Graduate Testimonials

"The Hong Kong Polytechnic University’s School of Hotel and Tourism Management is at the vanguard of tourism and hospitality education worldwide. It provides the ideal environment for a culturally diverse group of students from various geographical regions across all continents. My three years as a postgraduate student with the School are the single most important experience in my life."

Dr Alexander Grunewald
Consultant
Accenture Zurich, Switzerland

"SHTM is excellent in providing resources to help research students establish themselves and gain exposure in the academic world, such as funding international conference attendance and data collection, as well as hosting a large number of seminars for knowledge exchange. My supervisors and other faculty members in the School are extremely supportive. Research students are of a good mix and come from different cultural backgrounds. The very rigorous, friendly and open atmosphere makes my study at SHTM most productive, enjoyable and memorable."

Dr Cathy Xin Jin
Lecturer
Department of Tourism, Leisure, Hotel and Sports Management
Griffith University

"I attribute my career development and personal growth to the exposure I gained during my Ph.D. study at SHTM. Learning from an internationally renowned faculty gave me a well-rounded perspective. The School also helped me to attend quite a number of overseas conventions, which honed my competitiveness in the global marketplace."

Dr Joanne Jung-Eun Yoo
Assistant Professor
Department of Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management
University of Delaware

"My Ph.D. study and academic career would have not been possible without the extraordinary support from SHTM along with its Ph.D. programme. What makes SHTM stand out not only in Asia but also worldwide is its diversity, professionalism and elegance, practised everyday by students, faculty as well as administrative staff. SHTM has provided tremendous opportunities for its students, and personally this takes me to the birthplace of modern tourism and hospitality education—Switzerland."

Dr Yong Chen
Assistant Professor
Department of Education and Research
École hôtelière de Lausanne

A Global Leader in Research Excellence

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

School of Hotel and Tourism Management

The School of Hotel and Tourism Management (SHTM) at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) is ranked No. 2 in the world among academic institutions in hospitality and tourism based on research and scholarly activities.

More than 2,100 students are enrolled in SHTM, supported by 65 academics from 20 countries and regions. Our internationally renowned faculty creates a multicultural environment 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.

Enquiries

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Professor Kaye Chan
Dean and Chair Professor
Walter Kwok 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 programmes 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 programmes 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 (the Scheme) offered by the Research Grants Council (RGC) of Hong Kong targets high-calibre students from around the world to undertake their Ph.D. studies in Hong Kong.

The School invites expressions of interest from graduates with evidence of academic excellence, research ability and good communication, interpersonal and leadership abilities for full-time Ph.D. study within the Fellowship Scheme. The Scheme aims to recruit outstanding graduates, irrespective of country of origin and ethnic background, to Hong Kong, and will provide a 3-year tuition scholarship, a monthly stipend of HK$20,000 (approximately US$2,600) and conference and Research related travel allowance of HK$10,000 (approximately US$1,300) per year for awardees for a maximum period of three years. The Scheme normally starts accepting applications in September with an application deadline in early December every year. Further information of the Scheme can be found at: www.polyu.edu.hk/ra/hkphd-fellowship.

Applicants for admission to Ph.D. programmes at PolyU via the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme will concurrently be considered for regular places assigned to the University through the award of stipends or assistantships. For details of other means of financial support, please visit www.polyu.edu.hk/htm/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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Statistics for Research in Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM5801)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quantitative Research Methods for Hotel and Tourism Management (HTM6006)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods for Hotel and Tourism Management (HTM6007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Theories and Concepts in Tourism (HTM6706)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ethics: Research, Professional and Personal Perspectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Research Seminars I (HTM6700)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Seminars II (HTM6701)</td>
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<td>Practicum I (HTM6704)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Practicum II (HTM6705)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thesis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Programme Structure and coursework listed above is subject to revision/change without prior notice.

Research Areas

1. Hospitality and Hotel Management
2. Tourism Management
3. Tourism Economics and Financial Management
4. Convention and Events Management
5. Hotel and Tourism Technology Management
6. Food and Beverage Management

Admission Requirements

General Entrance Requirements

- A Master degree with a significant thesis/dissertation research component, at least one degree in hospitality and tourism management or a closely related field, and at least two years of industry work experience.
- Students without the prescribed educational and industry backgrounds could be admitted on an exceptional basis. Such students will have to obtain relevant industry experience prior to enrollment or during the first year of enrollment and undertake extra coursework as determined by the supervisor and/or School Research Committee.
- If the candidate’s Master degree did not include a thesis/dissertation research component, other documented evidence of previous scholarly research experience will be required.

English Language Requirement

Applicants who have not obtained a degree from a recognised university of which the language of instruction is English are required to obtain:

- A minimum score of 580 (paper based) or 237 (computer based) or 92 (Internet based) in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).
- A Band Score of at least 6.5 overall (with score for the writing component at 6.0 or above) in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

Stipends/Assistantships and Tuition Fee

*Stipends/Assistantships*

PolyU offers government scholarships in the form of stipends or assistantships to full-time Ph.D. students.

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

*Associated money*

Associated money is provided for full-time students to support their studies/research.

*Financial support for conference attendance*

Ph.D. students whose registration has been confirmed are eligible to apply for conference attendance grants.

*Tuition fee*

Details are available at www.polyu.edu.hk/htm/phd.

Disclaimer:

PolyU reserves the right to change or withdraw the research assistantship/associated fund/conference attendance grants. PolyU's decision is final. Information presented on this leaflet is subject to changes and does not form part of any contract between the University and any person.

Applications

Applications must be made through PolyU’s Research Office website: www.polyu.edu.hk/rowas.

While SHTM does not admit students for Master of Philosophy (MPhil) programmes, students with exceptional qualities can be considered for admission based on self-financed basis (i.e. without stipend).