

A Place with History, Teachers with World Recognition, Students with International Achievement

Highlights:

- The earliest research degree programs in communication research in Hong Kong
- The largest current student body
- Internationally renowned faculty members serving as board members and/or editors at a large number of major international journals
- Publish two academic journals: the Chinese Journal of Communication & Society and the SSCI-listed Chinese Journal of Communication (Routledge)
- Students winning a substantial number of awards at international conferences
- New research center consolidating the position of the School as one of the most influential research hubs of communication research in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Research Degree Programs at the School of Journalism and Communication (JLM) at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, comprising of the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) program and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Program, are dedicated to educate students to become leading researchers and scholars in the field of media and communication research. Established in 1965, the School of JLM has the longest history of communication research and education in Hong Kong. The School of JLM was also a pioneer in media education at the post-graduate level not only in Hong Kong but also in the Greater China region. The MPhil program was established in 1977 with the aid of the late Professor Wilbur Schramm, a key figure in the history of communication research in the United States. The PhD program started in 1993.

Over the years, the research degree programs have educated numerous scholars who now teach at various tertiary institutions around the world, including the University of Missouri in the U.S., the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and the University of Manitoba in Canada. Many graduates also became stationed in Hong Kong and Mainland China, making huge contribution to the development of communication research in the Greater China region. They are holding positions at, among other institutions, Jinan University (Guangzhou), Nanjing University, National Sun-Yat Sen University (Guangzhou), Remin University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Xiamen University, Hong Kong Baptist University, and Chinese University of Hong Kong. Currently, we have 39 PhD students and 18 MPhil students at the School. We boast the largest research student body in communication studies among all universities in Hong Kong.

The School is widely recognized as one of the most influential research hubs of communication

research in the Asia-Pacific region. The Chinese University of Hong Kong ranks 40th in overall performance and 41st in Communication and Media Studies for year 2012 in the prestigious QS World University Rankings. Together with University of Hong Kong, we are the only two Hong Kong universities ranked within top 50 both in the overall ranking and the subject ranking of Communication and Media Studies. We topped the QS World University Rankings for universities established for fewer than 50 years.

Our faculty members have continued to dedicate themselves to the advancement of the theoretical understanding of communication. They are internationally recognized scholars in various key areas in communication studies, including journalism studies, media sociology, cultural studies, public opinion and political communication, international communication, new media research, health communication, and advertising and corporate communication. The international renown of our faculty members is shown by their presence in the editorial boards of many of the top international journals in the field, including, among numerous others, *Journal of Communication*, *Communication Theory*, *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, *New Media & Society*, *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, *Public Relations Review*, *Journal of Public Relations Research*, *International Encyclopedia of Communication* (Blackwell, ICA), and *Asian Journal of Communication*. Some of our faculty members are also associate editors or contributing editors at international journals such as *Journalism: theory and Practice*, *Mass Communication & Society*, *Global Media and Communication*, *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*, and the *International Journal of Cyber Behavior, Psychology and Learning*.

To consolidate the School's contribution to communication research both in the Greater China region and in the international arena at large, the School launched two scholarly journals in 2006 and 2008 respectively. The *Communication & Society* is a Chinese language journal which has gained wide recognition of its quality among Chinese communication scholars. The *Chinese Journal of Communication*, published by Routledge, is an English language quarterly which has been accepted into the prestigious Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) in 2011.

In addition, the School established the Centre for Chinese Media and Comparative Communication Research in 2012. The new research center signifies the vision of our faculty members: while the research works undertaken are mostly rooted in strong interests in the Greater China region, our faculty members also seek to contribute to communication research at large by situating their works in global and/or comparative frameworks.

The School also operates the Centre for Communication and Public Opinion Survey. The Centre has the capability of conducting representative telephone surveys through the CATI system.

Last but not least, the most important component of any research degree program would be the students themselves. The ultimate measure of the quality of a program would be the achievement of its students and graduates. As mentioned, our research degree programs have generated more than one generation of influential communication scholars in the field. We are also proud to announce that our current graduate students have performed superbly in their research work. In year 2011 and 2012 alone, our students have scooped a total of 14 top paper awards, best dissertation awards, or other individual research awards in major international conferences (see the following Table). All of the awards were won by the students' own research work (i.e., single-authored or first-authored work), and most of the awards were won at the most influential and prestigious communication research conferences, such as International Communication Association (ICA), National Communication Association (NCA), and Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC).

This remarkable achievement is comparable to, if not better than, any of the top communication schools in the United States and Europe. Such achievement will become part of our School's history and tradition, a tradition that shall inspire our new students in the future.

Table. Major awards won at international conferences by our students in 2011 and 2012.

Year of Award	Program	Student Name	Conference	Paper Title
2011	PhD	CHAN Che Ming Michael 陳志敏 (with Jing Guo, University of Maryland)	Best Research Paper Award Political Communication Interest Group The Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) annual conference	The impact of political identity, efficacy, and selective media exposure on political participation: A comparative study of young adults in the United States and Hong Kong
2011	PhD	CHAN Che Ming Michael 陳志敏	Top Student Paper International Communication Division Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) annual conference.	The discursive reproduction of Chinese and Japanese national identities: Editorials and opinions of the East China Sea dispute in the <i>China Daily</i> and <i>Daily Yomiuri</i>
2011	MPhil	DONG Zhuowen Samantha 董卓文	Top Student Paper Communication and Social Cognition Division 97th Annual Convention of National Communication Association (NCA)	Financial risk information processing in Hong Kong: An application of the Risk Information Seeking and Processing (RISP) model
2011	PhD	JIANG Qiaolei Chloris 蔣俏蕾	The Herbert Schiller Award International Association for Media and Communication Research	Techno-nationalism and creative industries: The development of Chinese online game industry in a

			(IAMCR) Conference	globalized economy
2011	MPhil	LAM Lai Shan Lisa 譚麗珊	Top Student Paper Communication and Social Cognition Division 97th Annual Convention of National Communication Association (NCA)	Financial risk information processing in Hong Kong: An application of the Risk Information Seeking and Processing (RISP) model
2012	PhD	CHOW Pui Ha Carol 周佩霞	Best Paper Award Philosophy of Communication Division International Communication Association (ICA) 2012.	Image capital, field and the economies of signs and space
2012	PhD	JIANG Qiaolei Chloris 蔣俏蕾	Young Scholar Award Communication Policy Research South (CPRsouth) Conference	Exploring the potential and barriers to implementing Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) as part of healthcare service delivery in China
2012	MPhil	LI Miao 李淼 (with Prof. LEE Lap Fung Francis)	Top Six Papers Language and Social Interaction Division International Communication Association (ICA)	Host power and triadic conversation management in radio phone-in talk shows in Hong Kong
2012	MPhil	LEUNG Wan Chi Janice 梁韻姿	NCA/ICA Amanda Kudrat Health Communication Thesis Award 2012	Third-person effect and rectifying behaviors: Studying antisocial and prosocial messages of youth drug abuse
2012	MPhil (Gender Studies)	LING Qi 凌綺	Second Place Student Paper Commission on the Status of Women Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) annual conference	A correlation study on Chinese young female audiences' exposure to American TV drama, perceived realism, and sex-related effects
2012	PhD	LU Chen Joanne 呂琛	Top Student Paper Public Relations Division International Communication Association (ICA).	Comparative study of crisis communication strategies between mainland China and Taiwan: A double-case study of melamine-tainted milk powder crisis in the Chinese context
2012	PhD	MAO Zhifei 茅知非	Top Student Paper Association for Chinese Communication Studies 98th Annual Convention of National Communication Association (NCA) 2012	Cosmopolitan communities of global risks: A comparison of the framing of the Asian financial crisis and the European debt crisis in the Chinese newspaper

2012	MPhil (Gender Studies)	ZHANG Xin Sid 張欣	Second Place Student Paper the Commission on the Status of Women the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) annual conference	A correlation study on Chinese young female audiences' exposure to American TV drama, perceived realism, and sex-related effects
2012	PhD	ZHANG Yin Nick 張引	Top Student Paper Jung-Sook Lee Paper Competition of the Communication Technology Division Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) annual conference	What has Social Networking Service (SNS) research done for the half decade? Review, critiques, and discussion of the studies from 2006 to 2011

1. Requirements for Admission

In addition to the general qualifications required for admission to the Graduate School, applicants should possess a Master's degree in journalism/communication or in a related field of humanities and social science from this University or other recognized universities.

Preference will also be given to applicants with a TOEFL score of 580 or above (or computer-based score of 237 or above, or internet-based score of 92 or above) or a IELTS score of 7 or above, or possess a pass grade in English in one of the following examinations: H.K. Advanced Level Examination, H.K. Higher Level Examination, CUHK Matriculation Examination, or have a degree from a university in Hong Kong or an English speaking country.

Applicants are required to furnish proof of their research capability in the form of a) a strong Master's thesis; b) a research proposal outlining areas of interest, goals and plans; c) three letters of reference from academic sources; and d) academic records at the Master's and undergraduate levels. Special consideration will be given to applicants' scholarly achievement and professional experience in related fields.

In addition to University regulations, students in the M.Phil. Programme of the Communication Division, after completing a minimum of 18 units of coursework with a GPA of at least 3.7, may be admitted directly to the Ph.D. Programme on the recommendation of the Division Head with the approval of the Board of School of Journalism and Communication and the Graduate Council.

If applicants apply for more than one programme in the School, please list the programmes in a priority order of their study interest clearly. Each applicant will be given only ONE admission offer from the School if he/she is eligible.

According to the School's policy, applicants are not allowed to switch to another programme once they accepted the admission offer.

2. Programme

The research programme aims at training communication students who plan to become researchers, university teachers, consultants, executives, professionals, etc.

1) Coursework Requirement

- [Applicable to students admitted in 2012-13](#)

2) Qualifying Examination

(a) Qualifying examination

Advancement to Ph.D. candidature is conditional upon passing qualifying examinations. The examinations consist of three papers. Paper I is on Research Methodologies, Paper II is on Communication Theories and Paper III is a Proposal Defense on a selected field of study.

- (b) Every year we have a fixed timetable for PhD students to take qualifying examinations. The examinations time cannot be changed unless for specific reasons.

- (c) A student will be discontinued from studies if he cannot pass the qualifying examination within the maximum period (not less than one year from the admission date and at least six months before the normative study end date). However, in special cases, the Graduate Council may on the recommendation of the Graduate Division concerned grant a student extension beyond the above maximum period.

- Applicable to students admitted on 1 August 2010 and thereafter: Full time and part time students are required to pass the qualifying examination within 30 months and 38 months respectively from the date of admission.

(3) Study plan

Students must submit a study plan, with the advice of the supervisor, for the approval of the Graduate Panel of the Board of School of Journalism and Communication within six months

after registration. The Division head will help the student search for a supervisor within the first semester of study.

(4) Thesis

(a) Thesis proposal

A full-time Ph.D. student must submit a thesis proposal in the end of the 2nd term of the 2nd year whereas a part-time Ph.D. student must submit a thesis proposal by the end of the 4th year. Students are NOT encouraged to change their thesis topic after the 1st term of the 2nd year. (unless under special circumstances)

(b) Thesis supervisors

Students are NOT encouraged to change their supervisors after the 2nd academic year begins. (unless under special circumstances)

(c) Students are required to submit a research thesis and pass an oral examination for graduation.

(d) Thesis Monitoring Courses are listed below: COMM 5250, COMM 6110, COMM 8200.

(5) Other Requirement

(a) A student who obtains a cumulative grade point average (GPA) below 2.0 in the preceding term or receives a failure grade in thesis monitoring courses (for Research Postgraduate Programmes) will be put on academic probation. For details, please refer to Clause 14.0 “Unsatisfactory Performance and Discontinuation of Studies” of the General Regulations Governing Postgraduate Studies which can be accessed from the Graduate School Homepage: <http://www2.cuhk.edu.hk/gss>.

(b) Complete an Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) module on “Observing Intellectual Property and Copyright Law during Research”. This will be an online module and relevant information can be accessed from the website: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/ipl/29.htm>.

(6) Unsatisfactory Performance

A student whose thesis/portfolio is not passed but re-submission is allowed and re-examination is required must re-write and re-submit the thesis/portfolio to the satisfaction of the Thesis/Assessment Committee before being recommended for the award of degree. Such re-submission must be made within twelve months from the date of the official notification of the result of the first examination and within the student's prescribed maximum period of study. Only one re-submission of thesis/portfolio is allowed.

(7) Remarks

With the approval of the Division Head, in lieu of the courses on the elective course list, students can take other courses within and/or outside the Division of Communication.

3. Postgraduate Studentships

Full-time students may receive teaching assistantships or postgraduate studentships.

4. Regulations for Application of School-level Research/Conference Grants

The School provides strong support to Ph.D./M.Phil. students to encourage them to undertake research activities and participate in conferences to enhance scholarly research and learning.

1) Application Deadline

Students would need to submit the application one month before attending the conference or undertaking the related research activities.

2) Eligibility

(a) Conference Grants

All postgraduate students within the normative study period are eligible to apply for conference grants.

(b) Research Grants

Research grants are applicable to M.Phil. and Ph.D. students within the normative study period only.

3) Conditions

(a) Conference Grants

Students should apply for the University-level conference grants in the first instance before proceeding to apply for the conference grants from the School. Students have to discuss with their supervisors on the relevance of the conference to their research before submitting applications for grants and conference leave. A full paper for presentation at the conference must be submitted. The School-level conference grants of a maximum of HK\$8,000 could be allocated to each student no more than once per year.

(b) Research Grants

The research grants funded by the School, of a maximum of HK\$5,000 for M.Phil. students and \$7,000 for Ph.D. students, are available to each student only once for his/her entire studies.

4) Supporting Documents

Students would need to submit their application, to be endorsed by their supervisor/programme coordinator, together with the following documents to the School of Journalism and Communication for School-level Conference grants and research grants*:

(a) acceptance letter for participation in the conference(if any);

(b) full paper for presentation in the conference; or

(c) a proposal of research; and

(d) a breakdown of the estimated expenditure to be incurred.

5) Submission of Report

To be eligible for reimbursement claims, a one-page report on the conference/research activities should be submitted within one month after attending the conference or undertaking the related research activities.

* Please contact the Graduate School for application for University-level conference grants. More details are available at the homepage of Graduate School at <http://www2.cuhk.edu.hk/gss>

5. Honesty in Academic Work: A Guide for Students and Teachers

The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on honesty in academic work submitted by students, and adopts a policy of zero tolerance on cheating and plagiarism. Any related offence will lead to disciplinary action including termination of studies at the University.

[Details on Policy on Plagiarism and Copyright Violation](#)