

# Taking a step up to the next level with DPA, MPA and MIPA programmes at HKU

The University of Hong Kong (HKU) is launching a new Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) programme in response to high demand for more advanced public administration training.

The DPA programme of the Department of Politics and Public Administration is recruiting the first batch of students with an application deadline of April for the semester starting in September 2013.



**Danny Lam,**  
Professor of Department  
of Politics and Public  
Administration

"This programme is one of a kind in the Greater China Region, and even in Asia. A PhD in Public Administration is an academically oriented programme. But here, we provide academically vigorous and practically oriented knowledge," says DPA programme director Professor Danny Lam.

The four-year part-time programme requires students to attend courses in the first two years and write their theses in the last two. "The requirements are at the same level as for a PhD. DPA students also need to defend their theses in front of a panel," Prof Lam says.

Classes are arranged for the weekends. According to Prof Lam, students have to take two courses in a semester; for each course they have to attend three 12-hour weekend classes and for the rest of the year they receive on-going support through reading lists and online discussions. The courses introduce state-of-the-art public administration knowledge and helps students apply this knowledge in their everyday work. Faculty members represent a

network of international scholars.

The initial intake will be 14 students. Those interested should apply now, as admission is only in alternate years, with the next class starting in 2015.

To keep standards high, entry requirements include a Masters' degree in a relevant subject and a minimum of eight years' managerial experience. Parties who might most benefit include senior managers in the public and non-profit sector in Greater China, including Taiwan and Macau, and the Asia Pacific region.

"The demand for DPA education is tremendous; in particular, there is also a lot of interest from universities on the mainland to work with us. For admission, we will have an incremental approach," Prof Lam says. The cost of the course is HK\$110,000 per annum.

The DPA programme builds on the success of the university's highly recognised Master of Public Administration (MPA) programme that looks back on a 30-year history. Originally, the HKU was the Hong Kong civil service's dedicated training ground, and it was only in 2002 that the university opened up the programme to the public, attracting a broader range of students with varied backgrounds.

On average, the MPA programme receives 300 applications and accepts 40 students. The courses integrate academic excellence with practical relevance and teach students how to apply the learned concepts in their work.

Programme features include an optional live-in course at Tsinghua University in Beijing where students get acquainted with Chinese public administration and visit government departments.

"The live-in course requires a workable level of Putonghua, and provides students



**Eliza Lee Wing-yee,**  
Professor of Department  
of Politics and Public  
Administration

with first-hand experience of the public administrative institutions in mainland China," says Professor Eliza Lee, director of the MPA programme.

Other distinctive programme features include workshops conducted by international scholars and simulation exercises for training practical skills, such as collaboration and negotiation skills, crisis management, media handling, and engaging civil society.

"These simulation exercises enable students to develop practical managerial skills that are essential for successful public management in the current Hong Kong context," Prof Lee says.

The programme effectively integrates local context and international dimensions. The international focus is strengthened by a workshop in public affairs taught by distinguished international scholars.

"We are selective in admission. We interview all short-listed candidates to see how articulate they are and how they can contribute to the classroom experience. We want well-qualified students so that they can also learn from their peers," says Prof Lee.

Most students are part-time local employees with three years or more work experience and classes are held in the evenings or on Saturdays.

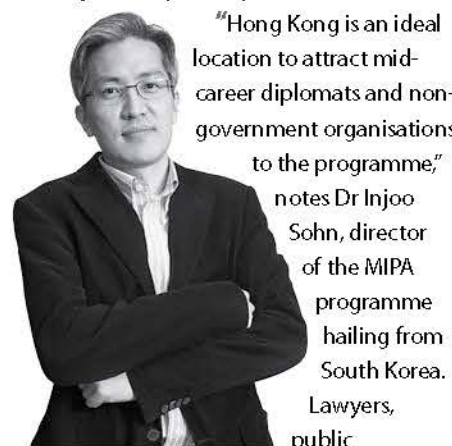
She says all those interacting with the



HKU opened up the public administration programme to the public in 2002, attracting a broader range of students with varied backgrounds.

government or the public can benefit from the programme, including civil servants, those working in the public sector and non-government organisations, even in public relations.

The department's Master of International and Public Affairs (MIPA) is another well-respected programme; also a pioneer in Hong Kong in this field that has been running for the past 10 years.



**Injo Sohn,**  
Assistant Professor of  
Department of Politics  
and Public Administration

"Hong Kong is an ideal location to attract mid-career diplomats and non-government organisations to the programme," notes Dr Injo Sohn, director of the MIPA programme hailing from South Korea.

Lawyers, public administrators, communication experts and journalists can also benefit from this two-year part-time study that requires eight completed courses and a capstone project.

The programme's strength is in its international partnerships with worldwide

policy institutes and think-tanks, the summer intensive course offered at Beida University in Beijing and the graduate exchange programme with George Washington University and Johns Hopkins University in the US.

"Students have a lot of opportunity to explore international affairs," says Dr Sohn. "Of the 40 intake a year, about 10 students are international with diverse background, which brings a very interesting aspect to the classroom."

The curriculum includes international relations, security, cooperation and political economy focusing on Asia Pacific, Chinese foreign policy and governance, among other topics.

The cost of both MIPA and MPA is HK\$128,000 per programme and application deadlines are in February.

Professor Lam points out the importance of becoming part of the alumni. "It is a substantial network, with high-ranking government officials among the members. For example, a number of Assistant Commissioners of Police, the Ombudsman, and the Secretary for Home Affairs are all our graduates," he says.

The alumni association helps students to stay connected and provides bridges between them for better cooperation and understanding.

**Faculty of Social Sciences**  
The University of Hong Kong

## TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES 2013-14

No. 1 in Asia and No. 30 in the world#  
# Times Higher Education World University Rankings, 2012-13

18 taught postgraduate programmes

1,100 current postgraduate students

Programme	課程	Application deadline
<b>Department of Geography</b> Master of Arts in China Development Studies Master of Arts in Transport Policy and Planning	地理學系 文科碩士(中國發展研究) 文科碩士(運輸政策與規劃)	Feb 28, 2013 Feb 28, 2013
<b>Department of Politics and Public Administration</b> Doctor of Public Administration Master of International and Public Affairs Master of Public Administration	政治與公共行政學系 公共行政學博士 國際關係學碩士 公共行政學碩士	Apr 30, 2013 Feb 28, 2013 Feb 28, 2013
<b>Department of Psychology</b> Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) Doctor of Psychology (Educational Psychology) Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology	心理學系 心理學博士(臨床心理學) 心理學博士(教育心理學) 心理學深造證書	May 31, 2013 May 31, 2013 Mar 31, 2013
<b>Department of Social Work and Social Administration</b> Master of Expressive Arts Therapy Master of Social Sciences in Behavioral Health Master of Social Sciences in Counselling Master of Social Sciences in Gerontology Master of Social Sciences in Mental Health Master of Social Sciences in Social Work Master of Social Work	社會工作及社會行政學系 表達藝術治療碩士 社會科學碩士(行為健康) 社會科學碩士(輔導學) 社會科學碩士(老年學) 社會科學碩士(精神健康) 社會科學碩士(社會工作學) 社會工作學碩士	Apr 30, 2013 Feb 28, 2013 Feb 28, 2013 Jan 15, 2013 Feb 28, 2013 Feb 28, 2013 Feb 28, 2013 Jan 4, 2013
<b>Department of Sociology</b> Master of Social Sciences in Criminology Master of Social Sciences in Media, Culture and Creative Cities	社會學系 社會科學碩士(犯罪學) 社會科學碩士(媒體、文化及創意城市)	Feb 28, 2013 Mar 17, 2013
<b>Journalism and Media Studies Centre</b> Master of Journalism/Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism	新聞及傳媒研究中心 新聞學碩士 / 新聞學深造文憑	Jan 31, 2013



Further information:  
[www.socsc.hku.hk/tpg2013](http://www.socsc.hku.hk/tpg2013)