



香港大學研究學院
GRADUATE SCHOOL
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Roadmap to a Successful Confirmation Seminar and Viva

Dr. Wai Lan Tsang

Date: October 13, 2026 (Tuesday)

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.

Venue: Main Campus, HKU

Overview

Confirmation seminar and viva are two pivotal milestones on a research journey, giving research students invaluable opportunities to discuss their research with experts in their disciplines and receive constructive feedback. To excel in these two decisive phases and make the most of these two important opportunities, research students need to meet the stipulated requirements and maintain a strategic and reflective mindset. This 3-hour interactive workshop designed for research students across disciplines aims to equip participants with the essential knowledge, skills and mindset necessary for effectively and confidently navigating the HKU confirmation seminar and viva. Specifically, the workshop will guide participants on how to succinctly showcase and justify their research, respond professionally to probing questions raised by advisory panels and examiners, and handle feedback with clarity and confidence. Through a blend of discussions and hands-on activities, participants will also develop useful strategies to manage diverse scenarios during these two research assessments. By attending this workshop, participants will enhance their readiness and confidence in preparing for these two pivotal steps on their academic journey.

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate awareness of the practicalities and expectations of the confirmation seminar and viva.
- Identify good practices for research assessments.
- Adopt effective preparation strategies for research communication under pressure.
- Develop confidence in handling various scenarios in academic discussions with an expert audience.

Learning Activities

- Case analysis
- Reflective activities
- Experience sharing
- Mini-presentations
- Mock viva simulations

Remarks

This workshop is intended for research students who are preparing to submit or have submitted their probationary report or dissertation.

