

HKUST Inter-University Public Policy Case Competition 2021

Rules and Guidelines

HKUST Inter-University Public Policy Case Competition 2021

Semi-Final Round: 1 April 2021

Final Round: 17 April 2021

Prizes up to HKD8,000
in cash

The competition provides a hands-on opportunity for students to analyze and resolve real-life public policy problems through case studies. Each case study features the background of one pressing public policy challenge that policy makers need to address. Take this fantastic opportunity to pitch your ideas!

Register on or before 5 February 2021



Enquiry: ppcasecomp@ust.hk

Admission for PPOL Postgraduate Programs
(2021 intake) is now open

Master of
Public Policy (MPP)



Organizers: **PPOL** DIVISION OF PUBLIC POLICY 公共政策學部 **IPP** INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY 公共政策研究院

Co-organizers: **社** SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE 人文社會科學學院 **SOCIAL science** 社會科學部



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社 SCHOOL OF
HUMANITIES AND
SOCIAL SCIENCE

**DIVISION OF
SOCIAL science**
社會科學部

Background The inaugural Inter-University Case Competition was hosted in April 2019 at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). Following the successful trial, the Division of Public Policy and the Institute for Public Policy at HKUST, together with the School of Humanities and Social Science and the Division of Social Science, will continue to host the Competition in 2021.

The overarching aim of the Competition is to provide a hands-on opportunity for students to analyze and resolve real-life public policy problems through case studies. Based on the participants' feedback in 2019, some new arrangements will be introduced to the Competition in 2021.

Objectives The HKUST Inter-University Public Policy Case Competition:

1. Provides students with an opportunity to analyze pressing public policy issues and recommend practical solutions to policy makers; and
2. 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.

Teams All eligible students may form a team of **3 to 4 members**. **Members of the same team must be affiliated to 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 Division of Public Policy and the Institute for Public Policy at HKUST. Each case features the background of a public policy challenge that real-life policy makers need to address.

Registration

Interested teams should register for the Competition at the following website **by 11:59pm, 5 February 2021 (Friday)**:

<[https://ppol.ust.hk/events/PPOL Case Competition 2021](https://ppol.ust.hk/events/PPOL_Case_Competition_2021)>.

Preliminary Round

(8 March 2021)

- Upon registration, each team will receive on **22 February 2021** a copy of **Policy Case A** and the prescribed task.
- The team will submit a digital poster responding to the task no later than **8 March 2021**.
- A panel of judges will review all submissions and shortlist teams for the Semi-final Round.
- All shortlisted teams will be notified on **22 March 2021** by e-mail.

Semi-final Round

(1 April 2021, afternoon)

- The Semi-Final Round will be held live on Zoom.
- Each team will verbally pitch their digital poster (submitted for the Preliminary Round) in **2 minutes**.
- The order of the pitches is preassigned, of which participating teams will be notified a few days before the Competition.
- Pitches will be timed and halted at the 2-minute mark.
- The **‘Q&A Session – Participating Teams’** will commence after the Pitch Session.
- Each team will take turns to ask **ONE question** to **any ONE team of their choice** regarding their poster. The order is preassigned, of which participants will be notified a few days before the Competition. **Please note that each question can only be addressed to ONE team only.**
- **Each team will be given no more than 1 minute to ask the question.**
- The team being asked the question will offer a response **in 2 minutes** right after the question is raised.
- The Q&A session will be timed and halted at the 1-minute mark for the question and 2-minute mark for the answer.
- All teams will be granted access to all posters shortlisted for the Semi-Final Round a few days before the Competition. They are advised to read through the shortlisted posters in advance and prepare their questions.

- Next, there will be a **15-minute ‘Q&A Session – Judges’**. Judges will ask questions to one or more participating teams.
- The team(s) being asked the question will offer a response right after the question is raised.
- There is no time limit to a question or an answer, as long as it does not exceed the duration of this Q&A session.
- A panel of judges will nominate **FOUR** best performed teams for the Final Round.

Final Round

(17 April 2021, afternoon)

- The Final Round will take place online.
- All shortlisted teams from the Final Round will receive on **10 April 2021 (Saturday)** a copy of **Policy Case B** and the prescribed task.
- On the Competition Day, each team will have **10 minutes** to verbally present their responses to the task.
- After the presentations, there will be **free debate sessions**. Decided by lottery, two teams will, in the first instance, criticize each other’s responses to the task and give rebuttals to the critiques for about **10 minutes**. After that, the remaining two teams will criticize each other’s responses to the task and give rebuttals to the critiques for about **10 minutes**.
- Next, all four teams will answer questions from the judges for about **20 minutes**.
- The judges will rate the performances of the finalists and decide the winners.

Judging

The panels of judges will consist of policy scholars and/or practitioners from within and outside HKUST.

Enquiries

Organizing Committee, HKUST Inter-University Public Policy Case Competition 2021

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

E-mail: ppcasecomp@ust.hk

Web: https://ppol.ust.hk/events/PPOL_Case_Competition_2021

Competition Rules

General

- All shortlisted teams must show up on time and participate in all sessions on the Competition Days (i.e., 1 April 2021 and 17 April 2021).
- 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 (“Committee”) has the final decision on any case of disqualification.
- The Committee reserves the right to make necessary changes to the competition rules, and all teams will be informed accordingly should this possibility arise.

Preparation

- 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.
- Should participation in the Final Round take place in person, it is the teams’ responsibility to ensure that their presentation files are uploaded to the computers provided in the competition venue. If in doubt, the teams may send a copy of their presentation files to the Committee in advance.

Presentation

- The recommended dress code is business formal attire.
- All members must be present for their team’s presentation.
- At least ONE member of a team must deliver the pitch for the Semi-final Round. At least TWO members of a team must deliver the presentation for the Final Round.
- For the Final Round, at least TWO members of a team must participate in the free debate session.
- All presentations and Q&As must be delivered in English only.
- The presenting teams must stop when the time is up. No buffer time will be offered.
- Any teams failing to show up on time will be deemed to have dropped out from the Competition. No make-up time will be arranged.

- Should participation in the Final Round take place in person:
 - All electronic devices, including mobile phones and tablets, must be switched off inside the competition venue.
 - Personal belongings should not be left unattended. The Committee cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage of personal belongings.
 - Eating and drinking is not allowed inside the competition venues.

Copyright

- All materials distributed and produced in the competition, including but not limited to the cases as well as 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 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.