HKUST Inter-University Public Policy Case Competition 2019
Background

The Division of Public Policy and the Institute for Public Policy at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology are hosting the Inter-University Public Policy Case Competition 2019.

It provides a hands-on opportunity for students to analyze and resolve real-life public policy problems through case studies.

The Competition is co-organized by the School of Humanities and Social Science, the Division of Social Science, and the Humanities and Social Science Students’ Union of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.¹

Objectives

The HKUST Inter-University Public Policy Case Competition:

- Provides students with an opportunity to analyze pressing public policy issues and recommend practical solutions to policy makers; and
- Develops students’ practical problem-solving, decision-making, critical thinking, teamwork, and presentation skills.

Eligibility

Full-time sub-degree, undergraduate and postgraduate (taught and research) students from all higher education institutions in Hong Kong are eligible for participation.²

¹ This Competition is part of the Teaching Development Grant project - "Case Teaching and Learning for Social Science and Public Policy Education" (099H-1718) - at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

² The Executive Committee of the Humanities and Social Science Students’ Union (Session 2019), as a co-organizer of this Competition, is not eligible for participation.
Teams

- All eligible students may form a team of 3 to 5 members.
- Members of the same team must be from the same institution.
- Each team may consist of members from the same discipline/education level or a variety of disciplines/education levels.

Cases

All cases for the competition are developed by the Institute for Public Policy and the Division of Public Policy at HKUST. Each case features the background of one pressing public policy challenge that real-life policy makers need to address.

Registration for Competition

Registration is open from mid-February 2019 at this website. The deadline of registration is 11:59pm on 20 March 2019 (Hong Kong time).

Preliminary Round (Late March 2019)

- All teams successfully registered will be notified in approximately a week’s time. They will complete a short written task on a prescribed case study in late March 2019.
- All teams will be allowed 7 days to complete the task.
- A selection panel will shortlist teams for the Semi-final Round based on the quality of the task completed.

Semi-final Round (13 April 2019)

- All shortlisted teams will be notified in the first week of April 2019. They will receive two case studies and the corresponding tasks.
• All teams will be allowed 7 days to analyze the two case studies and prepare responses to the corresponding tasks.

• **Announcement will be made on the competition day (13 April 2019) regarding which ONE of the two case studies will be used for the Semi-final Round.**

• Lotteries will be drawn on the competition day to determine, for the Semi-final Round, which ONE of the two panel sessions each team will be assigned to.

• All teams will be allowed **10 minutes** to present, to a group of judges in the assigned panel session, their responses to the task for the selected case study.

• The group of judges in each panel session will nominate, based on the quality of presentation, two best performed teams for the Final Round.

---

**Final Round (13 April 2019)**

• A total of four best performed teams from the two panel sessions in the Semi-final Round will enter the Final Round.

• They will be allowed 15 minutes to present, to a group of judges, their responses to the task for the other case study which has not been used for the Semi-final Round.

• After presentation, they will answer questions from the judges and participants in the audience for 10 minutes.

• The group of judges will deliberate and decide, based on the quality of presentation and Q&A, the winners of the Final Round.

---

**The Competition Day (13 April 2019)**

Both the Semi-final Round and the Final Round will take place in the campus of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in Clear Water Bay. **The main competition venue is Lecture Theatre B in the Academic Building.** The schedule is as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30 – 10:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:30</td>
<td>Opening ceremony / Lotteries / Group photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 – 12:45</td>
<td>Semi-final Round (Two panel sessions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00 – 14:15</td>
<td>Lunch / Networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:30 – 14:45</td>
<td>Feedback on Semi-final Round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:45 – 17:00</td>
<td>Final Round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:00 – 17:30</td>
<td>Refreshments / Networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:30 – 18:00</td>
<td>Closing ceremony</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Judging**

For the Semi-final Round and the Final Round, the groups of judges will consist of experts in public policy from within and outside HKUST.

**Post-competition Feedback**

All teams participated in the Semi-final Round and the Final Round will share their feedback on the case competition as a learning experience and their insights for future policy making.

**Enquiries**

**Organizing Committee, HKUST Inter-University Public Policy Case Competition 2019**

Address: Division of Public Policy, Room 4611, Academic Building, Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong

E-mail: ppcasecomp@ust.hk

Competition Rules

General

- All shortlisted teams must show up on time and participate in all event sessions on the Competition Day.
- All team members must observe and follow the competition rules.
- Any violation of the rules by a team member may result in disqualification of the whole team. The Case Competition Organizing Committee has the final decision on any case of disqualification.
- The Case Competition Organizing Committee reserves the right to make necessary changes to the competition rules, and all teams will be informed accordingly should this possibility arise.

Preparation

- On the Competition Day, the teams may bring reference materials, such as books and notes, to the competition venues.
- All presentation materials must be in English only.
- Presentation files must be created in Microsoft Office PowerPoint. A copy of the PDF version should also be prepared.
- It is the teams’ responsibility to ensure that their presentation files are uploaded to the computer provided in the competition venues. If in doubt, the teams may use their own laptops and/or send in a copy of their presentation files to the Case Competition Organizing Committee in advance. However, the Case Competition Organizing Committee will not be able to provide technical support for the teams’ own laptops.
- Before and during the Competition Day, the teams are not allowed to discuss the case studies assigned with any parties except their own team members. All enquiries should be directed to the Case Competition Organizing Committee.
Presentation

- The recommended dress code is business formal attire.
- All members must be present for their team’s presentation.
- At least TWO members of a team must deliver the presentation as speakers.
- All presentations must be delivered in English only.
- Any teams failing to show up on time for presentation will be deemed to have dropped out from the Competition. No make-up time will be arranged.
- All electronic devices, including mobile phones and tablets, must be switched off during the presentation sessions.
- The presenting teams must stop when the time is up, and no buffer time will be offered. Reminders will be given when there are 2 minutes remaining.
- For the Semi-final Round, teams must wait inside the designated waiting rooms before and after their turn for presentation.
- For the Final Round, the finalist teams must wait outside the competition venue for their turn for presentation. They may stay in the competition venue once their presentation is completed. However, they are NOT allowed to raise questions to other finalist teams during the Q&A session.

Others

- Personal belongings should not be left unattended. The Case Competition Organizing Committee cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage of personal belongings.
- Eating and drinking is not allowed inside the lecture theatres and classrooms of the competition venues.
Copyright

- All materials distributed and produced in the competition, including but not limited to the case studies and the photos and video recordings of the competition, shall remain the rightful property of the HKUST Inter-University Public Policy Case Competition.
- The above materials must not be reproduced or disseminated without the written permission of the Case Competition Organizing Committee.
- Events on the Competition Day will be photographed and/or video-recorded. Consent will be sought from the participating teams at the time of registration.