

Applications for Research and Taught Postgraduate Programmes

September 2018 Intake

Application Deadlines

Research Postgraduate Programme

Applications start in September

PhD (via HK PhD Fellowship Scheme)	1 Dec 2017
PhD (2 nd Round / Not via HK PhD Fellowship Scheme)	31 Jan 2018
MPhil	31 Jan 2018

Taught Postgraduate Programmes

Applications start in late September

1 st Round	17 Dec 2017
2 nd Round	21 Jan 2018

Submit an **online application**:

<http://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/page/ApplicationforAdmission>

Watch our **YouTube** Channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/CUHKJLMCOM>

Join our **Facebook** page:

<http://www.facebook.com/cuhkcom>

Join our **Weibo** page:

<http://www.weibo.com/cuhkcom>

Follow our **WeChat**: CUHKJourComm

Frequently Asked Questions

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About our Programmes

ALL applicants are reminded to read the School's website (<http://pg.com.cuhk.edu.hk>) and the University's Graduate School's website (<http://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk>) carefully before submitting an application.

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Research Postgraduate Programmes:

Ph.D. in Communication:

<http://pg.com.cuhk.edu.hk/phd/>

M.Phil. in Communication:

<http://pg.com.cuhk.edu.hk/mphil/>

Taught Postgraduate Programmes:

M.A. in Global Communication:

http://pg.com.cuhk.edu.hk/pgp_global/

M.A. in Journalism:

http://pg.com.cuhk.edu.hk/pgp_ma/

M.Sc. in New Media:

http://pg.com.cuhk.edu.hk/pgp_nm/

M.S.Sc. in Advertising:

http://pg.com.cuhk.edu.hk/pgp_adv/

M.S.Sc. in Corporate Communication:

http://pg.com.cuhk.edu.hk/pgp_corpcom/

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Can I apply if I do not know any Chinese or Cantonese?

Ph.D. or M.Phil. in Communication

Understanding of Chinese or Cantonese is not essential.

M.A. in Global Communication and M.Sc. in New Media

Applications from both Chinese and non-Chinese students are welcomed. All required courses and majority of elective courses of these two programmes are taught in English. A few elective courses are taught in Cantonese or Putonghua.

M.A. in Journalism, M.S.Sc. in Corporate Communication and M.S.Sc. in Advertising

Understanding of Chinese in either Cantonese or Putonghua is required. Required courses of these programmes are accessible to both Cantonese and non-Cantonese speakers. There will also be enough elective classes for Cantonese and non-Cantonese speakers to choose.

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What is the difference between Research Postgraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes?

The CUHK's research programmes focus mainly on research work and require applicants to have sound research background. Students need to submit a thesis and pass the oral defense conducted by the Thesis Assessment Committee in order to graduate. Taught programmes, in contrast, focus on coursework. These programmes generally do not require students to submit a thesis.

Our research postgraduate programmes have more veteran professors who excel in scholarly studies, while our taught postgraduate programmes have more part-time teachers with abundant working experience in the industry. Their suitability to you depends on your interests and career goals.

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What is the Admission Requirement of our programmes?

Basic Entry Requirement to the Graduate Studies in The Chinese University of Hong Kong:
<http://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/page/EntryRequirements>

Ph.D. in Communication

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.

All applicants MUST have a minimum TOEFL* score of 580 (or computer-based score of 237 or internet-based score of 92) or a minimum IELTS* score of 7, unless they possess a pass grade in English in one of the following examinations: H.K. Advanced Level Examination (including AS Level), H.K. Higher Level Examination, CUHK Matriculation Examination, General Certificate of Education Examination Advanced Level (GCE A Level)/ Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS Level) or have a degree from a university in Hong Kong or taken a degree programme of which the medium of instruction was English, or achieve level 4 or above in the English subject of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) examination.

* With effect of 2017-18 intake, TOEFL and IELTS are considered valid for two years from the test date.

M.Phil. in Communication

In addition to the general qualifications required for admission to the Graduate School, applicants of any discipline may apply. Preference will be given to applicants with a solid background in social science and well-developed research interest in journalism/communication.

All applicants MUST have a minimum TOEFL* score of 580 (or computer-based score of 237 or internet-based score of 92) or a minimum IELTS* score of 7, unless they possess a pass grade in English in one of the following examinations: H.K. Advanced Level Examination (including AS Level), H.K. Higher Level Examination, CUHK Matriculation Examination, General Certificate of Education Examination Advanced Level (GCE A Level)/ Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS Level) or have a degree from a university in Hong Kong or taken a degree programme of which the medium of instruction was English, or achieve level 4 or above in the English subject of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) examination.

* With effect of 2017-18 intake, TOEFL and IELTS are considered valid for two years from the test date.

M.A. in Global Communication

In addition to the general qualifications required for admission to the Graduate School, applicants of any discipline may apply.

All applicants MUST have a minimum TOEFL score of 580 (or computer-based score of 237 or internet-based score of 92) or a minimum IELTS score of 7, unless they possess a pass grade in English in one of the following examinations: H.K. Advanced Level Examination (including AS Level), H.K. Higher Level Examination, CUHK Matriculation Examination, General Certificate of Education Examination (GCE) Advanced Level (A-Level)/ Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS-Level) or have a degree from a university in Hong Kong or taken a degree programme of which the medium of instruction was English, or achieve level 4 or above in the English subject of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) examination.

M.A. in Journalism / M.Sc. in New Media / M.S.Sc. in Advertising / M.S.Sc. in Corporate Communication

In addition to the general qualifications required for admission to the Graduate School, applicants of any discipline may apply. All applicants MUST have a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (or computer-based score of 213 or internet-based score of 79) or a minimum IELTS score of 6.5, unless they possess a pass grade in English in one of the following examinations: H.K. Advanced Level Examination (including AS Level), H.K. Higher Level Examination, CUHK Matriculation Examination, General Certificate of Education Examination (GCE) Advanced Level (A-Level)/ Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS-Level) or have a degree from a university in Hong Kong or taken a degree programme of which the medium of instruction was English, or achieve level 4 or above in the English subject of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) examination.

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Is any course exemption allowed if I have taken an undergraduate course similar to a listed course in your programme?

Students who have taken research methods course in Social Science or related disciplines may apply for course exemption of COMM5520 Applied Communication Research or COMM5310 Statistical Analysis in Communication from the Division Head. If the application has been approved, students will be required to take another course to fulfill the unit requirement for graduation.

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Is there any studentship, scholarship or financial aids? How do I apply?

For **research postgraduate programmes**, full-time students will generally receive teaching assistantships or postgraduate studentships upon their admission and no separate application is required.

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Are all successful applicants guaranteed a room to live on campus?

For **research postgraduate students**, on-campus postgraduate halls are available. Applications for accommodation submitted before the deadline will generally be offered a place. Since demand may be greater than the total number of hostel places, accommodation is considered on a yearly basis and there is no guarantee of accommodation, while top priority will be given to incoming first-year students.

For **taught postgraduate students**, in view of the current shortage in hostel places, the University does **NOT** offer on-campus accommodation to these students. Non-local students of taught postgraduate programmes are responsible for making their own housing arrangements in Hong Kong.

The University has an Off-campus Housing Information Service (校外住宿資訊服務) (<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/osa/iss/housinginformation.html>) which will provide incoming students with advice and guidelines on rental accommodation. Our School will also introduce student forums to successful applicants for exchanging useful information. **Non-local students are strongly reminded NOT to pay any deposits to any landlords before their admission to the School is confirmed.**

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Will the programmes offer internship opportunities?

Internship experience is not a graduation requirement for our programmes. Our taught postgraduate programmes do arrange internships for our students, but internship opportunities are not guaranteed and do not carry any credits.

Non-local students who wish to take internships or part-time on-campus employments should pay attention to the visa regulations by the Hong Kong Immigration Department and the School's regulation as announced in the orientation programme every year. Non-local students with a student visa are NOT allowed to take up any part-time off-campus employment in Hong Kong.

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Will any of the classes be conducted off CUHK campus?

Classes will be conducted on CUHK campus only.

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How many terms are there in one academic year?

There are two terms in each academic year: Term 1: September to mid-December; Term 2: January to April.

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Submitting an Application

How to submit an online application?

All applications have to be submitted via the Graduate School's website: <http://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk>

The application fee for admission is HK\$300 for each programme.

Application for Research Postgraduate Programmes will start in September, and application for Taught Postgraduate Programmes will start in October.

PhD applications will be considered mainly in the first round of admission and applicants must apply for the PhD programme through the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme

(HKPFS: <https://cerg1.ugc.edu.hk/hkpfs/index.html>) in this round. (deadline: **1 December 2017**).

Please be careful to choose the right programme you wish to apply for. The Programme applied **CANNOT** be changed once an application is submitted via the online submission system of the University.

For details on online application and document upload, please refer to the instructions on the Graduate School's website.

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Will it help if I submit my application earlier?

Yes. The applications are processed on rolling basis starting from mid-November. **Early applications are strongly encouraged.**

PhD applications will be considered mainly in the first round of admission and applicants must apply for the PhD programme through the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme

(HKPFS: <https://cerg1.ugc.edu.hk/hkpfs/index.html>) in this round. (deadline: **1 December 2017**).

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Can I apply for more than one programmes? Will it affect my chance of success?

You are required to submit **separate applications** if you wish to make multiple applications for different programmes of our School. Please also note that multiple application fees should be paid.

Your chance of success will not be affected.

The School will consider any multiple applications based on the applicants' quality and their indicated priorities of interests. According to the School's policy, applicants will be given only **ONE** admission offer if they are eligible. Applicants are not allowed to switch to another programme once their admission offer is accepted.

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Do you accept e-mail applications?

No e-mail submissions will be considered. You must submit your applications and upload all supporting documents online via the University's Graduate School's website, and send the required supporting documents to the School **by post** before the respective application deadlines.

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Does it help if I send my portfolio to the School in addition to those documents submitted through the University's application system?

No. You are encouraged to upload all relevant documents to the online application system. Only the **required supporting documents** should be sent to the School by post before the respective application deadlines. Please refer to the **Checklist** for Research Postgraduate Programmes/ Taught Postgraduate Programmes.

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What is a research proposal, in Chinese or in English? How long should I write? (For Research Postgraduate Programmes only)

A research proposal outlining areas of interest, goals and plans has to be submitted. It should be long enough to demonstrate a good understanding of relevant theories and a feasible research plan with methodological appropriateness. The research proposal needs to be written in English.

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What is a personal statement, a study plan, in Chinese or in English? How long should I write? (For Taught Postgraduate Programmes only)

A statement of purpose articulating the relevance of their study plans to their career objectives and professional interests has to be submitted. The statement needs to be written in English, normally around two to three pages of text.

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What makes my application a strong case?

Admission to our School is highly competitive. You need to have a good academic standing and meet the English proficiency requirement in order to be successful. Reference letters, work experience and motivation will also be considered. For application to research postgraduate programmes, a well-written research proposal is also essential.

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Do I need to possess a media-related degree? How many students will you take in this year?

We welcome students of all disciplines to apply, except for applicants of PhD programme who should possess a Master's degree in journalism/communication or in a related field of humanities and social science. The admission rate varies across programmes and years depending on applicants' quality for example.

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If my TOEFL or IELTS score does not meet the requirement of the programme, could I use other means to demonstrate my English proficiency? Can the CET conducted by universities in China be used to substitute TOEFL or IELTS? Can I submit the TOEFL or IELTS scores later?

We accept **ONLY** TOEFL or IELTS score as a proof of English proficiency for applicants without a degree from a university in Hong Kong or taken a degree programme of which the medium of instruction was English. Other means are not accepted. The TOEFL/IELTS score must be valid at the time of application and fulfilling admission offer of our programme (TOEFL/IELTS score are considered valid for two years from the test date.). All TOEFL or IELTS score report must reach our office before the application deadlines. If the original score report is not yet available before the deadline, applicants may first send us a photocopy of the score report before the deadlines and submit the original score report later as soon as possible.

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Checklist for your application (for Research Postgraduate Programmes)

1. Please complete the Application Form and upload all necessary documents to University's Graduate School's website (<http://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk>). Please upload a clear image to the website.
2. Please mail the following documents to the **School of Journalism and Communication, Room 206-207, Humanities Building, New Asia College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, Hong Kong** (Attn.: Programme Name; Ref.: Application No.).
 - a. Copies of certificates of academic/professional qualifications (e.g. university certificate of graduation, examination certificates and other qualifications).
 - b. Official transcripts (with a complete record of courses attended and examination results) of all tertiary level studies.
 - (i) Non-CUHK qualifications: **Photocopies will NOT be accepted.** Applicants should first download the "Transcript Submission Covering Sheet" and send it to their universities to apply for transcripts. Transcripts should be returned directly to relevant Divisions in sealed envelope. Certificates and transcripts, which are not in English or Chinese, should be accompanied by an official certified translation in either English or Chinese.
 - (ii) CUHK qualifications (Bachelor's or higher degrees): Photocopies of **transcripts** issued by CUHK are accepted, but **Academic Reports will NOT be accepted.** Applicants should first download the "Transcript Submission Covering Sheet" and attach it to the transcript copy. Please return the transcript copy to the relevant Divisions directly. CUHK students with other qualifications not awarded by CUHK are required to follow the requirement listed in b(i). The University reserves the right to require applicants to submit the original transcript if deemed necessary.
 - c. Three confidential recommendations.
 - d. One photocopy of any one of the following score reports/certificates (except those listed in 2d(iii)), showing that you have fulfilled the English Language Proficiency Requirement for admission to the Graduate School:
 - (i) a pass in English of HKALE (including HKAS), or HKHLE, or CUHK Matriculation Exam, or GCE A Level/ AS Level; or Level 4 of DSE; or
 - (ii) a degree from a university in Hong Kong or taken a degree programme of which the medium of instruction was English; or
 - (iii) an **original copy** of valid official score report of TOEFL, or IELTS (Academic). Photocopies will not be accepted;
 - e. One photocopy of your HKID card or your Passport or other identity document as given in the Application Form.
 - f. Research proposal – please refer to FAQ for details.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE

- Separate applications and materials have to be submitted and mailed for different programmes. Please always quote your application number on the envelope.
- **NO changes in the programmes applied for will be allowed.** Please be careful when you choose the programme you are applying. The application fees cannot be refunded under any circumstances.

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Checklist for your application (for Taught Postgraduate Programmes)

1. Submit online application

Please complete the application Form at Graduate School's website https://www.gradsch.cuhk.edu.hk/onlineapp/faculty_list.aspx

2. Upload all necessary documents

Applicants are required to upload the supporting documents to: <https://www.gradsch.cuhk.edu.hk/onlineapp/login.aspx>

- (i) Student transcript of all tertiary level studies and grading scheme
- (ii) Certificates of academic qualifications (e.g. university certificate of graduation)
- (iii) HKID card or your Passport or other identity document as given in the online application form

3. Mail the supporting documents

Please mail the following documents to the **Division of Communication, School of Journalism and Communication**

Address: Room 206-207, Humanities Building, New Asia College,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, Hong Kong
(Attn.: programme name Ref.: Application No.)

- (i) **Official transcripts** (with a complete record of all courses attended and examination results) and **grading scheme** of all tertiary level studies.
 - a) **Non-CUHK qualifications: Photocopies will NOT be accepted.** Applicants should download the "Transcript Submission Covering Sheet" (optional) and send it to their universities to apply for **official transcripts**. The official transcripts should bear registrar's signature and stamp of Registry. Transcripts should be returned **directly** to our division in sealed envelope. **Certificates and transcripts, which are not in English or Chinese, should be accompanied by an official certified translation in either English or Chinese.**
 - b) **CUHK qualifications (Bachelor's or higher degrees):** Photocopies of **transcripts** issued by CUHK are accepted, but **Academic Reports will NOT be accepted.** Applicants should first download the "Transcript Submission Covering Sheet" and attach it to the transcript copy. Please return the transcript copy to our division (i.e. Division of Communication) directly. CUHK students with other qualifications not awarded by CUHK are required to follow the requirement listed in 3(i)a. The University reserves the right to require applicants to submit the original transcript if deemed necessary.
 - c) **Grading scheme:** There should be explanatory notes printed/ appended to transcript indicating the grading scheme of the University. If no such notes, official grading scheme issued by the Registry is needed.
- (ii) **Copies of certificates** of academic/professional qualifications (e.g. university certificate of graduation, examination certificates and other qualifications).
- (iii) **Confidential recommendations** from two referees
 - a) Input two referees' information in the section "My referee(s)" through the "Online System for Applicants of Postgraduate Programmes" of Graduate School after settling the application fee; OR
 - b) Download two "Confidential Recommendation" / "Referee's Report" and send one to each of your referees. Hard copy of Confidential Recommendations must reach our division directly from the referees, or in sealed envelopes and send by the applicant with other supporting documents to our division.
- (iv) photocopy of one of the following **score reports/certificates** (original copy is needed as listed in 3(iv)c), showing that you have fulfilled the Graduate School's **English Language Proficiency Requirement:**
 - a) a pass in English of HKALE (including HKAS), or HKHLE, or CUHK Matriculation Exam, or GCE A-Level/ AS-Level; or Level 4 of DSE; or
 - b) a degree from a university in Hong Kong or taken a degree programme of which the medium of instruction was English; or
 - c) **Original copy** of valid official score report^{Note 1} of TOEFL^{Note 2}, or IELTS (Academic)^{Note 3} which directly send from the test origination to our division. Photocopies/student copy will not be accepted;
- (v) photocopy of your **HKID card or your Passport** or other identity document as given in the Application Form.
- (iv) **Personal Statement / Study Plan** (in English, normally around two to three pages of text.)

Note 1: The TOEFL/IELTS score must be valid at the time of application and fulfilling admission offer of our programme. TOEFL/IELTS score are considered valid for two years from the test date.

Note 2: Only original valid official score report of TOEFL sent directly from the test organization to the University will be accepted. Original examinee's score report will not be accepted (The University's institution code is 0812)

Note 3: Only original valid official score report of IELTS sent directly from the test organization to Division of Communication will be accepted. Please fill in the contact information of Division of Communication on the IELTS Application Form.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE

- Separate applications and materials have to be submitted and mailed for different programmes. Please always **quote your application number** on the envelope.
- **NO changes in the programmes applied for will be allowed.** Please be careful when you choose the programme you are applying. The application fees cannot be refunded under any circumstances.

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How can I submit the recommendation letters? Can I change the referee information after application is submitted online?

You can input the referees' information in the section "My referee(s)" through the "Online System for Applicants of Postgraduate Programmes" of Graduate School after settling the application fee; OR download the "Confidential Recommendation" / "Referee's Report" and send one to each of your referees. Hard copy of Confidential Recommendations must reach our division directly from the referees, or in sealed envelopes and send by the applicant with other supporting documents to our division.

If you have problems with the online reference letter system or you have submitted the wrong referee information on the system, please ask your referees to send us a hardcopy of the reference letter by post.

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After Submitting an Application

When will the application results be announced?

Application results will be announced in several rounds from December 2017 to June 2018. Successful applicants will be notified in writing as soon as the selection process is completed. Applicants can login the Graduate School's "Online System for Applications for Admission to Postgraduate Programme" to check their status(via "view application result"). Applicants may consider their applications unsuccessful if they do not hear from us thereafter.

E-mail or telephone enquiries on the application status will NOT be considered.

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Can I change the programme I have applied for after an application is submitted online?

NO. An application cannot be changed once it is submitted online. Please submit another application if you wish to apply for more than one programme.

Separate applications and materials have to be submitted and mailed for different programmes.

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How can I know whether the School has received my official transcripts, my TOEFL or IELTS score report, or my recommendation letters?

If you send your materials by courier, you may check the delivery status with the courier directly.

Due to a large number of applications we receive, enquiries regarding receipt of documents will **NOT** be processed. Instead, we will actively contact the applicants for any missing or further documents if necessary. In any case, your application would NOT be disqualified if document is submitted within one week after we ask you for supporting documents.

To ensure all your supporting documents are received, you are strongly encouraged to upload full set of valid materials via the University's online application system.

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Will there be any interview?

A telephone interview may be conducted only if necessary. NOT every applicant will receive a telephone interview. For research postgraduate programme applicants, face-to-face interview and video-conferencing interview may also be arranged.

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Will it help if I send an e-mail to Professors or teachers of the School?

In order to maintain a fair admission procedure, our teachers will NOT comment on the performance of any potential candidate. **ALL e-mails in relation to application potentials sent to teachers of our School will NOT be entertained.**

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If I apply for more than one programme, how will the School consider my applications?

After considering your application materials, the School will send you an e-mail asking for your priorities of interests only if necessary. NOT every applicant will receive this e-mail.

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I got an offer from another Programme or University. What should I do?

Successful applicants will be notified in writing as soon as the selection process is completed. The School does NOT answer any enquiries about individual results. The results will NOT be announced earlier to meet individual applicant's request. Please decide yourself whether you will accept the offer from another Programme/University or not. Students cannot change his/her programme once they accepted the offer of admission.

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After Application Result is Announced

If I receive the admission letter from one of the programmes, does it mean that my application(s) for other taught postgraduate programmes offered by the School is/are failed?

YES. Each applicant will receive only **ONE** offer for the taught postgraduate programmes from the School.

For students who have applied for the Master of Philosophy in Communication, your acceptance to a taught programme can be transferred if you are later admitted to the M.Phil. in Communication programme. However, please note that such transfer only applies to the M.Phil. in Communication programme, and does **NOT** apply to transfer to other taught programmes within the University or within the School.

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If my classmate has received an offer but I have not, does it mean that my application is failed?

NO. There may be several rounds of selection and the process may span over several months (normally from January to June).

Successful applicants will be notified in writing as soon as the selection process is completed. Applicants can check their status on the Graduate School's website. Applicants should consider their applications unsuccessful if they do not hear from us by July 2018.

Instead, frequent enquiry on individual admission cases, admission progress and results will slow down the whole selection process. E-mail or telephone enquiries on the application status will NOT be entertained.

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When will I need to pay the deposit?

For **research postgraduate programmes**, non-final-year-undergraduate local applicants will have to pay a deposit two to three weeks after the admission letter is sent to you by the Graduate School. Final-year-undergraduate local applicants will have to pay in April or May. Non-local applicants will have to pay a deposit two to three weeks after the admission letter is sent to you and pay the remaining amount in August. The exact payment amount and due date can be found in your admission letter. The reply and payment deadline CANNOT be delayed under any circumstances.

For **taught postgraduate programmes**, you will have to pay the deposit two to three weeks after the admission offer is sent to you by the Graduate School. Applicants are required to indicate acceptance of admission offer online and pay the deposit by the payment due date. The offer acceptance and payment due date CANNOT be delayed under any circumstances.

According to the University's policy, all the above deposits paid CANNOT be refunded.

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Can I apply for a refund of deposit?

According to the University's policy, the deposit paid **CANNOT** be refunded.

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Can I change to another programme after accepting an offer?

NO. Each applicant will receive only **ONE** offer from a taught postgraduate programmes from the School.

For students who have applied for the M.Phil. in Communication, your acceptance to the taught programme can be transferred if you are later admitted to the M.Phil. in Communication programme. However, please note that such transfer only applies to the M.Phil. in Communication programme, and does NOT apply to transfer to other taught programmes within the University or within the School.

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What do I need to do after receiving an offer?

Please follow the instruction as per the **Application Result and Registration Guide** provided to you by the Graduate School via the Online System to do an online registration and send in your visa application materials as soon as possible after you have paid your tuition fee/deposit. Delay in online registration and visa application will disallow you to register for courses and to attend classes on time.

For **undergraduate final year students**, please apply for a full official transcript as early as possible once you have completed all your undergraduate studies.

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