

A Global Leader in Research Excellence

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.)
HOTEL AND TOURISM
MANAGEMENT



School of Hotel and Tourism Management

Ranked No. 1 in the world in the “Hospitality and Tourism Management” category in ShanghaiRanking’s Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2023 for the seventh consecutive year; placed No. 1 globally in the “Commerce, Management, Tourism and Services” category in the University Ranking by Academic Performance in 2023/2024 for seven years in a row; rated No. 1 in the world in the “Hospitality, Leisure, Sport & Tourism” subject area by the CWUR Rankings by Subject 2017; and ranked No. 1 in Asia in the “Hospitality and Leisure Management” subject area in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024, the SHTM is a symbol of excellence in the field, exemplifying its motto of Leading Hospitality and Tourism.

With a strong international team of over 90 faculty members from diverse cultural backgrounds, in which students benefit from a range of innovative teaching and learning techniques.

As Asia’s world city, Hong Kong’s strategic location at the heart of the world’s fastest growing economies along with its sophisticated hospitality and tourism industry remind us of the relevance of our educational programmes. The School’s ongoing success is based on nurturing the synergy shared by the industry, the University, students and academics. These bonds deepen with Hotel ICON, our teaching and research hotel, established as the centre of our new education approach. Hotel ICON not only draws SHTM deeper into industry partnerships but also helps it forge many more links with other educational institutions on a global basis.



Professor Kaye Chon

Dean and Chair Professor
Walter & Wendy Kwok Family Foundation Professor in
International Hospitality Management
School of Hotel and Tourism Management
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University



The Programme

The success of a research institution is largely due to its provision and training of young scholars. To provide leadership in developing future scholars in hospitality and tourism management, SHTM offers research programme leading to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree. The critical mass of globally recognised researchers, together with the attractive stipend for research students and the unique “East meets West” environment, make our highly competitive research programme very successful. Many of our Ph.D. graduates are now serving as faculty members in universities worldwide.

Research students work on projects under the supervision of experienced faculty members and take advanced subjects in preparation for a major piece of research in a focused area of hospitality and tourism.

With an international and multicultural environment, friendly staff and valuable opportunities for peer relationships, SHTM prepares students for leadership positions in their chosen careers.



Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme

The Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS) offered by the Research Grants Council (RGC) of Hong Kong targets high-calibre students from around the world to undertake their full-time Ph.D. studies in Hong Kong.

The School invites expressions of interest from outstanding graduates, with evidence of academic excellence, research ability and good communication, interpersonal and leadership abilities. PolyU will provide a tuition scholarship, a monthly stipend of HK\$28,100 (approximately US\$3,599), an annual conference and research-related travel grant of HK\$14,000 (approximately US\$1,793), a cash award and a guaranteed hall place for two years to awardees during the normal study period. Further information of the Scheme can be found at: www.polyu.edu.hk/gs/hkpfs.

The Scheme normally starts accepting applications in September with an application deadline in early December every year. Applicants for admission to Ph.D. programmes at PolyU via HKPFS will concurrently be considered for regular places through the award of the PolyU scholarship. For details, please visit www.polyu.edu.hk/shtm/pg/phd.

Programme Structure

This research-based programme requires students to complete a minimum of 18 credits of coursework. Both coursework and research are conducted in English.

Coursework

The structured coursework programme for Ph.D. students is as follows:

Ph.D. Structured Coursework Programme	
4 Compulsory Subjects (12 credits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statistics for Research in Hospitality and Tourism Management• Quantitative Research Methods for Hotel and Tourism Management• Qualitative Research Methods for Hotel and Tourism Management• Theories and Concepts in Tourism
1 Compulsory Subject (1 credit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic Integrity and Ethics in Business Studies and Research
3 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Seminars I• Research Seminars II• Research Seminars III• Research Seminars IV
2 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practicum I• Practicum II
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thesis

The Programme Structure and Coursework listed above are subject to revision/change without prior notice.

Research Areas

The School will give priority to proposed research topics in *Smart Tourism, Performance Measurement and Management, Tourism Futures and Forecasting and Policy and Planning*.

Other main areas of research include *Hospitality and Hotel Management, Tourism Management, Tourism Economics and Financial Management, Convention and Events Management, Hotel and Tourism Technology Management and Wine Management*.



Admission Requirements

General Entrance Requirements

- An MPhil or equivalent (a research postgraduate degree with a dissertation as an award requirement) and a Bachelor's degree (at least one degree in hospitality and tourism management or a closely related field); and
- At least two years of work experience including a minimum of one-year industry/relevant experience
- Candidates without the prescribed educational and industry backgrounds may be admitted on an exceptional basis. Such students will have to obtain relevant industry experience prior to enrolment or during the first year of enrolment, and undertake extra coursework as determined by the supervisor and/or School Research Committee.
- Candidates whose Master's degrees did not include thesis/dissertation research components must provide other documented evidence of previous scholarly research experience.

English Language Requirement

Applicants who do not have a degree for which English was the language of instruction at a recognised university must provide one of the following as proof of language proficiency:

- A minimum score of 92 in an internet-based test (with a writing score of 23 or above) in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL);
- or
- A Band Score of at least 6.5 overall (with a score for the writing component at 6.0 or above) in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).



Financial Support and Tuition Fee

Scholarship / Fellowship

PolyU offers research scholarship / fellowship to full-time Ph.D. students.

Scholarship / Fellowship recipients are required to provide support for teaching and professional service.

Applicants may apply for admission as self-financed Ph.D. students without stipend.

Conference attendance grant

Ph.D. students are eligible to apply for conference attendance grant.

Tuition fee

Details are available at <https://www.polyu.edu.hk/shtm/pg/phd>

Disclaimer:

PolyU reserves the right to change or withdraw research scholarship / fellowship / conference attendance grant at any time. In case of dispute / disagreement, PolyU's decision is final.

Information presented on this leaflet is subject to change and does not form part of any contract between the University and any person.

Applications

All applications must be made online at PolyU's admission system at <https://rpgadmission.polyu.edu.hk>.

The School of Hotel and Tourism Management (SHTM) does not normally admit students for a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) programme.

Graduate Testimonials



"My time at the research postgraduate programme at the SHTM has profoundly shaped my career trajectory. The programme offers unparalleled resources and support, rarely found elsewhere. From cutting-edge research facilities to a robust network of professionals, the SHTM has equipped me with essential tools and opportunities. The faculty's commitment to fostering a collaborative and innovative environment has been instrumental in my growth, making my journey here invaluable."

Professor Yang Yang

Professor and Department Chair (Interim)
School of Sport, Tourism, & Hospitality Management
Temple University



"I am deeply grateful for my Ph.D. study and life at the SHTM, not only for the expert knowledge imparted by the distinguished faculty but, more importantly, for the open mind and broadened horizons I have attained along the way. The institution's inclusive culture and international environment, and opportunities to work with colleagues of diverse backgrounds have significantly inspired my academic pursuits and profoundly enriched my life trajectory."

Dr Shirley (Shiqin) Zhang

Associate Professor
School of Tourism Management
Sun Yat-sen University



"I am thrilled to share my incredible experience as a Ph.D. student at the School of Hotel and Tourism Management (SHTM) at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University! The programme is an exciting blend of cutting-edge research and real-world applications, supported by an outstanding faculty and the unique learning environment of Hotel ICON. The diverse, international faculty inspired and guided me, encouraging innovative thinking and exploration. Opportunities for global exposure through conferences and industry partnerships opened doors to new ideas and networks. SHTM is truly the perfect place for aspiring hospitality scholars to excel and make a global impact!"

Dr Faye Hao

Assistant Professor
School of Hotel and Tourism Management
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University



"The SHTM Ph.D. programme is one of the best for anyone seeking a comprehensive and impactful postgraduate education. I had an excellent educational experience through a high-quality curriculum, supportive faculty, and a collaborative environment that significantly enhanced my academic and professional growth. With SHTM's strong focus on the practical application of theoretical knowledge, along with access to a wealth of resources such as well-equipped libraries, financial support, and dedicated academic advisors, I was well-prepared for the challenges of the real world. The research postgraduate programme has been a significant turning point in my career, developing my research skills, expanding my professional horizons, and providing me with numerous opportunities."

Dr Frank Badu-Baiden

Assistant Professor
Rosen College of Hospitality Management
University of Central Florida



"Despite the unprecedented challenges during my Ph.D. journey, the programme fostered a collaborative environment where students and educators worked seamlessly together. This unique atmosphere, or perhaps the distinctive culture of the SHTM, provided countless opportunities for me to grow and learn, both academically and personally. My journey better prepared me for the dynamic world of hospitality and tourism education. The work ethic instilled in me throughout the programme, has continued to develop and guide me until today, sowing seeds of knowledge, cultivating growth and enriching one classroom at a time across the educational landscape in Sabah."

Dr Tania Maria Tangit

Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Hotel and Tourism Management
Universiti Teknologi Mara (UITM) Sabah

Enquiries

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