



The Graduate School Newsletter

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The Postgraduate Reform UPDATE

12 APR 2003

Since its launch in June 1998, the University research postgraduate reform has demonstrated its success by the establishment of the NEW governance structure of the Graduate School (replacing the then School of Research Studies)-consisting of the Policy Board, The Board of Graduate Studies and the Board of Examination for Graduate Studies. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Felix Wu, the Dean of the Graduate School, Professor Howell Tong, and the Associate Deans of the Graduate School, Professor John Malpas and Professor Anthony Yeh, and all Board members have been formulating policies on a wide range of issues on research postgraduate students matters and the Graduate School has been the key instrument to implement all measures devised. Salient features of the reform implemented, so far, are as follows:

Recruitment and Admission

Since October 1998, the Graduate School has been the University central unit for the collection of all MPhil and PhD applications. The School provides the necessary service in vetting academic credentials of applicants, collecting support document from applicants, monitoring the admission process and setting the general standards of admission.

Fixed Admission Dates

While PhD candidates will still be admitted all the year round, all MPhil candidates are now recruited according to deadlines. The new system ensures that academic departments can select the best applicants from a pool of applicants. Newly registered MPhil students will also commence their coursework requirements according to the university academic calendar.

Research Admission System

By maintaining comprehensive admission

records (a new research admission database system), the School can efficiently respond to enquiries on the application procedures and the status of application from prospective students, teaching and administrative staff involved. Application data are also useful for statistical analysis on our projection of applicants, and the review on admission strategies and policies.

Evaluating Admission Decisions

The Graduate School maintains the quality of our intake of research postgraduate students. The Board of Graduate Studies, comprising the Deans of the Graduate School and the faculty representatives, sets the minimum overall general standards on qualifications and approves each recommendation of admission decisions from departments/faculties.

Monitoring Admission Process

The Graduate School actively monitors the admission process by sending reminders to departments/faculties on applications pending and ensures that applicants are informed of results of their application in a timely manner.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS MONITORING

The Policy Board has introduced the Departmental Research Postgraduate Committee (DRPC).

It is the advisory body to the Faculty Higher Degrees Committee on the management of research postgraduate education at the departmental level. Its objectives are:

a) to make recommendations, amongst other things, on research postgraduate student admissions, award of Postgraduate Studentships, prescription of the coursework load, and appointment of supervisors;

b) to assist in monitoring students' progress; and where problems have been identified in individual cases, to recommend appropriate action;

inside ...



Announcement.....

Page 3



Postgraduate Student Association News

Page 4



c) to give advice to the FHDC on all student matters relating to the degree regulations and procedures.

A list of Chairmen of the DRPCs in the University departments:-

Anaesthesiology

No DRPC (Head, Professor J.C.S. Yang)

Anatomy

Head, Professor Y.C. Wong

Architecture

Professor S. Ganesan

Biochemistry

Dr. D. Opstelten

Botany

Head, Professor S.S. Y. Zee

Centre of Asian Studies

Director, Professor S.L. Wong

Chemistry

Head, Dr. A.S.C. Cheung

Chinese

Professor K.S. Lee

Civil Engineering

Dr. A.K.H. Kwan

Clinical Oncology

Dr. D.T.T. Chua

Community Medicine

Professor T.H. Lam

Comparative Literature

Head, Mr. M.A. Abbas

Computer Science & Information Systems

Chair, Professor F.Y.L. Chin

CUPEM

Director, Professor P.R. Hills

Curriculum Studies

Chair, Professor P.J.T.F. Morris

Dental Faculty

No DRPC (Professor L.P. Samaranyake)

Diagnostic Radiology

No DRPC (Acting Head, Prof. G. Tang)

E.E.E.

Head, Professor C.C. Chan

Earth Sciences

Dr. A.M. Davis

Ecology & Biodiversity

Head, Professor I.J. Hodgkiss

Education

Head, Dr. K.C. Wong

English

Head, Dr. D.W.F. Kerr

Fine Arts

Dr. David Clarke

Geography and Geology

Head, Professor C.Y. Jim

History

Dr. K.L. MacPherson

I.M.S.E.

(pending)

Institute of Molecular Biology

Director, Professor H. Kung

Japanese Studies

Mr. T. Hara

Law Faculty

Head, Mr. R.A. Glofcheski

Linguistics

Head, Dr. K.K. Luke

Mathematics

Head, Dr. K.Y. Chan

Mechanical Engineering

Head, Professor A.T.Y. Chwang

Medicine

Head, Professor S.K. Lam

Microbiology

Dr. L. Cao (temporary)

Music

Professor B. Yung

Nursing Studies

Mrs A.F.Y. Tiwari

Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Head, Professor P.C. Ho

Orthopaedic Surgery

Dr. W.W. Lu

Paediatrics

(pending)

Pathology

Dr. P. Dickens

Pharmacology

Head, Professor R.Y.K. Man

Philosophy

Professor D.A. Bell

Physical Education & Sports Science Unit

No DRPC (Head, Dr. K.J. Lindner)

Physics

Professor K.S. Cheng

Physiology

Head, Professor S.F. Pang

Politics & Public Administration

Dr. J.C.W. Chan

Psychiatry

No DRPC (Head, Professor F. Mak-Lieh)

Psychology

Dr. A.H. Vera

Radioisotope Unit

Dr. J.K.C. Leung



Real Estate & Construction

Head, Mr. K.G. McKinnell

School of Business

Dr. M.Y. Wong

School of Economics & Finance

Professor S.N.S. Cheung

Social Work & Social Admin.

Chair, Professor N.W.S. Chow

Sociology

Head, Dr. B.K.P. Leung

Speech & Hearing Sciences

Head, Professor P. Fletcher

Statistics & Actuarial Science

Head, Professor W.K. Li

Surgery

Professor Paul Tam

Zoology

Head, Professor D.K.O. Chan

NEW MPhil Curricula

Starting from the academic year of 1999-2000, all newly registered MPhil students will be required to take 5 to 10 courses, including 2 compulsory courses organized by the Graduate School.

Students will be required to take basic research training courses, which will include a selection from thesis writing, oral English, statistical analysis, research safety, logic and critical thinking, ethics in research and transferable skills. These courses will be organized by the Graduate School.

Other discipline-specific courses are also required by faculties/departments. The coursework curriculum of each student is determined by the Departmental Research Postgraduate Committee, in consultation with the student and the supervisor. As stipulated by the New MPhil procedures, students are also encouraged to give one or more seminars on their research findings during their course of study. The full MPhil curricula will be published in the commencing issue of the School Newsletter of the new academic year.

Other new measures in the management of research postgraduate education, such as new progress monitoring procedures, training for research supervisors, etc. are all in the pipeline. The Graduate School will keep students/teachers informed of its latest developments in the wake of the new academic year 1999-2000. Meanwhile, we wish you all the best in this examination season before the turn of the long summer!

Announcement

The Innovation Grants Competition 1999

The Merrill Lynch Forum has launched a world-wide competition which invites applications from recent doctoral students to explore the market potential of their dissertation and turn it into a commercially viable product or service.

The Competition is open to recent PhD candidates in the natural and social sciences, liberal arts and humanities, mathematics and engineering disciplines and will reward those entrants who most persuasively and creatively explain the commercial application of their academic research.

Doctoral students who have successfully defended their dissertations between January 1, 1997, and September 15, 1999 in the above subjects can apply. Entrants will be required to submit a 3,000-word explanation of how their dissertation topic could be translated into a commercial product or service. The description must include: a brief summary of the dissertation, a description of the most significant commercial idea embodied in it, an analysis of potential market for the product or service and a discussion of technical steps necessary to bring the innovation to market.

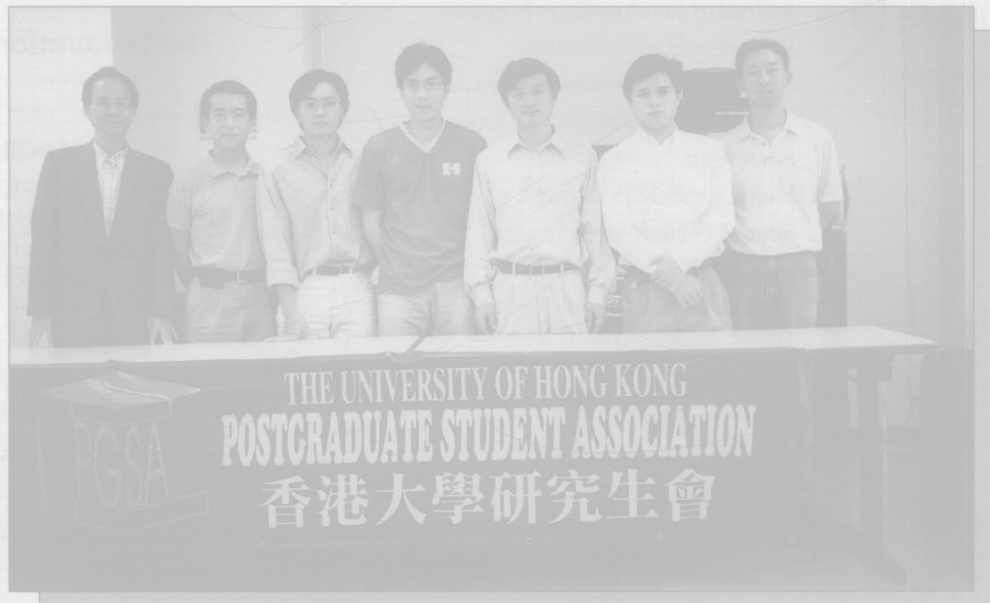
All entries must be postmarked no later than **September 15, 1999**. The Forum will announce the winners in January 2000.

Grants will be awarded to five outstanding applicants: winning proposal (1 award) — US\$50,000; second place (2 awards) — US\$20,000 each; third place (2 awards) — US\$10,000 each. Additionally, the winning candidates' university departments will each receive a US\$5,000 Innovation Grants in recognition of the institution's support for the entrant. The University submitting the greatest number of applications will receive a special US\$6,000 grant. The Forum also reserves the right to award up to 3 Discretionary Grants of US\$3,000 each, in recognition of other distinguished proposals.

Application materials can be downloaded from the Competition's web site, <<http://www.ml.com/innovation>> or send a Email to: innovationgrant@a.ml.com, for additional information.



Postgraduate Student Association News



PGSA Executive Committee 1999

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