

MA in Fashion Design

 THE HONG KONG
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
香港理工大學

 School of
Fashion & Textiles
時裝及紡織學院



2026/27 ADMISSION

Programme Code	Mode of Study	Fund Type	Fee	Intake Number
14111	Full-time	Self-financed	HK\$7,200 /credit	35
Normal Duration		Credit Required for Graduation	Programme Leader	
1 year		34	Mr Ryan Houlton (BA, MA)	
			Deputy Programme Leader	
			Ms Uki Lau (BA, MA)	

PROGRAMME AIMS

With the provision of a creative learning environment, the programme fosters the synergy of craft and digital innovation to provide you the opportunity to realize your personal means of expression, and critically reflect upon your own work to develop unique theoretical approaches towards establishing new and inclusive definitions of fashion. The MA will support you towards defining and articulating your values and principles as a designer, whilst you attain an empathic understanding of contemporary fashion in a broader socio-cultural, environmental, technological, and economic context. You will be mentored and nurtured to become a highly skilled and competent professional, who has the potential to be a future leader of your chosen industry.

PROGRAMME CHARACTERISTICS

Throughout their study, students will be encouraged to develop independent learning methods and exchange ideas through guided experimentation. They will identify and explore their individual design DNA and develop a final major research project through intensive design development, research practices and studio experiences. Guest speakers and industry visits will be arranged where appropriate, and students will be encouraged to seek industry mentors and sponsors. Students will learn to appreciate the demands placed on designers in this dynamic industry, while exploring issues around design practice, technology and theory. They will receive continuously updated knowledge and gain an understanding of the relevant innovative technologies within an integrated design context. Students are encouraged to learn independently through investigation and research work as well as develop relevant transferable skills.

Note:

- ↳ Students will be expected to attend classes on a full-time basis.
- ↳ The Programme is taught in English. Potential candidates must have excellent English language proficiency.
- ↳ Non-local candidates admitted to the programme will need to make their own accommodation arrangements during the course of study.
- ↳ Students are required to complete a 1-credit subject on Academic Integrity and Ethics (AIE) Requirement within the first semester of study. No credit fee will be charged for this subject. The AIE subject will be assessed on a pass/fail grading system and will not be included in the GPA calculation.



MA IN FASHION DESIGN FASHION PRACTICE (FP)

This specialism addresses the role of design in a rapidly evolving fashion industry. Students will explore their values and personal means of expression, to develop a distinct design practice that considers contemporary fashion in a broader socio-cultural context.

The Fashion Practice pathway supports students towards establishing a firm understanding of how to commercialize creativity whilst responding to the needs of the market and society. Exposing students to the latest professional and sustainable practices, the programme equips students with the necessary skills to become responsible, industry-ready professionals who have the potential to positively influence the future of the fashion industry.

FOR ENTRY APPLYING FOR FASHION PRACTICE PATHWAY

A bachelor's degree in fashion, textiles, or design related discipline. Applicants who hold a bachelor's degree in another field of study who possess adequate practical skills and/or relevant experience in the field of fashion may be considered for admission.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Common Core Subjects

- ↳ Personal Creative Identity
- ↳ Virtual Fashion Creation
- ↳ Design Practice & Ideation
- ↳ Contextual Thesis Report

Specialist Subjects

- ↳ Professional Practice
- ↳ Creative Methodology
- ↳ Fashion Branding

Personal Major Project

Final Collection/Portfolio/Multimedia Lookbook/Presentation

Elective Subject

(Choose 1 out of 3 subjects)

- ↳ Fashion Technology and Product Development
- ↳ Life Cycle Assessment for Fashion Design
- ↳ Sustainable Fashion Design

GENERAL ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

For admission to master's degree, the basic requirement is a bachelor's degree from an institution that is recognised by PolyU. In addition, you must meet the entrance requirements that are specified by individual programmes.



LIU ZIHAO, ZIO
MA in Fashion and Textile Design (2024)



MESSAGE FROM INDUSTRY



MICHAEL LAM

Director of Advance Denim Limited

"We support young talents and students across the globe by sharing our experience in and knowledge of denim culture and believe that the MA in Fashion Design programme at PolyU is one of the best programmes that we have been working with globally."

Advance Denim is working closely with premium jeans brands and retailers such as DENHAM and Levi's, to name a couple. By collaborating with the MA programme, we have been able to exchange key sustainability and innovation concepts between brands and the MA in Fashion Design students."

The work produced by these MA students is highly impressive, and the MA teaching staff is also recognised and respected by the industry. We are pleased to have a strong work relationship with the MA programme through our collaboration, as the programme produces highly talented and professional designers."

MESSAGE FROM ALUMNI



LIU ZIHAO, ZIO

MA in Fashion and Textile Design (2024)

"As a student on MA Fashion Design programme, I was able to explore my identity and establish a unique design language. The MA is unique, as it supports students to become their own independent brand, and the School of Fashion & Textiles has extensive resources and industry network that allows students to achieve this. Upon graduation, with the help of the School, I was able fulfil my dreams and establish my brand 'ZIO LIU'. The School has provided me a lot of mentorship, exposure and opportunities to turn my brand into a business. I have had numerous pop-up stores in Tokyo, Hong Kong and China, and a showroom at Paris Fashion Week. In addition, I have been featured in Harper's Bazaar China, L'Officiel in Hong Kong, and had many famous artists and KOL's wearing my clothes, which would not have been possible without the support of the MA Fashion Design programme at the School of Fashion & Textiles."

MA FASHION DESIGN

DIGITAL FASHION INNOVATION (DFI)

This unique specialism is a response to the fashion industry's digital transformation, where the rise of Web.3.0 and the Metaverse present immense opportunities to re-imagine how fashion can be originated and experienced.

The Digital Fashion Innovation pathway expands the scope of fashion beyond traditional design. Students will blend creativity with emerging technologies and gain hands-on experience with industry-relevant tools to explore the potential of digital fashion - from 3D design, digital prototyping, digital assets and NFTs to immersive digital environments and fashion presentations. This programme ensures that students are equipped with the necessary skills to thrive in virtual and hybrid fashion ecosystems and be at the helm of the new digital era.

FOR ENTRY APPLYING FOR DIGITAL FASHION INNOVATION PATHWAY

A bachelor's degree in fashion, textiles, or design related discipline. Applicants who hold a bachelor's degree in another field of study such as media, film, animation, games & digital art, who possess adequate digital skills and/or relevant experience working in the creative industry may be considered for admission.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Common Core Subjects

- ↳ Personal Creative Identity
- ↳ Virtual Fashion Creation
- ↳ Design Practice & Ideation
- ↳ Contextual Thesis Report

Specialist Subjects

- ↳ Studio 1: 3D Fundamentals
- ↳ Studio 2: Digital Visualization
- ↳ Studio 3: Asset Optimization, Utility & Presentation

Personal Major Project

Final Collection/Portfolio/Multimedia Lookbook/Presentation

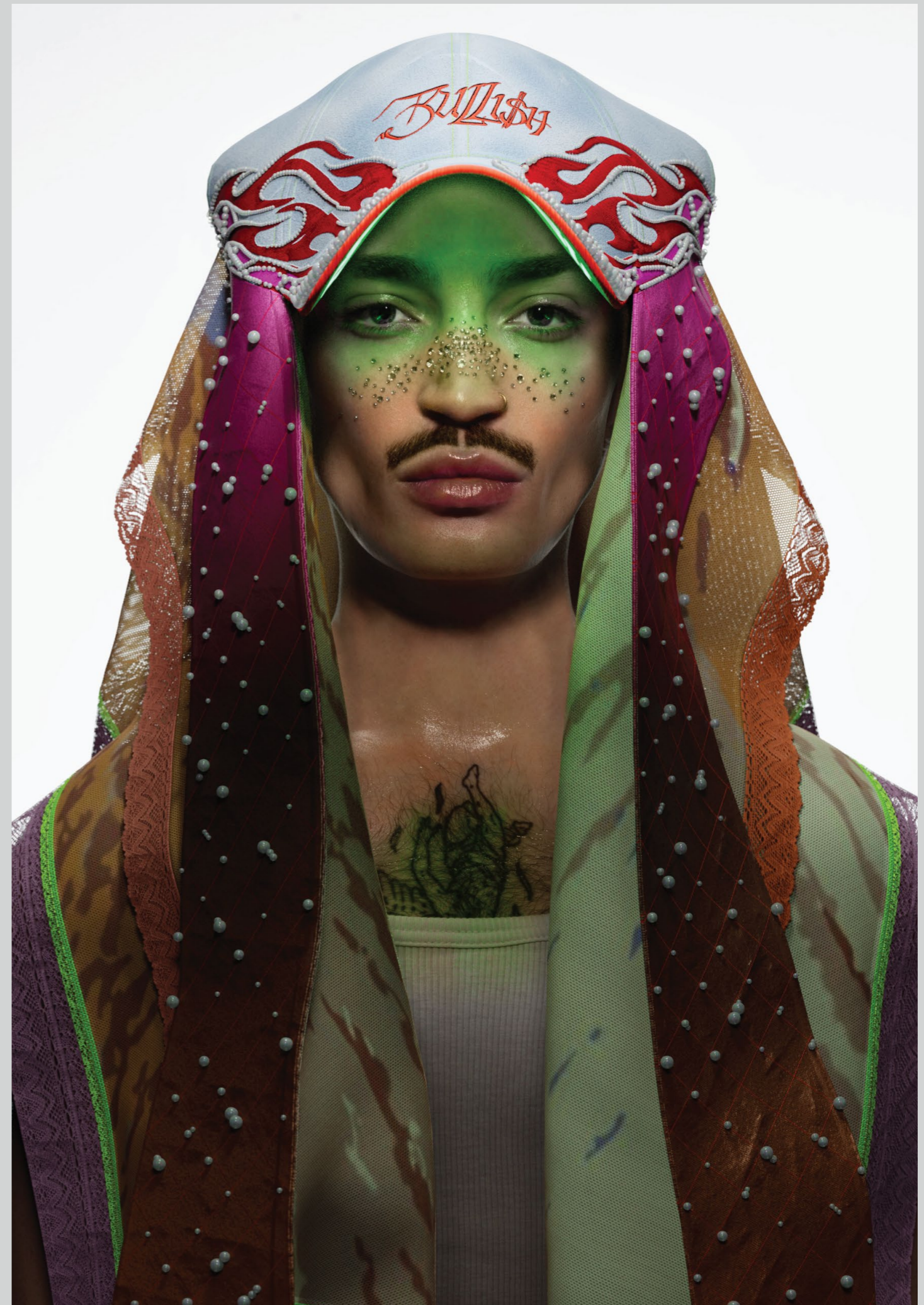
Elective Subject

(Choose 1 out of 3 subjects)

- ↳ Digital Disruption and Fashion Innovation Management
- ↳ Design Creativity in Wearable Technology
- ↳ Sustainable Fashion Design

GENERAL ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

For admission to master's degree, the basic requirement is a bachelor's degree from an institution that is recognised by PolyU. In addition, you must meet the entrance requirements that are specified by individual programmes.





MESSAGE FROM INDUSTRY



NIALL COTTRELL

3D Artist & Digital Fashion Expert

"The Digital Innovation Pathway is designed for students who want to explore how emerging technologies are shaping the future of fashion and design. It focuses on digital tools, workflows and platforms used in areas like 3D design, virtual environments, real-time rendering and AI assisted creation. The pathway supports hands-on experimentation while developing a strong critical understanding of digital practice."

Students are encouraged to challenge traditional methods and consider how digital processes can offer new ways of thinking, making and communicating in the context of fashion. Research and development run alongside technical skill building. The pathway is suited to students who want to expand their creative approach through understanding tools and techniques for digital visualisation. MA students who complete this pathway produce a final body of work that reflects their personal perspective on digital fashion design. Graduates leave with a clear understanding of how to apply digital skills in a professional context and are well positioned to lead or contribute to innovative projects in fashion, gaming, immersive tech and related creative industries."



ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

If you are not a native speaker of English, and your bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification is awarded by institutions where the medium of instruction is not English, you are expected to fulfil the following minimum English language requirement for admission purpose, unless otherwise specified by individual programmes concerned:

↳ A Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 80 for the Internet-based test or 550 for the paper-based test;

OR

↳ An overall Band Score of at least 6 in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

English language qualifications other than the above will be considered individually on their own merits by the departments concerned. Applicants may be required to attend interviews or tests to further demonstrate their language proficiency.

ADDITIONAL ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

↳ A bachelor's degree in textiles or fashion design, or the equivalent.

↳ Applicants who hold bachelor's degree in other fields of study and have adequate and relevant work experience in the fashion or textile industry may be considered for admission.

INTERVIEW ARRANGEMENT

↳ Interviews will be held in Hong Kong and China or via SKYPE.

↳ The School will consider individual cases on their merit. Applicants may be required to attend interviews or tests to further demonstrate their language proficiency.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- ↳ Personal statement
- ↳ Transcript / Certificate
- ↳ Copy of English examination results such as IELTS or TOEFL (for applicants who graduated from universities where the medium of instruction is not English)
- ↳ Postal address in Chinese (for applicants from the Mainland China)
- ↳ Selective design work# via online portfolio. Please indicate the URL of your personal website in the online application. The URL should enable reviewers to access and view your portfolio online without the need to download. (Please upload a word document with the above URL via "Others" under the "Additional Document" at eAdmission System)
- ↳ The maximum file size for ALL supporting documents (including academic parchment / transcript / English test proof, etc.) is 5MB

Samples of work in PDF format in your online portfolio should include design development, design presentation sheets, pages from sketchbooks and visuals of garments / products / textiles. Should a candidate be selected for interview, further guidelines on preparing the portfolio to be shown at the interview will be provided.

APPLICATION METHOD

Applications can be submitted online at www.polyu.edu.hk/study. A non-refundable application fee is required.

NON-LOCAL APPLICANTS

PolyU welcomes applications from quality candidates from around the world. At present, we have students of various nationalities including Africa, North America, Europe and Southeast Asia. We also have many students from the Mainland China. If you are holding one of the following visas / permits, you are regarded as a "non-local student" for the purpose of admission to our programmes:

- ↳ Student visa / entry permit;
- ↳ Visa under the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG); or
- ↳ Dependant visa / entry permit holders, who were aged 18 years old or above when they were issued with such visa / entry permit issued by the Director of Immigration.

All non-local students must obtain a student visa to study in Hong Kong. Non-local students enrolling in part-time postgraduate studies at PolyU will likely be issued a short-term multiple-entry student visa.

If you only possess a visitor or tourist visa, we can neither register you as a student nor allow you to commence your studies until a student visa is obtained. Therefore, you should not travel to Hong Kong without a valid student visa. If you are holding a valid work permit, you are not required to have a student visa for undertaking a part-time programme. Normally, you will not be considered for admission to a fulltime programme.

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

According to the Hong Kong Immigration Policy, non-local students enrolled in full-time locally accredited programmes at undergraduate level or above are allowed to take up internships, part-time on-campus employment and summer jobs.

Established in 2022, the School of Fashion and Textiles (SFT) is the new Institute of Textiles and Clothing of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

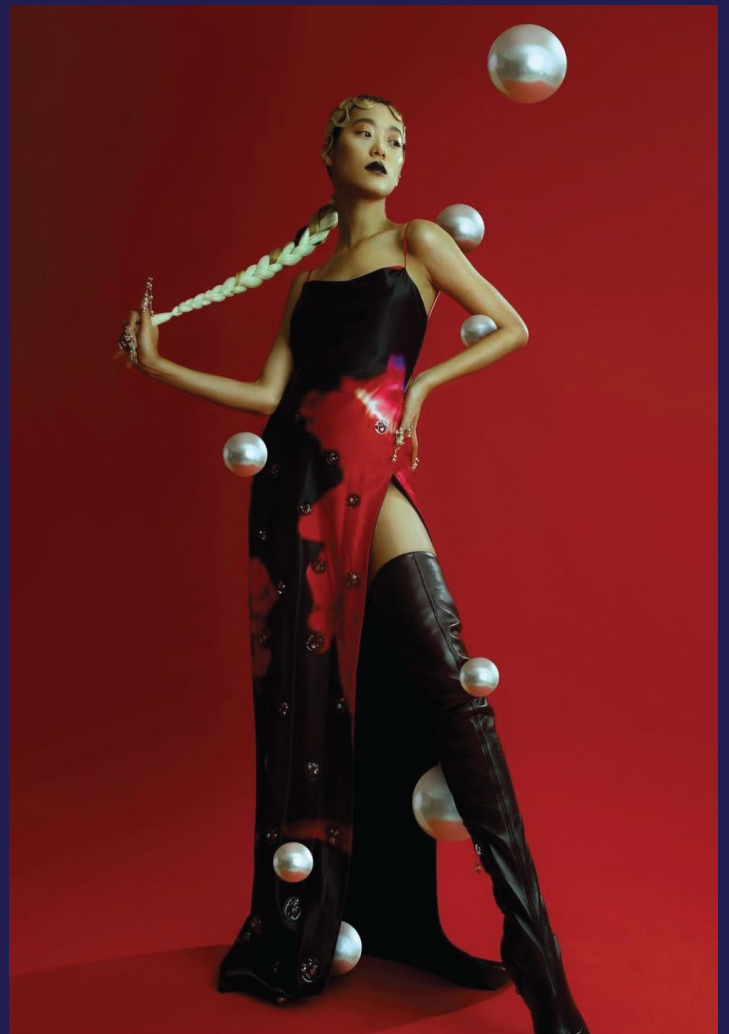
SFT is an international school offering academic programmes in fashion design, fashion business and fashion technology to inspire more leaders, designers and entrepreneurs to shape the future of fabrics garments and the industry.

Building on a rich legacy of teaching and launching the careers of more than 30,000 professionals with an education in textiles, SFT aspires to educate and engage a new generation of students toward fulfilling, successful careers in the fashion and textiles industries.

SFT has pioneered interdisciplinary research schemes in partnership with industry bodies and institutions within Hong Kong, the Greater Bay Area of Mainland China, and beyond.

State-of-the-art facilities and equipment for learning, teaching and consultancy ensure students receive the highest standards in practical experience and education.

Blending East and West cultures, SFT offers a syllabus and learning environment that is truly global, diverse and collaborative. As the only fashion school in Hong Kong to provide tertiary fashion education for undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications, SFT is well-positioned to provide the right learning and development opportunities for students of any ambition.



SFT General Office

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Applicants are advised to visit Study@PolyU website
www.polyu.edu.hk/study for the most current information.

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Programme Page

