CUHK
FACULTY OF
EDUCATION

PH.D
The Doctor of Philosophy Programme

The Faculty of Education is a community of faculty members, students and staff members who are passionate about improving education for our children, and who are committed to serving and leading the education community through teaching and instruction, innovative research endeavours and timely development and service projects.

MISSION

With commitment, the Faculty strives to:

• nurture dedicated professionals and competent researchers in the field of education through its programmes of study;

• initiate research activities of import that facilitate theory-building, shape professional practice and inform policy making in education;

• engage with schools and the community in developing endeavours that enhance the learning and growth opportunities of students of all ages;

• offer consultancy and development services to governments and non-official bodies in activities of local, national and international significance; and

• serve as a source of inspiration and wisdom for students, alumni, teachers and clients by developing a vibrant academic community that celebrates collegiality, diversity, innovation and experimentation.

VISION

The Faculty of Education, as a leading centre in educational studies and professional education, seeks to develop a vibrant academic community through dedication, dialogue and leadership in teaching, research and public service that will enhance its contribution to the education profession, the scholarly community, schools and societies in Hong Kong, the Greater China region, as well as to the international community.

RESEARCH

The Faculty of Education has become a vibrant and productive research centre in Hong Kong through scholar-practitioner collaboration, serving the education sector through informed experimentation and strategic actions and the internationalisation of education scholarship. The Faculty’s four academic departments – Curriculum and Instruction, Educational Administration and Policy, Educational Psychology and Sports Science and Physical Education – conduct a wide range of research programmes to address issues that are salient to education in local and international settings, generate knowledge that informs educational policy and practice and develop interventions that aim to improve school functioning and student learning. These research programmes also provide valuable opportunities for our Ph.D students to engage in and contribute to the scholarly pursuit for the advancement of knowledge and improvement of educational practices.
The Doctor of Philosophy Programme
Code: PEDU—PHD

The research postgraduate programmes are significant part of CUHK Faculty of Education's mission to nurture younger generations of educational researchers and leaders locally and regionally. The Faculty has offered the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) Degree Programme since 1990. The Ph.D is a research doctorate to be completed mainly through individual guided study with required coursework of research methodology courses. The Ph.D programme aims to provide the opportunity for promising individuals to pursue intensive specialisation in a specified area of educational studies.

To facilitate research and scholarship that synthesise Eastern and Western perspectives, the University supports Ph.D students to undertake overseas exchange activities. Full-time Ph.D students can apply for the CUHK Postgraduate Grants for Overseas Academic Activities for presenting papers in international conferences and conducting field trips in relation to their thesis studies. The Global Scholarship Programme for Research Excellence and the Ph.D Student Exchange Programme offer the opportunities for full-time Ph.D students to undertake three to six months of research visits at a selected group of leading research institutions overseas. A number of Ph.D students of the Faculty have visited the University of Utrecht (Netherlands), Brown University (USA), Penn State University (USA), University of Chicago (USA), University of Alberta (Canada), and University of Auckland (New Zealand) via the above schemes.

Graduates of the Ph.D programme have filled key positions as educational researchers and professional educators in the school and tertiary education sectors in both Hong Kong and mainland China. The Ph.D programme's emphasis on conceptual originality, academic rigour and critical inquiry is widely recognised throughout the education profession.

Areas of Study

Curriculum and Instruction

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction provides Ph.D students with the opportunity to pursue academic research on issues relating to curriculum theory, school subjects and programmes, teaching methods and assessment in education. One area of research that the faculty members emphasise is understanding the effects of curriculum reforms on student learning. Faculty members also investigate the factors affecting curriculum development and pedagogy in schools. In recent years, some of the department’s externally funded projects have focused on language deployment in secondary school education, teacher efficacy and psychological well-being, blended learning and students’ interest in school science.

The Ph.D programme may be undertaken in the department’s principal areas of research, including instructional design, curriculum reform and implementation, curriculum evaluation, assessment in education, Chinese language education, English language education, mathematics education, science education, information and communication technology in education, liberal studies and other relevant areas.

Educational Administration and Policy

The Department of Educational Administration and Policy admits candidates for the Ph.D programme who seek to improve education policies and leadership practices at both the system and organisational levels, and who commit to improving the quality of education through engaging in scholarly inquiry across a broad range of areas of research. These research areas include the foundation disciplines for educational inquiries in sociology, philosophy, economics, comparative education, policy studies, educational leadership, management and administration, along with educational issues and development in sectors such as early childhood education, elementary education, higher education and education in Chinese societies.
Educational Psychology

Faculty members of the Department of Educational Psychology pursue active research in four broad areas of the discipline. These include (1) Cognition and Learning, encompassing themes such as attention and perception, embodied cognition, memory and executive functioning, problem solving and metacognitive and motivational processes in learning; (2) Child and Adolescent Development in Diversified Domains [e.g., cognitive, moral, aesthetic, social, affective and self], including an inquiry into parenting and other acculturation influences on the developmental processes; (3) Counselling and Guidance, covering career counselling and life-planning and interventions in special educational needs; and (4) Applied Psychometrics and Statistics, involving psychological and educational testing and modelling and the assessment of classroom learning. Within these broad areas of research, individual faculty members conduct not only applied research in reading, mathematics learning, e-learning, creative thinking and mental health, but also basic research in gesture and language processing, emotion science and cultural-historical psychology.

Sports Science and Physical Education

The Programme reflects the mission of the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education and is based on the assumption that physical activity is a type of health-related behaviour that influences the health and well-being of individuals. From this perspective, research students can study physical activity (including sports) using a biomechanical, pedagogical, physiological, psychological or sociological approach. All of the research conducted in the Department is focused on physical activity and sport in terms of its contribution to related fields of school physical education, sports medicine health and science.

Areas of investigation include the pedagogy of physical education and sport, curriculum policy, design and implementation in sports and physical education; health and fitness; measurement in physical education and sports; sports and exercise physiology; sports and exercise psychology, sports sociology and sports biomechanics.

Candidature

Students will be granted candidature once they have completed the coursework requirements and passed the qualifying examinations.

Class Schedule

There are two terms per academic year. Term 1 is from September to December, and Term 2 from January to April. The Faculty will offer summer courses in July and August. Except summer courses, classes are usually offered on weekday evenings and on Saturday mornings.

Period of Study

For students with a research Master's degree
Full-time programme: 36 months [maximum 84 months]
Part-time programme: 48 months [maximum 96 months]

For students without a research Master's degree
Full-time programme: 48 months [maximum 94 months]
Part-time programme: 64 months [maximum 96 months]

Postgraduate Studentship

Full-time Ph.D students will receive a postgraduate studentship during normative study period and the monthly stipend ranges from HK$16,270 to HK$16,790 for 2017 - 2018.

Applicants can also apply for admission to the Ph.D programme through the Hong Kong Ph.D Fellowship Scheme. The Fellowship provides a monthly stipend of HK$20,000 and a conference travel allowance of HK$10,000 per year for a maximum of three years.
I am a recipient of the Hong Kong Ph.D Fellowship to study the Ph.D programme offered by the Faculty of Education, the Chinese University of Hong Kong after I completed my research master study from National University of Singapore. The application process for the Hong Kong Ph.D Fellowship Scheme was extremely straightforward, and the results of one's application are made known very shortly after. The generous annual conference travel allowance for awardees of the Fellowship has enabled me to not only broaden my horizons in academic conferences on the global stage, but to also meet with like minds and open up new opportunities for future collaborations.

As for the programme proper, its emphasis on research has allowed me to focus primarily on my various projects, allowing time for not only polishing my main study (and its components), but also any side projects I might choose to embark on during the course of my study. Of course, the option to take up various courses to deepen one's understanding of the field is open as well for those who might choose to do so. Such endeavors are helped by the presence of world-class supervisors and a reliable support staff.

Given the wide range of backgrounds that individuals in Hong Kong possess, time spent here provides one with an opportunity to know people from all over, as well as opportunities to collect data from a diverse and rich population.

Mr Waris Wongpitpit
Department of Sports Science and Physical Education

I completed my Bachelor of Science in Sports Science from Chulalongkorn University in Thailand and Master of Research in Exercise Science from the University of Glasgow in the United Kingdom respectively. I was a lecturer in the Department of Sports and Health Sciences in a university of Thailand. During that period, I read works published by Professors of the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education, Faculty of Education of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Their areas of research have really interested me and made me to pursue the doctoral study at CUHK. Upon receiving the award of the Hong Kong Ph.D Fellowship, I moved from Thailand to Hong Kong to commence my studies. Since starting my course of study this Fall, I have familiarised myself with the CUHK campus and have found myself very fortunate to work in a very supportive environment with excellent research facilities and renowned academic staff. All these are affording me the opportunity to conduct studies of my interest and to become an independent researcher at an international level.

Dr John O’Reilly
Department of Sports Science and Physical Education

After completing a Master of Science (Exercise Science) in the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education (SSPE) at CUHK, I was accepted onto the Ph.D programme as a recipient of the Hong Kong Ph.D Fellowship Scheme (2010-2014). Throughout my time as a Ph.D student in the Department of SSPE, I was very impressed with the high standards of teaching and research supervision offered to all students and the exceptional learning opportunities – both theoretical and practical – that were provided throughout our studies. The programme provides a holistic learning environment and offered me every opportunity to pursue my chosen area of research in world-class laboratories. In addition, I had numerous opportunities to visit overseas collaborators and partner institutions to collect data and gain helpful insights and research ideas to enhance the quality of my research.

I was very lucky to be part of the progressive, productive and hard-working team at the Department of SSPE. My time as a Ph.D student in this demanding yet friendly work environment was invaluable in helping to develop my career.
The information in relation to the higher degree programme offered by the Faculty of Education given in this leaflet is accurate at the time of printing. Changes may be made from time to time and the Faculty reserves the right to make amendment(s) to any information contained in this leaflet without prior notice.