

HKU Bachelor of Global Leadership, Innovation, and Society (BGLIS): Cultivating Innovative Leaders for the AI Era

**PROGRAMME
OVERVIEW**



HKU
BUSINESS
SCHOOL
港大經管學院



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HKU IS RANKED

11th
GLOBALLY

1^{sh}
IN HONG KONG

Source: *QS World University Rankings 2026*

About HKU Business School

Established in 2001, HKU Business School is one of the youngest and most dynamic members of The University of Hong Kong (HKU). The School strives to nurture first-class business leaders and foster academic and relevant research that serves the needs of Hong Kong, China and the rest of the world in the new Asia-led economy. As a top international business school, the School has established its place as a globally impactful institution that leads the way through timely thought leadership, pioneering research, and educational excellence. Deeply rooted in Hong Kong and fully engaged with



China, the School's world-class faculty equip students with global knowledge and perspectives.

HKU Business School offers business education across a full range of disciplines, while achieving remarkable growth in faculty strength and research capabilities. The School ranks world's 15th and Asia's No.1 in Financial Times' Aggregated Research Ranking in 2025 while the University of Hong Kong ranked 11th in the world and 1st in Asia according to the QS World University Rankings 2026. The School has strategic partnerships with world-renowned universities and corporate partners, providing market-oriented content, superior learning, and instrumental resources.

To better serve our students and alumni in various cities and regions, and to facilitate collaboration opportunities with business communities around the globe, HKU Business School has established a unique international network that extends to Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Ho Chi Minh City, and Tel Aviv.

HKU Business School is fully accredited by the European Quality Improvement Systems (EQUIS) and the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

Visit us at <https://www.hkubs.hku.hk/>



Dean's Message

It is with great pride that I introduce the Bachelor of Global Leadership, Innovation, and Society (BGLIS), a pioneering undergraduate programme at HKU Business School designed to shape the next generation of leaders.

In an era where artificial intelligence and emerging technologies are fundamentally transforming business and society, we need leaders who can navigate this revolution with both technical sophistication and ethical clarity. The BGLIS programme meets this challenge by integrating rigorous AI training with deep expertise in business, economics, and policy—enhanced by transformative global experiences.

Our students will develop a profound understanding of how AI and other innovations work, while learning to deploy them responsibly and creatively to address the world's most pressing challenges. Through this distinctive education, they will build critical thinking abilities and acquire the creative mindsets and networks essential for leadership in an age of unprecedented change.

This flagship programme embodies HKU Business School's commitment to innovation and impact. Led by distinguished faculty from multiple HKU faculties, complemented by international scholars and industry experts, the BGLIS features immersive experiences across Asia, Europe, and North America, offering an education unlike any other.

I warmly invite you to explore this transformative programme and join us in shaping a future where technological innovation and human leadership converge to create positive global change.

Hongbin CAI
Dean, HKU Business School

HKU BUSINESS SCHOOL





Reimagining University Education

AI × Humanities × Business

In an era where artificial intelligence and global transformation are deeply intertwined, the traditional model of knowledge transmission in higher education faces significant challenges. In particular, since AI can instantly access and process vast amounts of information, merely teaching students to master specialised knowledge is no longer the core mission of universities.

In light of this challenge, the Bachelor of Global Leadership, Innovation, and Society (BGLIS) is introduced as the new flagship programme at HKU Business School, designed to unlock boundless possibilities for personalisid growth for the world's most promising young talents.

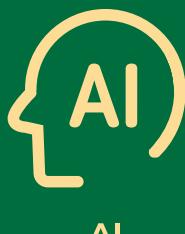


What are humanity's unique values in the AI era?
Our answer is:

critical thinking, transdisciplinary judgment, creativity, and humanistic empathy.

Built on three pillars

AI technology, humanities, and business—this programme blends academic rigor with social responsibility, aiming to redefine the boundaries of university education.



AI



HUMANITIES



BUSINESS

Key Features of BGLIS

01| Future-Looking Curriculum and Teaching Methods

- Our programme combines three essential areas that define our future: **AI, humanities, and business**
- You will study a self-evolving and stimulating curriculum, solving **real-world** problems instead of following textbooks
- You will learn the **introductory-level courses from outstanding faculty** who are pioneers in their fields, alongside accomplished industry experts who serve as Faculty-in-Residence
- You will participate in year-long **global immersion modules** at multiple top universities across the Chinese Mainland, the U.S., and Europe, experiencing entrepreneurial cultures all over the world

02| Thoroughly Personalised Learning and Development Pathways

- We admit only **30-40 students** each year so every student gets individual attention
- Your professors and mentors **from industry** will know your name, your personal goals, your unique strengths, and help you discover your own leadership paths
- You will work closely with talented classmates who challenge and inspire you
- You will choose one of **three specialisation tracks** at the end of the second year:
 - ⓐ *Technology & Development: advanced technical skills in AI and emerging technology*
 - ⓑ *Business & Development: corporate innovation and enterprise leadership*
 - ⓒ *Society & Development: economic and policy dimensions of technology*

03| Unique Experiential Learning and Career Building

- **Career support and leadership development** are our top priorities
- You will practise innovation through internships at **cutting-edge AI** companies and socially impactful organisations
- You will engage in invited lectures by **world-renowned** business leaders

You will build a portfolio of work that demonstrates your abilities and explores your boundaries, including a year-long **capstone project**

You will try, fail, learn, and succeed—building the **resilience** that the uncertain future values most

04| Highly Selective and Accessible

- We seek the most ambitious and creative students worldwide
- We value **depth and true passion in** one field rather than checking all boxes
- We adopt a rigorous, merit-based selection process to identify individuals with exceptional potential
- High tuition is to support **the resource-intensive ecosystem** in the long run
- But **need-blind admission** means your ability to pay will not affect your acceptance
- If you're admitted, **abundant scholarships** make your attendance possible



BGLIS Curriculum Structure

The BGLIS programme is carefully structured to provide a progressive learning journey over four years:

Year 1 | Foundational Studies



Students establish a broad academic foundation through courses in **mathematics, programming, economics, critical thinking**, and introductory Innovation & Society studies. Core liberal arts courses in **social sciences and humanities** are in place to provide cultural and societal context. A first-year seminar, **“Foundations of Leadership in the AI Era,”** brings all BGLIS freshmen together to explore key themes of the programme. Outside the classroom, students are matched with faculty mentors and join peer cohorts to start developing leadership and teamwork skills early on.

Year 2 | Global & Transdisciplinary Integration



Students participate in year-long global immersion modules at multiple top universities across Chinese Mainland, the U.S., and Europe, integrating academic study with cross-cultural application of transdisciplinary knowledge. Students advance into **specialised courses** such as Data Science & Machine Learning, Ethics of Technology, Global Economic Policy, and Innovation Management, which are **co-designed by the leading faculty members** at HKU Business School and the partner institutions.



Year 3 | Leadership in Action

Students engage in **internships or field placements** in Hong Kong or overseas, addressing practical challenges such as social impact projects or sustainability initiatives. **Advanced electives and seminars** – such as AI Strategy and Policy, Social Entrepreneurship, or Cross-Cultural Leadership – emphasize project-based collaboration with external organisations. Students may take optional exchanges or additional global modules to further expand international exposure. At this stage, students will take leadership roles and initiatives, perhaps **as mentors to junior students**, and develop a refined proposal for the final-year capstone project.



Year 4 | Capstone & Synthesis

The year-long **Capstone Project** requires students to address a real-world challenge in partnership with industry, NGO, or research mentors, integrating technical, business, and societal dimensions. **Advanced courses** – such as Strategic Leadership, Innovation and Society Seminar – consolidate transdisciplinary expertise. Professional development workshops and graduate school preparation are offered to support post-graduation transitions.



Integrated 5-Year Bachelor + Master Pathway



BGLIS students have the option to complete both a bachelor's and a master's degree within five years. This pathway enables students to pursue graduate-level study in one additional year, preparing them for professional roles or advanced academic research.

Structure

During their third year of the BGLIS undergraduate programme, students may apply for conditional admission to master's programmes at HKU or potentially partner institutions overseas. Eligible students who meet academic criteria can transition directly into their chosen master's programme at HKU after completing their bachelor's degree. Graduate-level coursework taken during Year 4 of the BGLIS may count toward both the undergraduate and master's degrees, streamlining progression and making it possible to complete both degrees in 5 years.

Available Master's programmes

The transdisciplinary nature of BGLIS aligns with diverse graduate pathways. Students can pursue programmes such as a Master of Science in Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, or FinTech; a Master of Public Policy; or a specialised Master's in Social Innovation. Additional options include postgraduate programmes that complement leadership and innovation training. HKU offers its own taught postgraduate degrees, and we also maintain collaborative links with top institutions globally.

Advantages

This pathway reduces the typical six-year timeline for two degrees to five years. Students engage in advanced coursework and complete a research thesis or practical project during their master's year, gaining specialised expertise. The combined qualifications enhance career competitiveness and academic opportunities, merging transdisciplinary leadership training with focused graduate-level study.

Career Development & Opportunities

Each year, master-level mentors from academia or industry will serve as Faculty-in-Residence, working closely with you through workshops, seminars, and one-on-one guidance. They provide not only professional expertise but also cutting-edge thinking and practical experience, helping you discover your research interests and career path.

BGLIS does more than cultivate professional skills—it aspires for students to become agents of change in an era where technology and humanity coexist. Whether you choose to start your own venture or join a leading global enterprise, BGLIS graduates, with outstanding cross-disciplinary abilities and a global vision, will be trans pioneers in redefining the value of human knowledge.

Admission Criteria

What We Look for in BGLIS Students

BGLIS seeks intellectually curious, proactive students eager to engage with the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly evolving world. We welcome applicants from diverse academic backgrounds (IB, A-Levels, Hong Kong DSE, AP, Gaokao, and others) and evaluate candidates through a holistic review process. While well-roundedness is appreciated, we prioritize those who demonstrate outstanding strength in specific areas such as STEM, humanities, entrepreneurship, creative arts, athletics, or other fields—individuals whose unique skills, passions, or expertise position them to drive meaningful change in an AI-driven world.

Note: Non-native English speakers must meet English proficiency requirements (TOEFL 100+/IELTS 7.5+) prior to matriculation.



Admission Process

We evaluate candidates through a holistic review process:

01

Online Application & Academic Screening

Prospective students begin by submitting an application through the Common Application system. Our team conducts an initial screening of all applications to evaluate academic preparation and the alignment of your interests with BGLIS's vision.

02

Online Assessments & Faculty Interview

At the discretion of the admission committee, shortlisted candidates may be invited to take an online evaluation module designed to assess your aptitudes and personal qualities. This module includes a cognitive reasoning test, a psychometric questionnaire, and, most importantly, a Faculty Panel Interview.

03

Onsite Boot Camp

If the admission committee deems necessary and feasible, candidates may be invited to participate in an onsite boot camp for further assessment. The boot camp is optional and the committee will be able to reach a decision if candidates decide not to participate.

Tuition & Scholarship

Tuition

The tuition for BGLIS is HK\$ 468,000 per year.

Scholarship & Financial Aid

All applicants are automatically considered for entrance scholarships based on academic results, personal accomplishments, and potential to contribute to the BGLIS community. We also aim to ensure that cost does not prevent students from joining BGLIS. We strive to meet 100% of demonstrated financial need for every student we admit. Scholarships and financial aid are offered at three levels:

- **Full Ride:**

100% tuition waiver plus a stipend for living expenses in Hong Kong.

- **Full Scholarship:**

100% tuition waiver.

- **Half Scholarship:**

50% tuition waiver.

Beyond tuition assistance, BGLIS students may apply for funding to support academic and co-curricular activities. The programme offers competitive travel grants for research or internships abroad, conference subsidies for presenting work, and seed funding for entrepreneurship projects. Students may also be nominated for external awards. Availability, eligibility, and funding levels are subject to change.

Key Dates

ISSUE	DATE
Application opens via Common App	Open
Deadline for 1st round applications	Dec 31 at noon (HKT), 2025
Deadline for 2nd round applications	Feb 28 at noon (HKT), 2026
Deadline for 3rd round applications	Apr 30 at noon (HKT), 2026
Deadline for 4th round applications	Jun 30 at noon (HKT), 2026

Information Sessions

ISSUE	DATE
Information Day for Undergraduate Admissions @ HKU	Oct, 25, 2025
Information Session for BGLIS @ HKU Beijing Centre	Nov, 2, 2025

 **<<<** **Register for more upcoming info session & events**

Contact Us

BGLIS Programme Office, HKU Business School
Email: bglisadmissions@hku.hk

Stay connected and get programme updates: **>>>**





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