm).
Appendix 5: Research Degree Programme Structure of the College of Business

[For students admitted in or after the admission round, 2016. The programme structure is under continuous review and may be subject to change.]

**MPhil Programme**

1. Candidates enrolled in the MPhil programme are required to take following courses and complete other relevant coursework, if any, as prescribed by the Qualifying Panels, and write a thesis in Year 2.

   **Year 1**  
   SG8001  Teaching Students: First Steps (1 CU, Semester A/B), and  
   Course(s) from home department of at least 4 credit units which shall include at least 2 credit units of research methodology or foundation course at postgraduate (R8) level

   **Year 2**  
   Course(s) outside home department but within CB of at least 3 credit units at postgraduate (R8) level

*CU: credit unit*

2. The above schedule of courses is catered for full-time candidates. For those pursuing part-time studies and admitted in mid-year, the schedule will need to be adjusted in consultation with their Qualifying Panels.

3. Credit transfer and coursework exemption may not be possible under the current University’s requirement of taking at least 7 CUs for MPhil.

4. Each candidate is required to submit a Qualifying Report within a specified period. Subject to satisfactory performance of the candidate in coursework and in Qualifying Report as assessed by the Qualifying Panel established for the candidate, the candidature will be confirmed. Once having been confirmed the MPhil candidature, the candidate will proceed to write the thesis.

**PhD Programme**

5. PhD candidates will fulfil the same coursework requirements as MPhil candidates. In addition, they have to take two extra courses listed below:

   **Year 2**  
   FB8905 Project (Thesis Proposal Defence) (6 CU, Summer Year 2 to Semester A Year 3)
   **Year 3**  
   FB8914 Doctoral Seminar (3 CU, Semester B)

6. In addition to the above coursework requirements, PhD candidates also need to complete other relevant coursework, if any, as prescribed by their home departments and Qualifying Panels.

7. Full-time students have to sit for a common written Qualifying Examination administered by individual departments normally in the summer of Year 1. Its objective is to test students’ knowledge of major subject areas of their research disciplines and their ability to integrate the theories and concepts learned from the taught courses, as well as in analysing and solving problems. Students who fail in the departmental common written qualifying examination are allowed to have at most one more attempt at the discretion of individual departments but all students must pass the examination the latest by 31 August of their second year of study. Those who cannot pass the examination by the corresponding deadline will be recommended for termination of study following the procedures stipulated by the University.
8. Full-time students must complete the thesis proposal defence (FB8905 Project) conducted by a panel set up by their home department the latest by 31 December of their third year of study. Students who fail in the defence are allowed to have at most one more attempt at the discretion of the panel. If a second attempt is allowed, students must pass the defence the latest by 30 June of their third year of study. Those who cannot pass the thesis proposal defence will be recommended for termination of study following the procedures stipulated by the University.

9. Doctoral Seminar is concerned with general and cross-disciplinary business research and is a research seminar for all doctoral students particularly in their third year of study. Students joining this seminar are presumed to have completed significant amount of research at the doctoral level since they will need to present their research to the class for in-depth discussion. A primary objective is to broaden students’ perspectives in contemporary business research. It also provides opportunities for students to acquire practical skills in managing their academic career.

10. The above course/examination schedule is catered for full-time candidates. For those pursuing part-time studies and admitted in mid-year, the schedule will need to be adjusted in consultation with their Qualifying Panels and individual home departments.

**Guidelines on Monitoring Study Progress of Students in Taught Courses**

11. To monitor the study progress of research degree students in their taught courses, the following guidelines will be adopted by the College as appropriate in addition to those stipulated by the University from time to time:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cumulative GPA</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) below 2.8</td>
<td>Warning letter will be issued to the student concerned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) below 2.5</td>
<td>Suspension of studentship for a specified period (applicable to full-time students only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research Output**

12. The College strongly encourages research degree students to provide evidence of scholarly work through publications which have been accepted or published by good quality journals during their candidature.