Research Studies at One of the Top Universities in the World

The University of Hong Kong 2022-23

Financial Support

- Full Tuition Waiver for Local Research Postgraduate (RPg) Students
- HKU Presidential PhD Scholar Programme (HKU-PS) / Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (HKPF) Scheme
  Package of up to around US$53,640 (HK$418,400) in the first year and up to around US$51,070 (HK$398,400) in each of the subsequent years during the normative study period
- Postgraduate Scholarships (PGS)
  At least US$27,730 (HK$216,360) per year
The University of Hong Kong (HKU) is Hong Kong’s oldest university. As an English-medium university with a history that stretches back more than 100 years, it has grown with and helped shape the city from which it takes its name.

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

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

HKU ranked 22nd best university in the world

[Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2022]
Research Postgraduate Degrees

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

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

Why Pursue an MPhil/PhD Degree at HKU?

High value placed on research postgraduate students at HKU

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

Research excellence

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

World-class teaching

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

International focus

The University has academic links with more than 400 overseas universities and hosts over 10,000 international students. About 60.4% of its academic staff comes from overseas. Research postgraduate students have opportunities to take part in overseas training and international research collaboration.
Wide range of fields of study
HKU offers MPhil and PhD programmes in a wide range of subjects under the Faculties of Architecture, Arts, Business and Economics, Dentistry, Education, Engineering, Law, Medicine, Science and Social Sciences.

Use of English as the medium of instruction
A distinctive position as an English-medium university in Asia is one of HKU’s great strengths.

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

State-of-the-art support facilities
HKU’s students have access to first-class libraries (with over 7.4 million e-books, 210,895 e-journals and 938 e-databases) as well as computer, and sports and leisure facilities. The University also provides residential accommodation for a proportion of its students.

Career prospects
Many of HKU’s graduates are employed in high-level positions in universities, government, business and industry in Hong Kong and around the world. According to the most recent employment survey on postgraduates, over 80% of the respondents are employed and around 10.3% are furthering their studies.
Awards and Financial Assistance

HKU Presidential PhD Scholar Programme (HKU-PS)

• Established in 2019 by the University to attract top candidates from around the world to pursue full-time PhD studies at HKU.

• Each President's Scholar will receive a package of up to around HK$418,400 (US$53,640) in the first year, and up to around HK$398,400 (US$51,070) in each of the subsequent years during the normative study period. The package includes:
  (a) Cash Award to support research and living expenses: HK$40,000 in Year 1; HK$20,000 per year in the remaining normative study period
  (b) Waiver of composition fees for the whole normative study period (i.e. HK$42,100 per year (US$5,410))
  (c) Postgraduate Scholarship of HK$26,900 (US$3,450) per month
  (d) Conference and Research-related Travel Allowance of HK$13,500 (US$1,730) per year
  (e) Financial support to selected outstanding students for an additional year of study beyond the normative study period to reward their outstanding research output and progress
  (f) A guaranteed hall place in Year 1, with possibility of renewal

• The HKU Presidential PhD Scholars will also receive strong academic and training support from the University, e.g. individualised advisory service, training in teaching, chances to rotate among different research labs/disciplines, and more opportunities to interact with leading scholars. A group of distinguished Faculty members will also give advice, provide additional mentorship and training opportunities, and oversee the academic career paths.

• In principle, all HKPF awardees will receive HKU-PS*. Selected candidates who are not awarded HKPF but considered to be of high calibre by the University will also receive HKU-PS.

• Candidates who have been nominated by the University to complete for the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme will be considered for HKU-PS. PhD applicants with very strong qualifications in academic and/or research achievements will be considered for the HKU-PS Programme, with consultation from Faculties. After successful screening for the first batch of candidates who submitted the applications before December 1, 2021, further selection will be conducted in batches by August 31, 2022. Candidates will be selected by a panel of professors representing different disciplines. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview.

* Items (c) and (d) of the HKU-PS package overlap with the HKPF award provided by the RGC. HKU-PS recipients who are awarded HKPF concurrently will receive items (c) and (d) either from the RGC or HKU.
Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (HKPF) Scheme

• Established in 2009 by the Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC).

• New applicants to full-time PhD programmes in government-funded institutions in Hong Kong, irrespective of their country of origin and ethnic background, are eligible to apply.

• Applicants should demonstrate outstanding academic performance, research ability/potential, communication and interpersonal skills, and leadership abilities.

• RGC provides each awardee with a monthly scholarship of HK$26,900 (US$3,450) and a conference and research related travel allowance of HK$13,500 (US$1,730) per year for a period up to three years.

• HKPF awardees will concurrently receive HKU Presidential PhD Scholarship (HKU-PS). For more details, please refer to HKU-PS package.

On-line application for HKPF 2022-23 opens in September 2021. For further details, please visit http://www.rgc.edu.hk/hkphd
Postgraduate Scholarships (PGS)

Full-time MPhil and PhD students who hold a first degree with second-class honours first division (or equivalent) or above are normally considered eligible to receive a Postgraduate Scholarship during the normative study period. Candidates’ results in Master’s degrees may also be considered. The amount of PGS is HK$18,030 (US$2,310) per month for 2021-22.

Other Scholarships and Financial support for conference attendance/travel

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

Composition Fees

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

# Subject to revision

Tuition Waiver Scheme for Local Research Postgraduate (RPg) Students

The scheme will provide entire tuition fee to all eligible local students enrolled in full-time UGC-funded RPg programmes. Please visit the RGC’s website (https://www.ugc.edu.hk) for further details.

Accommodation

Full time non-local research postgraduate students who register on July 1, 2019 and thereafter are guaranteed a hall place in their first year of study.
Application Period for Admissions 2022-23

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (HKPF) Scheme

Initial application to the Research Grants Council (RGC):
September 1, 2021 noon – December 1, 2021 noon

Full application to the University: September 1 – December 1, 2021

Main round application
September 1, 2021 – December 1, 2021

1st clearing round
December 2, 2021 – April 30, 2022

2nd clearing round
May 1, 2022 – August 31, 2022

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