THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
香港理工大學

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

DBM

Taught in English ◆ Offered in Hong Kong

Doctor of Business Management

2026-2027

AACSB ACCREDITED

EQUIS ACCREDITED

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WHY **POLYU**

- Providing application-oriented education since 1937
- Collaborating with over 280 institutions
- Offering over 170 programmes
- Working on over 4,500 research projects

International Rankings

#03 QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025 (Hong Kong)

#03 Times Higher Education (THE) World's Most International Universities 2025

#07 Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Rankings 2024

#17 QS Asia University Rankings 2025

WHY POLYU **BUSINESS SCHOOL**

- A comprehensive portfolio of academic programmes
- Over 200 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 over 55,000 alumni

Accreditations

AACSB ACCREDITED

EQUIS ACCREDITED

International Rankings

#02 Clarivate Web of Science 2022-2024: Shipping Research

#04 Research.com Best Business & Management Universities 2025

#25 The U.S. News Best Global Universities for Economics and Business 2025

#35 UTD (University of Texas at Dallas) Top 100 Worldwide Business School Rankings based on Research Contributions 2020-2024

#37 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2025: Business & Economics

#46 QS World University Rankings 2025: Business & Management Studies

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Faculty of Business of PolyU.

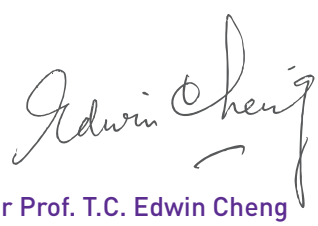
The Faculty of Business, known as PolyU Business School (PBS), is a world-class business school that offers top-quality academic programmes and spearheads cutting-edge research in business and related disciplines. We take pride in our accreditations from AACSB International (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) and EQUIS (EFMD Quality Improvement System).

Dedicated to the pursuit of *Innovation-driven Education and Scholarship (IDEAS)*, PBS collaborates with stakeholders to create a positive societal impact sustainably, with a focus on Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area. Through our educational programmes, partnerships, and close connections with industry and the professional community, we aim to share knowledge and technology with the wider community.

Our comprehensive portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, many of which are endorsed by professional bodies, encompass key areas such as accounting, aviation, business artificial intelligence, ESG, finance, logistics, management, maritime, marketing, shipping, and transport. Alongside the BBA, MBA, DBA, DBAI, DBM, DFinTech, DMgt, and specialised master's degrees, our research programmes also lead to the MPhil and PhD qualifications.

To maintain currency of our academic programmes and specialist consultancy services, our faculty members conduct pioneering and impactful research within and across their disciplines, supported by our Case Consortium and centres for branding and marketing, digital transformation, economic sustainability and entrepreneurial finance, financial technology, leadership and innovation, maritime data and sustainable development, and shipping and logistics. Our research has been ranked 35th globally in *The UTD Top 100 Worldwide Business School Rankings based on Research Contributions 2020-2024*.

We invite you to become part of our community of over 200 esteemed scholars from around the world, 5,300 students, and 55,000 alumni.



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

Welcome to the Doctor of Business Management (DBM) programme at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University — a forward-looking doctoral degree designed for young professionals eager to advance their academic journey and shape the future of business through scientific inquiry and innovation.

The DBM is uniquely tailored for **junior professionals** who have recently completed a master's degree and are ready to pursue doctoral-level study before fully entering or advancing in their careers. This early-entry pathway offers a rare opportunity to build deep expertise in business research and leadership, positioning graduates to become "scientific business leaders" from the outset.

Our curriculum is grounded in **applied research and innovation**, equipping students with the analytical tools and methodological rigour to address complex business issues. With a strong emphasis on real-world relevance, the DBM prepares students to contribute meaningfully to tackling contemporary business and management challenges through evidence-based decision-making.

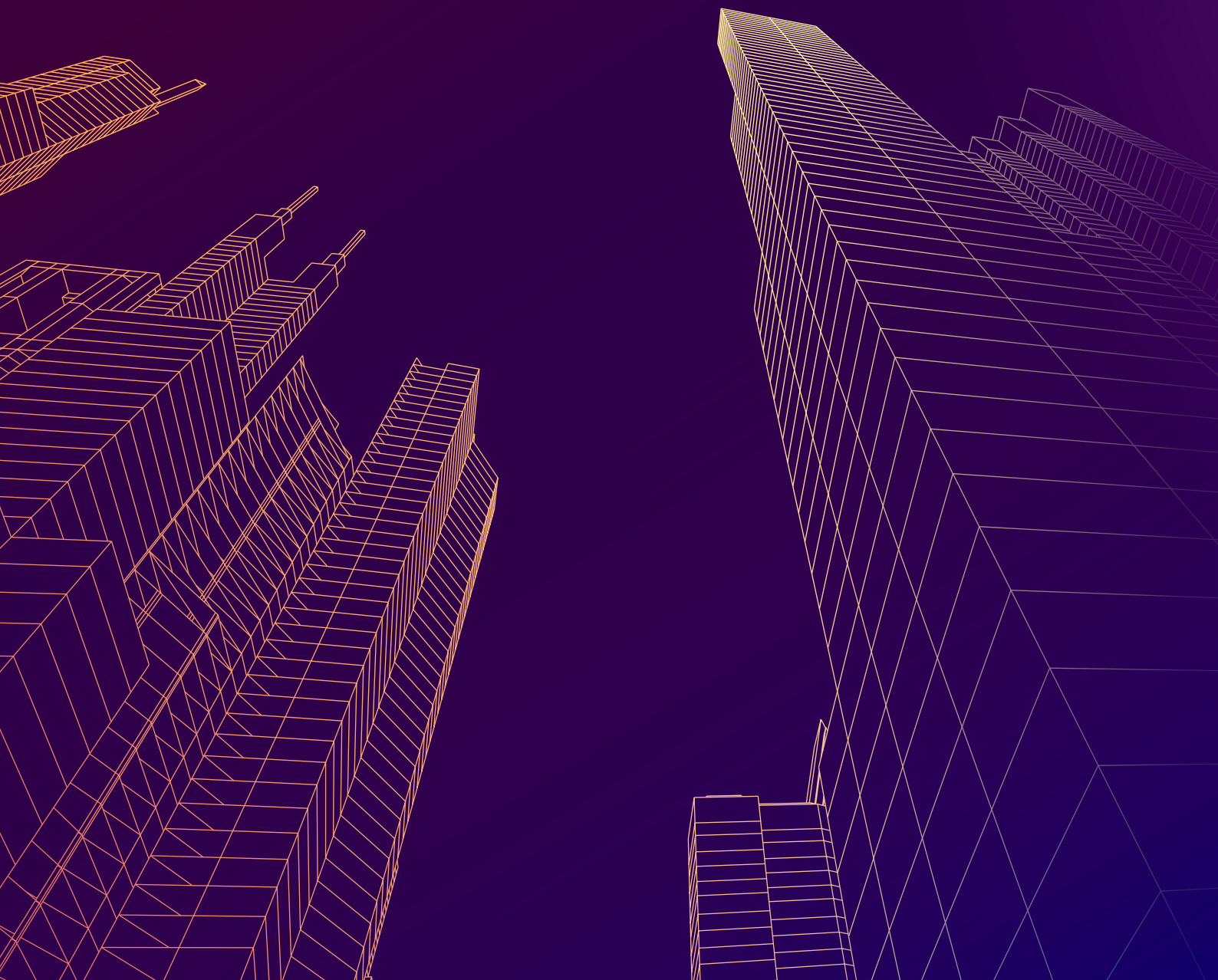
The DBM also offers a rich **international perspective**. Our strategic collaborations with globally renowned institutions such as the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) in Switzerland and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in London, UK, contribute to the academic rigour of the programme and help develop cross-cultural fluency and leadership capability.

Whether you choose the **full-time or part-time** study mode, you will join a growing community of over 600 alumni and current participants — a network of ambitious professionals committed to excellence in business research and practice. I invite you to embark on this transformative academic journey and become part of a new generation of leaders shaping the future of business management.

Prof. Katherine Feng
DBM Programme Director
Assistant Dean (External Relations), Faculty of Business
Associate Professor, Department of Management and Marketing

WHY
POLYU DBM

- Earn a professional doctorate immediately after completing a master's degree, before embarking on your chosen career path
- Become a young "scholar-leader" who can apply scientific approaches and business domain knowledge to tackle real-world business and management challenges
- Choose your preferred study mode: 2 years full-time or 3 years part-time
- Become part of an elite network of over 600 alumni and students



INTERNATIONAL **COLLABORATIONS**

To enhance the international perspective and academic vigour of the programme, collaborations have been established with the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) in Switzerland and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in London, UK.

IMD
REAL WORLD. REAL LEARNING

IMD was ranked in the top 10 for both open and custom programmes worldwide in the 2024 Financial Times Executive Education ranking.

LSE Executive Education Courses

LSE was ranked third in Europe and sixth in the world in social sciences and management subjects in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025.

PROGRAMME DETAILS

Objectives

The programme aims to educate junior professionals eager to advance their academic journey before establishing their careers as "scientific business leaders" within the industry. The programme will specifically equip students with solid scientific skills and business domain knowledge, enabling them to conduct applied research across various business disciplines, solve real-world business and management problems, drive innovation, and establish themselves as "scientific business leaders" in their fields.

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. *Applied Research and Innovation*
   Learning Objective: Sharpen students' ability to conduct applied research and innovation by critically applying knowledge and scientific skills within their academic discipline and formulating sophisticated solutions as critical thinkers.

ii. *General Business Domain Knowledge*
   Learning Objective: Broaden, update, and deepen students' understanding of fundamental business domain knowledge, cultivating a forward-thinking mindset that embraces artificial intelligence as a transformative force.

iii. *Socially Responsible and Resilient Leaders*
   Learning Objective: Develop socially responsible and ethically aware future scientific business leaders within a lifelong learning environment.

Mode & Duration

PolyU DBM is a mixed-mode programme. Students may pursue their DBM studies with either a full-time study load (taking 9 credits or more in a semester) or a part-time study load (normally taking less than 9 credits in a semester).

The normal duration for DBM full-time study option is 2 years and 3 years for DBM part-time study option. Students who wish to extend their studies beyond the normal duration should submit an application to the Faculty of Business for consideration.

Students are required to complete 52 credits including 25 credits of Coursework, 2 DBM Residentials (1 credit for Residential 1 and 2 credits for Residential 2) and a DBM Thesis (8 credits for Thesis I and 16 credits for Thesis II).

There is a possible exit award of Master of Science in Management Research Studies (MSc in MRS) for students who have completed 25 credits of Coursework Subjects, 3 credits of two compulsory Residentials, and passed the 8 credits of Thesis I (thesis proposal presentation) (a total of 36 credits).

Medium of Instruction

English

Structure

To be eligible for the Doctor of Business Management award, students are required to meet all requirements of the University and the programme. The programme requirement is as follows:

- 25 credits of Coursework:
  - Academic Integrity and Ethics in Business (1 credit)
  - 1 Compulsory Subject (3 credits) and 6 Compulsory Subjects (1 credit each) on "Frontier Research" Topics
  - 1 Core Subject (3 credits)
  - 4 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 are at an advanced level, and students are assumed to have prior knowledge of each subject area.

The normal duration for the DBM Thesis is 12 months for full-time students and 18 months for part-time students. The two DBM Residentials include one scheduled at the start of the programme and the other at the beginning of the DBM Thesis phase for respective full-time and part-time students.

In addition, the curriculum includes technological content such as data analytics tools, digital technology in the business world, the impact of technology and AI on leadership, and qualitative and experimental designs related to AI and entrepreneurship research.

Coursework (25 credits)

Academic Integrity and Ethics (1 credit)

- Academic Integrity and Ethics in Business

Compulsory Subject (3 credits)

- Introduction to Business Research

Compulsory Subjects on "Frontier Research" Topics (1 credit each)

- Frontiers in Accounting Research
- Frontiers in Finance Research
- Frontiers in Supply Chain and Operations Management Research
- Frontiers in Information Systems Research
- Frontiers in Management Research
- Frontiers in Marketing Research

Core Subjects (3 credits each) (choose 1 out of 2)

- Econometrics Methods
- Experiment, Survey, and Qualitative Research Methodology

Elective Subjects (3 credits each) (choose 4 out of 10)

Taught Subjects

- Advanced Machine Learning in Business
- Asset Pricing and Investment
- Data Science and Business Analytics
- Digital Transformation and AI in Business
- Incentives and Monitoring in Accounting
- Strategic Management and Organizational Behaviour
- Strategic Marketing and Consumer Behaviour
- Strategic Supply Chain and Logistics Management

Non-Taught Subjects

- Independent Studies in Business Management
- International Collaborations Experience

Residentials (3 credits)

There are two residential workshops which are compulsory to all students:

DBM Residential 1 is a mandatory orientation workshop; it is normally scheduled for the beginning of the programme.

DBM Residential 2 is a research workshop, normally held after students have completed all of the required subjects. The main purpose of the workshop is to enable students to present their thesis proposals and prepare them for writing the theses.

DBM Residential 1, 2025
Students and Professors

DBM Thesis (24 credits)

The DBM Thesis comprises two parts: DBM Thesis I and DBM Thesis II. Students must pass the Compulsory Subject "Introduction to Business Research", 3 Compulsory Subjects on "Frontier Research" Topics, 1 Core Subject, and at least 3 Taught Elective Subjects before beginning their theses. They need to integrate and apply what they have learned to critically and rigorously examine a topic of interest in the field of business management. They are challenged to make an important contribution and/or provide innovative insights.

Remarks:

1. *Please note that Independent Studies in Business Management and International Collaborations Experience are non-taught elective subjects.*
2. *Independent Studies in Business Management 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.*
3. *Subject to factors such as staff availability, student enrolment, programme resources and so on, not all subjects will be offered during the normal duration of study. And, registration is subject to the availability of quota.*
4. *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.*

Class Schedule

Most classes are scheduled on weekends, subject to the final arrangement of the programme.

STUDY **TIMELINE**

1 Academic Integrity and Ethics in Business + 1 Compulsory Subject (Introduction to Business Research) + 6 Compulsory Subjects ("Frontier Research" Topic Subjects) + 1 Core Subject (any 1 subject) + 4 Elective Subjects (any 4 subjects) + 2 DBM Residentials + a DBM Thesis

Full-time Study Option

YEAR 1 — **YEAR 2**

DBM Residential 1 2025

Semester 1 Sep - Dec 2026

- DBM Residential 1
- Academic Integrity and Ethics in Business
- Introduction to Business Research
- Frontiers in Accounting Research
- Frontiers in Finance Research
- Frontiers in Supply Chain and Operations Management Research
- Frontiers in Information Systems Research
- Frontiers in Management Research
- Frontiers in Marketing Research

Semester 2 Jan - Apr 2027

- Econometrics Methods
- Experiment, Survey, and Qualitative Research Methodology
- Incentives and Monitoring in Accounting
- Strategic Supply Chain and Logistics Management
- Strategic Management and Organizational Behaviour
- Asset Pricing and Investment
- Strategic Marketing and Consumer Behaviour
- Digital Transformation and AI in Business
- Independent Studies in Business Management [Note]

Summer Term May - Aug 2027

- Advanced Machine Learning in Business
- Data Science and Business Analytics
- International Collaborations Experience
- Independent Studies in Business Management [Note]

Semester 1 Sep - Dec 2027

- DBM Residential 2
- DBM Thesis I

Semester 2 Jan - Apr 2028

- DBM Thesis II

Summer Term May - Aug 2028

- DBM Thesis II [Incl. Thesis Defence (viva)]

Note: "Independent Studies in Business Management" is offered to students only under the following exceptional circumstance:
- If students are unable to follow the normal pattern of study of this programme due to exceptional situations such as illness or posting to work outside Hong Kong, they can enrol in this elective subject in a particular semester.

STUDY **TIMELINE**

1 Academic Integrity and Ethics in Business + 1 Compulsory Subject (Introduction to Business Research) + 6 Compulsory Subjects ("Frontier Research" Topic Subjects) + 1 Core Subject (any 1 subject) + 4 Elective Subjects (any 4 subjects) + 2 DBM Residentials + a DBM Thesis

Part-time Study Option

YEAR 1 | **YEAR 2** | **YEAR 3**

DBM Residential 1 2025

Semester 1 Sep - Dec 2026

DBM Residential 1
Academic Integrity and Ethics in Business
Introduction to Business Research
Frontiers in Accounting Research
Frontiers in Finance Research
Frontiers in Supply Chain and Operations Management Research
Frontiers in Information Systems Research
Frontiers in Management Research
Frontiers in Marketing Research

Semester 2 Jan - Apr 2027

Econometrics Methods
Experiment, Survey, and Qualitative Research Methodology
Incentives and Monitoring in Accounting
Strategic Supply Chain and Logistics Management
Strategic Management and Organizational Behaviour
Asset Pricing and Investment
Strategic Marketing and Consumer Behaviour
Digital Transformation and AI in Business
Independent Studies in Business Management [Note]

Summer Term May - Aug 2027

Advanced Machine Learning in Business
Data Science and Business Analytics
International Collaborations Experience
Independent Studies in Business Management [Note]

Semester 1 Sep - Dec 2027

Introduction to Business Research
Frontiers in Accounting Research
Frontiers in Finance Research
Frontiers in Supply Chain and Operations Management Research
Frontiers in Information Systems Research
Frontiers in Management Research
Frontiers in Marketing Research
Independent Studies in Business Management [Note]

Semester 2 Jan - Apr 2028

DBM Residential 2
DBM Thesis I

Summer Term May - Aug 2028

DBM Thesis I

Semester 1 Sep - Dec 2028

DBM Thesis II

Semester 2 Jan - Apr 2029

DBM Thesis II

Summer Term May - Aug 2029

DBM Thesis II
[Incl. Thesis Defence (viva)]

Note: "Independent Studies in Business Management" is offered to students only under the following exceptional circumstance:
- If students are unable to follow the normal pattern of study of this programme due to exceptional situations such as illness or posting to work outside Hong Kong, they can enrol in this elective subject in a particular semester.

STUDENT PROFILE

Average work experience 4 years

Average age 28

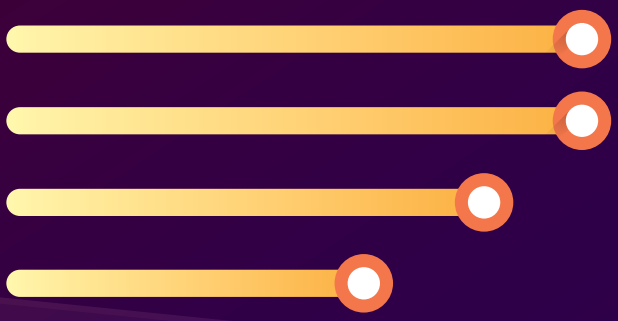
Gender 29% Male 71% Female

Nationality 18% Local 82% Non-local

Education Background

100% Specialised Master

Job post



29% Leadership

29% Administrative

24% Managerial

18% Specialist

Industry

28% Accounting/Banking/Finance/Insurance

18% Manufacturing

12% Education

12% Engineering/IT/Telecom

12% Property/Consturction

18% Others

ADMISSION

Entrance Requirements

- A Master's degree, preferably in a business-related area.
- Candidates with experience in start-up companies, entrepreneurship, a track record of innovation, or outstanding academic performance who possess a recognized first degree may also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

If you 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, you are expected to fulfil the University's minimum English language requirement for admission purposes. 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:

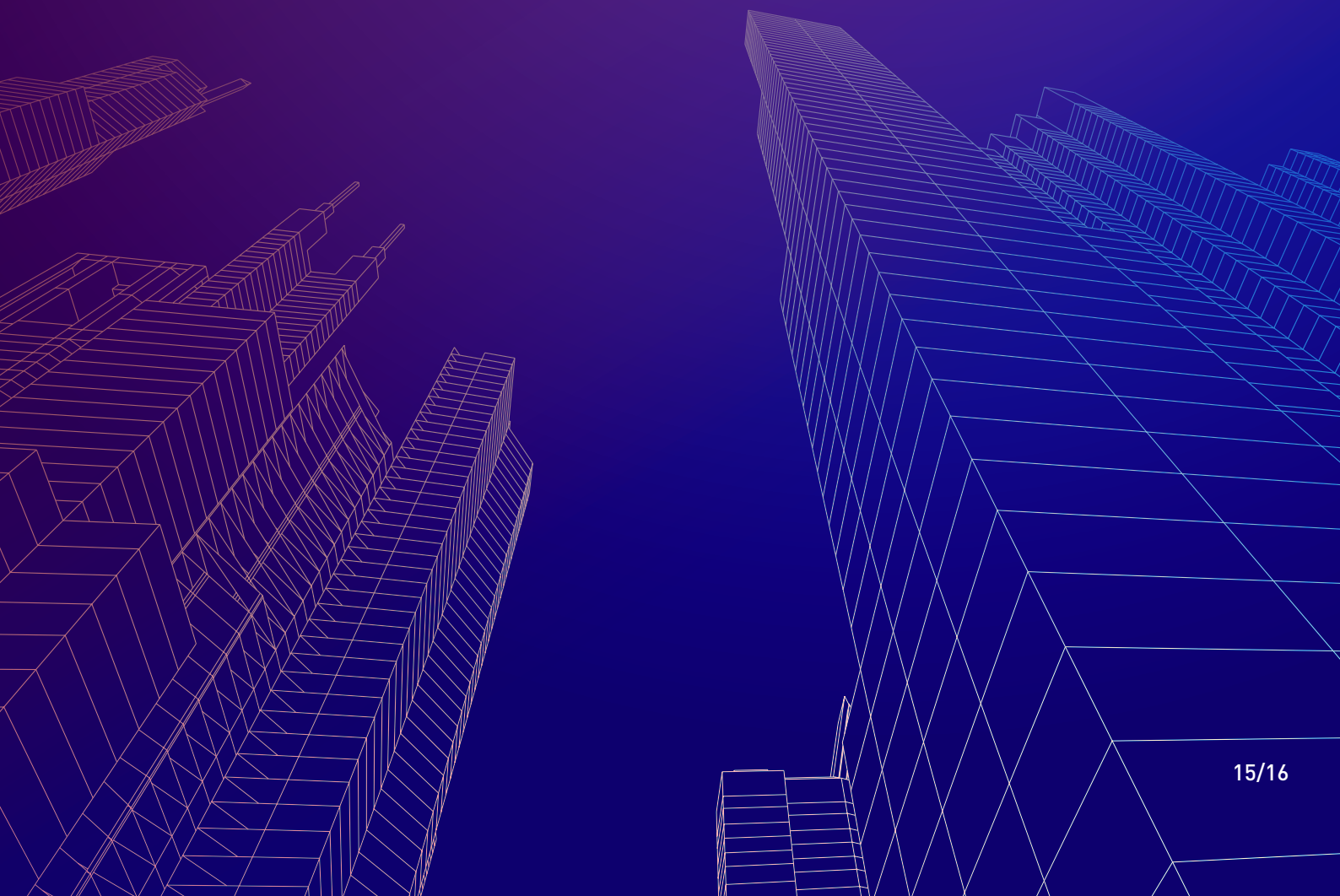
- Transcript and Certificate of academic qualification(s) (such as graduation certificates, transcripts of studies)^
- Curriculum vitae

^ Documents that are not in English should be accompanied by official certified English-translations.

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.



ADMISSION

Fees and Scholarships

Fees for the entire DBM programme for 2026/27 intake: HK$1,203,600 for local and non-local students.

Students taking the elective subject "International Collaborations Experience" pay the course fee directly to the offering institution and bear the costs of travel, accommodation, visa application, insurance, etc. The DBM programme does not charge a credit fee for taking the "International Collaborations Experience" subject.

Fees for 25 credits of Coursework Tuition fees will not be charged for the 1-credit "Academic Integrity and Ethics in Business"	HK$566,400
Fees for the DBM Thesis I and II (8 credits for DBM Thesis I and 16 credits for DBM Thesis II)	HK$566,400
Fees for 2 DBM Residentials (1 credit for DBM Residential 1 and 2 credits for DBM Residential 2)	HK$70,800

Scholarships

Post-entry Merit-based Scholarships are available for outstanding students.

PolyU reserves the right to change or withdraw the scholarship at any time. In case of dispute/disagreement, PolyU's decision is final.

ENQUIRIES

General Enquiries:

(852) 3400 3373 / (852) 2766 7889

fbdbm@polyu.edu.hk

www.polyu.edu.hk/fb/dbm

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

Academic Enquiries:

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