

DIGITAL FINANCE AND BEYOND

Ⓟ • DFinTech
Doctor of FinTech

2024-2025

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WHY POLYU

- Providing application-oriented education since 1937
- Collaborating with over 280 institutions
- Offering over 160 taught programmes
- Working on over 2,750 research projects

International Rankings

#02 QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2023 (Hong Kong)

#05 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2024 (Hong Kong)

#06 QS Top 50 under 50 (for universities under 50 years old) 2021 (Global)

#14 Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2023 (Global)

WHY POLYU BUSINESS SCHOOL

- A comprehensive portfolio of academic programmes
- Over 170 world-class scholars including specialists in accounting, finance, logistics, management, marketing, and transport
- Research and specialist centres facilitate single and multidisciplinary studies
- International context and culturally diverse environment
- Network of 54,000 alumni

Accreditations



International Rankings

#01 Clarivate Web of Science 2019-2021: Shipping Research

#01 ShanghaiRanking Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (GRAS) 2023: Management

#04 Research.com Best Business & Management Universities 2023

#45 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2024: Business & Economics

#52 UTD (University of Texas at Dallas) Top 100 Worldwide Business School Rankings based on Research Contributions 2018-2022

#56 QS World University Rankings 2023: Business & Management Studies



DEAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Faculty of Business of PolyU.

Faculty of Business, popularly known as PolyU Business School (PBS), is a world-class business school that offers high-quality academic programmes and leads cutting-edge research in business and related disciplines. We are proud to have achieved accreditations from AACSB International (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) and EQUIS (EFMD Quality Improvement System).

Dedicated to the pursuit of *Innovation-driven Education and Scholarship (IDEAS)*, PBS engages stakeholders to deliver societal impact in a sustainable way, with a focus on Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area. Through our educational programmes, partnerships, and close links with industry and the professional community, we strive to transfer knowledge and technology to the wider community.

Our comprehensive portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, many of which are recognised by professional bodies, cover key areas such as accounting, ESG, finance, logistics, management, marketing, shipping, and transport. In addition to the BBA, MBA, DBA/DMgt, DFinTech, and specialised master's degrees, our research programmes also lead to the MPhil and PhD awards.

To maintain currency of our academic programmes and specialist consultancy, our faculty members undertake pioneering and impactful research, both within and across their disciplines, facilitated by our Case Consortium and centres for branding and marketing, digital transformation, financial technology, leadership and innovation, maritime studies, shipping and logistics, and sustainability and entrepreneurial finance. Our research has been ranked 52nd in the world (*The UTD Top 100 Worldwide Business School Rankings based on Research Contributions 2018-2022*).

We welcome you to join our community of over 170 world-class scholars from around the world, 4,900 students, and 54,000 alumni.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edwin Cheng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ir Prof. T.C. Edwin Cheng

IASCYS Academician, FHKEng, ScD, PhD

Dean, Faculty of Business

Fung Yiu King – Wing Hang Bank Professor in Business Administration

Chair Professor of Management

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I am pleased to introduce you to Doctor of FinTech (DFinTech) programme, the first-ever professional doctorate in financial technology in Asia, offered by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU).

Digital transformation is reshaping the financial services landscape as well as bringing about new challenges and opportunities to businesses. Understanding and applying digital technologies have become crucial to the development or even survival of organizations. With the aim to educate “*scholar-leaders*” in the FinTech area, our programme helps senior executives integrate digital knowledge and perspective with their actual practice to enhance strategic management and leadership in FinTech and other areas.

PolyU DFinTech is a cross-disciplinary and rigorous programme which draws upon the pooled resources of different faculties within the University. With academic papers publishing in prestigious international journals, our subject professors are experts in big data analytics, artificial intelligence, blockchain, smart city, digital supply chain management, digital marketing and FinTech economics.

As FinTech is boundless, our DFinTech students have the opportunity to participate in a digital transformation programme with the IMD Business School in Switzerland and the Executive Education Courses offered by The London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE) in the U.K.

PolyU DFinTech programme will equip you with frontier knowledge in FinTech and related areas, a new mindset and tools to take your organization to a new level in the digital era.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kai Lim". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line underneath the name.

Prof. Kai Lim

DFinTech Programme Director

Chair Professor of Information Technology Innovation and Management

Yeung Kin Man Professor in Information Technology Innovation and Management

Department of Management and Marketing

WHY POLYU DFINTECH

- Pioneering FinTech doctorate in the world
- Benefit from pooling resources from different faculties of the university
- Integrate academic study, applied research and management practice
- Embrace digital transformation and technological innovations
- Explore the potentials and promises of digital technology in all organizations
- Become part of an elite network of over 600 alumni and students

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS



Executive
Education Courses

To increase the international exposure and academic vigour of the programme, students have the opportunity to participate in a digital transformation programme with the IMD Business School in Switzerland and the Executive Education Courses offered by The London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE) in the U.K..

ACADEMIC TEAM

Prof. CAO Jie Jay *PhD*

Professor

School of Accounting and Finance

Research and Teaching Interests

Asset Pricing, Investments, Derivatives, Fixed Income, Sustainable Finance



Dr CHEN Te-Feng *PhD*

Associate Professor

School of Accounting and Finance

Research and Teaching Interests

Asset Pricing, Market Efficiency, Market Microstructure, International Accounting And Finance

Prof. CHEN Xiaojun *PhD*

Associate Director, University Research Facility in Big Data Analytics

Chair Professor of Applied Mathematics, Department of Applied Mathematics

Research and Teaching Interests

Stochastic Equilibrium Problems, Nonsmooth, nonconvex optimization



Ir Prof. CHENG T.C. Edwin *ScD, PhD, MSc, BSc[Eng](Hons), IASCYS Academician, FHKEng*
Dean, Faculty of Business
Fung Yiu King – Wing Hang Bank Professor in Business Administration
Chair Professor of Management

Research and Teaching Interests

E-business and E-commerce, Information Systems Management, Innovation and Technology Management, Operations Management, Quality Management, Scheduling Science, Supply Chain Management



Dr CHENG Zhuo June *BE, PhD*
Associate Professor
School of Accounting and Finance

Research and Teaching Interests
Information Systems

Dr CHO Vincent *BSc, MSc, PhD*
Senior Lecturer
Department of Management and Marketing

Research and Teaching Interests

Textual Mining, Technology Adoption, Information Systems Management





Dr FENG Katherine *BS, MS, PhD*

Assistant Dean (External Relations), Faculty of Business
Assistant Professor, Department of Management and Marketing

Research and Teaching Interests

Social Media and User-Generated Content, Digital Marketing, Generative AI, Business Analytics, IT Innovation and Implementation

Prof. JIANG Li *BSc, MBA, PhD*

Professor of Practice (Finance)
School of Accounting and Finance

Research and Teaching Interests

Corporate Finance, Capital Markets and Investments, Behavioral Finance



Prof. JIANG Li *PhD*

Professor
Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies

Research and Teaching Interests

Data-driven Operations, Information Sharing, Credence Goods Market, Consumer Search, Behavioral Operations, Sharing Economy Platform

Dr JIANG Liangliang *PhD*

Associate Professor
School of Accounting and Finance

Research and Teaching Interests

Banking and Financial Institutions, Corporate Finance, Accounting and Auditing, in Corporate Governance, Economics of Regulation and Corruption



Dr JIN Yong Jimmy *BSc (Hons), MPhil (CUHK), PhD (U Florida)*
Assistant Dean (Fund-raising and Development), Faculty of Business
Associate Professor, School of Accounting and Finance

Research and Teaching Interests

FinTech, AI and Blockchain applications in Finance, Technology Management, Digital Transformation, Economics of Information Systems, Innovation and Entrepreneurship



Prof. LI Qing *BEng(Hunan); MSc, PhD(USC); FIEEE; FIET/IEE; DMCCF*
Chair Professor of Data Science and Head
Department of Computing

Research and Teaching Interests

Multi-modal Data Management, Data Warehousing and Mining, Social Media and Web Services, e-Learning Technologies

Prof. LIM Kai *BS, MA, PhD*
DFinTech Programme Director
Chair Professor of Information Technology Innovation and Management,
Department of Management and Marketing
Yeung Kin Man Professor in Information Technology Innovation and Management

Research and Teaching Interests

e-Health, Cross-cultural Issues related to Information Systems Management, IT-enable Innovation, Digital Transformation, e-commerce, Social Media, Mobile Commerce, and Human-computer Interactions



Dr LIN Wanyu *BEng(HUST), MSc[PolyU(H.K.)], PhD(Toronto), MIEEE*
Assistant Professor
Department of Computing

Research and Teaching Interests

Machine Learning Algorithms for Graph-structured Data



Dr LIU Xintao *BEng, MSc, PhD*

Associate Professor

Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics

Research and Teaching Interests

GISci, Complex Network, Transportation Geography, Urban Computing, Geographic Information Systems, Geomatics Algorithms and Geodatabase, Infrastructure and Utility Management

Prof. LU Haitian *LLB, LLM, PhD*

Director, Mainland Development Office

Hong Kong Sustaintech Foundation Professor in Accounting and Finance

Professor, School of Accounting and Finance

Research and Teaching Interests

Corporate Disclosure and Governance, Entrepreneurial Finance and Fintech, Law and Economics



Dr LU Xingye *BEng [Southeast], PhD [PolyU(H.K.)]*

Research Assistant Professor

Department of Computing

Research and Teaching Interests

Applied Cryptography, Post-quantum Cryptography, Blockchain Security

Prof. LUO Xiapu Daniel *BSc, MSc(Wuhan), PhD[PolyU(H.K.)], SMIEEE*

Professor

Department of Computing

Research and Teaching Interests

Mobile/IoT/Vehicle Security, Blockchain/Smart Contract, Network Security and Privacy, Software Engineering





Prof. SHI W.Z. John *AIEAS, DNatSc, FHKIS, FRICS, FHKIES*
Otto Poon Charitable Foundation Professor in Urban Informatics
Chair Professor of Geographic Science and Remote Sensing
Director, PolyU-Shenzhen Technology and Innovation Research Institute (Futian)
Director, Smart Cities Research Institute
Director, Joint Research Laboratory on Spatial Information of PolyU and Wuhan University

Research and Teaching Interests

GISci, Remote Sensing and Urban Informatics, focusing on Analytics and Quality Control for Spatial Big Data, Object Extraction and Change Detection from Satellite Images and LiDAR Data, Integrated Indoor Mapping Technology, 3D and Dynamic GISci Modelling, Smart City Applications, Geographical Information Systems Concepts and Principles, Advanced Geographical Information Systems, Design and Development of Geographical Information Systems

Prof. SIN Charleston *MSc, PhD*
Professor of Practice
Department of Management and Marketing

Research and Teaching Interests
Technology Management



Prof. TAN Chee-wee *MPhil, PhD*
Professor
Department of Management and Marketing

Research and Teaching Interests
Management Information Systems



Prof. TONG Wilson *BSocSc, MIM, PhD*
Director, AMTD FinTech Centre of PolyU Faculty of Business
Professor of Practice (Finance)
School of Accounting and Finance

Research and Teaching Interests
Privatization, China Market, Asian Equity Markets, Return Anomalies



Dr WEI Steven *BSc, MSc, MA, PhD*
DFinTech Deputy Programme Director
Deputy Director, AMTD FinTech Centre of PolyU Faculty of Business
Senior Lecturer
School of Accounting and Finance

Research and Teaching Interests
Finance and Financial Services



Dr XIAO Guang *BSc, MSc, PhD*
Associate Professor
Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies

Research and Teaching Interests
Operations Management, Supply Chain Management, Integrated Risk Management,
Socially Responsible Operations

Prof. XU Xin *BEcon, MPhil, PhD*
Associate Dean (External Relations and Development), Faculty of Business
Professor, Department of Management and Marketing

Research and Teaching Interests
Internet of Things and Smart Services, Gamification, Data Science, Human-AI
Interaction, Strategic Management of Technology Innovation



Dr ZHAO Jing *PhD*
Assistant Professor
School of Accounting and Finance

Research and Teaching Interests
Behavioral Finance and Market Microstructure, Corporate Social Responsibility,
Digital Transformation and Fintech



PROGRAMME DETAILS

Objectives

This programme aims to educate top executives and business entrepreneurs who are interested in understanding the FinTech impacts on various industries. It has been designed to integrate academic study and management practice in a way which will form a significant part of an individual's business career.

On completion of the programme, students will be able to advance their knowledge, skills and intellectual abilities as defined in the broad learning outcomes which are underpinned by specific learning objectives below:

i. General Business Knowledge

Learning Objective: acquire a solid understanding of the impacts of digital transformation and technological innovations on the business world today with ethical implications.

ii. Specialist Knowledge

Learning Objective: acquire an in-depth knowledge of digital technologies in the financial industry.

iii. Applied Research

Learning Objective: acquire the ability to conduct original applied research in tech-related business areas.

Mode and Duration

PolyU DFinTech is a part-time, credit-based programme.

The normal duration is 3 years. Students who wish to extend their studies beyond normal duration should submit an application via eStudent to the Faculty of Business for consideration.

There is an exit award of Master of Science in Management Research Studies for students who have completed 24 credits of coursework, 3 credits of the two compulsory Residentials and 8 credits of Thesis I (35 credits in total).

Medium of Instruction

English

Programme Structure

Students are required to complete 51 credits including:

- 24 credits of coursework: 3 compulsory and 5 elective subjects (3 credits each)
- 3 credits of Residentials: Residential 1 (1 credit) and Residential 2 (2 credits)
- 24 credits of Thesis: Thesis I (8 credits) and Thesis II (16 credits)

All taught subjects (3 credits each) are at an advanced level, and students are assumed to have prior knowledge of each subject area. The normal duration for the DFinTech Thesis is 18 months. The 2 DFinTech Residentials are offered when the programme commences and the DFinTech Thesis phase starts respectively.

Coursework (24 credits)

Compulsory Subjects provide students with a solid foundation in research skills.

- Research and Design for Thesis
- Applied Business Research Method I
- Applied Business Research Method II

Elective Subjects allow students to pursue particular areas of interest. There is generally more emphasis on academic readings to prepare students for the DFinTech Thesis. Students are required to complete any five of the following:

Taught Subjects

- Economics of FinTech
- Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence
- Cryptography and Blockchain
- Digital Supply Chain Management
- Smart City and Urban Informatics
- Management and Marketing in the Digital World

Non-Taught Subjects

- Independent Studies in FinTech
- Overseas Executive Programmes

Remarks:

1. *Independent Studies in FinTech* is only offered to students who are unable to follow the normal pattern of study of this programme due to exceptional circumstances such as illness or posting to work outside Hong Kong. They can enrol in this subject in a specified semester.
2. Subject to factors such as staff availability, student enrolment, programme resources and so on, not all subjects will be offered. And, registration is subject to the availability of quota.
3. Programme structure and the subject details (e.g. subject description form, offering pattern, class timetable etc.) are subject to review and change from time to time.

Residentials (3 credits)

There are 2 Residentials which are compulsory to all students:

DFinTech Residential 1 is an orientation workshop scheduled for the beginning of the Programme.

DFinTech Residential 2 is a research workshop held normally after students have completed all the required subjects, which gives students an opportunity to present their thesis proposals and to prepare them for writing the theses.

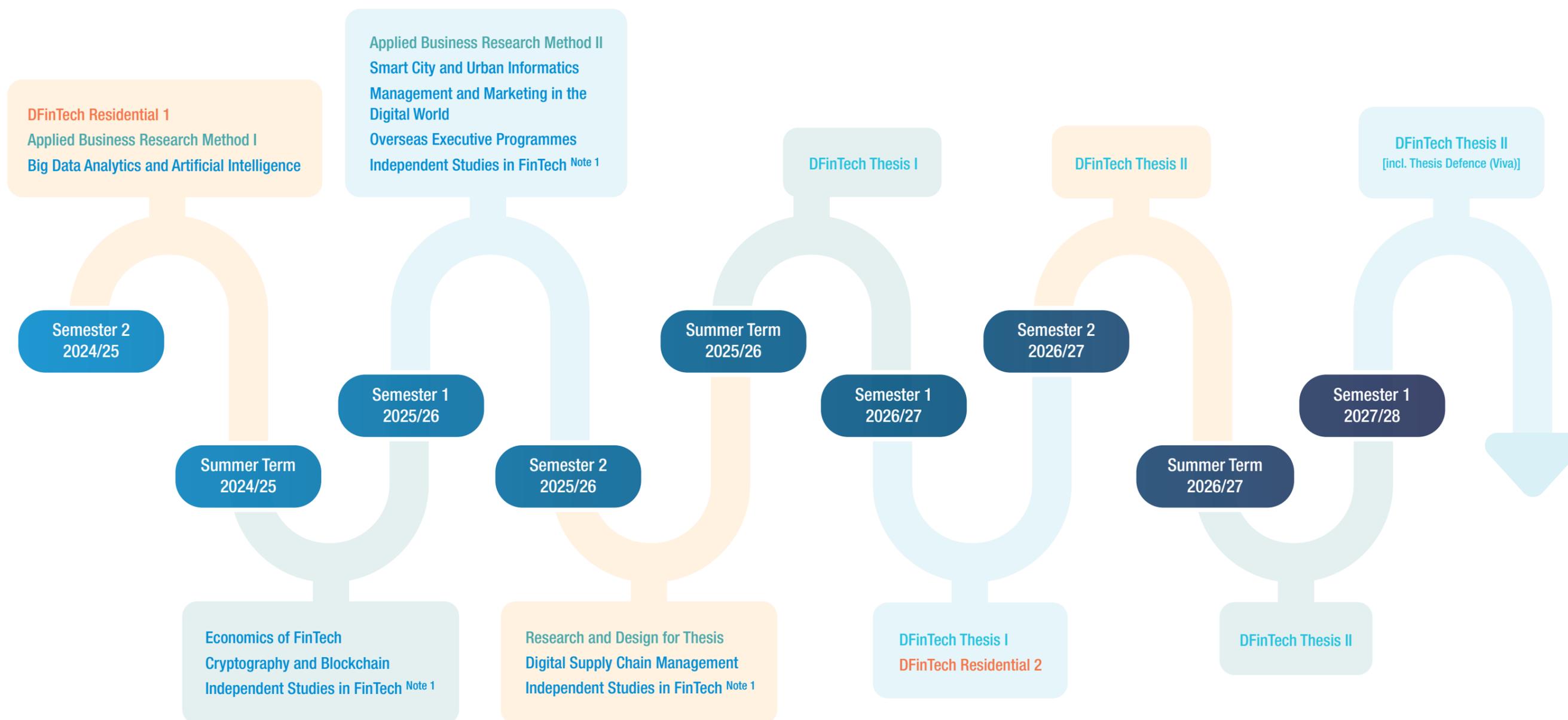
DFinTech Thesis (24 credits)

The DFinTech Thesis comprises two parts: **DFinTech Thesis I** and **DFinTech Thesis II**. Students must pass 3 compulsory subjects, and at least 3 elective subjects before eligible to register for the DFinTech Thesis. They integrate and apply what they have learned to critically and rigorously examine topics of interest in the field of FinTech. They are challenged to make an important contribution and/or provide innovative insights into the practice of management.

THREE-YEAR STUDY TIMELINE

3 Compulsory Subjects + 5 Elective Subjects (any 5 subjects) + 2 DFinTech Residentials + a DFinTech Thesis

For subject details, please refer to the DFinTech website (www.polyu.edu.hk/fb/study/tpg-landing/tpg/dfintech/programme/#structure) for updates.



Note 1:
Independent Studies in FinTech is only offered to students who are unable to follow the normal pattern of study of this programme due to exceptional circumstances such as illness or posting to work outside Hong Kong. They can enrol in this subject in a particular semester.

Note 2:
All subject details (e.g. subject description form, offering pattern, class timetable etc.) are subject to continuous review and change from time to time. Subject to factors such as staff availability, student enrolment, programme resources and so on, not all subjects will be offered. And, registration is subject to the availability of quota.

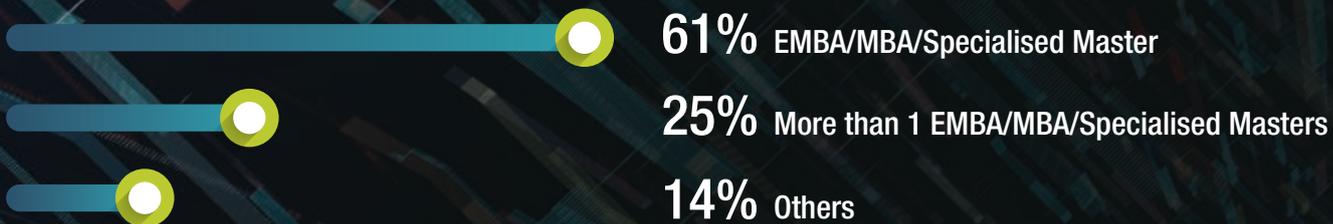
STUDENTS & GRADUATES

Student Profile

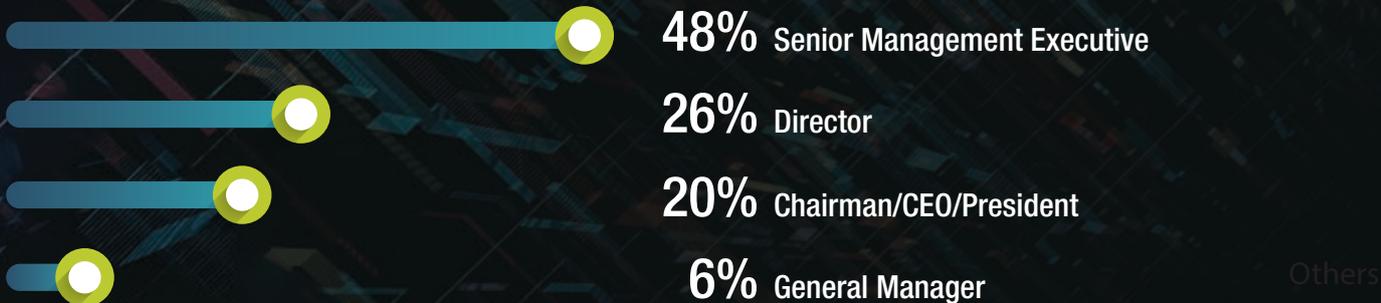
Average work experience **14** years

Gender **82%** Male **18%** Female

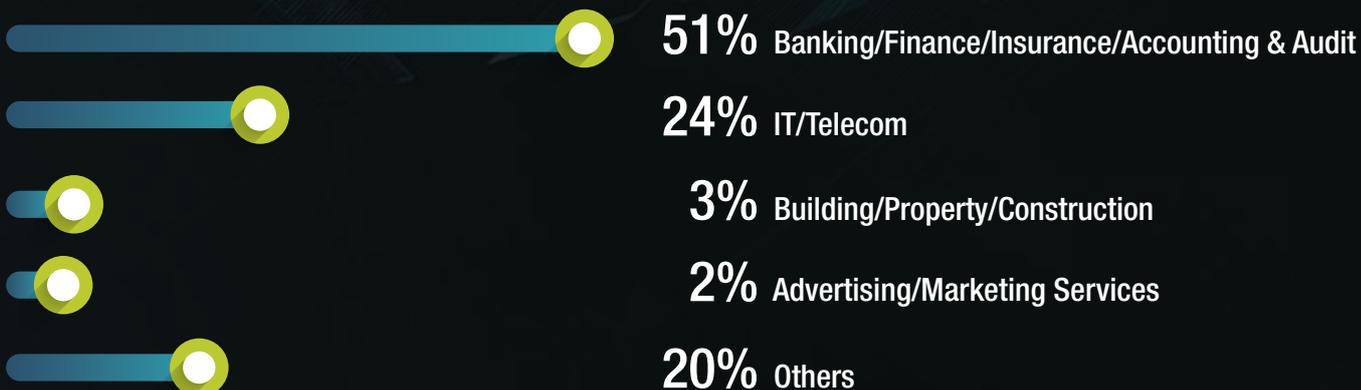
Education Background



Job Post



Industry



Messages from Students



As an entrepreneur, the PolyU DFinTech validates the strategic direction of our business. The exposure to both professors and fellow learning partners enriches the experience, providing me with a global perspective of both the finance and technology worlds. The networking among learning partners is unique, as the programme's diversity allows for an enriched, real-life learning experience. The programme management team is also hands-on in taking care of us – ensuring a worthwhile and enjoyable educational journey.

As an international student, this programme stands out among the many programmes available worldwide. Each and every experience in the PolyU DFinTech is a gem worth keeping for a lifetime.



BALUYOT Laarni Samartino *BSc Mgt, MBM, EdD*
Chief Finance Officer, **Spiderhook Capital, Inc.**
Treasurer, **United Philippine Lines, Inc. / Belchem Philippines, Inc.**
President, **Olive Branch Applied Business Sciences, Inc.**



PolyU has the best doctoral programme in fintech, combining technology and finance. The diverse knowledge of my learning partners sparked fresh innovation ideas. The residential programme in Malaysia was an enriching experience, with well-organised learning activities.



FAN Bin *MBA*
Vice President / Executive Partner
IBM Consulting China

“

For practitioners like me with a technology background, the PolyU DFinTech has given me a deeper understanding of the financial industry. It's helped me to better use AI, blockchain, and big data to empower the financial industry. Especially during the current wave of digital transformation, FinTech ideas and technologies can also be extended to other industries and drive business change.

”

HUANG Zhangcheng, William *BEng, MSc*

Senior Manager

Ping An Technology



“

The PolyU DFinTech not only focuses on financial technology, but also covers other business technology practices. As a candidate with a non-financial professional background, the programme has broadened my knowledge of business and management technologies, such as block chain applications; given me new perspectives on macro and micro global supply chains; and given me the technical know how to conduct qualitative research. By merging academic study, research skills and practical knowledge, it's given me another way to expand my business and leadership expertise.

”



Ir LEE Kin Ho, Henry *BEng(Hons), EMBA, CEng, IntPE(UK), MHKIE, MIMechE, MIET*

General Manager

VTech Communications Limited

“

The PolyU DFinTech has been a highly rewarding learning experience for me. The cross-disciplinary programme has introduced me to how FinTech is reshaping the financial services landscape, taught me how to apply findings and insights across different industries and organisations, and given me access to experts on key topics such as big data analytics, AI, blockchain, smart city and digital supply chain management.

”

WEI, Lucy *BA(Economics)*

Manager

Prudential plc



Messages from Alumni



The PolyU DFinTech is inspiring in every aspect and arouses enthusiasm in each lecture. The professors are subject matter experts in their fields and the interactive questions motivate learning. There is exceptional knowledge sharing among classmates from diverse backgrounds and professions. The conclusive research thesis highlights the integration of academic knowledge into innovative business practices.



TO Kai Man, Clarence *EMBA, B.Comp Sci, B. Bus.Admin*
Senior Asia Pacific Risk Program Manager
HSBC



The PolyU DFinTech has equipped me with a multi-disciplinary mindset of approaching problems from different perspectives. I've learned not only how to use digital technologies and other cutting-edge technologies relating to artificial intelligence, big data, blockchain, digital supply chain management, smart cities technologies, digital marketing etc., but also how to integrate knowledge with my business practices to enhance strategic management and leadership.



WONG Man Wa, Raymond *LLB.,PCLL, MSc(Real Estate)(distinction), solicitor*
Senior General Manager, Sales Department
Henderson Land Development Company Limited

ADMISSION

Entrance Requirements

- A Master's degree, preferably in a business-related or IT-related area; and
- Substantial managerial experience (at least 5 years) at a senior management level;
- Candidates in senior management or senior IT-related positions possessing a recognized first degree and membership of a recognized professional body may also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

If the applicants are not a native speaker of English, and do not possess a Bachelor's or Master's degree or equivalent qualification which is awarded by institutions where the medium of instruction is English, they are expected to fulfil the following University's minimum English language requirement for admission purpose. Please refer to the "Admissions Requirements" section for Taught Postgraduate Programmes at Study@PolyU for details.

Candidates are required to submit the following documents at the time of application:

- A proposal in the FinTech area (1,200 -2,000 words)
- Proof of employment (at least 5 years)
- Your academic qualifications (such as graduation certificates, transcripts of studies, etc.) that are not in English should be accompanied by an official certified English-translation

Provision of additional documents may be required if deemed necessary.

An incomplete application cannot be processed promptly and will reduce your chance of admission. Please complete all relevant fields on the application form and enclose all necessary documents.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews.

Fees and Payment Schedule

Fee for the entire programme for 2024/25 intake: HK\$943,500 (51 credits)

Fee for 8 taught subjects	HK\$444,000 (24 credits)
Fee for DFinTech Thesis I and II	HK\$444,000 (24 credits)
Fee for 2 DFinTech Residentials	HK\$55,500 (1 credit for DFinTech Residential 1 and 2 credits for DFinTech Residential 2)

Initial Payment

Fees for 1 taught subject (HK\$55,500) and DFinTech Residential 1 (HK\$18,500) are payable upon acceptance of offer.

Interim Payments

Fees for the remaining taught subjects are payable on a credit basis (HK\$18,500 per credit). Amount payable depends on the number of subjects taken in that semester.

Fees for the 8-credit DFinTech Thesis I (HK\$148,000) and DFinTech Residential 2 (HK\$37,000) are payable upon the registration for DFinTech Thesis I.

Final Payment

Fee for the 16-credit DFinTech Thesis II (HK\$296,000) is payable upon registration for DFinTech Thesis II.

ENQUIRIES

For academic matters

Prof. Kai Lim
Programme Director
📞 (852) 2766 7383
✉️ kai.lim@polyu.edu.hk

For other information

📞 (852) 3400 3234 / (852) 3400 3373
📞 (852) 2365 7415
✉️ fbdfit@polyu.edu.hk
🌐 www.polyu.edu.hk/fb/dfintech



Online application: www.polyu.edu.hk/admission

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THE HONG KONG
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
香港理工大學



PolyU 理大商學院
Business School
Innovation-driven Education and Scholarship