

To : All New Research Postgraduate (RPg) Students
From : Graduate School (GS)
c.c. : Vice President (Education)
Vice President (Student and International Affairs)
Interim Vice President (Research and Innovation)
Associate Dean (GS) and all GS Colleagues
FRC/SB Chairs and Secretaries
D/SRC Chairs and Secretaries
All Academic Staff
Director of Finance (FO), Ms Hilda Ling (FO), Ms Vivien So (FO), Ms Isabella Wu (FO),
Mr Christopher Lai (FO)
Director of Human Resources (HRO)
Registrar (AR), Mr Dixon Kwok (AR), Ms Wanda Chow (AR), Mr Billy Cheung (AR),
Mr Jacky Tam (AR)
Director of Student Affairs (SAO), Mr Jeffrey Lee (SAO), Mr Ryan Yuen (SAO)
Director of English Language Centre (ELC), Ms Eunice Hau (ELC)
Date : 25 June 2021
Subject: Commencement of 2021/22 academic year – New RPg students

Dear all new RPg students

A warm welcome to The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. In order to better prepare you to embark on your research postgraduate study in Hong Kong, Graduate School would like to notify you of the following key issues:

Learning and Teaching

Semester One of 2021/22 commences on [30 August 2021](#), learning and teaching activities in Semester One of 2021/22 will be delivered face-to-face (f2f) and online simultaneously, i.e. in a hybrid mode. For practicums, clinical skills training, hands-on laboratory sessions, placements, training, studio sessions, field studies and the like, they will be conducted f2f. However, f2f activities may be reviewed with reference to the latest health and travel advice as issued by the HKSAR Government if the COVID-19 pandemic situation worsens significantly.

You are reminded that:

- 1) You should consult your Chief Supervisors with regard to your study plan and subject registration. You are required to seek your Chief Supervisor's prior approval for subject registration.
- 2) All new RPg students are required to undergo a Research Language Skills Assessment (RLSA). You will be informed of the RLSA result in Semester One so that you would know if you will be required to take English enhancement subject(s).
- 3) The English Language Centre (ELC) will notify you of the RLSA arrangement in due course.

Payment of Tuition Fee

Please settle the tuition fees for Semester One, 2021/22 before commencing your studies regardless of the mode of classes in Semester One, 2021/22.

Issuance of Stipend or Assistantship

New RPg students will only receive stipend or assistantship under Teaching Postgraduate Studentship Scheme (TPS), if applicable, upon your commencement of study at PolyU in Hong Kong. If a new RPg student starts his/her study on any day after the commencement of a semester/term, he/she will start to receive the stipend or assistantship from the first day of the following month. In other words, new RPg students admitted in Semester One of 2021/22 should report your commencement of study at the General Office of your host departments/schools on or before 30 August 2021 in order to facilitate the payment arrangement for stipend / assistantship for the entire month of September 2021.

Advice on travel to Hong Kong

For all RPg students who are currently outside Hong Kong, you are encouraged to arrive Hong Kong in time for the start of the 2021/22 academic year. When you plan your trip, please make advance arrangements to meet the HKSAR Government's quarantine requirements (e.g. travel and accommodation arrangements). The Non-local Student Services Team under the Student Affairs Office will be providing you with support on issues which you need to know or follow when entering Hong Kong. You may contact the Team by phone: (852) 2766 5408 or by email: nls.services@polyu.edu.hk

Vaccination and Testing Arrangements

The University has announced the vaccination and testing arrangements for staff and students so that normal face-to-face teaching, learning and research activities can be resumed in the new academic year. To facilitate your planning and preparation, please read the announcement in advance. Please click [here](#) for the details.

Notes to Academic/Host Departments

As the above arrangements for learning and teaching are in place, academic departments are requested to keep an accurate record of new RPg students' commencement date in Hong Kong and Chief Supervisors' approval for students' subject registration.

Key issues for Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (HKPFS) students

For HKPFS students, as they have to follow a set of UGC policies governing research studies and residence requirements, and their application for academic/non-academic leave or deferment of study is unlikely approved unless very strong justifications are available, they are advised to commence their studies at the PolyU campus from Semester One, 2021/22. In case they have difficulty in coming to PolyU in Semester One, 2021/22, they should apply for academic/non-academic leave or deferment of study as early as possible.

Should you have enquiries, please contact the corresponding Departments/Offices as follows:

About the RPg teaching, learning and assessment arrangements:

Chief Supervisors or the General Office of the Host Departments

Contact details: https://www.polyu.edu.hk/aradm/rpg/rpg_dept_contacts.pdf

About admissions, study visa and programme registration for new RPg students:

Academic Registry (AR)

Telephone number: (852) 2333 0600; email: ar.rpg@polyu.edu.hk

About issuance of stipend/assistantship:

Graduate School (GS)

Telephone number: (852) 3400 3635; email: gs.enquiry@polyu.edu.hk

About student hall accommodation:

Student Affairs Office (SAO)

Telephone number: (852) 2766 6800; email: student.halls@polyu.edu.hk

About RLSA:

English Language Centre (ELC)

Telephone number: (852) 2766 7500; email: enquiry@elc.polyu.edu.hk

Thank you.

Dean of Graduate School