THE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1911

The University of Hong Kong (HKU) is Hong Kong’s oldest tertiary education institution. With brilliance in teaching and research, HKU attracts world-class scholars and nurtures outstanding students from around the world. It stands with the top universities in the world, and is placed 27th best University in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2016-2017.

THE INSTITUTE SINCE 2001

The Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (HKIHSS) promotes innovative, multi-disciplinary, and cross-institutional research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences related to China in the world. Focusing on China in Asia and in the world from historical and contemporary perspectives, the institute supports diverse platforms for a critical community of scholars to share experience across the globe.

The Institute is also developing innovative programmes with strategic alliances in the United States, Europe, East Asia, and the Middle East. Key partners include Yale University, Social Science Research Council (New York), Cornell University, Harvard-Yenching Institute, Heidelberg University, Needham Research Institute, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, CNRS, National University of Singapore, China Academy of Social Sciences, Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (Yogakarta), Peking University, and Nankai University.

Research Postgraduate Degrees

The Institute offers Master of Philosophy (MPhil), and 3-year and 4-year Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programmes to students wishing to conduct cross-disciplinary research on Inter-Asia Connections, focusing (1) science, technology and medicine in Asian societies; (2) hubs, mobilities and the Asian urban; or (3) spirituality and religion in Asia.

Our Teaching Experts

Our teaching experts include members from the Institute as well as the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences. Through the Institutional Enhancement Scheme funded by Lee Hysan Foundation and the Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Institute will invite more renowned scholars from overseas to participate in teaching and mentoring.

Prof. Angela Leung (left), Director, and Prof. Helen F. Siu, Founding Director
Science, Technology, and Medicine in Asian Societies (STMS)
The cluster challenges deeply entrenched ideas about the autonomy of science and technology, and encourages the development of innovative cross-disciplinary approaches to the interplay between science-technology and social political life – domains that were too often treated separately.

The cluster has obtained in 2017 a 3-year Hong Kong Government research grant of HK$6.6 million on everyday technologies in modern East Asia, 19th-21st centuries. Find more information at www.hkihss.hku.hk/mmea.

Cluster Director:
Angela Leung (PhD, Paris)
Core Team Members at HKU:
Fung Kam Wing (DLitt, Kyoto)
Max Hirsh (PhD, Harvard)
Christine Luk (PhD, Arizona State)
Izumi Nakayama (PhD, Harvard)
Robert Peckham (PhD, King’s College London)
Gonçalo Santos (PhD, ISCTE-Lisbon)
Dorothy Tang (MLA, Harvard; RLA, N.Y.; ASLA)
Daniel Trambaiolo (PhD, Cantab & Princeton)
Loretta Kim (PhD, Harvard)
Li Ji (PhD, Michigan)
Till Mostowlansky (PhD, Bern)

Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia (RSRA)
This cluster builds on an emerging scholarly consensus that the complexity of religious realities and issues in Asia requires a rethinking of the concept of religion and its relationship to the rest of society. It examines the social construction, combinations, circulation and institutionalization of spiritual/religious knowledge, practices and technologies.

Cluster Director:
David A. Palmer (PhD, EPHE-Sorbonne)
Core Team Members at HKU:
Fung Kam Wing (DLitt, Kyoto)
Paul Joosse (PhD, Alberta)
Loretta Kim (PhD, Harvard)
Li Ji (PhD, Michigan)
Till Mostowlansky (PhD, Bern)

Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban (HMAU)
The cluster examines the historical and contemporary urban in an inter-connected Asia. It focuses on a few world cities across the Asian region that are inter-referenced yet striving to distinguish from one another under volatile, competitive pressures. The team tracks the cities’ “art of hubbing” and captures the lived experiences of their populations.

Cluster Director:
Helen F. Siu (PhD, Stanford)
Richard Wong (PhD, Chicago)
Core Team Members at HKU:
Chen Zhiwu (PhD, Yale)
Max Hirsh (PhD, Harvard)
Florian Knothe (DPhil, Mainz)
Till Mostowlansky (PhD, Bern)
Zhang Jun (PhD, Yale)
Awards and Financial Assistance

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (HKPF) Scheme
The HKPF provides financial subsidies for brightest students across the world to pursue doctoral studies in Hong Kong. Each awardee will receive an annual stipend of HK$240,000 (US$30,760) and a conference and research related travel allowance of HK$10,000 (US$1,280) per year for up to three years. For HKPF awardees who are admitted to a 4-year PhD programme in 2018-19, HKU will provide a monthly scholarship and travel allowance at the same level as the HKPF for their fourth year of study.

University Postgraduate Fellowships (UPF)
HKU UPF are available for selected full-time PhD applicants with excellent academic performances. The Fellowship is worth HK$70,000 (US$8,970)#, which is awarded on top of the Postgraduate Scholarship (PGS).

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 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$15,700 (US$2,010) per month for 2017-18#.

Scholarships & Financial Support for Conference Attendance/Travel
HKU administers a number of scholarships that are awarded to MPhil and PhD students for outstanding achievements. Students are also eligible for financial support for conference attendance and/or travel.

HKIHSS Financial Support for Conference Attendance/Travel
The Institute offers financial support to students for their conference attendance and research trips.

# Subject to revision
Application Period for Admissions 2018-19

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (HKPF) Scheme

Step 1:  Initial application to the Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC)
         Early September - December 1, 2017 noon
         (exact dates to be announced by RGC at its website)
         Online application at www.rgc.edu.hk/hkphd

Step 2:  Full application to HKU
         September 1 – December 1, 2017
         Online application at www.gradsch.hku.hk

HKU Application Rounds 2018-19

Main Round Application
September 1 – December 1, 2017

First Clearing Round
December 2, 2017 – April 30, 2018

Second Clearing Round
May 1 – August 31, 2018

More information is available at www.hkihss.hku.hk/en/admission_2018-19 or
www.gradsch.hku.hk/gradsch/prospective-students/how-to-apply.