

Mainland Collaboration Schemes —
Joint PhD Programme

联合培养博士研究生项目

Entry 2025

62nd

QS World University
Rankings 2025

4th

THE Young University
Rankings 2024



15th

THE Asia University
Rankings 2024

1st

THE Most International
Universities in the World 2024

About CityUHK

Established in 1994, City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK, 香港城市大学) is a rapidly growing institution with a burgeoning local and global reputation for research and professional education. Located in Hong Kong, an international city with mutual enrichment of different cultures, CityUHK is strongly committed to pursuing high levels of excellence, creating an internationalized space for education, pursuing a research agenda designed to benefit society, establishing a culture of innovation and discovery and nurturing the talents of our students, with the aim to serve globally and improve people's lives.

Research Degree Programmes

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme is offered in the following academic units covering a wide range of strategic areas to suit individuals’ research interests:

College of Business	Accountancy, Economics and Finance, Information Systems, Management, Management Sciences, Marketing
College of Computing	Biostatistics, Computer Science, Data Science
College of Engineering	Architecture and Civil Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Systems Engineering
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Chinese and History, English, Linguistics and Translation, Media and Communication, Public and International Affairs, Social and Behavioural Sciences
College of Science	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences	Biomedical Sciences, Infectious Diseases and Public Health, Neuroscience, Veterinary Clinical Sciences
School of Creative Media	
School of Energy and Environment	
School of Law	



Admission Requirements

CityUHK has adopted a rigorous admission mechanism in selecting high quality research students. Candidates seeking admission to our Joint PhD Programmes should be current PhD students at home university or will become a PhD student at home university upon commencement of study under the Joint PhD Programme.

Please note that CityUHK adopts stringent admission criteria and we welcome students with truly outstanding qualification.

English Proficiency Requirement

Candidates are required to satisfy the University's minimum English proficiency requirement for postgraduate programmes, that is, a total score of 79 (in one single 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). In addition to the University's requirement, individual Colleges and Schools may set a higher standard suitable for their disciplines. TOEFL and IELTS scores are considered valid for two years from the test date and must be valid at the time of submission of application.

Programme Duration

The normal duration of the Joint PhD Programme is 4 years. The commencement date of research degree programmes is the first day of September to align with the beginning of an academic year.

During the candidature of the Joint PhD Programme, students will study at home university, CityUHK's main campus in Hong Kong and designated study locations in Mainland China, which currently includes USTC–CityUHK Joint Advanced Research Centre (Suzhou) (中国科学技术大学 — 香港城市大学联合高等研究中心 (苏州)) and CityUHK Shenzhen Research Institute (CityUSRI, 香港城市大学深圳研究院).



Programme Structure

The degree of PhD shall consist of coursework and independent research studies culminating in the submission of a thesis.

Programme Requirements

During their period of candidature, students are required to:

1. Submit and pass the Qualifying Report and Oral Presentation within the specified period;
2. Pass a mandatory Qualifying Examination within the specified period;
3. Submit Annual Progress Report to report their study progress;
4. Obtain a minimum of 14 credit units (including at least 9 credit units of core courses and at least 2 credit units of research methodology and ethics course at postgraduate level). Individual Colleges/Schools/Departments may stipulate a higher credit unit requirement;
5. Complete a compulsory online training course on research integrity, namely Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) programme;
6. Fulfill the graduation requirement of a minimum cumulative GPA (CGPA) of 3.0 in prescribed coursework.

Medium of Instruction/ Assessment and Thesis Presentation

The normal medium of instruction and assessment at CityUHK is English. Research students should write and present their theses in English.



Supervisory Arrangements

Students will follow a dual supervisor system (双导师制). These two supervisors from CityUHK and the home university will jointly discuss and decide on course selection, research direction and thesis title and so on for their student.

Tuition Fees

The tuition fee for full-time non-government funded research degree programme is HK\$7,416* (~US\$951) per month during studies at Hong Kong main campus of CityUHK. CityUHK will provide a tuition grant to cover 50% of the tuition fee and the remaining 50% will be deducted from the monthly studentship.

During studies at CityUHK's designated study location in Mainland China, students are also required to pay a tuition fee, while it is fully subsidized by CityUHK*.

Financial Assistance

Postgraduate Studentship/Stipend is available for eligible students under the Joint PhD Programme. The monthly rate is HK\$18,700* (~US\$2,399) during studies at Hong Kong main campus of CityUHK, RMB3,000* during studies at USTC–CityUHK Joint Advanced Research Centre (Suzhou) and RMB5,000* during studies at CityUSRI (Shenzhen).

In addition, in order to help widen students' academic exposure and participate in academic exchange, CityUHK offers the Peter Ho Conference Scholarships (何稼楠学术会议奖学金) at RMB15,000 to students under the Joint PhD Programme in support of attending overseas conferences.

** amount and policy subject to review and revision*

Student Accommodation

During studies at CityUHK Hong Kong main campus and CityUSRI, students are responsible for arranging accommodation on their own.

Personal Accident and Medical Insurance/ Travel Insurance

All non-local students are required to purchase a personal accident and medical insurance / travel insurance policy during their study period at CityUHK. The insurance policy shall be arranged on behalf of the students by the Global Engagement Office (GEO). The estimated insurance premium per annum is around HK\$167[#] (~US\$22) which will be charged after enrolment.

[#] rates for 2024/25; subject to approval/revision every year.

Cost of Living

The estimated average cost of living for a single student in Hong Kong is around HK\$100,000 – HK\$110,000 (~US\$12,800 - US\$14,000) per 2 semesters to cover food, lodging and general living expenses.

The Postgraduate Studentship for research degree students should be sufficient to support students' daily living expenses. Students will receive their financial assistance at the end of each calendar month during their study with CityUHK, subject to compliance of regulations.





Support to Students' Studies

The Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies (SGS, 周亦卿研究生院) aims to provide better coordination and strategic direction to ensure the continued development of postgraduate studies at CityUHK. SGS offers a training course to prepare students to undertake a limited teaching role.

The Global Engagement Office (GEO) provides assistance and support to non-local students, including visa application, orientation programmes, on-arrival assistance, and pastoral care and advice on personal and learning related issues. The website of GEO (<http://www.cityu.edu.hk/geo/>) contains useful information about studying in Hong Kong and at CityUHK.

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.

Assessment of Doctoral Thesis and Conferment of Degrees

A joint examination panel (联合答辩委员会) will be formed after students have submitted the doctoral theses, which consists of examiners invited by both CityUHK and home university. A method of "Voting by both sides in one oral defense" (一次答辩·两边投票) will be employed to fulfill the prescribed requirements of a doctoral degree.

Upon fulfilment of all the programme, graduation and degree application requirements of both CityUHK and home university, students studying in the Joint PhD Programme can apply for PhD degree/graduation certificate awarded by both universities. CityUHK's award certificate will indicate that the PhD programme is jointly offered by CityUHK and home university (城大的学位证书将注明与具体某内地高校联合培养相关字样), and a student of the Joint PhD Programme can attend graduation ceremonies at both universities.





How to look for a research supervisor at CityUHK?

1. Visit the official website of City University of Hong Kong at www.cityu.edu.hk
2. Point to "Academics" at the top
3. Choose "Colleges, Schools and Departments"
4. Click on the academic unit that fits your discipline / research area and you will be directed to the relevant website
5. Point to "People (or similar term)"
6. Click on "Academic Staff (or similar term)"

A list of faculty members will be shown and you can check the profiles, as well as their contacts.

Alternatively, you may visit CityUHK's webpage for admission to research degree programme (<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/pg/research-degree-programmes>), from which you can find the research areas of all the academic units. Please note that online application is NOT applicable for Joint PhD Programme and that some information on the admission page is NOT applicable to students under the Joint PhD Programme.

You should have discussed with your research supervisor at home university and have contacted a proposed CityUHK research supervisor before submitting the application for the Joint PhD Programme. It is highly recommended that the two supervisors should reach an initial agreement for you to join the Joint PhD Programme. Otherwise the process of your application will be delayed.

Application Procedures

Announcement will be made by the Graduate School or HK-Macau-Taiwan Office of the home university. Applications will be open in October of a year for commencement of the Joint PhD Programme in September of the following year, and the deadline is usually set in early December. All applications must be submitted to and endorsed by the Graduate School or HK-Macau-Taiwan Office of the home university. Students must NOT submit their applications to CityUHK directly.

Enquiries

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