

## **PolyU Photo Contest 2023** – Celebrating the quintessence of Chinese culture with charismatic Hong Kong images

Everyone can be a photographer and capture precious moments. However, what features of photography can make it even more special and popular?

Hong Kong has many visitors and residents who originate from overseas, as the urban allure of the city has a magnetic attraction for people from around the world. This is where Eastern and Western cultures converge, where the city blends seamlessly with the countryside, where the hustle and bustle of a metropolis is a stone's throw away from a world-class geological wonder. The unique appeal of this Pearl of the Orient encourages everyone to pursue their dreams.

In this photography contest, entrants are encouraged to showcase their creativity and to use a novel and sensitive perspective to uncover and showcase our city, our culture, the beauty of nature, everyday life, and the people or events that touch our hearts. Tell the Hong Kong story through your pictures! Visualise the unique charisma of Hong Kong and engage the world with stunning imagery!

### **Objectives:**

- To understand the colourful characteristics of Hong Kong through the eyes of different people;
- To share the anecdotes of this diverse city;
- To enhance aesthetic sensibility through photography; and
- To uncover the beauty of Hong Kong by highlighting the minute details of daily life.

### **Submission categories:**

- **Nature:** Photographs that heighten the public's awareness about wildlife and nature conservation by featuring the biodiversity of the terrestrial and underwater ecologies of Hong Kong. This includes landscape photographs that focus on the mesmerising countryside of Hong Kong by featuring its natural beauty, outdoor activities and people's interactions with nature.
- **Cityscape:** Photographs that creatively display the metropolitan allure of Hong Kong by depicting its urban life and revealing the potential and pulse of the city.
- **People and Culture:** Photographs that epitomise the heart-warming Hong Kong spirit by capturing its people and events and featuring personal portraits and images of everyday life. In particular, photographs that highlight the talents, personalities, flexibility, and adaptability of people of Hong Kong as well as Hong Kong as a melting pot of Chinese and Western cultures.

**Eligibility:**

All full-time undergraduate and postgraduate students of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

**Specifications for submission:**

- To ensure the functional operation of the platform, submissions must have a resolution no greater than 4032 × 4032 pixels and each photo must be no larger than 5 megabytes (MB). Photographers with entries shortlisted for the final evaluation stage and those who receive an award may be required to provide a higher-resolution version of their entries.
- Entries must accurately reflect the theme of a category and the scenario depicted. Digitally altered photos that have been modified by other than standard techniques (e.g., cropping, dust removal, reasonable adjustments to exposure, colour and contrast) will be disqualified.
- Entries can have originally been in any format, including but not limited to digital file, digital print, colour transparency, colour print or black and white print formats, but must be electronically submitted in .JPEG/.jpg /.png format. HDR images will also be accepted.
- Entries created using mobile phones, digital cameras or similar devices must be submitted with their original Exif metadata (i.e., their file properties).
- Entries must be the original work of the entrant, who consents to the public display of their submissions.
- Entrant who chooses to include public personalities in their submissions are responsible for obtaining a model release from the persons depicted and for providing a copy of such releases upon the organiser's request.
- Watermarked submissions will not be accepted.

**Judging criteria:**

The organiser will evaluate all entries in the following four areas, which will be weighted as stated:

- Relevance to the theme of the entered category (40%);
- Technical excellence (20%);
- Composition and artistic merit (20%);
- Originality and creativity (20%).

**Prizes:**

**A professional panel of judges** will select the winners of one gold, two silver, three bronze and ten merit awards in each category. In addition, three "People's Choice" awards will be awarded based on a public poll (i.e., "Likes" of photographs) via ["People's Choice Award" for the OUS Photo](#)

[Contest 2023 - VOTE NOW ! \(pollunit.com\)](https://www.pollunit.com). “Likes” of photographs will be collected from **10 November to 11:59 pm on 24 November** (Hong Kong time).

Gold Award (one)	\$3,000 gift voucher (IT, digital device, or bookstore) and a certificate of award
Silver Award (two)	\$2,000 gift voucher (IT, digital device, or bookstore) and a certificate of award
Bronze Award (three)	\$1,200 gift voucher (IT, digital device, or bookstore) and a certificate of award
Merit Award (ten)	\$800 gift voucher (IT, digital device, or bookstore) and a certificate of award
People’s Choice Award (three)	\$1,500 gift voucher (IT, digital device, or bookstore) and a certificate of award

#### Submission procedure:

- Please submit your photographs and complete the entry form via <https://www.polyu.edu.hk/pfs2/index.php/268498?lang=en> before **11:59 pm, 30 September 2023 (HKT)**.
- Please label your photographs according to the conventions illustrated in the following example, ensuring to include your full name and student number.  
Name of entrant: **Chan Tai Man**  
Student Number: **12345678d**  
Title of photo: **Portrait\_Friendship**  
*File name: ChanTaiMan\_12345678d\_Portrait\_Friendship.jpg*
- You can enter up to three photographs, each of which must have a title and a brief description (less than 100 words and written in English).
- Entries that do not comply with the aforementioned rules or submission requirements will be disqualified.
- Hard copies or late submissions will not be considered.
- Each student is only allowed to submit **ONE** application.

#### Contest schedule:

Scheduled event	Month
Submission	Before 30 September
Entries to be shortlisted by the panel of judges	October
Display of shortlisted entries and polling	November
Evaluation of the entries by the panel of judges and announcement of results	Mid-November to early December

**A professional panel of judges:**

Professional photographers, community leaders, and senior academics within the University

**Other rules:**

- Any submission or associated content that is found to contain illegal, intimidating, vulgar, defamatory, indecent or obscene content, to infringe on any privacy or publicity rights, or to be associated with any undesirable elements will be immediately removed by the organiser without prior notification. Entrants of such submissions will be disqualified from entry and become ineligible for any prize.
- All contest outcomes will be the final decision of the panel of judges.
- The Office of Undergraduate Studies of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University has the right to display/publish all entries in its publications or other promotional channels, without providing royalty payments or compensation to entrants.
- The Office of Undergraduate Studies of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University shall not be responsible for any pictures that are duplicated by an external party without the prior consent of the Office of Undergraduate Studies of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University or without the prior consent of the photographer during the contest period.
- During the contest period, the Office of Undergraduate Studies of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University has the right to terminate or postpone the contest in the event of a force majeure that adversely affects the conduction of the contest.
- Decisions on any affairs and disputes surrounding the contest that are made by the Office of Undergraduate Studies of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University are final.

**Enquiries:**

Questions about the rules and enquiries for further details of the contest can be directed to [ous.activity@polyu.edu.hk](mailto:ous.activity@polyu.edu.hk).