



HKU
SOCIAL
SCIENCES
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

2026-27

Undergraduate Prospectus

Bachelor Programme

SOCIAL SCIENCES





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Faculty's Vision & Mission

The Faculty of Social Sciences of The University of Hong Kong seeks to make a positive social contribution through a global presence, regional significance and engagement with the rest of China. The Faculty delivers impact through internationalization, innovation and interdisciplinarity. It attracts and nurtures global scholars through excellence in research, teaching and learning and knowledge exchange. The Faculty aims to produce citizens with a global perspective who are critical thinkers, socially aware, ready to embrace diversity, and seek to make an impact on society.

Dean's Message

Thank you for considering the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Hong Kong as your potential academic home. We are committed to nurturing you into compassionate, critical thinkers, and change-makers within society. As you embark on your academic journey with us, you can anticipate a plethora of opportunities that will shape your future positively and enable you to make significant contributions to the world.

Within our vibrant and intellectually stimulating community, you will have access to a network of esteemed faculty members, fellow students, and alumni. This dynamic network will serve as a valuable resource for mentorship, collaboration, and career prospects. We foster a supportive environment that fosters growth, innovation, and the exchange of ideas.

By becoming a part of the Faculty of Social Sciences, you will join a community that values diversity, inclusivity, and global perspectives. Engaging with peers from various backgrounds and cultures will broaden your horizons, challenge your assumptions, and deepen your understanding of the complex issues facing our world today. The relationships you forge here will endure a lifetime.

Our alumni have embarked on successful careers across diverse sectors, including private, public, and non-profit organisations. The knowledge, skills, and experiences acquired through our programmes prepare them to excel in various professional fields. Whether your aspirations lie in research, policy-making, advocacy, or community development, our faculty provides a robust foundation for making a meaningful impact.

Thank you once more for considering the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Hong Kong as your college destination. We are enthusiastic about the opportunity to welcome you into our vibrant community of learners, thinkers, and change-makers.



Professor Ming WEN

Departments

Geography

Geography has a long tradition at HKU. Since 1931, our professors, researchers, and students have practised the art and science of spatial relationships, and have equipped our graduates and the public at large with the tools and the knowledge to understand and address some of the world's most pressing environmental and social concerns. Today, the Department is a world-leading research community with experts working at the frontiers of geospatial data science, human beings and their environs, and the physical characteristics and processes of our rapidly-changing planet. We provide training that embraces a wide range of philosophies and methodologies from across the social and natural sciences as well as the arts and humanities, which allows geographers to view complex problems both holistically and from multiple angles, and to design, test, and refine solutions at the forefront of global knowledge and scientific innovation.

Journalism and Media Studies

The Journalism and Media Studies Centre (JMSC) is dedicated to serving civil society and fostering an informed citizenry through a vibrant and professional news media. Our focus lies in upholding professional standards, reinforcing journalistic integrity, and help students build essential skills, which are invaluable for any future career.



Politics and Public Administration

The Department of Politics and Public Administration is a founding department of the Faculty. During the past decades, the Department has contributed to the development of its discipline both locally and internationally through dedicated teaching, research and knowledge exchange.

Social Work and Social Administration

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration is the first social work training institute in Hong Kong's history of professional social work education. Our commitment to improving the quality of life of people has kept our social work education at the forefront of the changing social welfare landscape. Many of our graduates are now social work leaders, government officials, directors and senior managers in NGOs and professors in major universities.

Psychology

HKU Psychology is ranked among the top three in Asia. Our professoriate staff consist of experts in different fields of psychology. Our students are trained to apply psychological principles in addressing important social issues. Our research expertise also allows us to offer two multi-disciplinary programmes in Cognitive Science and Neuroscience.

Sociology

The Department of Sociology is one of the leading sociology departments in the world. Sociology provides students with critical analytical and methodological skills for understanding individuals and their connection to communities and societies, across a range of social indicators – class, crime, economy, education, family, gender, health, media, religion and technology.

Curricula

Generic Components of the Undergraduate Curricula

At HKU, students are required to complete Common Core Curriculum courses, Language Enhancement courses in Chinese and English, Artificial Intelligence Literacy courses, and a non-credit bearing course “Introduction to the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law” as stipulated in the Regulations for First Degree Curricula in order to graduate.



01 Common Core

The Common Core Curriculum is a series of self-selected interdisciplinary courses across five Areas of Inquiry (Aoi)

- i) Scientific and Technological Literacy
- ii) Arts and Humanities
- iii) Global Issues
- iv) China: Culture, State and Society
- v) Artificial Intelligence

02 English Language Enhancement Courses

English Language Enhancement courses include an Academic Communication in English course and an English in the Discipline course.

03 Chinese Language Enhancement Courses

Students can choose to take one Chinese Language Enhancement course out of five courses that are designed for Cantonese, Mandarin and non-Cantonese speakers to cater the specific needs of students from different backgrounds.

04 Artificial Intelligence Literacy Courses

Artificial Intelligence Literacy courses comprise two 3-credit microcredential courses designed to cover both general and discipline-specific AI knowledge and skills.

JUPAS Code
6705

Bachelor of Psychology 心理學學士



The BPsych curriculum aims to enhance students' understanding of psychological phenomenon and principles through experiential and research-intensive learning. It fosters critical analysis and self-reflection, making our graduates valuable in the job market.

The curriculum provides an internationally-recognised qualification in Psychology, allowing students to pursue both professional training in applied aspects of Psychology (e.g. Educational Psychology or Clinical Psychology), and advanced research training in all related areas, including Cognitive Science and Neuroscience.



JUPAS Code

6717

Bachelor of Social Sciences 社會科學學士



Students in this BSocSc curriculum may choose to major in one of the five core disciplines: Computational Social Science, Geography, Politics and Public Administration, Social Policy and Social Development, and Sociology. Students may also opt for a double major in second options as well as majors offered by other Faculties of the University. Students can choose to combine a major with one or two minors.

Career Prospects

Civil Services

6%

Commerce & Industry

28%

Community, Social & Personal Services

17%

Education

19%

Further Studies and Others

30%



Bachelor of Social Sciences Curriculum Structure



1st Majors*

offered by Social Sciences (Compulsory major)

Students are offered great flexibility to explore their academic interests during the first year of studies by taking different social sciences introductory courses. Starting from the second year of studies, students may declare one of the following five majors as their first major and further study on the selected discipline.

Flexible

Free Choice

No Quota

No Selection

• Computational Social Science

#ComputationalMethods #BigData
#MachineLearning #AI

• Geography

#Globalization #GeospatialDataScience #Climate
#Sustainability #Urbanism #Environment

• Politics and Public Administration

#ComparativePolitics #InternationalPolitics
#PoliticalTheoryandEthics #PublicAdministration

• Social Policy and Social Development

#SocialDevelopmentIssues #SocialPolicy
#SocialIssues #Non-profitsectors

• Sociology

#Society #Culture #Relationships #Behaviour

2nd Majors*

offered by Social Sciences

• Cognitive Science

• Counselling

• Criminology

• Geospatial Data Science

• Media & Cultural Studies

• Neuroscience

• Psychology

• Urban Governance

Minors

offered by Social Sciences

• Human Resource Management

• Journalism, Media and Artificial Intelligence

Others

Students may also opt for major/minor offered by other Faculties

• Architecture

• Arts

• Business

• Education

• Engineering

• Medicine

• Science

* All major programmes offer a minor option for students.

Student Voices



LEUNG Yat Sing
BSocSc 2024

I completed my Social Innovation internship at Inner Edge, a local sports psychology consulting company. It has provided me with a very precious chance to learn practical skills and how to integrate what I've learnt in the classrooms with real-world settings, preparing me for future careers.

Kylie POON
BSocSc 2022

The flexibility to choose courses from a variety of topics allows me to understand the impacts of urban growth of contemporary societies from an interdisciplinary perspective. After graduation, I hope to further my studies in urban planning and to implement innovative solutions to transform Hong Kong into a vibrant and livable city, where everyone is happy to reside in.



Charis TIN
BSocSc 2021

BSocSc offers us a high level of freedom regarding our academic choices and provides us with rich experiential learning opportunities including overseas exchange and internships under the two themes of Social Innovation and Global Citizenship. The flexible programme structure allows us to decide which discipline we wish to major in after we have tried out different subjects/disciplines during the first year.



BSocSc Pathway

Total no. of credits: 240 credits



University Requirements (54 credits)

First Major (72 credits)

Year 1

57 - 63 credits

- Common Core Courses (36 credits)

- Introductory Courses (18 - 24 credits)

Year 2

57 - 63 credits

- Language Enhancement Courses (12 credits)
- Artificial Intelligence Literacy Courses (6 credits)
- Non-credit bearing requirement

- Advanced Courses (12 - 18 credits)

Year 3

57 - 63 credits

- Advanced Courses (12 - 18 credits)

Year 4

60 credits

- Advanced Courses (12 - 18 credits)
- Capstone Experience (6 - 12 credits)



In addition to academic study, the Faculty is dedicated to supporting students' personal and professional development through a series of enrichment activities conducted throughout the four-year journey.

SIGC (24 credits)

Explore different options for fulfilling SIGC requirements.

Apply for experiential learning programmes, such as exchange opportunities and internships.

Engage in internships, exchange programmes, and other experiential learning experiences.

Second Major / Minor / Free Electives (90 credits)

Students may opt for a Second Major or Minor offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences or other Faculties.

Year 4



Preparing for Success
Leverage your knowledge and experiences to prepare effectively for your career or further studies.

Year 3



Expanding Horizons
Immerse yourself in meaningful hands-on experiences, and build a compelling portfolio of achievements and personal growth.

Year 2



Seizing Opportunities
Seek out internships and exchange opportunities, complemented by workshops designed to enhance your professional skills, including problem-solving, critical thinking, and communication.

Year 1



Self-Discovery
Uncover your passions and strengths by engaging in foundational courses, self-exploration workshops, and social capital-building activities.

Alumni Stories



Anita LEE
Founder
Time to Gold

During my studies in BSocSc, the rigorous coursework and interactive seminars offered by a diverse range of social science disciplines, from sociology to international politics, fostered critical thinking and a deep understanding of social issues. These experiences helped me identify pressing social challenges and understand their root causes, forming the foundation of the enterprise's mission to address these problems. Professors' real-world examples and case studies effectively bridged theory and practice. Courses on social policy and social change inspired me to develop sustainable solutions.

Studying Politics at HKU was transformative for my career. The rigorous training in analysis, argumentation, and understanding complex systems gave me the confidence to navigate new realms, tackle ill-defined problems, and shape compelling narratives for change – skills I rely on every day. International exposure is essential today; it sets you apart, builds adaptability, and opens doors in a competitive global job market.



Brian LAM
Consultant
The Boston Consulting Group

JUPAS Code
6731

Bachelor of Social Work 社會工作學學士



Our BSW curriculum covers various disciplines including social welfare and social policy, social work theory and practice, human behaviour and social environment, social research, law etc. Students are arranged to undertake two fieldwork placements in local or overseas agencies under professional supervision. Our graduates are eligible for professional registration with the Hong Kong Social Workers Registration Board.

Career Prospects

Civil Services

31%

Community, Social & Personal Services

61%

Education

5%

Further Studies and Others

3%



JUPAS Code
6810

Bachelor of Social Sciences (Government and Laws) and Bachelor of Laws

社會科學學士 (政治學與法學)及法學士



Bachelor of Social Sciences (Government and Laws) and Bachelor of Laws programme is jointly offered by the Department of Politics and Public Administration and the Faculty of Law. The five-year world-class undergraduate programme cultivates transformative and virtuous leaders equipped to address humanity's most critical challenges. In so doing, we empower visionaries in law and public affairs with profound wisdom, cutting-edge expertise, ethical clarity, and innovation to shape governance in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), planetary stewardship, geopolitical security, and international dispute resolution.

Career Prospects

Civil Services

10%

Commerce & Industry

10%

Education

10%

Further Studies and Others
(Including PCLL)

70%



JUPAS Code
6822

Bachelor of Journalism, Media and Artificial Intelligence

新聞媒體及 人工智能學士



The Bachelor of Journalism, Media and Artificial Intelligence programme is a technology-driven, communication-focused double-major curriculum for the digital age. The innovative programme integrates core journalistic training with cutting-edge technologies, preparing students to lead, adapt, and create media across a wide range of industries.

The programme places strong emphasis on experiential, real-world learning. All students complete at least one summer internship at a media outlet or communication organisation. They may also spend a semester abroad at one of six leading journalism and media schools, or at one of HKU's global partner institutions.

Career Prospects

Civil Services

8%

Commerce & Industry

43%

Community, Social & Personal Services

26%

Further Studies and Others

23%



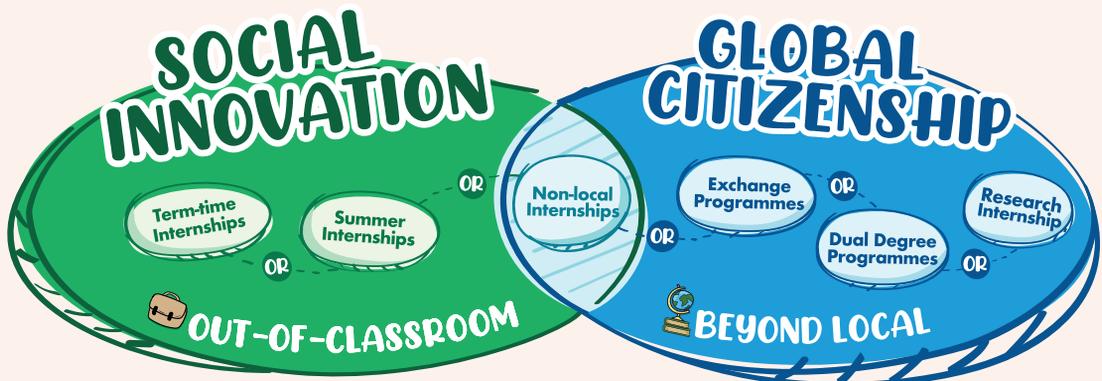
Social Innovation & Global Citizenship

Social Innovation (SI) and Global Citizenship (GC) graduation requirements will take you out of classroom and go beyond the local boundary for your experiential learning of social issues.



Graduation Requirements	Social Innovation		Global Citizenship
BPsych	✓	&	✓
BSocSc	✓	&	✓
BSW	Nil (Free Electives)		
BSocSc (GL) & LLB	✓	or	✓
BJMAI			✓

SIGC Options
24 Credits





Internship Programmes

The Internship Programmes are specifically designed to encourage students to maximise their full potential by transcending the boundaries of campus, academic discipline, and geographical limitations. The programmes consist of:

- Placement-based Internships
 - Local and Non-local Internships
 - GC@Home Internships
 - Psychology Field Placement
- Project-based Internships
 - Community-engaged Research Internships
 - Global Bay Areas Impact Lab
 - GLocal Projects



and more

Student Exchange Programmes

The University and Faculty offer different exchange opportunities to students with outstanding academic performance and good standing. Through the exchange programmes, students will study at partner institutions for one semester or one academic year to get a taste of studying abroad and to facilitate cultural exchange.

Students may also apply for credit transfer in order to fulfil the degree requirements at HKU. Scholarships and sponsorships will be provided to students according to their academic standing and financial needs.

Bocconi



Cornell University



McGill
UNIVERSITY



NUS
National University
of Singapore



北京大学
PEKING UNIVERSITY



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE



UNSW
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES



東京大学
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO



WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK



清华大学
Tsinghua University



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



University of
St Andrews



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO



WASEDA
University

and more



SIGC Sharing



The Zubin Foundation

Our HKU interns demonstrated remarkable creativity and a strong drive to excel. Their innovative approach to problem-solving and eagerness to learn made a significant impact on our projects. Throughout the internship, they consistently exhibited excellent teamwork skills. Their ability to collaborate effectively with colleagues and contribute positively to the team dynamic was truly commendable. They quickly adapted to new challenges, showcasing their capacity to learn and grow in a fast-paced environment. Their adaptability and willingness to take on new tasks were key to their success.



Asian Family Services

It was a fantastic experience working alongside our student intern to support the community together. We had the opportunity to attend various events and workshops, building valuable connections along the way. One memorable (and funny) moment was when we were evacuated due to a fire alarm in the middle of our work. As the supervisor, I believe these experiences will be unforgettable and will have a positive impact on the student's future. Moments like these contribute to both personal and professional growth.

From
Students



CHEUNG Yan Nam
BSocSc Year 3

World Vision Vietnam

This photo captures the moment we were involved in the kindergarten kitchen construction in Vietnam, where we had the opportunity to apply our knowledge practically and contribute to community development. The hands-on experience of collaboration deepened our understanding of how basic resources are vital for children's development.



LAM Suet Wing
BPsych Year 4

Psychological Services Unit, Fire Services Department

This photo was taken on our final day working with our supervisor. My colleagues and I wrote thank you cards to express our immense gratitude for our supervisor's guidance and support throughout our work experience at the Fire Services Department. Thanks to our kind and professional supervisor, I have gained fruitful and valuable knowledge in the field of psychology through this hands-on experience.

Dual Degree Programmes

- Geneva Graduate Institute
- Peking University
- Sciences Po
- University of California, Berkeley





3 years
HKU
BSocSc

+

2 years
Geneva
MA

In collaboration with the Geneva Graduate Institute (Geneva), the Faculty offers a concurrent degree programme, Bachelor of Social Sciences + Master of Arts, for BSocSc students. Students will complete 3 years of study at HKU and apply to Geneva for admission to one of Geneva's designated MA programmes*.

Students will spend their HKU fourth year of study in Geneva taking graduate-level courses whose credits will be transferred back to their HKU BSocSc degree. Upon successful completion of their fourth year of study in Geneva, students may be awarded the BSocSc degree from HKU and stay for an additional year to obtain an MA degree from Geneva.

*Anthropology and Sociology, or International Economics, or International History and Politics, or International Law, or International Relations/Political Science, or International and Development Studies.



2 years
HKU

+

2 years
PKU

Students admitted to this dual degree programme will be awarded a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree from HKU and a Bachelor of Laws degree from Peking University (PKU), with a specialization in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE). The programme entails spending the first two years at PKU and the following two years at HKU, with an optional fifth year at PKU for students interested in pursuing MPhil or PhD studies in Chinese Mainland.

From the moment I had received the iconic, red-coloured acceptance letter, I knew that it was the start of an extraordinary experience at Peking University. The HKU-PKU Dual Degree Programme in PPE provided me not only classroom academics but also allowed me to meet other like-minded peers who continuously support me throughout this journey. The unique liberal arts system in Yunpei College provided me access to students studying engineering to history, fuelling me only to new understanding and knowledge of the world around us. Outside of academics, joining the university ice-hockey and floorball team empowered me with access to top notch sports facilities and resources which ensured the highest qualities of training and self-improvement. The HKU-PKU Dual Degree Programme in PPE is not merely a world class level academic pursuit but also offers an excellent opportunity for a holistic self-growth.



Harry CHAN
HKU-PKU
Dual Degree Programme in PPE
Year 1



2 years
HKU

+

2 years
Sciences Po

This 4-year undergraduate dual degree programme will give students two Bachelor's degrees from two highly respected international universities – one from Europe – Sciences Po – and one from Asia – HKU. Students will spend the first two years in France and the third and fourth years in Hong Kong.



2 years
HKU

+

2 years
UC Berkeley

By spending the first two years at HKU and the third and fourth years at University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley), students shall obtain a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree from HKU, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from UC Berkeley upon successful completion of this 4-year undergraduate dual degree programme.

Hi everyone! I'm Shanice, currently a Year 1 student in the HKU-UC Berkeley Dual Degree Programme, majoring in Sociology and Psychology. It's a wonderful journey across two incredible institutions, and I'm thrilled to explore how minds and societies work – both individually and together.

Right now, I'm studying at Exeter College, University of Oxford, through the HKU Short-term Abroad Partnership Scheme. I've had the chance to meet people from all over the world, broadening my perspective in this vibrant and intellectually enriching environment. I want to be a changemaker. Amid today's pressing social issues, I'm driven to explore and challenge the thoughts, behaviours, and norms that shape us – believing that's the first step toward meaningful change. Sociology and Psychology offer me unique perspectives to understand both societal structures and the human mind, and I hope to use that knowledge to make this world a better place.



Shanice KWOK

HKU-UC Berkeley
Dual Degree Programme
Year 1

Admissions Requirements

JUPAS

University Entrance Requirements



Level 3	English Language
Level 3	Chinese Language
Level 2	Mathematics
Attained A	Citizenship and Social Development
Level 3	Elective Subject 1
Level 3	Elective Subject 2

Explanatory Notes

- The Faculty recognises Best 5 subjects in Category A or C in HKDSE.
- The result of the Mathematics Extended Part (Modules 1 or 2) will be recognised as equivalent to that of a full elective in fulfilling the University Entrance Requirement on the condition that one of the elective subjects must be a Senior Secondary Subject (i.e. Category A Subject).
- Other Language subjects will be used as unspecified elective subjects. The minimum requirement is Grade E.
- 6810 Bachelor of Social Sciences (Government and Laws) and Bachelor of Laws requires Level 5 and Level 4 or above in the English Language and Chinese Language respectively, and Level 3 or above in Mathematics Compulsory Part.
- The Faculty accepts combined certificates of HKDSE with no penalty. The best attempt of HKDSE subjects within the latest 2 years (i.e. 2025 and/or 2026) will be counted.

Non-JUPAS



The Faculty welcomes applications for undergraduate admissions through the Non-JUPAS Admissions Scheme from candidates who come from non-mainstream schools in Hong Kong and overseas, and are applying for admission on the strength of qualifications other than the HKDSE.

Due to the differences in educational systems, school-leaving qualifications for entry to universities abroad may not necessarily be accepted by HKU. Details of the general university entrance requirements in respect of qualifications from different countries, please refer to www.admissions.hku.hk.

Please note that admission is on a competitive basis. There are no fixed quotas for non-JUPAS applicants, and thus, the number of students admitted may vary every year. Candidates having satisfied the minimum entrance requirements do not necessarily guarantee admission to the University.

Expected Lower Boundary for Admissions[^]

Curriculum	IB Diploma	GCE A-level/ International A-level	SAT/ AP
BJMAI	32	3A	3AP (Grade 3) + SAT 1380 Or 5AP (Grade 3)
BPsych	35	3A	3AP (Grade 4) + SAT 1380 Or 5AP (Grade 4)
BSocSc	32	3A	3AP (Grade 4) + SAT 1380 Or 5AP (Grade 4)
BSocSc (GL) & LLB	40	3A*	3AP (Grade 5) + SAT 1500 Or 5AP (Grade 5)
BSW	32	3A	3AP (Grade 3) + SAT 1380 Or 5AP (Grade 3)

[^] Attaining academic achievements better than the expected lower boundary stated is not a guarantee for admissions to the University. For qualifications that are not listed, reference information can be found on www.admissions.hku.hk.

Admissions Enquiry

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香港大學社會科學學院



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