GRADUATE SCHOOL

The Graduate School is both an administrative and academic unit, which co-ordinates University-wide activities related to postgraduate education. We work closely with departments and faculties to ensure that the University provides the best possible intellectual training to our MPhil and PhD students. In addition to organizing basic research training to students of all faculties, we render different scopes of support and services to cater for the needs of all MPhil and PhD students.

1 Computer Induction Programmes

The Graduate School, in collaboration with the Computer Centre, runs a number of computer induction programmes for research postgraduate students every year. The following programmes will be conducted in this academic year:

- Introduction to MS Windows ME
- PC & Network Services
- Microsoft Word 2000 for Windows ME
- Microsoft Excel 2000 for Windows ME
- Microsoft PowerPoint 2000 for Windows ME

2 Cantonese Courses

Cantonese is the mother tongue of Hong Kong people. There are many students enrolled in our research postgraduate programmes, who are from Mainland China and overseas. In order to help them mingle with local counterparts and Hong Kong culture more easily and quickly, the Graduate School runs the following courses for non-native speakers:

I   Cantonese Courses for Social Purposes for Expatriates
II Cantonese Courses for Social Purposes for Mainland
    Students

Schedules and details of the above courses are now posted on the Graduate School homepage (**http://www.hku.hk/gradsch/coursework/course_00 01.htm**). Please kindly note that places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis and any application is subject to the availability of places.

3 Support Services

I   Graduate Student Writing Support Service

To supplement the language courses in our new curricula, the Graduate School, in collaboration with the English Centre, offers a one-to-one Graduate Student Writing Service to research postgraduate students. The service aims to give individual advice and feedback on academic writing.

Students are required to submit a substantial piece of writing, which is to be reviewed by a teacher in the English Centre. Writing problems will be diagnosed and pointed out and brought to the attention of each individual student. By raising the awareness of the language issues, it is hoped that students' writing skills can be improved as a better writer. It is however not a proofreading or editing service.

II Statistical Advice Centre for Students (STACS)

The Statistical Advice Centre for Students (STACS), jointly run by the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science and the Graduate School, is another one-to-one support service to give expert advice to research students and their supervisors on the problems that they may encounter in the design of experiments and the interpretation of data.

> **" The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery. "**
> ~ Mark Van Doren

Each prospective user of this service will need the consent of his/her supervisor, and will need to provide a brief description of the problems that he/she has encountered.

The above Services are available throughout the academic year, and every MPhil and PhD student is eligible up to four hours of this consultation service for free. Details and application forms are available in our Graduate School office (P403, Graduate House) and on our homepage (**http://www.hku.hk/gradsch/coursework/course_0001.htm**).

For enquiry, please contact the Graduate School office (Tel: 2857-3470, Fax: 2857-3543 or E-mail: **gradsch@hkucc.hku.hk**).

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL LIBRARY

The Graduate School maintains a small library in which the following weekly and daily publications are available for consultation:

- **The Times Higher Education Supplement**
  News, articles, specialist book reviews and an appointments section on teaching and research posts in Britain and world wide.
- **The Chronicle of Higher Education**
  News and articles concerning the American academic scene with a very large section on academic job vacancies of all sorts.
- **Campus Review**
  News coverage and job advertisements, principally of universities and colleges in Australia and New Zealand.
- **South China Morning Post and Ming Pao**

> **" Real education consists in drawing the best out of yourself. "**
> ~ Mohandas K. Gandhi

Recently, the Graduate School has purchased a number of books suitable for both research students and their supervisors. The books include:

- *Doing Your Research Project: A guide for first-time researchers in education and social science*
- *How to Get a PhD: A handbook for students and their supervisors*
- *How to Research*
- *Supervising the PhD: A guide to success*
- *The Research Student's Guide to Success*

A set of the above books have been delivered to the Chairman of each Departmental Research Postgraduate Committee (DRPC) for reference. If you would like to read them, please approach your Department or the Chairman of DRPC. The Graduate School also keeps a set of these books in our small library. You are welcome to visit our Graduate School Library during office hours.

Furthermore, there are a diversity of other books relevant to your study available for loan (four weeks maximum) too. A book catalogue of the Graduate School Library will soon be put on the Graduate School homepage.

REFLECTIONS ON, AND DISCUSSION OF, GOOD SUPERVISORY PRACTICE

A seminar tailor-made for supervisors on the topic of 'Reflections on, and Discussion of, Good Supervisory Practice' successfully took place on 11 April 2001. Nearly 30 supervisors attended the seminar.

Professor George Gordon was our honourable speaker. Professor Gordon is the Director of the Centre for Academic Practice at the University of Strathclyde, one of the leading integrated faculty and student development centres in British universities. He served as an academic auditor with the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and has written widely on matters relating to quality assurance in higher education. He has undertaken consultancies in many countries and led management development programmes in Australia, Egypt, Hong Kong, Hungary, the USA and Saudi Arabia. He has also contributed in the UK based programmes for participants from Eastern Europe, the former USSR and Indonesia.

All participants found the seminar very useful.

After the presentation given by Professor Gordon, all supervisors enthusiastically expressed their views and exchanged their supervisory experience with one another. They also raised some supervisory problems and consulted Professor Gordon for advice. All participants enjoyed a meaningful morning.

Some research postgraduate students may not know what their roles and responsibilities are. The following links may be useful and helpful to students:

- **http://www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/Registrar/TSU/ sofgp99.htm#1** (The University of Bristol)
- **http://www.chem.unsw.edu.au/postgrad/models/ TOC.html** (The University of New South Wales)
- **http://www.npc.org.uk/publications/guidelines/ research.htm#supervision** (National Postgraduate Committee)

Prof. Howell Tong (left), Dean of Graduate School, presented a gift of thanks to Prof. George Gordon (right) at the end of the seminar.

POSTGRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

HKU PGSA Notebook Ownership Programme 2001

The Postgraduate Student Association (PGSA) has successfully come to an agreement with Chevalier Ltd. for offering special discounts to our postgraduate students for purchasing notebook computers this year. Details of this programme are as follows:

Promotional period:
Date: 24 September - 5 October 2001
All interested are welcome to visit their counter at the covered area beside Main Library.

For delivery, a counter will be set up at the covered area beside Campus Service Centre (near Knowles Building) from 4 - 5 October 2001.

Models of notebook computer:
i   Slim & light
    Toshiba Satellite 31CDT
    PIII   700/128MB/20GB/CD+FDD (swap)/12.1"/
    IEEE1394/M+L/winME/1.8kg

ii All-in-one Performance
    Toshiba Satellite 1800
    PIII   1GHz/128M/20G/CD+FDD/14"/TV-out/
    M+L/win98

iii Multimedia Toshiba Satellite 3000
    PIII   800/128MB/20G/DVD+FDD/14"/IEEE
    1394/TV-out/M+L/winME

iv Toshiba Satellite 1800
    PIII   850/64M/20G/CD+FDD/13"/TV-out/M+L/
    winME

If you want to know more about the specifications of the above models, please visit the Toshiba homepage at **http://pc.toshiba-asia.com/hho/homeoffice.jsp.**

Warranty:
2-year local (Parts & Labor) warranty; 1st year international limited warranty

Payment method:
i   Cheque
ii Credit card (Visa/Master)
iii Installment by Hang Seng Bank credit card (other banks will be confirmed later)

* Special offer to PGSA Members
PGSA members will receive one of the following free gifts:
i   MS Office XP Pan-Chinese Version (Academic Edition) (Not for use with English Windows)
ii Additional 128MB RAM
iii HK$300 cash coupon

For enquiry, please contact Mr. Arvin Tang (E-mail: wktang@eee.hku.hk).

Discounts for IBM Notebook Computers

In addition to the above special offers to our postgraduate students by the Chevalier Ltd., the IBM with which the University has come to an exclusive agreement will also offer special discounts to all postgraduate students. Further details will be posted on the notice boards of faculties and Academic Services Enquiry Office, and Student Intranet nearer the time.

Entertaining Tennis Tournament (ETT) 2001

In order to bring the postgraduate population closer together and enrich their university life, the Entertaining Tennis Tournament (ETT) 2001, co-organized by the Postgraduate Student Association (PGSA) and the Graduate House (GH), was held successfully on 12 May 2001 at the Stanley Ho Sports Centre of The University of Hong Kong.

The Entertaining Tennis Tournament 2001 was successfully held on 12 May 2001 at the Stanley Ho Sports Centre.

There were 24 players battling hard against one another. Congratulations to Mr. Jon Lau, the champion, and Mr. Zhen-bo Yang, the runner-up. The organizer would like to thank all players and supporters for their contribution to the ETT all through the event from preparation to the competition. The PGSA hopes more members and residents of the Graduate House, especially more ladies, will participate in such activities next time.

LIBRARY

The Postgraduate Library Workshop

The Postgraduate Library Workshop is one of the **e-Learning Initiatives** of the HKU Libraries, which aims to help students hone their information skills, and to make their process of knowledge discovery a fruitful and enjoyable experience. As in the past, the HKU Libraries offer a series of workshops before the commencement of the academic year to equip new admits to the postgraduate programmes with the basic information skills.

This year, in order to cater for the different levels of learning needs, the Libraries have arranged two types of workshops, namely the Hands-on Workshop and the Workshop for Busy People.

> *" Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm. "*
>
> ~ *Winston Churchill*

Hands-on Workshop

The Hands-on Workshops will cover a library tour and hands-on experience for finding books, journal articles, dissertations, and past examination papers. A session on remote access to the information resources will also be covered. This workshop is composed of two tracks.

Students who are new to this University are encouraged to register for both tracks. However, students may choose to register for either one of the tracks according to their own background.

Library workshops offer two separate tracks:

Track A
Session 1 – Library tour
Session 2 – Search strategies
Session 3 – Dragon, the HKU Libraries catalogue

Track B
Session 1 – Finding journal articles
Session 2 – Dissertations and HKU past examination papers
Session 3 – Web access to resources and Question & Answer

Workshop for Busy People

The Workshop for Busy People is a 2-hour course covering the more advanced features of Dragon (the Libraries catalogue), the journal article databases, and the dissertations databases.

Students registering for this course are expected to know the basic search skills in Dragon.

Schedule

Hands-on Workshop
Course Code: LIB21/2001-2002 (Track B)*
Date: 21 September 2001 (Friday)
Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Venue: e-Learning Lab, Room G-02, Main Library

Course Code: LIB22/2001-2002 (Track A)
Date: 29 September 2001 (Saturday)
Time: 9:15 am - 1:00 pm
Venue: e-Learning Lab, Room G-02, Main Library

Course Code: LIB22/2001-2002 (Track B)
Date: 29 September 2001 (Saturday)
Time: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Venue: e-Learning Lab, Room G-02, Main Library

* LIB21/2001-2002 organized on 21 September 2001 is a condensed version of the regular Track B workshop, specially tailored for "busy people".

Workshop for Busy People
Course Code: LIB06/2001-2002
Date: 22 September 2001 (Saturday)
Time: 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Venue: e-Learning Lab, Room G-02, Main Library

Note: 1 Library courses are for HKU staff and students only.
2 Enrolment is limited to 45 per course.
3 Priority is given to new postgraduates of 2001.
4 The HKU Libraries reserve the right to cancel a course in the event of insufficient enrolment.

Missed these Library Workshops?

The HKU Libraries organize library courses throughout the year. Course details are posted on the Libraries Homepage at **http://www.hku.hk/lib/LibInfo/libinst.htm**.

Specially Tailor-made Library Courses

Students with specialized research needs may also contact the Reference Department for tailor-made library courses. Such requests are accepted for groups of 15 students or more. Please forward your request by completing the Online Request Form.

> *" The most important motive for work in the school and in life is the pleasure in work, pleasure in its result and knowledge of the value of the result to the community..... I have known children who preferred schooltime to vacation. "*
>
> ~ *Albert Einstein*