

2025

POLYU

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE
REPORT

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EXCELLENCE REPORT 2025



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) is a world-leading university that continues to demonstrate global leadership through high-impact research, strategic innovation and knowledge transfer. PolyU is consistently ranked among the world's Top 100 universities in major global rankings, with many subjects in the Top 10 globally and ranked first in Hong Kong.

Over decades of research innovation, PolyU has established diverse expertise across disciplines where interdisciplinary integration has driven many of the ground-breaking advances. With strong growth in research output, PolyU had the highest number of publications among those funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC) in 2024. The strong performance has attracted international talent and opportunities — nearly 30% of PolyU's research output was produced in collaboration with Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Top 50 universities. Its research outcomes have real-world implications and are readily applicable. PolyU was granted 1,020 patents between 2020 and 2024, the second highest total among the UGC-funded universities. To further facilitate research translation, PolyU has partnered with leading industry companies, such as NVIDIA, Huawei and Alibaba.

This report highlights PolyU's research performance, emphasising its well-established leadership in engineering, advancements in medical research through emerging AI technologies, and unique contributions to the hospitality, design and art disciplines.

Engineering

PolyU is a leading global institution for engineering education and research. Its Engineering discipline is the only one in Hong Kong ranked within the global Top 0.01% in the Essential Science Indicators ranking. Its research excellence in engineering has supported many billion-dollar national strategic programmes, such as the Chang'e-5 and Tianwen-1 missions, and benefited local society, for example, by providing technical expertise for the Double-arch Steel Bridge of the Cross Bay Link at Tseung Kwan O in Hong Kong.

AI-driven medical research

PolyU's advancement and excellence in computer science and artificial intelligence have transformed its medical research in recent years. AI-powered technologies are driving breakthroughs in imaging, nursing, rehabilitation, and optometry, accelerating discovery and improving the quality and accessibility of care for individuals with special needs.

Unique disciplines

With research that bridges creativity, sustainability and innovation, three of PolyU's distinctive disciplines – Hotel and Tourism Management, Fashion and Textiles, and Design – have gained global recognition. Leveraging Hong Kong's prime geographical and cultural position, PolyU's innovative approach in tourism planning and management has been recognised by the United Nations World Tourism Organization. Its fashion and textiles, and design disciplines have led to particularly impactful work that has improved social welfare through interdisciplinary research.

Through the collective efforts of staff, students, alumni and other community stakeholders, PolyU will continue its leadership and innovation for long-lasting impact that benefits Hong Kong, the Nation and the world.