



The Graduate School Newsletter

Vol 1 No 4

March / April 1999

The Launch of the NEW Graduate School

"The Graduate School serves as a focus for the management of research postgraduate education..."

The Graduate School was formally established by the Senate last summer to replace the former School of Research Studies. It serves as a focus for the management of research postgraduate education and is a University-wide academic organization to encourage good practice and to maintain the quality of our research education. The formal structure of the School is as follows:

Policy Board of Postgraduate Education

The School is governed by the Policy Board of Postgraduate Education, which is a Committee empowered by the Senate to set the long-term strategies and policies of research postgraduate education. Membership:

- Professor F.F. Wu (Chairman)
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)
- Professor J.C.Y. Leong
Faculty of Medicine
- Professor A.T.Y. Chwang
Faculty of Engineering
- Professor A.B.M. Tsui
Faculty of Education
- Professor H. Tong
Dean, Graduate School
- Professor J. Malpas
Associate Dean, Graduate School
- Professor A.G.O. Yeh
Associate Dean, Graduate School
- Professor Y.C. Cheng
The Vice-Chancellor (statutory)

Under the Policy Board are the Board of Graduate Studies and the Board of Examination for Graduate Studies.

Board of Graduate Studies

The Board of Graduate Studies ensures that good practices, consistent with policy and guidelines determined by the Policy Board, in admission, academic programmes and progress monitoring are adopted throughout the University. Membership:




- Professor A.G.O. Yeh (Chairman)
Associate Dean, Graduate School
- Professor L.P. Samaranayake
Faculty of Dentistry
- Professor H.H.P. Fang
Faculty of Engineering
- Professor J.P. Burns
Faculty of Social Sciences
- Mr. M.H. Ng
A Research Postgraduate Student
- Professor H. Tong
Dean, Graduate School
- Professor J. Malpas
Associate Dean, Graduate School
- Professor Y.C. Cheng
The Vice-Chancellor (statutory)

Board of Examination

The Board of Examination determines the results of higher degree research candidates on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners. Membership:

- Professor J. Malpas (Chairman)
Associate Dean, Graduate School
- Professor C.R. Kumana
Faculty of Medicine
- Professor N.W.S. Chow
Faculty of Social Sciences
- Dr. S.M. Rowlinson
Faculty of Architecture

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- Professor B. Yung
Faculty of Arts
- Professor L.P. Samaranyake
Faculty of Dentistry
- Dr. P. Falvey
Faculty of Education
- Dr. J.N. Kay
Faculty of Engineering
- Mr. C.D. Booth
[represented by Ms. J.H. Cottrell (25/1/99 – 30/4/99)]
Faculty of Law
- Professor Y.S. Chan
Faculty of Medicine
- Professor K.F. Cheng
Faculty of Science
- Dr. T.W.K. Fung
Faculty of Social Sciences
- Dr. M.Y. Wong
School of Business
- Professor Y.C. Cheng
The Vice-Chancellor (statutory)

“...the
NEW
Graduate
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commitment
to provide
high quality
education...”

The inception of the NEW Graduate School is a big stride in implementing the University's research postgraduate reform and has further strengthened our research postgraduate training. Some of the recent achievements are:

Restructured MPhil Programme

With a view to providing more academic support and training for our students, and to preparing them for future challenges and career developments, our newly registered MPhil students are required to complete coursework curricula as part of their research training.

Students will be required to take two courses organised by the Graduate School which are concerned with basic research training and other discipline-specific courses offered by their departments.

The two Graduate School core courses are: *Introduction to Thesis Writing and Research* and *Basic Research Skills and Methods*. The latter course comprises a choice of three from a range of elective modules covering topics in English writing, oral English, statistical analysis, qualitative analysis, interviewing techniques, data management, research

safety, logical and critical thinking, bio-ethics and transferable skills. In keeping with our culture of open academic debate, seminars to present students' research findings will also be part of the coursework requirement.

Quality Assurance

The NEW Graduate School will also review the admission process and supervision of research postgraduate students, and will introduce new academic progress monitoring procedure. The School maintains a regular review mechanism to solicit feedback for policy considerations.

Our other activities have been to: enhance the Graduate School Web page, publish a CD-ROM on MPhil and PhD studies, and to implement a central rpg database system across all faculties and the School of Business of the University.

The NEW Graduate School will continue to give advice and support to research students and their supervisors to foster a research environment essential for our academic progress and excellence. Our research students enrich the cultural and educational life of this University and the establishment of the NEW Graduate School signifies the University's commitment to provide high quality education in today's changing and challenging environment.

Your Input and Support

The School welcomes comments and enquiries on our services and your views/opinion on postgraduate student matters.

The Graduate School is located in Eliot Hall and is open to all postgraduate students during normal office hours. We can be contacted at:

Tel.: 2857-3470
Fax: 2857-3543
Email: research@hkucc.hku.hk
URL: <http://www.hku.hk/research>



“...HKU
develop
a well
organised
and active
Graduate
School,
sympathetic
to the needs
of students,
supervisors
and teachers
alike.”

The Deans' Profile

Dean, Professor Howell Tong

Professor Howell Tong is the Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science. Born in Hong Kong, Professor Tong received his university education at the University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology. In 1960's, he started his doctoral study and was offered a lecturing position at the Institute.

The first time Professor Tong worked in Hong Kong as an academic was in 1982, when he was appointed to the Founding Chair of Statistics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The second time started shortly after the change-over in 1997, when he came to the University of Hong Kong under the Distinguished Visiting Professorship scheme introduced by the Vice-Chancellor.

His principal research area is time series analysis, including applications in finance, risk, hydrology, ecology, dynamical systems (with chaos) and other areas. He has published over 100 papers in learned journals and several books and serves on the editorial board of several international journals/publishing houses.

Professor Tong is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, an elected fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and a current member of the Council of the Bernoulli Society.

His role in establishing the new Graduate School highlighted his interests and commitments to research postgraduate education in the University.

Associate Dean, Professor John Malpas

Professor John Malpas is the Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Earth Sciences. His own interests concern the origin and evolution of the world's ocean basins, both the present ones and those that existed in the geological past. This work has taken him to many parts of the world, at times to very remote locations. For his research he has won a number of international awards and has been awarded

honorary positions at Dalhousie University in Canada and Auckland University in New Zealand. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the Geological Association of Canada, a Fellow of the Geological Society and of the Geological Society of America.

Before coming to Hong Kong in 1995, Professor Malpas was Dean of the Graduate School of Memorial University of Newfoundland overseeing a number of major changes in the management of postgraduate research. During that time Memorial's Graduate School also hosted the headquarters of the Canadian Association of Graduate Schools, the national body representing all Canadian University postgraduate programmes.

Professor Malpas would like to see HKU develop a well organised and active Graduate School, sympathetic to the needs of students, supervisors and teachers alike.

Associate Dean, Professor Anthony Yeh

Professor Anthony Gar-On Yeh joined the University in 1981, and is Chair Professor in urban planning and geographic information system (GIS), Assistant Director of the Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management, and Director of the GIS Research Centre.

He is a Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute of Planners, Royal Town Planning Institute, and Royal Australian Planning Institute. He is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Transport, British Computer Society, and the Transport Advisory Committee and Planners Registration Board.

His main areas of specialization are in urban development and planning in Hong Kong, China, and S.E. Asia and the applications of GIS in urban and regional planning. He is on the editorial boards of a number of renowned journals in urban planning and GIS. He is at present Secretary General of the Planning Schools Association and Chairman of the GISc Study Group of the International Geographical Union.

Professor Yeh's expertise in information technology and over 18 years of administrative experience in postgraduate education has been a great source of support for the Graduate School.



Research Grants for Research Students

Applications are invited for the March round of allocations from the *Research Student Support Fund*. All research students within their minimum period of study, whether full-time or part-time, are eligible to apply for a grant to help them cover part of the costs incurred in their research. These grants will not, however, exceed \$4,400 in total for each student during 1998-99. Students who applied in November 1998 are not eligible to apply again, since no student may receive a grant more than once in any 12 month period.

Applicants are required to provide an itemized budget, with justification, for the expenditure proposed and applications must be endorsed by the supervisor and head of department.

There are restrictions on the use of grants, for example, the grants may not be used to meet expenses incurred in attending international conferences, and all requests for expenditure must be made on departmental draft purchase orders.

The total sum which may be held by a student in the budget at any time must not exceed \$4,400, and students who have money left in their accounts from previous years (as at March 5) will only have the balance made up to \$4,400. Please note that the Finance Office will need a minimum of 14 working days to process any expenditure request. All unspent balances belonging to a research student will be automatically cancelled on the expiry of the student's minimum period of study, the completion of candidature or the withdrawal from study - whichever occurs the earliest.

Application forms and the accompanying explanatory notes (which include an example of how to present a budget and the justification for it) have been distributed to departmental and faculty offices and are also available from

“Applicants are required to provide an itemized budget, with justification, for the expenditure proposed...”



the Graduate School Office. Please read the explanatory notes carefully.

The application forms are also available on the School's home page at

<http://www.hku.hk/research>

The closing date for applications is: **Friday, March 12**. Late applications will not be accepted.

From the Graduate House

The Computer Room on Level P3 of the Graduate House, is now open 24 hours daily to all full-time and part-time postgraduate students.

The room is equipped with more than 30 PCs and a printer. Users are advised to read the guidelines and conditions on computer usage that are displayed in the room and posted on the Computer Centre homepage: http://www.hku.hk/cc/handbook/csh_97chap6.htm

The usage of the room will be reviewed after two months' trial period. Please send your suggestions and comments to Miss Joanne Lee at:

Email: gradhse@hkucc.hku.hk
Tel.: 2249 1800

