



香港都會大學  
HONG KONG  
METROPOLITAN  
UNIVERSITY

# Hong Kong Metropolitan University graduates arrive in December

Nearly 7,000 HKMU graduate talents stepping into the region's job market

Three distinguished scholars today received Honorary Doctorates from a Hong Kong university that recently embraced a new name and image — Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU). Known as The Open University of Hong Kong until 1 September, HKMU is about to embark on a month of ceremonies that will see around 7,000 graduates receive degrees and diplomas under the University's new name.

It is not common for a university to change its name, but HKMU's retitling was based on sound principles. While it remains the only Hong Kong institution to provide distance education at university level (and has established a new School of Open Learning to support this role), HKMU has increasingly been catering to full-time school-leavers in recent years. The name-change partly reflects this expansion in its student base, while also flagging the University's determination to address evolving social and professional needs in the metropolis and surrounding region.

Speaking at the Honorary Doctorate Presentation Ceremony, HKMU President Prof. Paul Lam Kwan-sing noted that the retitling exercise had spanned more than a year, during which time the University had asked searching questions about its strengths and weaknesses, its role in Hong Kong and the region, and its community contributions. The answers had enabled it to draw up a clear road-map for the future. Since taking the helm in April, Prof. Lam has set three key goals for the University: to provide all students with a first-rate education, to help students build meaningful careers, and to nurture students to become upstanding contributors to the wider community.

### Programme offerings relevant for Hong Kong and beyond

Even before the title change, the University had been hard at work developing new full-time programmes in areas of importance for the city and the wider region. One of these is



President Prof. Paul Lam is determined to give all HKMU students a rewarding education that prepares them for life.



HKMU's Congregation this year, the 30th edition since the founding of the University, will celebrate the graduation of nearly 7,000 students.

healthcare education, an area in which HKMU has made big strides, especially with the 2021 opening of the new Jockey Club Institute of Healthcare with its laboratories, lecture theatres and clinics that are helping the University significantly expand its healthcare training. One recent degree highlight is the new Bachelor of Science with Honours in Physiotherapy, launched in 2020/21 to give students a direct route to registered physiotherapist qualifications. The course is taught in well-equipped laboratories containing virtual 3D dissection tables, research apparatus for exercise physiology, biomechanics and sports performance, and equipment for electrophysical therapy and rehabilitation. Students on the course also receive over 1,000 hours of clinical placements in hospitals, clinics, NGOs and community-based organisations.

To meet new social needs and talent shortages in Hong Kong and beyond, HKMU is now offering a total of 51 programmes, including the physiotherapy degree, in the upcoming round of JUPAS applications. The programmes are offered by five Schools encompassing the disciplines of Arts and Social Sciences, Business, Science and Technology, Education and Languages, and Nursing and Health Studies, and range widely across many areas of direct relevance to the future of Hong Kong and the region. This year, four new additions in the areas of computing and engineering have proved highly popular among JUPAS applicants. Following this success, the University is launching the Bachelor of Science with Honours in Science (STEM) and the Bachelor of Applied Science with Honours in Integrated Testing, Inspection and Certification in 2022/23, with applications now open.

### Extra-curricular learning for soft skills

Outside the classroom, HKMU has also been expanding its range of extra-curricular learning opportunities to help students broaden their horizons and their skill sets. One fast-growing



HKMU trains physiotherapists in the well-equipped laboratories of its new Jockey Club Institute of Healthcare.

initiative is "service-learning", which involves the University's Student Affairs Office (SAO) working with individual Schools on ways of integrating community service with academic study. To date, service-learning opportunities for students have included taking wedding photographs of elderly married couples; interviewing elderly people and using their notes and photos to create "memory boxes" for the interviewees; painting murals and serving as heritage tour guides in Kowloon City; and producing educational videos for primary school students. These are only the first of many more projects to come. The SAO has also launched a Service Leader Training Programme, under which participating students collect "service dreams" from fellow students and work with other students to find ways of realising them.

Another extra-curricular focus area for HKMU is entrepreneurship — not with the goal of making every student an entrepreneur, but rather of fostering a spirit of boldness and innovation in students' studies and later careers. To



Service-learning is a good way for students of different disciplines to work together in making positive impacts.

this end, students are benefitting from a start-up incubation programme called MetroChallenge that comes with a \$100,000 Implementation Fund for each project, along with training and support. Since 2017, MetroChallenge has engaged 3,700 students and helped 20 teams turn innovative ideas into start-ups. The University also plans to launch a new Entrepreneurship Month in the year ahead, designed to cultivate a culture of entrepreneurship on campus.

Altogether, HKMU has earmarked an additional HK\$30 million annually to help students develop the "soft skills" they need to drive personal and professional growth. Among other things, the money is being used on a new system to keep track of students' participation in extra-curricular activities, recorded in an e-portfolio accompanied by an official co-curricular transcript. Graduates will be able to present their e-portfolios to potential employers, so their range of skills and experiences acquired at HKMU can be seen at a glance.

Thousands of new graduates are emerging from HKMU — all ready to contribute to society, all equipped with specialised professional skills to address the needs of Hong Kong and soft skills to work practically and effectively with others. They represent a bright new generation of talent, ready to take Hong Kong into the future with skill and confidence.



MetroChallenge, an in-house entrepreneurship programme set up by HKMU, is helping students turn innovative ideas into viable businesses.

## Profiles of the Honorary Doctorates



**Dr Jing Degang**  
Doctor of Education,  
*honoris causa*

Dr Jing Degang is Secretary of the Party Committee and President of The Open University of China, an institution that to date has provided nearly 5 million students with education through open and distance learning. In his role as President, he has driven a number of important reforms to the national open university system that have optimized the provision of open education on the mainland. These have resulted in new online open education platforms being established, more flexible educational arrangements being put in place, and increased cooperation with overseas organisations to expand learners' horizons. Dr Jing, who holds a PhD in Political Economy from Jilin University, has been a longstanding contributor in the field of education management and has served in many roles with the country's Ministry of Education.



**Prof. Yuk-Shan Wong**  
SBS, BBS, JP  
Doctor of Social Sciences,  
*honoris causa*

Prof. Yuk-Shan Wong retired from his position as President of The Open University of Hong Kong in March 2021, after a distinguished and transformational tenure as the University's leader. In his seven years in the President's role, he introduced multiple new initiatives that saw the University expand and progress on many different fronts. These included launching new degree and diploma programmes that widened the student base and expanded the full-time student population; establishing seven research institutes / centres; and overseeing the University's physical expansion with the construction of the new Jockey Club Institute of Healthcare. A specialist in environmental biotechnology, plant biochemistry and mangrove conservation, Prof. Wong is now Emeritus President of HKMU and Chairman of the Research Grants Council. He is also a Hong Kong Deputy to the National People's Congress.



**Prof. George Woo**  
Doctor of Social Sciences,  
*honoris causa*

In his specialist field of vision science Prof. George Woo has made major contributions to global eye health, with his work proving instrumental in improving the lives of millions suffering from low vision. His distinguished research record is reflected in his current position as Emeritus Professor and Visiting Chair Professor of Optometry at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Prof. Woo has also been highly active in support of those suffering from mental health issues, working both at the grassroots level as a hotline volunteer for The Samaritans for two decades and acting as Chairman of The Samaritans' Board of Directors for four years. For his altruistic service to Hong Kong and society generally, he was awarded the "Hong Kong Humanity Award 2020" by the Hong Kong Red Cross.

**2021 Graduate statistics**

Total awards  
**~7,000**

**Latest University statistics**

Full-time students  
**10,700+**

Part-time students  
**8,700+**

Postgraduate  
**~1,600**

Undergraduate  
**5,330+**

Programmes offered via JUPAS 51

HKMU scholarships, bursaries and loans  
**~HK\$20,000,000**

Local and overseas internship opportunities each year  
**2,000 – 3,000**