

Postgraduate Studies in Hong Kong



Compared with a few years ago, more fresh graduates are now choosing to continue their studies after completing their undergraduate degree. These graduates have to look for other alternatives when it is not easy to look for a suitable job in a poor economy. Many believe that it is better to upgrade oneself so as to be more competitive in the job market.

Universities in Hong Kong offer full-time as well as part-time postgraduate programmes leading to the award of a postgraduate diploma, a master's degree or a doctoral degree. For a master's degree, it is available as research degrees and coursework degrees. As the name suggests, research degrees require students to spend time conducting academic research in specific disciplines and topics. It is suitable for graduates who have not taken up a full-time job since they have more time for in-depth research work.

For coursework degrees, students have to attend classes or tutorials. Comparatively, coursework degrees require less time in research work, but students need to have research capability in order to finish their thesis or graduation paper.

Most universities offer master's degree in various disciplines nowadays, unlike in the past. Almost all fresh graduates can apply for further studies in their own discipline if they choose to. Yet, competition is keen since universities offer limited places for enrolment in each discipline. Among the various disciplines, master in business administration (MBA) is the most popular programme among Hong Kong graduates.

The first MBA programme in Hong Kong was offered by the Faculty of Business Administration of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) in 1966. Throughout the years, CUHK has maintained its leading position in management education.

The standard of Hong Kong's business education is quite high compared with other universities on an international scale. The School of Business and Management of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) was ranked one of the world's top-50 business schools offering full-time MBA programmes by the Financial Times.

As more and more graduates pursue a higher degree, universities in Hong Kong offer more choices to graduates by cooperating with overseas universities or institutions. Local universities offer distant-learning Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes jointly developed with overseas universities.

These programmes may require students to attend tutorials from time to time. In choosing suitable programmes, seek the advice of education counsellors and the opinions of those who have studied such programmes. Do not just believe in advertisements which boast the reputation of the universities.

In applying for master's degree programmes, especially MBA, recommendation from university professors is required. Some programmes may require several referees. Read the application form with care.