

Doctor of Health Science

Programme Code: 06001

The First Choice
Professional Doctoral Programme
for Health Care Professionals

Doctor of Health Science (DHSc)

醫療科學博士課程

1

PROGRAMME AIMS

- To prepare health care professionals for leadership roles in substantive specialised areas and who will contribute to the science and practice of health care through systematic inquiry and theory application

PROGRAMME CHARACTERISTICS

- Hong Kong's only professional doctorate with a primary **focus on health sciences and health services**
- **Synthesises and integrates knowledge from different health sciences** and other academic disciplines for professional application
- Designed to **accommodate** individual students' **research interests and career aspirations**
- Recognised as a terminal professional degree for the health care disciplines, with graduates able to **use the title “Dr”** before their names

PROGRAMME CHARACTERISTICS

- What is the difference between a professional doctorate and a PhD degree ?
- Professional doctorate programmes offer students an opportunity to broaden and deepen their knowledge by pursuing a qualification of direct relevance to their chosen profession, combining advanced courses of study and research in areas of professional significance and relevance.
- Generally speaking, PhD is the more traditional doctoral degree much welcomed by those who intend to focus on research and work in academia. The key part of the study focuses on the research part (more than half) too, though the taught component is assigned with larger proportion in recent decades.
- DHSc is much preferred by health professionals who are already working in the profession and aim to enhance their knowledge and skills, including the management, to aspire them to integrate their knowledge gained from the study and contribute to their work and the community. The research part contributes to half of the programme study.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

- A Master's degree in a health-related discipline, or equivalent;

AND

- At least 5 years of substantial professional health care experience

(Candidates possessing a recognised first degree in a health-related discipline with substantial professional experience may also be considered on a case-by-case basis.)

Note: Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a panel interview.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Host Department:

Faculty of Health and Social Sciences
(FHSS)

GENERAL INFORMATION

○ Contributing Departments:

FHSS

- Department of Applied Social Sciences (APSS)
- Department of Health Technology & Informatics (HTI)
- Department of Rehabilitation Sciences (RS)
- School of Nursing (SN)
- School of Optometry (SO)

Others

- Department of Applied Mathematics (AMA)
- Department of Biomedical Engineering (BME)
- Department of Logistics & Maritime Studies (LMS)

GENERAL INFORMATION

○ Mode of Attendance: Mixed-mode

○ Normal Duration:

- 3 years for full-time mode
- 4 years for part-time mode

(For students admitted from 2020/21, students should complete the programme within the normal duration of the programme unless prior approval has been obtained from relevant authorities.)

○ Total Credit Requirements for Graduation: 48

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Coursework
(24 Credits)



Thesis
(24 Credits)

- 8 doctoral subjects
(4 compulsory and
4 elective subjects)
- each requires
~210 hours of
student effort

- A Thesis
- Normal period to
complete:
4 semesters
(i.e. 2 years)
*(extension is possible
subject to approval)*

RECOMMENDED STUDY PLAN

(For reference only)

Full-time

	First Semester	Second Semester
First Year	4 Subjects	4 Subjects
Second Year	Thesis	Thesis
Third Year	Thesis	Thesis

Part-time

	First Semester	Second Semester
First Year	2 Subjects	2 Subjects
Second Year	2 Subjects	2 Subjects
Third Year	Thesis	Thesis
Fourth Year	Thesis	Thesis

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS (4) *(12 CREDITS)*

To complete 4 out of the following subjects:

- Advanced Quantitative Methods
- Evidence Based Practice
- Health Care Ethics
- Health Economics
- Health Systems: Management and Organisation
- Issues in Health Sociology

(If more than 4 subjects are taken, the extra subjects will be counted as electives.)

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS (4) (12 CREDITS)

(A) Generic

- Advanced Methods in Qualitative Health Care Research
- Advanced Statistics in Health Care Research
- Concept Analysis in Health Care
- Health and Social Policy Analysis
- Information Technology in Health Care
- Innovations in Learning and Teaching for Healthcare Education*
- Project Management
- Other Elective Options (*approved subjects by Programme Leader*)

**This subject can be taken as a generic subject or as a specialty subject for students who intend to pursue for the nursing specialism award.*

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS (4) (12 CREDITS)

(B) Specialty Subjects

(The list of subjects offered is subject to changes from time to time.)

For generic or any specialism

- Independent Study in a Substantive Specialty

For Medical Imaging and Radiation Science

- Bioinformatics in Health Sciences
- Multiplanar Anatomy
- Advanced Radiotherapy Planning and Dosimetry
- Advanced Technology and Clinical Application in Magnetic Resonance Imaging
- Digital Imaging and PACS
- Advanced Technology and Clinical Application in Nuclear Medicine Imaging
- Radiation Protection and Radiation Safety
- Radiation Therapy Physics
- Medical Imaging Physics
- Ethical Issues in Medicine and Research

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS (4) *(12 CREDITS)*

(B) Specialty Subjects

For Medical Laboratory Science

- Epidemiology
- Immunology
- Molecular Technology in the Clinical Laboratory
- Clinical Chemistry
- Haematology & Transfusion Science
- Histopathology & Cytology
- Medical Microbiology
- Clinical Applications of Molecular Diagnostics in Healthcare

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS (4) (12 CREDITS)

(B) Specialty Subjects

For Nursing

- Concepts of Advanced Nursing Practice
- Care of Older Persons with Cognitive Impairment
- Curriculum Development and Evaluation in Nursing
- Innovations in Learning and Teaching for Nursing Education

For Optometry

Students should take 'Independent Study in a Substantive Specialty'

For Prosthetics and Orthotics

- Clinical Biomechanics
- Rehabilitation Engineering
- Intellectual Property, Standards and Regulations of Medical Devices

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS (4) (12 CREDITS)

(B) Specialty Subjects

For Occupational Therapy

- Neuropsychological Rehabilitation
- Psychometric Theory & Practice
- Theories and Practice of Counseling for Rehabilitation and Health Professionals
- Advanced Studies in Applied Cognitive Neuroscience in Rehabilitation
- Advanced Study in Autism Spectrum Disorder*

**Students without the background of occupational therapy may also take this subject as a generic elective if they can fulfil the pre-requisite requirement.*

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS (4) (12 CREDITS)

(B) Specialty Subjects

For Physiotherapy

- Contemporary Issues in Exercise Science and Prescription
- Musculoskeletal Injury and Repair
- Diagnostic Procedures in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy
- Neuroscience Investigation
- Pain Management: A Multidimensional Approach*
- Advances in Congenital Pathophysiology and Pediatric Rehabilitation

**Students without the background of physiotherapy may also take this subject as a generic elective if they can fulfil the pre-requisite requirement.*

(Note: The above list of specialty subjects is subject to review and changes from time to time. Students may need to fulfil the pre-requisite requirements for certain subjects and the subject-host/Subject Leader concerned may decide whether individual students are suitable for taking the subjects.)

CREDIT TRANSFER

- According to the University regulations,
 - Students may be given credit for previous **doctoral level study** which have or have not already contributed to an award.
 - Students may be given credit for previous **master's level study** which have not already contributed to an award.
 - The validity period of subject credits earned is eight years from the year of attainment.
- The granting of credit transfer is a matter of academic judgment. The applications will be considered by the Subject Leaders concerned.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Grade Point Average (GPA) for the coursework ≥ 2.7
(i.e. a 'B-' grade on average for each subject)
- The degree of Doctor of Health Science (DHSc) will be awarded to successful candidates without classification or division

DOCTORAL THESIS *(24 CREDITS)*

- The thesis will comprise a single piece of work equivalent to 8 doctoral subjects.
- The thesis is expected to be a viable demonstration of the student's ability **to apply theoretical and practical knowledge to the solution of a significant problem.**
- The normal duration to complete the Thesis is 4 semesters with a possibility of extension, if needed.

GRADUATION WITH A SPECIALISM

Students can choose to graduate with the DHSc (generic award) or with one of the following specialisms:

- Medical Laboratory Science
- Medical Imaging and Radiation Science
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Optometry
- Physiotherapy
- Prosthetics and Orthotics

QUOTABLE QUALIFICATIONS

The following specialism awards are listed quotable qualifications under their respective Supplementary Medical Professions Boards:

- Medical Laboratory Science
- Medical Imaging and Radiation Science
- Occupational Therapy
- Optometry
- Physiotherapy

GRADUATION WITH A SPECIALISM

To be eligible for the specialism concerned, students should:

- Hold a Bachelor's degree or a Master's degree in a relevant discipline OR possess relevant professional qualification to fulfil the registration requirements of certain professions
- AND
- Complete a thesis related to that specialism PLUS a 3-credit specialty subject

(Students can decide whether they would like to go for the specialism during their DHSc study.)

TO APPLY

Please submit your application online via Study@PolyU:

<https://www38.polyu.edu.hk/eAdmission/index.jsf>

Documents required:

- Your academic transcripts and graduation certificates
- Your CV (2 to 4 pages) (including a list of your publications, if any)
- A personal statement consisting of 1 to 2 pages, including the reasons for applying to this programme
- A study plan listing the subjects to be taken at each semester and the proposed research area/topic(s) *[or to provide later before the interview]*

TO PREPARE FOR THE INTERVIEW

Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed in English by a Panel consisting of the Programme Leader (or his delegate) and the Specialism Coordinator concerned. Please prepare the following:

- **To introduce yourself** (e.g. your background)
- **Why you are interested** in taking this programme?
(e.g. how do you expect to benefit from it?
Why are you suitable for it?)
- **Your study plan**
(e.g. how long do you plan to complete the programme?
Do you have a tentative research topic for your thesis?)

PROGRAMME LEADER & SPECIALISM COORDINATOR

Programme Leader



Prof. Marco Pang

- Tel.: 2766 7156
- Email:
marco.pang@polyu.edu.hk

Specialism Coordinator (Optometry)



Dr Allen Cheong

- Tel.: 2766 6108
- Email:
allen.my.cheong@polyu.edu.hk

SPECIALISM COORDINATORS

Medical Laboratory Science



Dr Polly Leung

- Tel.: 3400 8570
- Email:
polly.hm.leung@polyu.edu.hk

Medical Imaging & Radiation Science



Dr Shara Lee

- Tel.: 3400 8592
- Email:
shara.lee@polyu.edu.hk

SPECIALISM COORDINATORS

Occupational Therapy



Dr Yvonne Han

- Tel.: 2766 7578
- Email:
yvonne.han@polyu.edu.hk

Physiotherapy



Dr Stanley Winser

- Tel.: 2766 6746
- Email:
stanley.j.winsler@polyu.edu.hk

SPECIALISM COORDINATORS

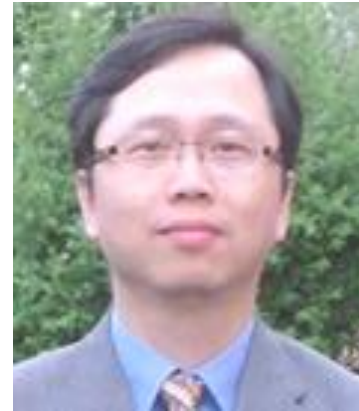
Nursing



Prof. Alice Loke

- Tel.: 2766 6386
- Email:
alice.yuen.loke@polyu.edu.hk

Prosthetics & Orthotics



Dr M.S. Wong

- Tel.: 2766 7680
- Email:
m.s.wong@polyu.edu.hk

ENQUIRIES

DHSc Email: fhss.dhsc@polyu.edu.hk

Programme Secretaries:

Ms Cindy Yu

- Tel.: 2766 7774
- Email: cindy.sy.yu@polyu.edu.hk

Ms Stepheny Wong

- Tel.: 3400 3994
- Email: stepheny.wong@polyu.edu.hk

DHSc Website:

<https://www.polyu.edu.hk/fhss/study/postgraduate/dhsc/>



Thank you!