

WHERE LANGUAGE, COMMUNICATION, HISTORY, CULTURE, AND TECHNOLOGY CONVERGE

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

PhD Degree Programmes 2027/28

The Faculty of Humanities (FH) of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) is recognised as a leading tertiary education provider in Asia in the fields of English linguistics, language science, language technology, Chinese-English bilingual studies and translation, intercultural communication, professional communication, and cultural and historical studies of China. The Faculty also excels in areas such as AI in the humanities, computational linguistics, corpus linguistics, healthcare communication, language neuroscience, sociolinguistic studies, and speech therapy. We place emphasis on interdisciplinary research through collaborations with scholars around the world. The Faculty is dedicated to creating synergies among language, communication, history, culture, and technology in education and research, and focuses on the discovery, creation, and transfer of knowledge that shapes the future.

PolyU's Arts and Humanities is ranked 23rd in the world¹. Our Linguistics is ranked 45th globally². Our research not only advances knowledge but also contributes to the betterment of our community and the future of our world.



World Rankings

23 Arts and Humanities

US News and World Report's 2026-27
Best Global Universities for Arts and
Humanities

45 Linguistics

QS World University Rankings
by Subject 2026

¹ US News and World Report's 2026-27 Best Global Universities for Arts and Humanities

² Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings by Subject 2026

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Our Research Concentrations

Department of Chinese History and Culture (www.polyu.edu.hk/chc)

- Art History, Visual Culture, and Media Studies in Asia
- China's Cultural and Political Interactions with Other Parts of Asia
- Chinese Government and Society in Imperial China
- Chinese Literature and Cultural History
- Ethnic Relations in China
- Modern Chinese Intellectual and Political History
- Neo-Confucian Philosophy and Learning

Department of English and Communication (www.polyu.edu.hk/eng/)

- Language and Professional Communication
- Language Teaching and Learning
- English Language and (Applied) Linguistics
- Media and Communication
- Area Studies and Intercultural Communication

Department of Language Science and Technology (www.polyu.edu.hk/lst)

- Language, Cognition and Neuroscience
- Applied Linguistics and Multilingual Communication
- Language Technology and Computational Innovations

Division of Artificial Intelligence and the Humanities (www.polyu.edu.hk/aih)

- Computational Linguistics
- AI for Language Neuroscience
- Digital Humanities
- AI in Education and Communication
- AI Culture and Ethics



Normal Period Of Study

Full-time

36 months

(or 48 months for students admitted with a Bachelor's degree with First Class Honours)

Part-time

72 months

(or 96 months for students admitted with a Bachelor's degree with First Class Honours)



Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS)

Established by the Research Grants Council (RGC) of Hong Kong in 2009, the **Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS)** aims at attracting the best and brightest students in the world to pursue their full-time PhD studies in Hong Kong's universities.

Annual stipend

HK\$344,400
(approx. US\$44,154)

Tuition fee waiver

Waiving of tuition
fees through
Research Excellence
Scholarship

Annual conference grant

HK\$14,400
(approx. US\$1,846)
per year for the
normal study period

Cash award

HK\$40,000
(approx. US\$5,120)
for the first year
HK\$20,000
(approx. US\$2,560)
per year from the second
year to the end of the
normal study period

Accommodation

Guaranteed
accommodation for
2 years

Please visit <https://www.polyu.edu.hk/gs/hkpfs/> for details of the application procedures.



Applicants will concurrently be considered for regular places assigned to the University through the award of Postgraduate Studentships. Outstanding candidates will be nominated by PolyU to compete for the HKPFS. Once the applicants are nominated by PolyU as candidates for HKPFS, they are accepted as PhD students with an attractive package from:

- PolyU Presidential PhD Fellowship Scheme (PPFS); or
- International PhD Fellowship Scheme (IPFS).

For more information about the above fellowship/scholarship, please refer to <https://www.polyu.edu.hk/gs/prospective-students/fellowship-scholarship-schemes/>



The information is subject to revision.



Eligibility For PhD Admission

An applicant normally hold a **postgraduate degree** containing a significant research component, such as a dissertation, and a Bachelor's degree, conferred by a recognised university.

In exceptional circumstances, students with a **Bachelor's degree with First Class Honours**, or the equivalent, may be admitted directly to the PhD programme. Such applicants may be required to pass an examination.

English Language Requirements

Applicants who do not have a degree of which the language of instruction was English from a recognised university are normally required to obtain:

- An overall score of at least 6.5 in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic Module; or
- A Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 80 or above for the Internet-based test.

All English language test scores are considered valid for two years after the date of the test.

The thesis shall be presented in English. If another language, which is considered more appropriate to the subject, is to be used in the presentation of the thesis, permission will have to be sought at the point of admission.



Application Information

Please visit <https://www.polyu.edu.hk/study/pg/research-postgraduate> for details on PolyU's PhD degree research programmes.



If you are interested to study our PhD programmes via the **HKPFS**, please note the following deadlines:

1 September - 1 December 2026 (at 12 noon, Hong Kong time)	Submission of HKPFS applications (PolyU as 1 st choice) to the Research Grants Council (RGC) for allocation of a reference number
1 December 2026 (at 11:59 pm, Hong Kong time)	Deadline for submission of full applications through eAdmission system of PolyU, quoting HKPFS reference number