MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM (MPP) 2021-2022
ABOUT HKUST

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) is a dynamic, international research university in a relentless pursuit of excellence, leading advances in science, technology, business and humanities, and educating new generations of global front-runners. Since its official opening in October 1991, HKUST has established itself as an intellectual powerhouse, energizing the community’s transformation into a knowledge-based society, and securing a place on the academic world map in record-breaking time. In less than three decades, HKUST has risen rapidly in the global academic arena and has been ranked as one of the best universities globally by global university rankings.

CAREER PROSPECT

Our program places an emphasis on knowledge, analytic skills and management capacities that are highly transferable across sectors, issue areas and global regions. Graduates of the program may work as analysts, managers, researchers and consultants in a wide variety of organizations, including government agencies, non-profit organizations and private sector business. The training provided by the program is particularly relevant for policy professionals in both public and private sectors seeking to advance their careers in industries at the forefront of science and technology advancements, such as information technology and telecommunications, environment, energy, health care, transportation and finance.

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY (MPP)

Our Master of Public Policy (MPP) is an interdisciplinary program that equips students with knowledge of the full impact of science and technology innovations and professional skills in the formulation and implementation of innovative solutions to current and emerging global challenges. Situated in HKUST, a leading university in science and technology, the program draws from research and teaching excellence from across a diverse range of disciplines to equip students with a set of core skills in data analytics, economic analysis and management to become effective policy professionals.

Designed for students with diverse educational backgrounds, including social science, science, engineering, business, and other fields of study, this two-year full-time program consists of a core curriculum, an optional summer internship upon completion of year one, a second year client-based policy analysis project and elective courses allowing students to develop their areas of specialization. The first of its kind in Hong Kong, this program provides students with complete professional training that focuses on problem-solving skills with real-world cases and examples.

Prof. Xun WU
Head, Division of Public Policy

“While advancements in science and technology have been rapidly expanding the range of solutions for tackling global challenges such as climate change and population ageing, science and technology innovations have also given rise to a complex set of ethical, institutional and legal issues for governments, non-profit and private entities.”
Curriculum

The degree requires the completion of 48 credit hours (most courses are three credit hours). All students admitted to the MPP will be required to complete the program on a full-time basis, a minimum of 12 credits and up to a maximum of 15 credits of coursework per semester.

Core Courses (24 Credits)
The required core courses provide students with a grounding of the various perspectives, skills and tools that policy professionals must possess to develop and manage policies effectively.

- Foundations in Public Policy
- Microeconomics and Public Policy
- Quantitative Analysis and Empirical Methods
- Public Policy Analysis
- Evidence in Public Policy
- Public Management and Leadership
- Policy Analysis Project (I & II)

Elective Courses (24 Credits)
Students expand analytical skills attained through the core courses with 24 credits of elective courses focusing on today’s most relevant policy areas and applied analytical methods. In addition to elective courses offered by the Division of Public Policy, MPP students are offered opportunities to broaden their perspectives through courses offered by HKUST School of Business and Management, School of Engineering, School of Humanities and Social Science, and the Division of Environment and Sustainability. The ability to offer access to a diverse range of electives across the university is a key strength of the HKUST MPP in comparison to programs elsewhere.

Areas of Specialization

As part of their 48 credits, MPP students have the option to specialize in one of the following specializations: science and technology policy concentration or environmental and sustainability policy concentration. A specialization consists of at least four 3-credit courses, of which at least two are offered by the Division of Public Policy. Students pursuing this option must choose their elective coursework based on the requirements for their specialization.

Science and Technology Policy Concentration
The specialization provides students with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills that are essential to professional careers in areas where science and technology are guided by public policy or where science and technology play an integral role in the formulation and implementation of innovative solutions.

Environmental and Sustainability Policy Concentration
This specialization provides students with the opportunity to acquire the tools, methodologies, interdisciplinary perspectives, and substantive topical knowledge necessary to be effective policy professionals in public, non-profit, and private organizations that cover a broad spectrum of issues relating to the environment and natural resources.

Prof. Pengyu ZHU
Program Co-director, Master of Public Policy

“Our MPP program features a unique two-year curriculum taught by our renowned professors that emphasizes on training critical thinking skills to understand policy issues in depth, enhancing technical and analytical skills to create solutions effectively, and cultivating communication skills to manage policy implementation practically. With this two-year program, students will not only gain extensive training to boost their marketability, but also get more opportunities to secure full-time employment immediately after graduation, or better position themselves in competing for a fully-funded PhD study.”

Prof. Naubahar SHARIF
Program Co-director, Master of Public Policy

“HKUST’s MPP program is unique in many ways: Its duration of two years allows deep immersion into a student’s field of study, the widespread use of cases as the key to our teaching pedagogy strengthens student learning, and close connections with practitioners are forged through the core requirement of a Policy Analysis Exercise (PAE).”
**CLIENT-BASED POLICY ANALYSIS PROJECT**

The Policy Analysis Project is the capstone module of our MPP program. It aims to provide students with a valuable, engaging, educational and professional experience. It is a year-long project for which students work in teams of four to six people on challenges, issues and problems facing real-world organizations. Students will have opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills that they have learnt from the MPP program to analyse policy issues, develop solutions and produce professional reports for the client organizations.

Current client organizations include Arthur D. Little, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Centennial Asia, Environmental Protection Department (HKSAR), EY, Hitachi, Mana Impact Investment, PMI, Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (HKSAR), Provenance.io, PwC and The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC).

**PPOL Electives**

- Risk and Regulation
- Policy Analysis and Design for Sustainable Development
- Aging, Demography, and Policy
- Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management
- Complex Systems for Policy
- Technology, Innovation and Public Policy
- Advanced Analytical Methods for Public Policy
- Innovation and Sustainability
- Finance, Financial Crises and Economic Development
- Ethics and Public Policy
- Special Topics in Public Policy

Please visit [https://prog-crs.ust.hk/pgprog/2021-22/mpp](https://prog-crs.ust.hk/pgprog/2021-22/mpp) for the details of course curriculum and descriptions.

**Cindy XU (MPP class of 2020)**

Bachelor of Science in Management (2018), London School of Economics and Political Science

Product Manager, TaoBao Business Group

“Combining various social science subjects, MPP comprises of astonishingly comprehensive and well-structured knowledge for analysing real-world problems. Another impressive feature of MPP is that course materials are deeply embodied in world-wide current affairs!”

**Kejun CHEN (MPP class of 2020)**

Bachelor of Management in Accounting (2018), Guangdong University of Foreign Studies

Auditor, KPMG (Hong Kong)

“This program helps me to develop your critical thinking ability through dynamic and interdisciplinary policy studies, such as how to evaluate a certain policy issue critically and thoroughly. Also, through intensive policy analysis exercises, I have improved my writing and presentation skills.”

**PROGRAM STRUCTURE**

**1st TERM**
- Foundation in Public Policy
- Microeconomics and Public Policy
- Quantitative Analysis and Empirical Methods
- Elective 1 (12 credits)

**2nd TERM**
- Public Policy Analysis
- Evidence in Public Policy
- Public Management and Leadership
- Elective 2 (12 credits)

**3rd TERM**
- Policy Analysis Project I
- Elective 3
- Elective 4
- Elective 5 (12 credits)

**4th TERM**
- Policy Analysis Project II
- Elective 6
- Elective 7
- Elective 8 (12 credits)
Students with little or no prior working experience are strongly encouraged to strengthen their career preparedness and broaden their placement opportunities by taking up an optional internship during the summer between the first and second year of study. We aim at preparing students to market themselves to look for internship opportunities. Various training programs are arranged, such as career development workshops which help students to possess job search strategies and self-exploration on own strengths and values while our communication tutors enable students to equip with power C.V., cover letter writing skills and develop business and networking skillets through individual or group consultations and tutorials.

Besides, our students can pursue various internship opportunities, which are regularly advertised by the Division, Career Center and Career Fairs at HKUST. In particular, Career Center at HKUST helps students to explore, plan and prepare for part-time or graduate employment. The Career Center provides students with resources, services, programs and assistance along the way. Please visit https://career.ust.hk/web/home.php for more details.

Typically structured as ten weeks of full-time work in government agencies, non-profit organizations and private sector entities, such internships help students clarify their career direction, assist them to gain practical and professional experience, and enable them to establish a professional network. Some organizations which have offered internships to our students in the past include but not limit to Agricultural Bank of China, EY, KPMG, Our Hong Kong Foundation, PwC, Tencent, The Young Entrepreneurs Development Council Ltd., Tianda Institute and Upper Fusion Co. Ltd., etc.

We offer the option of dual degree program under which qualified MPP students will have the opportunity to spend a year studying at the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, the University of Washington, and earn both the Master of Public Policy (MPP) from HKUST and the Global Master of Public Administration (GMPA) from the University of Washington at the end of two years. Students in the dual degree program must be admitted to both programs at the start of their study, and they will pay the tuition fees to HKUST or University of Washington separately for the year that they study there. For details with regard to admission requirements for GMPA program the University of Washington, the study pattern of the dual degree program, and tuition fees at the University of Washington, please visit https://evans.washington.edu/content/global-master-public-administration. For details of Graduate School English Language Proficiency Requirements in the University of Washington, please visit https://grad.uw.edu/policies-procedures/graduate-school-memoranda/memo-8-graduate-school-english-language-proficiency-requirements/. Interested students are invited to email the GMPA Admissions Team at globalmpa@uw.edu.

“Two years of intense MPP study have equipped me with a solid base of public policy knowledge as well as analytical skills, making me more confident to carry out research projects in the field. I was encouraged to explore a wide range of public issues both in and out of class, and this really helped me to discover my research interest and enhanced my critical thinking when facing issues with significant trade-offs. Besides, as a MPP student, I was able to have close contact with course instructors and have the opportunity to participate in some research projects. All of these experiences are essential for my further study and research.”

Gefei GAO
(MPP class of 2020)
Bachelor of Economics in Credit Management (2018), Renmin University of China
Operation Assistant, China International Capital Corporation (Hong Kong) Limited
“ ‘The education we received at MPP has prepared us for many possibilities of future work with sufficient knowledge, skills, and experience. The courses covered a wide range of topics including technology, finance, the environment etc., so that we are sure to learn something that can be directly or indirectly applied to our future work. Skills such as data analysis and project management that cultivated in group exercises and the client-based project also turned out to benefit me a lot. In addition, we had many opportunities for internships during the two years which can really help us to make good decisions on career planning.’”

Jiahua CHEN
(MPP class of 2020)
Bachelor of Management in Financial Management (2018), South China Normal University
Analyst, Deloitte Consulting (Shanghai) Co., Ltd. Shenzhen Branch
“ ‘Living in an increasingly complex and diverse environment and era, business and public policy are inseparable. MPP’s reality-based curriculum, diverse internship opportunities, and unique PAE projects together help those aspiring to work in the consulting industry to improve their critical thinking, presentation, and social practice. At the same time, MPP helps students expand their career breadth and discover more possibilities by enhancing their academic background and competitiveness in the market.’”

Xinying TAN
(MPP class of 2020)
Bachelor of Arts in Radio and Television (2018), Central South University
HKUST PhD candidate
“ ‘Two years of intense MPP study have equipped me with a solid base of public policy knowledge as well as analytical skills, making me more confident to carry out research projects in the field. I was encouraged to explore a wide range of public issues both in and out of class, and this really helped me to discover my research interest and enhanced my critical thinking when facing issues with significant trade-offs. Besides, as a MPP student, I was able to have close contact with course instructors and have the opportunity to participate in some research projects. All of these experiences are essential for my further study and research.’”
THE ONLY TWO-YEAR FULL-TIME MPP PROGRAM IN THE GREATER CHINA REGION

Our MPP is the only two-year full-time program in The Greater China Region which aims to provide comprehensive professional training experience for the development of skills and competencies essential for career success. Students will also have more time to look for internship and/or career opportunities, and/or prepare themselves to apply for MPhil or PhD study relevant to the field of public policy in both local and overseas universities, if they are interested in pursuing research and academic career.

WHY STUDY PUBLIC POLICY AT HKUST?

GREATER BAY AREA (GBA) DEVELOPMENT
Hong Kong is not only an international financial center and a gateway to Mainland China, but also a part of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) which has a GDP of US$1.34 trillion and a population of 69 million. The development of GBA offers exciting business and career opportunities.

ENGLISH AS THE ONLY LANGUAGE FOR INSTRUCTION
100% of courses in HKUST are taught in English, enabling full access to world-class teaching and research across the university.

GUARANTEED 12-MONTH VISA TO WORK IN HONG KONG AFTER GRADUATION
Enabling students from outside Hong Kong to explore a myriad of training and career opportunities.

A WORLD-CLASS FACULTY
Trained in some of the best universities in the world, our faculty members have established themselves as leading scholars in their fields, and many of them have had extensive experience advising national government bodies, international organizations and major corporations.

FACULTY PROFILE

Head, Division of Public Policy

Prof. Xun WU
PhD in Public Policy Analysis, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Areas of Specialization:
- Water resource management
- Health policy
- Anti-corruption
- Policy design and innovations

Prof. Naubahar SHARIF
PhD in Science and Technology Studies, Cornell University
Areas of Specialization:
- Innovation and technology policy in Hong Kong and China
- Belt and road initiative

Prof. Magdalena KLEMMUN
PhD in Engineering Systems, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Areas of Specialization:
- Technology innovation
- Energy and Climate Policy

Prof. Edwin LAI
PhD in Economics, Stanford University
Areas of Specialization:
- International economics
- Economic growth and development
- China economy
- Innovation and technology policy

Prof. Joseph Hun-wei LEE
PhD in Civil Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Areas of Specialization:
- Hydraulics / fluid mechanics
- Water resources system analysis and management
- Flooding
- Environmental management
- Science and technology policy

Prof. Yatang LIN
PhD in Economics, The London School of Economics and Political Science
Areas of Specialization:
- Environmental economics
- Urban and regional economics
- International trade
- Economic growth and development

MPP Program Co-Directors

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Prof. Anthony Bing-leung CHEUNG
PhD in Government, London School of Economics and Political Science
Areas of Specialization:
- Governance studies
- Asian administrative reforms
- Civil service studies
- Para-governmental organisations and Privatisation
- Public policy

Prof. King Lau CHOW
PhD in Cell Biology, Baylor College of Medicine
Areas of Specialization:
- Genetics
- Evolutionary biology
- Cellular and molecular mechanisms
- Developmental biology
- Sensory organ differentiation

Prof. Stuart QIETEL-BASTEN
PhD in Helminth Demography, University of Cambridge
Areas of Specialization:
- Demography
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- Ageing policy
- Family policy
- Health policy

Will LI
Bachelor of Engineering in Biomedical Engineering (2018), Shanghai Jiao Tong University
Private Equity Investment Analyst, Hony Capital

“My MPP study has helped me to establish a self-motivated system especially for multi-tasking. The training as a policy maker in decision-making processes where many stakeholders are involved has made me become more considerate in front of our customers. The experience as a summer intern has not only improved my English proficiency, but also strengthened my research capability such as desktop research, data processing and statistical output, which lays a good foundation for me to handle future demand forecasting.”

Prof. Sunny Yangguang HUANG
PhD in Economics, University of Washington
Areas of Specialization:
- Industrial organization
- Quantitative marketing
- Applied microeconomics
- Applied econometrics

“This program has provided me with a new perspective to understand economic development and cultural diversity, and helped me to enhance my analytical skills through case studies. I believe that the MPP program is great for engineering students who would like to broaden their career options by expanding their academic background and improving their problem-solving skills.”

Faculty

Ting-yun WEN
Bachelor of Science in Public Finance (2018), Wuhan University
Customer Support Specialist, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company

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All MPP students admitted are with excellent academic performance and many of them with impressive internship or work experience. While many of our students graduated from top universities in mainland China, such as Peking University, Zhejiang University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Fudan University, Wuhan University, Sun Yat-Sen University, and etc., a wide range of universities and majors are well represented among our MPP students, significantly contributing to the diversity of learning in our program.

We also have students who graduated from well-known overseas universities, such as Purdue University, New York University, University of California San Diego, Arizona State University, University of British Columbia, University of Melbourne, Lancaster University, the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Delhi and National University of the Centre of Peru. Students from major universities in Hong Kong are also represented in our MPP program.

**STUDENTS AND GRADUATES PROFILE**

**Students’ Bachelor Major (2020 Intake)**

- **Business Management and Finance**: 28%
- **Public Administration**: 18%
- **Economics**: 17%
- **Language**: 12%
- **Humanities and Social Science**: 9%
- **Media and Communication**: 6%
- **Science**: 6%
- **Engineering**: 3%

**Employment Sector of Our Graduates (Class of 2020)**

- **High-Tech Industry**: 33%
- **Banking and Finance**: 25%
- **Further Studies**: 17%
- **Consulting**: 17%
- **Government**: 4%
- **Others**: 4%

Our first cohort (admitted in September 2018) is graduating in 2020. Despite the harsh reality of job markets worldwide this year due to COVID-19, most of our graduates have been able to secure satisfactory job offers across diverse sectors. Examples are as follows:

- Banking and finance: China Construction Bank, China International Capital Corporation (Hong Kong) Limited, Bank of China (Hong Kong), Hony Capital, etc.
- Consulting: KPMG, Deloitte Consulting, etc.
- High-tech industry: IBM, Tencent, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Taibao Business Group, etc.
**Bin Li (MPP class of 2020)**  
Bachelor of Management in Labor and Social Security (2017), Hebei University  
Management trainee, Hebei Provincial Department of Finance

“The MPP gave me the opportunity to observe and analyze international politics from different angles, the analysis and consideration of various policies gave me an in-depth understanding of the logic of policy-making. It is very challenging to analyze policies from the perspective of conflict, which lays a solid foundation for me to work in the government.”

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**Hanz Charles PONCE ACOSTA (MPP class of 2021)**  
Bachelor and Licentiate Degree in Business Administration (2016), National University of The Centre of Peru  
Awardee of PRONABEC Scholarship by Peruvian Government  
Previous working experience: Specialist (Audit Normative Division), National Superintendence of Customs and Tax Administration of Peru

“I chose the MPP at HKUST because this program trains students through case analysis, to equip students with critical thinking abilities and propose solutions for real challenges in the society. Additionally, my classmates are from different nationalities and backgrounds (engineers, administrators, accountants and more) which enhanced class discussions and generated interdisciplinary solutions.”

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**Justin NG (MPP class of 2021)**  
Bachelor of Science in Media, Culture & Communications (2018), New York University  
Internship experience: Public Sector Consulting Intern, Price Waterhouse Coopers Ltd. (PwC)

“Thanks to the MPP program, I curated an in-depth knowledge into various sectors’ issues (housing, education, and innovation) and its relevant policies/decision-making that were highly applicable to my position. I found that the program, particularly through the Policy Analysis Exercise, also provided the relevant skills to prepare consultancy proposals catered to client’s needs.”

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**Sze Hon WU (MPP class of 2022)**  
Bachelor of Engineering in Systems Engineering and Engineering Management (2017), The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Previous working experience: Strategy Consultant – Digital Practice, IBM

“As we are halfway through 2020, all of us are startled by the rapid yet tremendous hits upon our quality of living and the global markets. But these random shocks also stand out as potential opportunities. Therefore, this program has become the perfect choice for me to anchor a strong technical foundation and thought leadership in policy making, in order to establish a sustainable society.”

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**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

**GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY**

- A bachelor’s degree from a recognized institution, or an approved equivalent qualification
- English Language admission requirements set out by the University

Applicants have to fulfill English Language requirements with one of the following proficiency attainments:

- Applicants are not required to present TOEFL or IELTS score if
  - their first language is English, or
  - they obtained the bachelor’s degree (or equivalent) from an institution where the medium of instruction was English.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- While not required, applicants are encouraged to submit their GMAT/ GRE scores.
- Interests and motivation: Applicants should make a strong case for their interest in pursuing a professional degree in public policy by submitting a statement of purpose about their interests and motivation.
- Favorable consideration will be given to applicants with relevant working experience and/or internships.
- Selected applicants will be invited to face-to-face interviews or video conferencing/ phone interviews by the admission committee.

**TUITION FEE**

Tuition Fee  
HK$260,000. This includes two years of full-time enrollment (for 48 credits total).

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**MPP Admission and Academic Excellence Scholarship**

Subject to funding availability, scholarships may be given to selected awardees based on academic and professional excellence. For further details, please visit https://ppol.ust.hk/content/mpp_scholarships.

**UGC Targeted Taught Postgraduate Programmes Fellowships Scheme (Priority Area: Sustainable City) (For LOCAL applicants only)**

Our Master of Public Policy (MPP) Program has been approved as one of the targeted programs of the Fellowships Scheme for 2021-22 intake. Local students who are admitted to the program will be invited to submit applications for the fellowships. For further information, please refer to https://ppol.ust.hk/content/mpp_scholarships.

**The Asian Future Leaders Scholarship Program (AFLSP)**

In addition, HKUST is one of the few Asian universities chosen by the Bai Xian Asia Institute (BXAI) as a partner university to offer the Asian Future Leaders Scholarship Program (AFLSP). Applicants who are non-local students from East, Southeast, and South Asia and admitted to MPP program may be considered for the scholarship program.

For more details, please visit https://pg.ust.hk/prospective-students/scholarship-fees/asian-future-leaders-scholarship-program.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

All applicants should submit their application documents through http://pg.ust.hk/applynow to the Fok Ying Tung Graduate School (FYTGS) of HKUST before May 31, 2021 for both local and non-local applicants.

Early applications are strongly recommended as admissions offers will be made on a rolling basis. Late applications may be considered on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Application Deadline for 2021-2022 Admissions: May 31, 2021
ADMISSION ENQUIRIES

Online Enquiry Form: https://pg.ust.hk/cgi-bin/pg/eng/contact.php

Fok Ying Tung Graduate School
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