Undergraduate Programs
School of Humanities and Social Science

SHSS prepares students to be leading global citizens of the 21st century by cultivating the communication, critical thinking, moral reasoning, and analytical skills that are essential for thriving in a rapidly changing world. With the largest interdisciplinary program in the humanities and social science, SHSS courses span over fifteen academic disciplines and include creative arts offerings in music, writing, and film.

Some believe that “soft skills” are hard to learn, and yet, they are the most enduring ones that university students will retain years after graduation as they adapt to new employment opportunities and communities. SHSS embraces this reality. Our School is known for global best practice in undergraduate training through the use of innovative pedagogies, including blended on-line courses, digital technology, group projects, service learning, multi-media assessments, fieldwork, and research opportunities.

Our strategic partnerships with leading universities worldwide offer students and faculty ample international opportunities for collaborative research, in-residence exchanges, joint student training, and dual degree programs. The SHSS community extends well beyond HKUST’s physical campus.

World-Renowned Faculty

Our diverse faculty are recruited internationally and hold doctoral degrees from major research universities including British Columbia, Cambridge, Chicago, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, London School of Economics, MIT, Oxford, Peking, Princeton, Stanford, Toronto, UC-Berkeley, UCLA, UC-San Diego, Yale, and so on. In addition to being highly accomplished as scholars, SHSS faculty are professional, caring, and committed to bringing the best out of each student.

Research-Based Teaching

The content of SHSS courses reflects the expertise of faculty who are actively engaged in research in the humanities and social science. Our faculty regularly engage students to participate in their research projects as interns or assistants. The opportunity for undergraduates to partner with faculty in this manner is unparalleled among peer institutions. Furthermore, in their final year, SHSS students are individually mentored by faculty to develop an original piece of research as their capstone or thesis requirement.
GCS allows students to study a wide range of subjects and at the same time specialize in certain areas. It offers many opportunities for international exposure due to its reputation and connections with other overseas universities. The low student-to-faculty ratio means that I have many chances to talk with professors after class.

Kelly CHEUNG (GCS, Class of 2019)
SHSS Dean’s Scholarship
Ng Hong Mun Educational Foundation Outstanding Student Scholarship

BSc in Global China Studies

The BSc program in Global China Studies equips students with a unique portfolio of knowledge about China with a global outlook. This is achieved through a multi- and interdisciplinary curriculum in humanities and social science, and through training in comparative and advanced research methods. The program ensures that students acquire systematic and broad-based knowledge about China and its place in the modern world, while at the same time deepening their inquiry through focused tracks of study. The skills and capabilities learned in the program make our graduates suitable for positions in government, business, education, community organizations, media, and cultural institutions.

Diversity
10+ nationalities

Language
Multilingual training

Research
Capstone project in final year

Interdisciplinary Curriculum

Humanities
- Anthropology
- Creative Arts
- History
- Linguistics
- Literature
- Music
- Philosophy
- Religion

Social Science
- Demography
- Economics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Quantitative History
- Sociology

TRACKS

After the first year of foundational classes, students select one of two tracks: Social Science or Integrated Humanities & Social Science. There are ample free elective credits for students to develop their own study paths with flexibility. Students receive language training in both English and Chinese to develop the high-level communication skills that are essential for leadership. In their final year, all students complete a capstone project or honors thesis.

Integrated Humanities & Social Science
- Environment, Economy & Globalization
- Heritage, Community & Identity
- Political & Social Change
- Literature, Communication & Media

Social Science
- Demography
- Economics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Quantitative History
- Sociology

MAJOR
Students are also welcome to take additional major(s) or dual degree studies from other Schools.

MINOR
Students may choose to enhance their learning experiences through enrolling in different minor programs offered by other Schools.
BSc in
Quantitative Social Analysis

The BSc program in Quantitative Social Analysis prepares students for the rapidly growing number of positions in business, government, and the non-profit sector that involve the analysis of social data. The program emphasizes a balanced training in social science and quantitative analysis, with the intent of producing a well-rounded graduate.

Students learn how to apply quantitative methods in a way that accounts for the unique challenges associated with the analysis of social data. To complement methodological training, students take courses in sociology, economics, political science, and public policy according to their interests.

"I have always had a passion for understanding the underlying principles of how the world works, and I am glad that I can do so by making sense of real-life data now.
Brian CHAN (QSA, Class of 2022)
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Scholarships 2019 Awardee"
Exchanging in Krakow was an unforgettable experience for me and I really learned a lot from the host university in the past five months.

Tony NG (GCS, Class of 2018)
Exchange at Jagiellonian University, Poland

During my 4-month internship at Deloitte, I found that the company really valued the broad and diverse skill sets I developed in GCS.

Jack Li (GCS, Class of 2019)
Internship at Deloitte

I worked as an intern at a startup company in South Korea, which manages a B2B distribution platform that provides tailored news content based on AI recommendations. My job was to find out the most popular keyword in each month through software like R Studio and Python.

Da Hye Kim (QSA, Class of 2021)
Internship at Notiplus
Bronze Award at HK FinTech Competition 2018

We encourage students to develop their career connections through working experiences. We provide wide-ranging internship possibilities in a variety of sectors including public service organizations, media, NGOs, firms, museums, and research institutes. Students also receive one-on-one advising to help identify their career interests and build their career paths.

Over 80% of SHSS students receive offers to study abroad

Our program aims to enrich students’ learning through global experiences. We have partnerships with prestigious universities in North America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, which enable us to provide students with ample exchange opportunities.

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Tony NG (GCS, Class of 2018)
Exchange at Jagiellonian University, Poland
The knowledge I learned in SHSS provided me with a strong foundation for delving deeper into economics in Waseda. The Dual Degree program also allowed me to enrich my knowledge with real life experience.

Lily LIN (GCS, Class of 2019)
Waseda: BA in Economics

I have been able to engage in a one-of-a-kind opportunity, allowing me to sharpen my analytical skills and apply what I have learned in my studies.

Fernando GARCIA ALBERO (GCS, Class of 2020)
Internship at New York State Assembly Office

The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program provides students with invaluable academic research experience and engagements under the guidance and supervision of the University’s faculty members.

Hojun LEE
(QSA, Class of 2020)

The Dual Degree Program is a collaboration between HKUST and Waseda University. Selected applicants will commence their study at Waseda in the Fall term of their fourth year of study and will stay in Japan for 1.5-2 years. After a total of 4.5-5 years of study in HKUST and Waseda, students will earn a BA degree awarded by Waseda in addition to obtaining the BSc degree issued by HKUST.

With the generous support of Mr. Liu Sing Cheong, a sponsorship for SHSS has been established to support overseas learning experiences. The Sponsorship is designed to provide financial support to undergraduates in GCS and QSA who are engaged in learning opportunities outside Hong Kong.

The Student Ambassador Scheme nurtures future leaders and enriches students’ personal connections through recruitment activities and School-level events. Student Ambassadors gain experience with event management and organisation under the School’s support.

UROP deepened my understanding of Social Network Analysis and broadened the range of topics I could explore in social science research.

Hojun LEE
(QSA, Class of 2020)
Career Prospects

Employment Survey
Graduate Employment Survey 2021, Career Center, HKUST.

Further Studies
- Undergraduate Placements
  - Employment
    - American Chamber of Commerce
    - Bank of China
    - Bloomberg L.P.
    - China Telecom Corp
    - Goldman Sachs (Asia)
    - HK Monetary Authority
    - HSBC
  - Graduate School
    - Columbia University
    - Cornell University
    - London School of Economics
    - New York University
    - Princeton University
    - University of Amsterdam
    - University of Warwick

Admission Details

Requirements

JUPAS Applicants
Applicants with Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) results must meet the following entrance requirements.

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<th>Program</th>
<th>JUPAS Code</th>
<th>Eng</th>
<th>Chi</th>
<th>Maths</th>
<th>LS</th>
<th>X1</th>
<th>X2/ M1/2</th>
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<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>3</td>
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Applicants with International Qualifications
SHSS considers the following elements in admission selection:

- Public examinations and academic performance
- Non-academic achievements
- Personal statement
- Referees’ reports
- Interview performance

Scholarships
The University and SHSS offer various scholarships for students who demonstrate academic and non-academic excellence upon entry and during the years of program study.

Application and admission details: http://join.ust.hk