



PH.D

RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME

哲學博士

2026-27



EMPOWER
INNOVATE
TRANSFORM

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

VISION

The Faculty of Education of CUHK is recognized internationally as a leading centre for education research and teacher preparation. Through training in cutting-edge theories, effective practice, and technology-infused innovative pedagogies, our vision is to nurture prospective educators and education leaders with local, regional and global perspectives, and to empower them to transform education to meet future challenges in a rapidly changing society.

MISSION

- To empower learners to be responsible and ethical agents of change in education with high levels of professionalism and multicultural competencies
- To innovate with the support of evidence-based research and the development of new tools, resources, pedagogies, and best practice guidelines
- To transform education through promoting continuous life-long learning and enhancing the capacities of schools, organizations and communities to meet current and future challenges in the field of education

RESEARCH

The Faculty of Education has become a vibrant and productive research center in Hong Kong through scholar-practitioner collaboration. It serves the education sector through informed experimentation, strategic actions, and the internationalization of educational 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. These programmes address issues salient to education in both local and international settings, generate knowledge that informs educational policy and practice, and develop interventions aimed at improving school functioning, students' well being and student learning. Additionally, these research programmes provide valuable opportunities for our Ph.D. students to engage in and contribute to the scholarly pursuit of advancing knowledge and improving educational practices.





INTRODUCTION TO THE RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME

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.

Full-time Ph.D students may receive a postgraduate studentship* during normative study period and the monthly stipend ranges from HK\$19,100 to HK\$19,660 for 2025 – 2026.

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.

* Subject to university-funded quota

THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME

Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy Degree (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 Chinese Mainland. The Ph.D programme's emphasis on conceptual originality, academic rigour and critical inquiry is widely recognised throughout the education profession.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION

Applicants should fulfil the following requirements for admission:

1. hold the following degree or academic qualifications:
 - a Master's degree from a recognised university; or
 - a Bachelor's degree, normally with Second Class Honours in the upper division or above, and have been registered in a course of study for a Master's degree at this University for at least one year and have demonstrated research ability; or
 - have been registered in a course of study for a doctoral degree at a recognised university for at least one year, and have been approved for admission by the Graduate Council.
2. hold a Postgraduate Diploma in Education, or equivalent education qualifications, and/or have relevant experience as deemed acceptable;
3. provide proof of her/his research capability in the form of past publications, Master's thesis, and/or strong support from academic references;
4. perform satisfactorily in an interview conducted by the Graduate Division of Education;
5. pass a written entrance examination conducted by the Graduate Division of Education, if necessary;
6. fulfil the "English Language Requirements for Admission" as stipulated by the Graduate School. Please refer to the webpage of Graduate School: www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk for details on this requirement.

NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

Applicants should choose the area of study they wish to apply in the "Field of Study" box on the application form, and submit it with a Research Proposal in English. The contents of the proposal should include:

- **Introduction**
Introduce the problems and identify two to three research questions. The introduction needs to argue for the theoretical and empirical significance of the research.
- **Literature Review**
Elaborate on the key concepts related to the research questions and provide clear and concrete support for the needed research. While seminal research papers need to be cited, current findings (references within the most recent three years) should be included to convince the reviewers about the timeliness of the research topic. The review also needs to succinctly map out the interconnections of the key concepts and associated challenges in the research area.
- **Methods**
A clear methods section on how the research questions can be answered should be articulated. This will include the presentation of the research design and rationale, participants, sampling methods, instruments and data analyses. The proposal needs to identify the possible threats to validity and reliability (or equivalent concepts for qualitative and mixed-methods research) as well as how they are to be addressed.
- **Length**
20 double-spaced pages inclusive of references.



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.

STUDY SCHEME

1. Coursework Requirements

- a. Students are required to complete 6 units of research methodology courses.
- b. PEDU8000 is a thesis monitoring course. Students are required to take PEDU8000 every term from the time of admission, throughout the preparation of thesis, until its completion.

2. Qualifying Examination

The qualifying examination will consist of two parts: the student's field of specialisation and one related field or a more narrowly defined sub-field within the student's field of specialisation.

3. Ph.D Candidature

Students will be granted Ph.D Candidature upon successful completion of the following:

- completion of coursework requirements, with an average grade "B" for Research-related courses;
- submission of a manuscript to any of the SCI, SSCI, AHCI or journal that are exceptionally approved by the Supervisor and the Division Head during the Ph.D study period in CUHK; and
- passing of the qualifying examination.

4. Attending Ph.D Programme Annual Seminars / Doctoral Thesis Proposal Presentations

5. Other Requirements

- a. Students must fulfil the Term Assessment Requirement of the Graduate School.
- b. A student must achieve a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 in order to fulfil the graduation requirement.
- c. Students are required to submit a research thesis and pass an oral examination for graduation.
- d. Each Ph.D student is required to present a research seminar at least once a year before the advancement to Ph.D candidature, and to submit an annual progress report to his / her supervisor.
- e. Within twelve months after advancement to Ph.D candidature, the candidate must submit a thesis proposal. After the thesis proposal has been approved, the candidate should, under the supervision of his / her supervisor, submit a thesis and pass the oral examination within a prescribed period of time for graduation.



Students are required to complete the following Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) in their first year of study for partial fulfillment of candidacy requirements:

- f. Complete and pass an IPL module on "Basics of Research Data Management".
- g. Submit a Data Management Plan (DMP).

Students are also required to complete the following IPL modules for graduation:

- h. Complete an IPL module on "Observing Intellectual Property and Copyright Law during Research".
- i. Complete an online Research Ethics Training (RET) module on "Publication Ethics" offered by the Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer Services (ORKTS) and obtain a valid Publication Ethics Certificate for graduation.
- j. The final DMP should have been shared to the CUHK community on DMPTool or the relevant platform that CUHK provides when submitting the final version of the thesis/portfolio to the Graduate School. Students are required to have published the data on the CUHK Research Data Repository or an open data repository with a valid Digital Object Identifier (DOI) or other forms of permanent identifier when submitting the final version of the thesis/portfolio.

Please visit the webpage at www.fed.cuhk.edu.hk/higherdegree for details on study scheme.



MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

Courses will be mainly taught in English. The medium of instruction will be subject to the availability of teachers.

CLASS SCHEDULE

There are two terms per academic year. Term 1 is from September to December, and Term 2 from January to April. Some programmes may 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 84 months)

Part-time programme: 64 months (maximum 96 months)

TUITION FEE

HK\$47,000 per annum (2026-27 academic year)
HK\$49,500 per annum (2027-28 academic year)
(For Full-time and Part-time Programme)

APPLICATION DEADLINE

HKPFS

1 Dec 2025

by 12 noon

(for RGC submission)

by 11:59 pm

(for CUHK submission)

Non-HKPFS

Main Round:

1 Dec 2025

Clearing Round:

31 Jan 2026

For Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS), please visit <https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/admissions/scholarships-fees/hkpfs>

COMMENCEMENT OF CLASSES

August 2026

ENQUIRIES



3943 6203



2603 7612



phd.edu@cuhk.edu.hk



Office of Postgraduate Programmes in Education,
Faculty of Education,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong,
Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong



www.fed.cuhk.edu.hk/higherdegree

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.

09/2025