



The Graduate School Newsletter

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Graduate School Courses

The Graduate School arranges a variety of courses for postgraduate students which are designed to help them be more effective and efficient in their course of study and research.

Leaflets describing course content and arrangements, together with application forms, are available from departmental and faculty offices as well as the Graduate School. Certificates of Attendance are issued to those who complete a specified proportion of the courses.

Computer Induction Course

A good working familiarity with personal computers and the University computer network is now an essential skill for anyone undertaking research.

The Computer Centre will be running its next 2 courses, specifically aimed at postgraduates, in February and April 1999, dealing with Network Services, Windows, Excel, Word and Powerpoint. The first Programme will be held on Monday and Friday, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and Wednesday between 2 pm and 5 pm. The second Programme will be held at the same times on Tuesday and Thursday.

The Dates

1. February 22, 24, 26, March 1, and 3
CLOSING DATE: Monday February 8
2. April 13, 15, 20, 22, and 27
CLOSING DATE: Wednesday March 31

Places are limited to 25.

Transferable Skills Programme

Transferable skills are broad capabilities that allow a person to be successful across a wide range of tasks and jobs. They are core, personal competence that transfer from the research and academic context, to personal and social situations and also the world of work.

The Graduate School and the Careers Education and Placement Centre will run three 2 and a half day workshops, with each course cover the following contents area:

- Lateral Thinking
- Leadership
- Team Work
- Time Management and Problem Solving
- Oral Communications and Presentation

Each course will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm, Friday 9 am to 12 pm, and will be highly interactive and offer an intensive learning experience.

The Dates

1. April 28, 29 and 30
CLOSING DATE: Wednesday April 21
 2. May 5, 6 and 7
CLOSING DATE: Wednesday April 28
 3. May 12, 13 and 14
CLOSING DATE: Wednesday May 5
- Each course is limited to 25 participants.



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Statistics for Research Students in the Sciences

The Department of Statistics will run two 12-hour modules this semester aimed at research students in biology, chemistry, dentistry, engineering and medicine.

These courses will be quite intense and fast paced, in keeping with mature student's capabilities and their wish to acquire knowledge quickly!

Module 1 aims to bring students with no prior training in statistics up to a basic standard and is roughly equivalent in standard to the undergraduate course *Elementary Statistical Methods*, so students who have already taken this course would not need to take this module.

The schedule of **Module 1** is as follows:

The Dates

January 25, 28, February 1, 4, 8 and 11

Time: Monday and Thursday
10:40 am - 12:30 pm

CLOSING DATE: Friday January 15

There is no limit on places.

Module 2 is more advanced, providing examples in multivariate statistical analysis and exposure to computer packages. Each student will also have to contribute to the course by bringing their research problems to the lecturer, who will in turn try to incorporate this material into the lectures. This second module will therefore be much more interactive than the first. The lecturer will demonstrate the use of statistical packages, and students would have some 'hands-on' experience with the computer.

The Dates

March 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, and 25.

Time: Monday and Thursday
10:40 am - 12:30 pm

CLOSING DATE: Monday March 1

There is no limit on places.

Statistical Advice Centre for Students (STACS)

Postgraduate students who need assistance with statistical problems may contact STACS, a service offered by the Department of Statistics with financial assistance from the Graduate School.

Prospective users will need the consent of their supervisor and will need to provide a brief description of the problem(s) that they have encountered.

There are certain guidelines for the use of this service, all of which are described in a leaflet available from the Graduate School Office.

Thesis Writing

The 3 rounds of workshops focus on such aspects of writing as how to make the purpose of the research clear to an appropriate audience, how to organize ideas coherently, how to place one's own research within the present field of knowledge, and how to use language effectively and appropriately. The first two workshops will be held on Monday, Thursday, 4.00 to 7.00 pm and Saturday mornings between 9.30 and 12.30 pm. The final round will be held continuously Monday through Friday with the exception of Saturday and Sunday.

The Dates

1. January 18, 21, 23, 25, 28 and 30

Time: Monday and Thursday 4 - 7 pm
Saturday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

CLOSING DATE: Saturday January 6

2. March 15, 18, 20, 22, 25 and 27

Time: Monday and Thursday 4 - 7 pm
Saturday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

CLOSING DATE: Saturday March 6

3. May 26, 27, 28, 31 and June 1, 2

Time: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday May 19

Places are limited to 36.

Oral English for Academic Purposes



The course will concentrate on the oral interaction skills required for successful communication within the academic community, with an emphasis on a seminar presentation and participation and will also cover skills needed to lead tutorials in English and to communicate with academics in a more informal setting. The course will attempt to meet the specific needs of the participants and aspects of grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation will be covered as required.

The Dates

January 18, 22, 25, 29, February 1, 5, 8 and 12

Time: Monday and Friday

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday January 6

Places are limited to 24.

Writing Support Service

Students (and their supervisors) are reminded of the existence of this service, offered by the English Centre, which is complementary to the above workshops. Feedback can be provided, on a one-to-one basis, on writing being undertaken in connection with their research. A sample of 10-20 pages of writing must be submitted to the English Centre, which will then arrange an appointment to discuss the submission.

There are no closing dates for this service, which is offered throughout the year, but there are certain conditions imposed on work undertaken; these are described in a leaflet available from the English Centre or the Graduate School Office.

Teaching and Learning

This programme is designed to provide postgraduate students, as well as demonstrators and other teaching assistants, who are required to assist with undergraduate teaching with an introduction to teaching and an opportunity to explore and discuss issues and concerns about their teaching role. The programme will provide participants with a framework for understanding teaching and learning

and will focus on effective teaching techniques for working with small groups of undergraduate students in tutorials and seminars. There is a special session in Encouraging Student Participation in Tutorials, which will be presented by staff from the Centre for the Advancement of University Teaching (CAUT).

The sessions scheduled in January and February are as follows:

- Can You Explain That?
Wednesday, January 13, 10 am - 12 pm
CLOSING DATE: Tuesday January 5
- Assessing Students' Written Work
Wednesday, January 27, 10 am - 12 pm
CLOSING DATE: Monday January 18
- Encouraging Student Participation in Tutorials
Wednesday, February 3, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
CLOSING DATE: Monday January 25

Web Publishing with Java

Use applets to make your Web pages more interesting and useful. Incorporate applets into Web pages, customize applets using applet parameters, and use applets to create image maps, embellish text, enhance images, and add animation.

You'll Learn To:

- Correctly write the HTML syntax for including a specific applet on a Web page given the path name of the Java class file and the parameters for the applet
- Update a Web page that includes a customization of the applet to given specifications, when given:
- an applet that embellishes text and a description of its parameters
- an applet that enhances images and a description of its parameters
- an image map applet and a description of its parameters
- an animation applet and a description of its parameters
- Successfully install an applet on a local machine, given the location of the class files for an applet on the Internet
- Correctly use the CODEBASE parameter in the HTML file to successfully run an applet in your browser, given an applet in one directory and an HTML file that is to incorporate the applet in a different directory

Date: February 23 and 25

Time: Tuesday and Thursday

9:30 am - 4:30 pm

CLOSING DATE: Monday February 8

Places are limited to 25.



HONG KONG POSTGRADUATES PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE NETWORK

What is π -net ?

π -net was founded in Budapest, Hungary by a group of postgraduate students from different countries who wanted to establish an international postgraduate network. The main aim of PI net is to encourage and facilitate co-operation and communication between postgraduate students associations throughout the world.

The HK JPA, the Hong Kong Joint Postgraduate Students Association, joined π -net in 1997. In October this year the second π -net conference was held in Budapest. Postgraduate Students representatives from many countries participated among which the USA, Australia, Italy, France, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Norway and Hong Kong.

HK JPA is a member of π -net.

The Hong Kong Postgraduate Students' Association is one of the members of p-net. The Graduate School sponsored a HKU representative who is one of the members of the www-guide working group, went to Budapest to attend the p-net conference and was actively involved in drawing of the p-net constitution, the year plan and the p-net policy on the UNESCO conference and the formation the project working groups. The main items on the agenda were:

The www - Postgraduate Guide

Imagine you want to know you want to find out how you can apply for a studentship for postgraduate studies in the USA or you are interested in an exchange course at a UK university, or maybe you want to know more about the educational system in Germany or the teaching language in Hong Kong. Or you are simply looking for the number of postgraduate students in Switzerland or the address of the postgraduate students Association in Australia.

The www- Postgraduate Guide will answer all these questions. A group of π -net members is creating a database on the Internet in which both compact and comprehensive information will be provided on postgraduate studies and life in different countries in such a way that the information is easily interchangeable and comparable. Items like financial situation, educational system, postgraduate representation and general living and study conditions of postgraduates students in a respective country will be included.

Database

Do you want to know if there is a postgraduate student at the other side of the world doing research in your field of study? Are you looking for titles of dissertations or paper abstracts from a particular research department? Or do you just feel like chatting to a fellow postgraduate student in a different time zone?

The π -net database will offer you these facilities. It will store personal & research interests and output in a database accessible for members of affiliated postgraduate students associations.

Improve Situation of Postgraduate Students

Next to these facilitating projects the p-net has a supportive role in trying to improve the situation of postgraduate students throughout the world. A p-net delegation attended the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education which was held in Paris in October 1998.

One of the main aims of π -net is to encourage the formation of postgraduate students associations in all countries where postgraduate education is extant. Herewith π -net would play an supportive and assisting role and invite these associations to join the international postgraduate network.

The three day conference was an extremely stimulating experience. After hours of lengthy but interesting discussions, a general assembly was formed, consensus was reached on the constitution and the working groups reported progress.

For more information on π -net, you can visit the webpage at: <<http://www.postgrad.org>>



Conference participants planting a tree

