

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

OUR

VISION



THAT TAKES

SHAPE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023







# VISION

The University of Hong Kong, Asia's Global University, delivers impact through internationalisation, innovation and interdisciplinarity. It attracts and nurtures global scholars through excellence in research, teaching and learning, and knowledge exchange. It makes a positive social contribution through global presence, regional significance and engagement with the rest of China.

# MISSION

The University of Hong Kong will endeavour:

- To advance constantly the bounds of scholarship, building upon its proud traditions and strengths
- To provide a comprehensive education, benchmarked against the highest international standards, designed to develop fully the intellectual and personal strengths of its students, while extending lifelong learning opportunities for the community
- To produce graduates of distinction committed to academic / professional excellence, critical intellectual inquiry and lifelong learning, who are communicative and innovative, ethically and culturally aware, and capable of tackling the unfamiliar with confidence
- To develop a collegial, flexible, pluralistic and supportive intellectual environment that inspires and attracts, retains and nurtures scholars, students and staff of the highest calibre in a culture that fosters creativity, learning and freedom of thought, enquiry and expression
- To provide a safe, healthy and sustainable workplace to support and advance teaching, learning and research at the University
- To engage in innovative, high-impact and leading-edge research within and across disciplines
- To be fully accountable for the effective management of public and private resources bestowed upon the institution and act in partnership with the community over the generation, dissemination and application of knowledge
- To serve as a focal point of intellectual and academic endeavour in Hong Kong, China and Asia and act as a gateway and forum for scholarship with the rest of the world

# CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT  
AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

## REALISING OUR SHARED VISION

02

KEY EVENTS IN 2023

06

## ACCELERATING GROWTH

10

## ADDING VALUE

20

## ACHIEVING IMPACT

32

THE UNIVERSITY PROFILE

48

AN EXTRACT FROM  
THE UNIVERSITY'S  
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022-23

57

OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

60

THE COURT

62



# REALISING OUR SHARED VISION



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

Five years ago, I took up the position of President of HKU, full of enthusiasm and ambition for what the University could become – a world-leading institution where some of the best minds on the planet tackle the urgent matters of our time, including climate change, public health and ecological threats. What followed was a trial by a series of unexpected challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and social unrest in Hong Kong. These consumed enormous amounts of time and energy from me, my senior management team and all leaders across the University. But they did not throw us off course. It gives me great satisfaction to say that our collective perseverance has enabled us to make firm strides towards that original goal of being a global leader, despite the obstacles. And there is much more to come.

A telling example of our achievements is the soaring representation of HKU on Clarivate's annual list of Highly Cited Researchers, which recognises scholars with significant influence who have published multiple highly cited papers over the last decade. In 2019, a year after my arrival, we had 13 scholars on the list. This year we have 50, placing us 13th globally. Added to that amazing achievement is our performance on the national scale. Research.com's list of the best scientists in 2023 placed HKU scholars first in six of the 24 areas surveyed, the most of any university in China.

Our ability to leap up the tables is down to two things. One is our scholars' tremendous efforts and success in pursuing excellence. The other is our determined effort to recruit the best scholars in the world to HKU. In 2023 alone, we welcomed 91 academics from some of the top universities in the world, including a Nobel Laureate. Our recruitment focusses not only on people at the pinnacle of their careers, but also young talent who have potential for great things. In the past two years, we have launched Presidential Professorships and Outstanding Young Professorships to incentivise talent to come here, to which we added Presidential Research Assistant Professorships this year.



Recruiting top scholars also helps us recruit top students. HKU traditionally does quite well in this regard and this year is no exception. We welcomed dozens of top achievers from all six inhabited continents to our undergraduate programmes, despite fierce competition. But to remain competitive in the fight for both staff and students, we also need to offer them an environment that is conducive to achieving excellence. We need to provide better hardware in terms of state-of-the-art facilities where they can apply their knowledge and capabilities in the most effective and impactful ways. We are, therefore, also rapidly upgrading and expanding our footprint.

“  
I BELIEVE HKU CAN  
PLAY A MAJOR ROLE  
IN ADDRESSING  
PRESSING GLOBAL  
ISSUES THROUGH OUR  
RESEARCH AND OUR  
LEADERSHIP. WE CAN  
BE MORE THAN A  
GREAT UNIVERSITY  
OF ASIA.  
”

We currently have nearly 20 buildings under construction or redevelopment that will provide top-grade facilities for our medical and business faculties, student and staff accommodation, and student amenities. This is just the beginning. We are actively planning for the Global Innovation Centre, a large-scale project on the piece of land earmarked for us by the Hong Kong Government. In the recent policy address, the Chief Executive has also announced plans for an education hub in the proposed Northern Metropolis, which we fully support. That is all in addition to our ongoing work in Mainland China to establish teaching and research facilities there. In the next five to 10 years, HKU will have a substantially bigger physical presence in the region.

In addition to people and buildings, there is a third element to realising our ambitions, in many ways the most complex one, which is reform. I think of reform as the software for developing a culture of excitement and opportunity around intellectual inquiry

and innovation – of inspiring a sense of magic and wonder at what we can achieve. This cannot be pulled out of thin air. It requires systems to support and encourage achievers at all levels to feel appreciated and rewarded.

While HKU has done well over its first 111 years, some aspects of its operations are no longer fit for purpose. My team and I have been assessing where we can make improvements to sustain and advance our excellence, particularly in the face of stiff competition and rapid technological change. It is important to note that HKU is not alone in doing this. The best universities all over Asia, Europe and North America have gone through similar processes.

Our reforms to date have streamlined administration, hiring practices, salaries and merit awards such as Endowed Professorships, to ensure young as well as mature scholars can benefit. When combined with our success in recruitment and building, I am confident the changes will enable everyone in the University to perform at their best. And that brings me to my broader vision.

Expansion and growth are the means to an end. And that end is to contribute solutions to the existential threats facing the world, such as climate change. These cannot be solved by single entities. They require collaboration and an ability to cross borders and cultures to find common ground. HKU and Hong Kong are uniquely positioned to do this given our recognised position at the crossroads of East and West. There has never been more urgency for such a perspective than there is today, especially amid rising geopolitical tensions. I believe HKU can play a major role in addressing pressing global issues through our research and our leadership. We can be more than a great university of Asia. We must strive to be a great university of the world, a new Harvard or Cambridge.

Big ambitions like this are, of course, not easy. An important lesson for me over these five years has been the importance of patience and perseverance when pursuing change. People need time to adjust to new expectations, but I have no doubt that everyone will benefit as we push our ambitions forward. When the sea level rises, all the boats are lifted. This is a win-win situation for HKU, as well as Hong Kong and the wider world.



Professor Xiang Zhang  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
December 2023

# OUR LEADERSHIP



PROFESSOR  
XIANG ZHANG  
President and  
Vice-Chancellor



PROFESSOR  
PAN WEI  
Acting Executive  
Vice-President  
(Administration and Finance)



PROFESSOR  
IAN MICHAEL HOLLIDAY  
Vice-President and  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor  
(Teaching and Learning)



MS ISABELLA  
WONG YEE SIN  
Chief of Staff



PROFESSOR  
RICHARD WONG YUE CHIM  
Provost and  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor



PROFESSOR  
GONG PENG  
Vice-President and  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor  
(Academic Development)



PROFESSOR  
MAX SHEN ZUOJUN  
Vice-President and  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor  
(Research)







# 1-1-1: CELEBRATING HKU'S LEGACY

Watch  
event  
highlights



## FAMILY CARNIVAL MARKS OUR ANNIVERSARY

An arts carnival held at the Art Park of the West Kowloon Cultural District in January 2023 brought together students, alumni, staff, families and friends to celebrate HKU's 111th anniversary and enjoy the University's first large outdoor event since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The ARTathon transformed the Art Park into a carnival featuring giant artistic balloon installations on the theme of the 111th anniversary, family-friendly arts and games, and graduation gown lending services so HKU graduates who did not have a physical graduation ceremony due to pandemic control measures, could take graduation photos with their family and friends.

A unique attraction was an eight-metre-high bookshelf resembling the Main Building façade to collect donated books that were subsequently distributed to local non-profit charitable organisations, symbolising the sharing of knowledge across the community. In addition, more than 500 secondary school students from low-income families were sponsored to visit the Hong Kong Palace Museum and enjoy the carnival day of fun.



## A HIGH TABLE GRAND FINALE

The year-long celebrations of HKU's 111th anniversary culminated with a Grand Finale High Table Dinner in March 2023, attended by more than 1,000 guests including students, staff, alumni and friends of HKU. This followed other festive events, including the 111th Anniversary Light Show, Tech Landmark groundbreaking ceremony, the '111uminate' DJ party, and the ARTathon carnival.

Professor Xiang Zhang, President and Vice-Chancellor, addressed the High Table Dinner guests, noting that in

1911, "a group of visionaries sat down together and charted a dream to create and build the finest university imaginable. 111 years later, that dream continues to come true," with the University and its scholars regularly ranked among the top tier in the world. Professor Yuen Kwok Yung, Henry Fok Professor in Infectious Diseases, was the keynote speaker and spoke on the pivotal role that HKU microbiology has played in safeguarding public health around the world, particularly during SARS and the COVID-19 pandemic.





# HKU PRESIDENT'S FORUM PONDERES THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

Watch event highlights



Four pioneering scientists joined Professor Zhang at the inaugural HKU President's Forum in April 2023 on the theme 'Science and Society', to reflect on the crucial role that science plays in safeguarding the future of humanity and tackling pertinent global issues, including climate change, sustainable growth and ageing populations.

The renowned speakers brought a diverse range of expertise. Professor Dame Carol M Black is a respected clinician and UK government advisor; Professor Steven Chu is a Nobel Laureate in Physics and former Secretary of Energy of the US Government; Dr Jack Dangermond is an environmental

scientist and creator of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS); and Professor John Hennessy is former President of Stanford University and winner of the Turing Prize.

Collaboration and critical thinking were common themes in the discussion, echoed by Professor Zhang who emphasised the need for 'techno-pragmatism' – "Pragmatism, when it comes to new knowledge, is absolutely vital in unlocking the multilateral, multi-stakeholder solutions to global challenges," he said.



# HKU HOSTS APRU PRESIDENTS' MEETING

Watch event highlights



HKU welcomed presidents and senior administrators from leading universities across the Asia Pacific when it hosted the 27th Annual Presidents' Meeting of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) in June 2023, for a three-day event on the theme 'From Invention to Implementation – Solutions for a Sustainable Future'.

A common thread in the discussions was the need for collaborative efforts to tackle current and future sustainability challenges. Panellists focussed on such topics as research on low-emission energy production and green technologies,

and the vital role of higher education in empowering future generations to address the challenges and in providing innovative research-based solutions.

Professor Zhang addressed participants and noted that addressing humanity's negative impact on the planet cannot be done by a single nation alone, but by joint effort. "The conclusion of the meeting does not mark the end of our discussion. I believe that all APRU members will carry on our missions and work hand-in-hand towards sustainability," he said.



# ACCELERATING GROWTH

People are the foundation of the University's successful evolution into a world-leading institution. In 2022–23, HKU recruited scholars at the pinnacle of academic success as well as promising young researchers, and we continued to attract outstanding students from around the world. To support our aspirations, we have also been upgrading and substantially expanding facilities for research, teaching and student and staff accommodation.



# RECRUITING THE BEST PEOPLE



TOP SCHOLARS AND STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD ARE JOINING HKU, ATTRACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY'S REPUTATION AND INCENTIVE PROGRAMMES TO LURE TALENT.

Eight emerging and outstanding Hong Kong athletes have been admitted to HKU this year through the Top Athletes Direct Admission Scheme.

## SCHOLARS

HKU's generous Presidential Professorships and Outstanding Young Professorships schemes, both launched in the past couple of years, aim to attract high calibre academics from around the world. Together with government funding, these schemes helped us recruit 91 new academic staff, including a Nobel Laureate, in 2023. To attract outstanding postdoctoral fellows, we launched the Presidential Research Assistant Professor Scheme in April 2023. We also offer Presidential PhD Scholarships for promising research postgraduate (RPG) students, which were awarded to 143 high-potential RPG students from around the world in 2023.

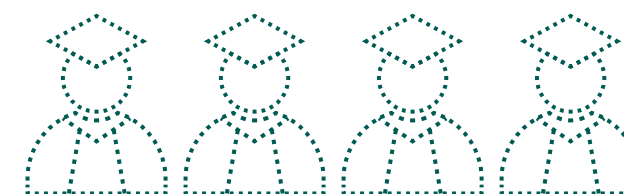
Alongside these newer programmes, existing programmes have recently been sharpened to attract and reward talent. The Endowed Professorships Scheme now provides significant funding for both incoming and current top scholars for research and academic activities. The Visiting Professors Scheme now allows top visiting scholars flexibility in the time they spend at HKU. The University also recognises high achievement through the annual HKU Excellence Awards.

91

NEWLY RECRUITED SCHOLARS, INCLUDING 22 AT FULL PROFESSOR LEVEL OR ABOVE

143

PRESIDENTIAL PHD SCHOLARS



## STUDENTS

83

TOP SCORERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



800+

NON-LOCAL STUDENTS FROM

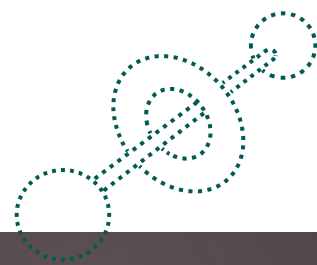
40+

COUNTRIES AND REGIONS ADMITTED IN 2023

83 top scorers from all six continents were admitted to HKU in 2023. This included 27 local very high scorers who earned top marks in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE), International Baccalaureate, and GCE A-level examinations respectively. We also value diversity in admissions and admitted nearly 100 local students through the School Nominations Direct Admission Scheme, eight top athletes with exceptional sports achievements through the Top Athletes Direct Admission Scheme, another 19 outstanding athletes through the Sports Scholarship Scheme, and 87 local non Chinese-speaking students, the most of any university in Hong Kong.

Internationally, students were recruited from more than 40 countries and regions, such as Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Chile, Ethiopia, Peru, Poland, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. More non-local students will be admitted in future in line with the Hong Kong Government's recent announcement that 40% of first-year students can come from outside the city. This dovetails well with HKU's goal of being a global hub for higher education.





## NOBEL LAUREATE SIR FRASER STODDART

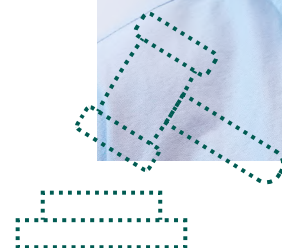
Professor Sir Fraser Stoddart was a joint winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2016 for his contribution to the design and synthesis of artificial molecular machines. To achieve this goal, he first of all played a major role in the invention of a new chemical bond – namely, the mechanical bond – which has changed the way chemists think about chemical bonding. His expertise includes not only chemistry, but also materials science and molecular nanotechnology. He joined HKU in September 2023 from Northwestern University, where he was a Board of Trustees Professor of Chemistry.

“The attraction of Hong Kong and HKU is the unique attitude of the young researchers at the graduate and postdoctoral levels. I get immense pleasure out of supervising and mentoring young Chinese students in science and chemistry. They are passionate, enthusiastic, committed – and they are kind and generous, they look after me as though I was their father. HKU, on the whole, is moving in the right direction and the time is right for coming here. I think the future is going to be an amazing one for HKU.”

## LEGAL SCHOLAR JOHN MURPHY

Professor John Murphy joined the Faculty of Law from the UK, where he established himself as a renowned expert in the law of torts. He has published in many leading Commonwealth law journals and advised both the UK Law Commission and Parliament on difficult matters of tort law. After three decades in the UK, he decided he wanted a new challenge – hence his decision to come to HKU.

“I am immensely impressed with the way my Faculty is run and with the helpful and friendly colleagues I have acquired. I am trying to accomplish three main things: (a) to play a part making sure the Law Faculty at HKU comes top of the heap in the forthcoming Research Assessment Exercise; (b) to help mentor early and middle career colleagues, especially those working in fields of law that I know well; and (c) to help augment and fortify the reputation that HKU has in the area of private law.”



## ECONOMIST BALAZS SZENTES

Professor Balazs Szentes, Chair of Economics in the HKU Business School, is an expert in microeconomics and game theory who has held academic positions at the University of Chicago, University College London and the London School of Economics, where he was Professor for 13 years before coming to HKU. He is attracted both by the city of Hong Kong and the Business School.

“The HKU Business School has a great group of economists. From an intellectual viewpoint, it is a very stimulating place. My first impressions have been great – my colleagues are friendly and helpful and my family has received a lot of support from the University in our transition. While I am here, I plan to contribute to building a world-class academic environment in our Faculty.”



## HOMEGROWN TALENT LYDIA CHEUNG WAI TING

Dr Lydia Cheung Wai Ting, Associate Professor in the School of Biomedical Sciences, received a BSc and PhD from HKU before undertaking postdoctoral training in cancer genomics research in the US. She returned to her *alma mater* in 2016. Dr Cheung’s research, showing gene mutations in key cancer pathways that represent new molecular targets for precision cancer medicine, has attracted local, national and international recognition. In March 2023 she was awarded an Outstanding Young Researcher Award at the HKU Excellence Awards Presentation Ceremony.

“I had my first research experience when I was a final-year undergraduate student at HKU. Since then, I have developed a strong passion for cancer research. My research asks fundamental questions of how gene mutations favour cancer development and how to target these mutations effectively with cancer drugs. The research findings help untangle the complexity of cancer and my team and I strive to make significant contributions to the field.”



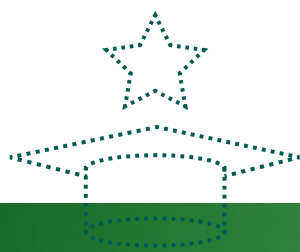




## TOP SCORER

Icy Ku Ping Sum is one of only four students across Hong Kong this year to achieve the top score of 5\*\* in seven subjects in the HKDSE. She has enrolled in the MBBS, attracted by the Enrichment Year programme and, especially, the new Distinguished Medical Scholar track, which provides outstanding students with intensive research training in their Enrichment Year with a view towards pursuing PhD studies after they complete their MBBS.

"I have always aspired to work as a doctor to save lives in Hong Kong. I hope to learn more about medical science and how to be a skilful and trustworthy doctor. I'm also looking forward to university life and expanding my social circle through the different societies and committee roles offered at HKU."



## SCHOOL NOMINEE

Isaac Sze Chun Hei is a computer science and robotics enthusiast, who undertook self-directed studies in Python and AI technologies and has been admitted to the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Applied Artificial Intelligence via the School Nominations Direct Admission Scheme.

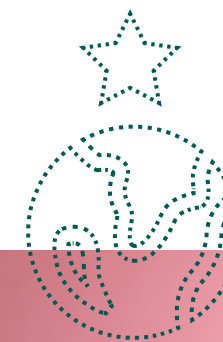
"Some of the key reasons why I have chosen to come to HKU are its good reputation and rich resources, its career support services that can help me have better prospects in the future, and the way it encourages technological innovations through the Innovation Wing and student interest groups. I also like that my programme has a wide variety of subjects and electives in different fields, such as mathematics, statistics, computer science, robotics and smart city electives. Furthermore, there is some content in philosophy which can allow me to learn about the ethical limits of AI and how to use this technology in future. Few AI programmes in other universities provide this kind of content and essential knowledge."



## SPORTS STAR

Kyle Tsang Long Him was admitted to the Bachelor of Dental Surgery under the Sports Scholarship Scheme. He is a member of the Hong Kong basketball team and competed in the 2023 East Asian Youth Games in Mongolia. Alongside his sporting career, he achieved good results in the HKDSE and wants to develop both his academic and sporting abilities.

"I chose HKU because it has the reputation of being the best university in Hong Kong and it is the only one that offers Dentistry, which is ranked top three in the world. The experienced professors and variety of facilities provide a comfortable learning environment for me as a student athlete. I hope to meet more friends and professors who can assist me in my learning journey, and also lead the HKU basketball team to achieve the best results ever."



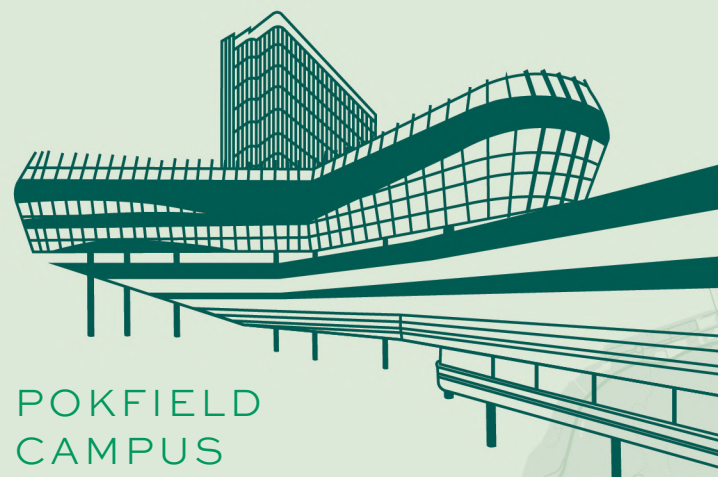
## INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVER

Lucy Magashi ranked second in Tanzania's national exam and has come to HKU because of its high international standing and a desire to learn more about Asian culture. She has enrolled as a Bachelor of Engineering in Biomedical Engineering student with a full scholarship, a programme that speaks to her interest in engineering as well as her interest in medicine, which was deepened after her brother passed away from illness at a young age. She also founded the Loving Care Foundation to raise funds and help local hospitals in her country.

"Biomedical engineering seems a right fit for me because of my love for both engineering and medicine and my motivation to help combat future medical crises in my country. At HKU I hope to be challenged to go outside my comfort zone so that I can grow into an individual who can succeed in any environment."

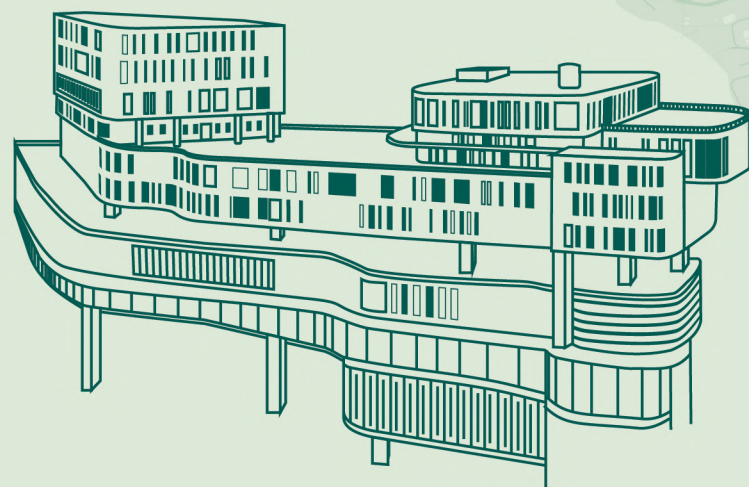






## POKFIELD CAMPUS

5 buildings; hosts the HKU Business School, new academic and residential complexes and a world-class sports facility



## MEDICAL CAMPUS EXPANSION

Town Planning Board approval was obtained in February 2023 to build a major new academic building next to 3 Sassoon Road. Other projects are underway along Sassoon Road to enhance clinical training amenities and provide cutting-edge research facilities.



## HIGH WEST DEVELOPMENT

4 buildings; accommodates more than 900 students and 250 staff members

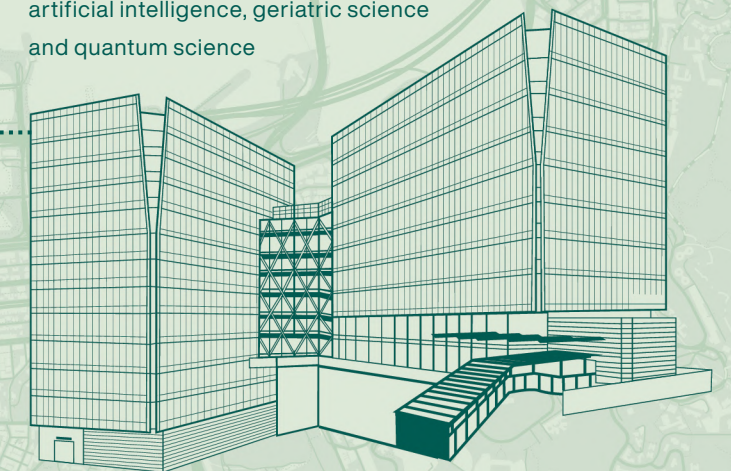


## JOCKEY CLUB STUDENT VILLAGE IV

2 buildings; accommodates more than 1,200 students

## TECH LANDMARK

3 buildings; accommodates new institutes of interdisciplinary science and engineering research in such areas as artificial intelligence, geriatric science and quantum science



# BUILDING NEW SPACES

HKU has embarked on a major building programme to develop new state-of-the-art facilities that will accommodate cutting-edge research and learning activities, as well as quality living space for staff and students. Five sites are being developed or redeveloped, holding altogether nearly 20 buildings. More projects are on the horizon, with the Global Innovation Centre in Pokfulam awaiting the Town Planning Board's consideration. The new projects support our mission to push boundaries and provide a stimulating environment for our world-class scholars and students.



# ADDING VALUE

The University and the Hong Kong Government devoted substantial financial resources in 2022–23 to advance our research agenda and help turn Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area into a world-leading hub of technology and innovation. Simultaneously, HKU is also implementing strategies, infrastructure and curricula to encourage innovation and forward-thinking among staff and students alike.



# INVESTING IN FUTURE IMPACT



HKU and the Beijing Institute of Collaborative Innovation held a Plaque Unveiling Ceremony to mark the establishment of the HKU Collaborative Innovative Center.

## FUNDING SUCCESS

HKU was once again the top performer among local institutions in competitive funding exercises in 2023–24 (see page 23). We are also investing in research internally through the Large Research Equipment Fund, launched in 2022 with a pool of HK\$1 billion to upgrade research infrastructure and purchase shared new equipment, and the Lasting Impact Fund to give scholars pursuing blue-sky research the time needed to develop their ideas. The latter includes HK\$1 million per proposal for up to four years, plus up to HK\$3 million for experimental expenses and equipment.

To support research translation into innovation, the HK\$400 million Entrepreneurship Engine Fund was announced at the DreamOn event in June 2023. It provides ‘patient capital’ to seed early-stage deep-tech ventures that need more time to develop before seeking private investments, as well as funds to accelerate promising start-ups. HKU has also increased our academics’ profit share of their inventions to 80%, from 33.3% previously.

The University also disperses funds from the government’s Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities (TSSSU) among campus inventors. In 2023–24, HK\$16 million was shared among 25 teams and another seven teams benefitted from TSSSU+, which offers matching funds up to HK\$1.5 million for start-ups with private investment. HKU teams are also preparing to apply to the government’s coming Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme (RAISE+), which will provide up to HK\$100 million per project involving university-industry collaboration.

## NEW COLLABORATIONS

Institution-level partnerships are a central part of HKU’s impact strategy. In 2023, the HKU-Qianhai Institute of Intelligent Transport was inaugurated in Shenzhen to focus on developing smart city and smart transportation applications. The HKU Musketeers Foundation Institute of Data Science signed a collaboration agreement with the Shanghai Artificial Intelligence Laboratory to jointly invest in research and talent recruitment in AI and data science. And HKU and the Beijing Institute of Collaborative Innovation formed the HKU Collaborative Innovation Center to admit graduate students who want to pursue translational research projects with entrepreneurship training. Internationally, HKU signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Fudan University and the University of Sydney in June 2023 on advancing research and education to promote sustainable development.



The University has taken a significant step towards addressing global environmental challenges by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Fudan University and the University of Sydney, aiming to advance research and educational programmes promoting sustainability development.

HK\$ 571.7 MILLION  
FUNDING FROM UGC AND RGC

+  
HK\$ 789.5 MILLION  
FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES FOR NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2022–23

EARLY CAREER SCHEME 2023–24

HIGHEST OF ALL HONG KONG TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

40 PROJECTS

HK\$ 32.4 MILLION

THEME-BASED RESEARCH SCHEME 2023–24

2 OUT OF 9 PROJECTS

HK\$ 130 MILLION INCLUDING ON-COSTS  
LED BY HKU, WITH OUR SCHOLARS ALSO MEMBERS OF ANOTHER SIX PROJECTS

GENERAL RESEARCH FUND 2023–24

HIGHEST OF ALL HONG KONG TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

244 PROJECTS

HK\$ 243.8 MILLION

STRATEGIC TOPICS GRANT 2023–24

2 OUT OF 6 PROJECTS

HK\$ 41.1 MILLION EXCLUDING ON-COSTS  
LED BY HKU, WITH OUR SCHOLARS ALSO MEMBERS OF ANOTHER TWO PROJECTS

RMB 54.7 MILLION

FOR 54 PROJECTS

FUNDED BY MAINLAND CHINA SOURCES IN 2022–23

EXCELLENT YOUNG SCIENTISTS FUND 2023 (HONG KONG AND MACAU)

8 AWARDS GIVEN TO HKU SCIENTISTS BY THE NATIONAL NATURAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION OF CHINA

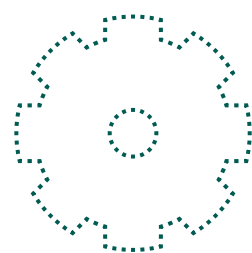
HKU SECURED THE MOST AWARDS FOR 5 CONSECUTIVE YEARS



# THE TEC: INNOVATION HUB



A series of innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives including the official debut of Techno-Entrepreneurship Core were announced at the HKU Innovation and Entrepreneurship Day: DreamOn 2023.



# 21

START-UPS ADMITTED  
TO FIRST COHORT OF  
HKU DEEPTech 100  
IN JANUARY 2023

Innovation support at HKU has until recently been scattered across a variety of programmes and centres. To consolidate that support, boost entrepreneurship and promote an innovation culture among both students and staff, the new Techno-Entrepreneurship Core (TEC) was launched at the DreamOn event in June. The Technology Transfer Office, which deals with commercialisation, has also moved to the Main Campus to be closer to researchers and research administrators.

The TEC is a central platform hub that offers pathways to funding and other resources, creates opportunities for researchers, students and alumni to connect with each other and industry, and provides training and other support.

It also encourages the formation of deep-tech start-ups through its management of the new DeepTech 100 incubation programme, which was launched in October 2022 with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park to provide up to HK\$1.39 million in funding and mentorship to 100 young start-ups within three years. The TEC also manages the iDendron and new Start-up Connector programmes that are pitched at students and alumni, and runs programmes such as the Entrepreneurship Academy which trains hundreds of students and alumni each year.

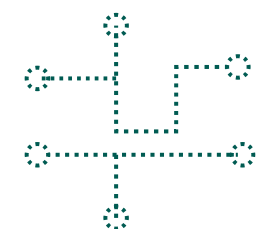
## DEEPTech TCM

Dr Stella Wong Yat Kwan completed her PhD in Chinese Medicine in 2021 and almost immediately stepped into the start-up world. She has applied her know-how to improve the quality of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) through microbial fermentation technology to extract herbal compounds. Her start-up, Lectcha Kombucha, has developed a number of products and is working towards commercialisation, and it was selected for the DeepTech 100 programme in early 2023.



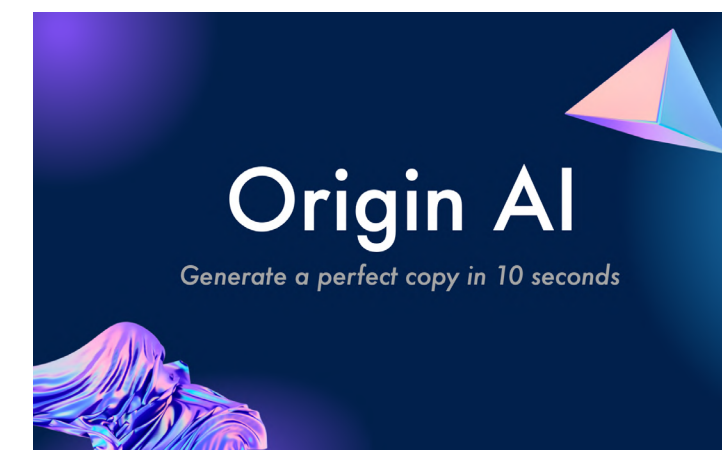
“WE HAVE NOW BEEN CONNECTED TO MANY SUPPORTIVE INVESTORS AND OPPORTUNITIES AND WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING WITH AN INVESTOR INTRODUCED TO US AT THE DREAMON EVENT ON A NEW PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.”

DR STELLA  
WONG YAT KWAN



## AI VENTURE BENEFITS FROM START-UP CONNECTOR

Tiger Bi Hu, a third-year student from the Bachelor of Business Administration in International Business and Global Management programme, founded the company OriginAI with four fellow students in February 2023. It aims to be a one-click solution powered by AI to provide content generation, marketing and other services for social media creators, e-commerce practitioners and businesses. “The Start-up Connector programme has been a valuable channel to help us understand the start-up ecosystem at HKU and the resources available to us, and it’s connected us with other potential start-ups,” said Tiger. They have also had support from the Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub. OriginAI recently launched and has more than 400 registered users.



OriginAI serves as a one-click solution for the needs of social media content creators, e-commerce managers and more.



# EMBRACING AI AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) in education has been firmly embraced at HKU following a period of dialogue and thoughtful reflection on how to get the most out of this technology. Initially, we were cautious about its use to ensure fairness in assessment and access and to sound out staff and students on its ramifications. Two workshops were held in early March, each attended by more than 1,000 staff and students, followed by five policy-making sessions to address specific issues such as plagiarism and security. By June we had a policy, approved by the Senate and disseminated across campus, that encourages the use of GenAI across all programmes and recognises its potential to benefit humankind. Proficiency with AI is also now seen as a fifth literacy at HKU, alongside oral, written, visual and digital communication.



1,000+

PARTICIPANTS IN EACH OF TWO WORKSHOPS ON THE THEME 'CHATGPT AND AI TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UNKNOWN'

To help both teachers and students make the most of GenAI, a series of support measures were rolled out by the new Teaching and Learning Innovation Centre (TALIC), which brings under one roof three previous centres (Centre for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, Technology-Enriched Learning Initiative, and Teaching and Learning Evaluation and Measurement Unit). TALIC has organised WhatsApp support and an AI clinic for teachers, a dedicated website called AI in Education, a five-week self-paced online module on AI literacy for staff and students, and an assessment guide for teachers.

At the curriculum level, new interdisciplinary programmes with a technology focus that includes but is not limited to GenAI, have also been developed, such as the Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and Digital Technology and the Master of Arts in AI, Ethics and Society. Other technologies, such as virtual reality, are also being adopted where they serve curricular needs.



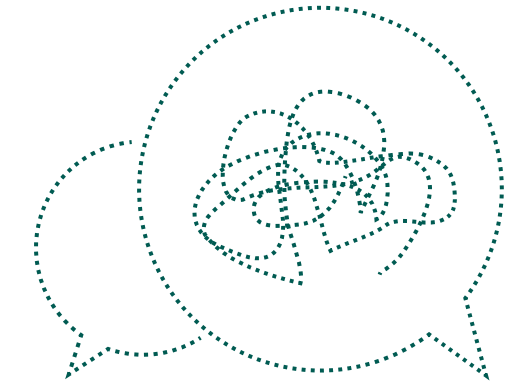
LITE Lab@HKU was awarded the 2023 Edtech Heroes (Adult Learning) Stakeholder Engagement Award.

## USING IMMERSIVE DIGITAL STORYTELLING TO TEACH ABOUT GRIEF IN CANCER CARE

Mr Samson Wong Ki Sum, Assistant Lecturer in the Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, has initiated a grief literacy training module in the Medical Humanities Curriculum that uses virtual reality to expose students to the agonising pain and guilt of family members in end-of-life care as they witness their dying child's life wither, while holding on to the slightest hope that medicine can make a difference. By exposing learners to the complexities of anticipatory grief from the lens of family caregivers, this immersive high-fidelity case study encourages medical students to reflect on the meaning of physician empathy, and to rehearse the myriad emotions that may emerge in end-of-life care settings. Second-year MBBS student Julian Wan Pui Hang reflected: "As a medical student and future physician, there will be times that I will encounter terminally ill patients and their distressed caregivers. This medical humanities workshop has profoundly instilled in me the significance of cultivating patience, understanding and empathy when families confront adversity."

## EXPLORING AI IN LAW

The Law, Innovation, Technology & Entrepreneurship (LITE) Lab's Founding Executive Director, Mr Brian Tang Wha Li, introduced one of the world's first law school courses incorporating GenAI after ChatGPT was unveiled. In 'LITE Lab: Tech Startup Law', students, who co-design legal, regulatory and policy research with Hong Kong tech start-ups, companies, social entrepreneurs and NGOs, were encouraged to explore using GenAI in their research and project deliverables. In 'LITE Lab: Lawtech & Regtech Sandbox', students were asked to explore GenAI's strengths and weaknesses in a chosen area of lawyering. After ensuring all students had access to some form of GenAI, they were required to check everything for accuracy before sharing and to not input confidential or proprietary information into prompts. "One main learning outcome was for students to develop first-hand skillsets in the emerging field of legal prompt engineering," said Mr Tang. Some of the student findings demonstrated how GenAI can help streamline and augment the work of legal practitioners.



MBBS students immersed in a virtual medical consultation room at which distressed parents of a paediatric cancer patient received the news that chemotherapy has failed, and the family's narrative that they felt "being abandoned on a drifting boat with the dying child".

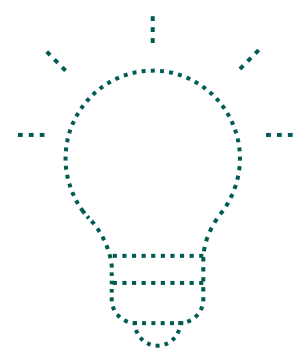




Recipients of the Research  
Postgraduate Student  
Innovation Award 2022–23.



# INNOVATION PATHWAYS



HKU is supporting the drive for innovation across Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area not only through our research, but our education of future researchers and entrepreneurs. At the undergraduate level, 29 courses across six faculties offered training in entrepreneurial skills in 2022–23. This complements the efforts by iDendron and the Start-up Connector programmes to support student entrepreneurial ventures (see page 24).

Innovation is also emphasised in both research and taught postgraduate programmes. The Research Postgraduate Student Innovation Award launched in 2022 incentivises students to think

outside the box, challenge existing paradigms and break new ground. Up to 10 awards of HK\$50,000 each are handed out each year. The HKU Foundation Publication Award, established in 2022–23, encourages research postgraduate students to get their research published in leading journals. Twenty awardees are honoured each year and receive a HK\$5,000 award.

Meanwhile, the new Greater Bay Area MBA, launched in 2022, taps into the eager demand in the region for business professionals who can help take innovation to market and manage new companies. The part-time programme is targeted at experienced management professionals and admitted 163 students in its first intake in 2022–23 and 244 in the 2023–24 intake. Classes are held at both the HKU Business School's Hong Kong campus and at its Shenzhen campus, which officially opened in 2022. The HKU MBA offered in Hong Kong was ranked No.1 in Hong Kong and 19th in the world by the composite Poets&Quants International MBA Ranking 2022–23 (based on rankings by *The Financial Times*, *The Economist*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, and *Forbes*).

# 29

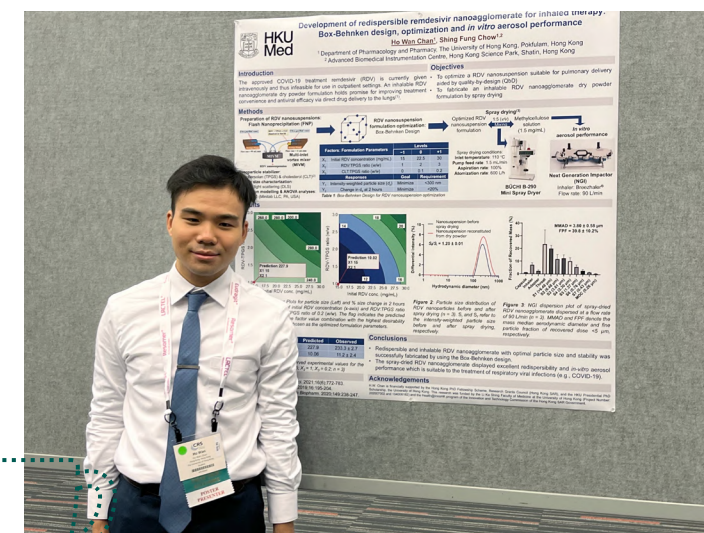
COURSES ACROSS  
SIX FACULTIES  
OFFERED TRAINING IN  
ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS  
IN 2022–23

## BIOTECH START-UP TRAINING

BBIomedSc launched a capstone project for final-year students that takes them through the process of setting up a biotechnology start-up, including the problems and scenarios they may encounter, the business and marketing knowledge they may need, and how to apply their biomedical know-how. In 2023, Charmaine Tse worked on a project in her final year to develop a sensor for children with special educational needs that can help parents better understand their children's emotions and improve classroom management to prevent outbursts at school. "This course allowed me the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and pitch and present each lesson. I now have skills and an entrepreneurship mindset, which has inspired me to work on developing a pickup app for surplus food with my friends."



Class photo of the capstone project taken with teachers Dr Masayo Kotaka (first from right) and Mr Jeffrey Broer (first from left).



Howard at the Controlled Release Society 2022 Annual Meeting and Expo.

Maosu (centre) receiving the Best Paper Award at the Global Smart Cities Summit cum The 3rd International Conference on Urban Informatics.



## INNOVATION AWARD WINNERS

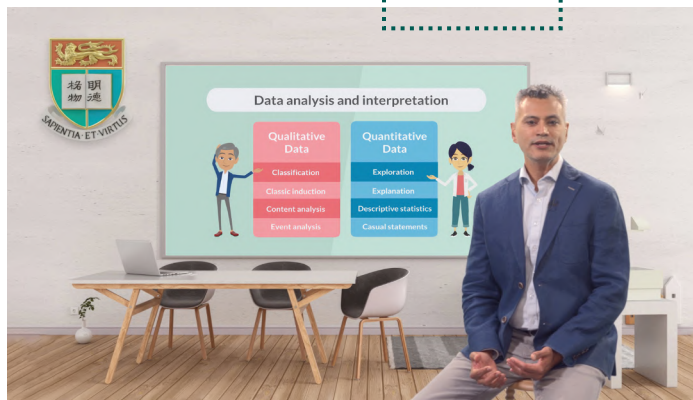
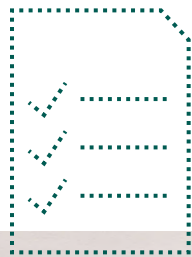
Research postgraduate students are being encouraged to develop applications based on their investigations through the new Research Postgraduate Student Innovation Awards. Two standout recipients were PhD candidate in Pharmacology and Pharmacy, Howard Chan Ho Wan, and PhD candidate in Urban Planning and Design, Li Maosu. Howard has developed a continuous manufacturing platform to fabricate inhalable nano-agglomerate powder formulations that offer efficient and optimal delivery of drug-loaded nanoparticles to the lungs, to tackle respiratory diseases such as lung cancer and COVID-19. And Maosu has developed the world's first automatic machine learning-based city information modelling approach to estimate human-perceived openness of urban-scale window views, that can aid in building design and urban planning and overcome the oversimplification and limited scale of current assessments.



# FUTURE READINESS

Technology is not the only area where students are being prepared for the future. The Future Readiness Initiative (FRI), launched in September 2023, gives first-year students a leg-up in essential soft skills and gets them thinking about planning their learning journey. It consists of two credit-bearing online courses on communication skills and research skills, involving 20 hours of screen and offline activities that students complete at their own pace. Both skills will be important for studies and future careers: employers' value communication skills, while the vast quantity of data in the world means students must learn how to sift through it all and draw meaningful conclusions. It is also hoped they will become enthused about doing research.

Communication skills are also promoted through the award of a badge upon completion of the 'Communication-intensive Course' (CiC) developed by a team of teachers from the Centre for Applied English Studies, Common Core Office and TALIC. The team help teachers of all disciplines incorporate communications into their course design and instruction, and the badge recognises success in doing so.



The 'Introduction to Research Methods' online course bridges the gap between abstract research concepts and practical application by offering hands-on exercises using real-world data, building students' confidence in research skills.

Dr Michelle Reyes Raquel (second from left), Mr Simon David Boynton (first from left), Dr Jack Tsao (second from right) and Mr Donn Emmanuel Ventura Gonda (first from right) were honoured with the University's Outstanding Teaching Award for the 'Communication-intensive Courses'.



132 faculty-level courses, 38 Common Core courses and 71 courses in English and Chinese language enhancement have received the badge. The CiC Team received an Outstanding Teaching Award (Team) in the HKU Excellence Awards for 2022.

At the faculty level, individual teachers also encourage their students to look beyond their immediate circumstances to the wider world. One such teacher, Mr David Bishop in the Business School, was honoured with the 2023 UGC Teaching Award.

The Common Core itself also helps students develop essential skills for the future, in particular the ability to dive into multidisciplinary topics, think creatively about their future careers, and be prepared for interdisciplinary research. All undergraduate students must take Common Core courses alongside classmates from other disciplines. In 2023–24, 176 courses were offered covering a broad span, such as Artificial Intelligence, Leading a Life Worth Living, the Evolution of Civilisation, and Digitising Cultural Heritage in Greater China.

## IDENTIFYING SIGNALS OF CHANGE

The Future of Sustainable Business in Asia was launched in early 2023 as an undergraduate research project under the Common Core. Students did 'horizon scanning' for the Futures Team at the global consultancy Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), to identify new trends and phenomena that have the potential to impact stakeholder engagement, supply chain management, and internal operations. Year 2 HKU-PKU LLB student, Charis Chan Wing Tung, applied natural language processing technology to recognise greenwashing claims in company reports, a practice primarily used in banks for investment and insurance purposes. She benefitted from working in an international team of students and learning the importance of presentation skills. "It is easy to be fixated on one's professional knowledge or research and forget that it is equally important how we present findings to the client. Through BSR's feedback, we fine-tuned our work to discuss impact more comprehensively and advise the client, thus creating value."

# 176

COMMON CORE COURSES  
IN 2023–24

Mr David Bishop (left) from the HKU Business School receiving the 2023 UGC Teaching Award.



Year 2 student Charis benefitted from participating in a research project in collaboration with an international sustainable business consultancy firm.

## UGC TEACHING AWARD WINNER

Mr David Bishop of the Faculty of Business and Economics won the Hong Kong-wide UGC Teaching Award in September 2023, just a few months after receiving the HKU University Distinguished Teaching Award. His innovative teaching approach has students develop social impact projects that have enduring impact and provide solutions to a range of problems, especially those plaguing the developing world. About 1,200 students from 170 countries, many of them on exchange, have joined his Impact Lab which he founded about a decade ago. They have helped dozens of NGOs and helped create social enterprises such as Soap Cycling, Migrasia Global Solutions Ltd and EmpowerU. "I am really excited about the UGC Teaching Award. My only regret is that it was an individual award. We've got great people, a whole community, providing assistance and directly supervising our students," he said.



# ACHIEVING IMPACT

The ultimate aim of our work is to benefit people's lives and communities. In 2022–23, we received international recognition for the impact of our research and innovations, and launched a new strategy for knowledge exchange activities to target areas of local and global significance.





Under the patronage of the Swiss Federal Government  
the Republic and Canton of Geneva – the City of Geneva  
the World Intellectual Property Organisation - WIPO

# TRANSLATING HKU KNOW-HOW

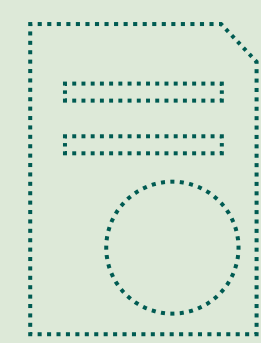
HKU research has brought substantial benefits to people's lives – our world-leading contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic are but one example – and we are continuing to ramp up the translation of our research. In 2022–23, 90 new patents were granted and an income of HK\$27.78 million was generated through commercialisation of existing IP rights. Recent years have also seen more than 280 HKU-affiliated start-ups launched, including two unicorns (Ecoflow and Aftership, both founded by HKU graduates and now valued at over US\$1 billion each). Through the Techno-Entrepreneurship Core, HKU is also seeking to reconnect with all start-ups that were initially seeded at the University. The InnoValley: 2023

The invention developed by Dr Wilton Fok's team won two special grand prizes – the Invention & Innovation CAI Award (China Delegation) and the Prize of the Delegation of Malaysia – and a gold medal at the 48th Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions (see page 37).

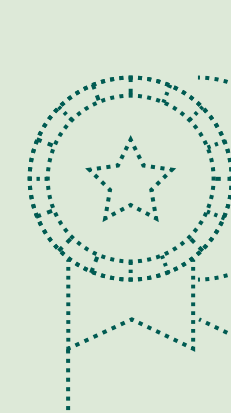


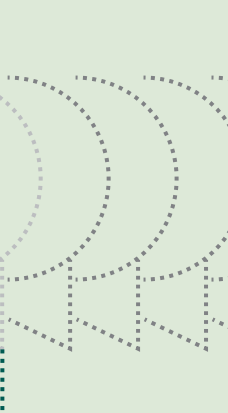

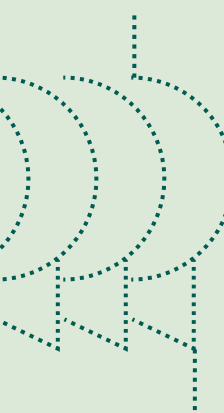
HKU Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge, launched nationwide in April, invites entries from all HKU-affiliated innovators and innovations across Mainland China. More than 200 applications have been received from six cities and they are being showcased around the country, building up to a grand finale at HKU in December 2023.

HKU inventions also performed strongly at the 48th Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions held in April 2023. 19 awards were received for 17 inventions, including two special grand prizes, one gold medal with the Congratulations of the Jury, six gold medals, six silver medals and four bronze medals.

 280+  
START-UPS AFFILIATED WITH HKU

 90  
NEW PATENTS GRANTED  
IN 2022–23

19  
AWARDS AT THE 48TH  
GENEVA INTERNATIONAL  
EXHIBITION OF INVENTIONS

       
21 6 6 4  
SPECIAL GRAND PRIZES GOLD MEDAL WITH THE CONGRATULATIONS OF THE JURY GOLD MEDALS SILVER MEDALS BRONZE MEDALS



From left: HKU microbiologist Professor Yuen Kwok Yung, acclaimed Columbia University virologist Professor David Ho and HKU Dean of Medicine Professor Lau Chak Sing.

## ANTI-VIRAL LEADERS

To support work on epidemic preparedness, HKU, the University of Cambridge and the International Vaccine Institute signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the international headquarters of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Global Health Institute (HKJCGHI) at HKUMed. The HKJCGHI will focus on pandemic preparedness, translating research into preventive interventions such as vaccines, and advancing the access, equity and affordability of such interventions with the aid of global research support from the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

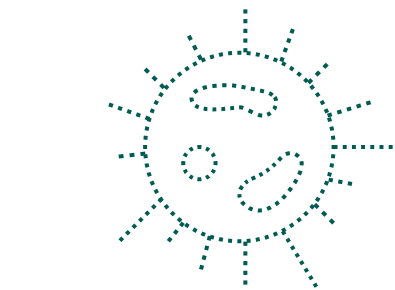
Separately, Professor Yuen Kwok Yung, Henry Fok Professor in Infectious Diseases of the Department of Microbiology established the Global Pandemic Research Alliance with virologist Professor David Ho of Columbia University and experts from institutes in Mainland China, Australia and Singapore, to conduct research on emerging infectious diseases. Professor Yuen also signed an MOU with the Shanghai Institute of Infectious Disease and Biosecurity on innovative drug development for infectious diseases. Furthermore, his team's 2020 research paper documenting the first human-to-human transmission of the virus causing COVID-19 was named by *The Lancet* as one of 34 landmark papers in the journal's entire 200-year history.



HKU, the University of Cambridge and the International Vaccine Institute signed an MoU on November 15, 2023, with the aid of global research support from the Hong Kong Jockey Club, to establish the Hong Kong Jockey Club Global Health Institute.

## AI ALGORITHMS FOR ARCHITECTURE

A team from the iLab in the Faculty of Architecture won a gold and silver award at the international 2023 IEEE / CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, outmatching teams from other leading universities around the world. The conference had a competition to see which algorithms could most accurately reconstruct an existing building from scanned data. The HKU team, led by Dr Frank Xue, won gold in the category Scan-to-BIM 3D for their AI-based method to create a 3D BIM model, and silver for converting a point cloud scan into a 2D architectural drawing. BIM stands for Building Information Modelling, which lets architects and surveyors create a complete and detailed digital model of a building, including furniture and appliances. "There is an urgent need for Scan-to-BIM algorithms and software, which not only perform the entire process much faster, but are also much more accurate than current methods," Dr Xue said.

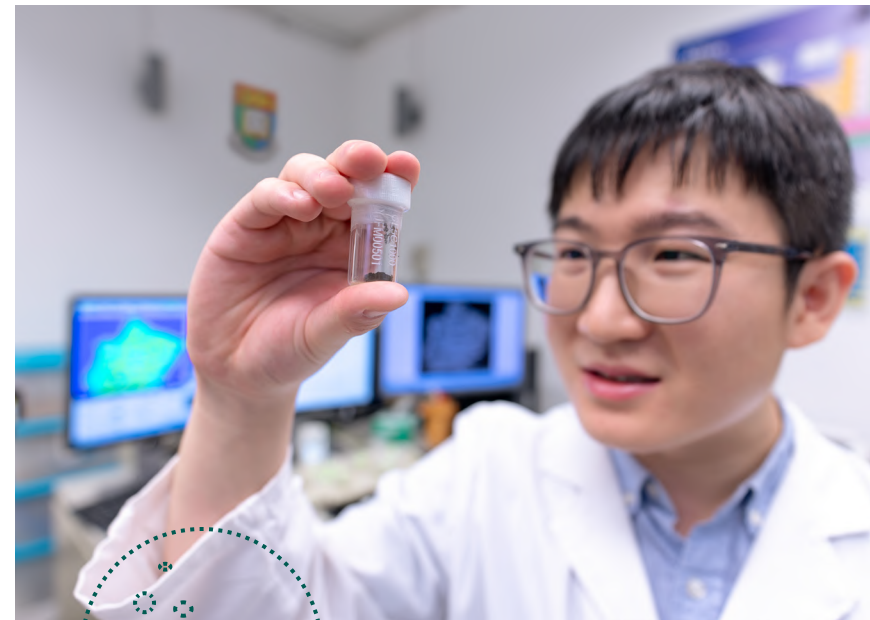


Dr Frank Xue (second from left) and the iLab team.



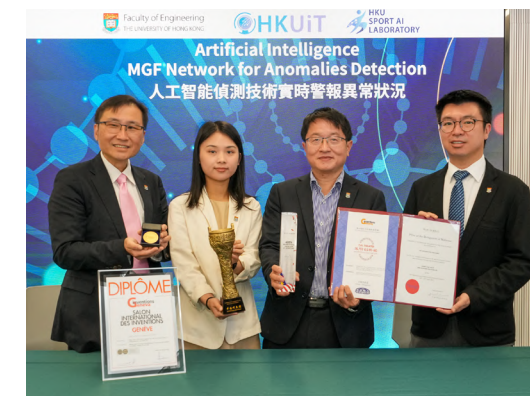
## LUNAR LEADER

Postdoctoral fellow Dr Qian Yuqi in the Department of Earth Sciences has led the first team in Hong Kong to obtain a lunar soil sample for study. The achievement comes on the back of his earlier work that argued volcanic activity happened on the moon more recently than previously believed. The area Dr Qian pinpointed was the landing site of the Chinese lunar probe Chang'e-5 in 2020 and scientists have confirmed his prediction, reshaping the understanding of lunar history. Earlier this year, he obtained approval to retrieve a lunar soil sample collected by the Chang'e-5 probe, weighing 822.6 milligrams, which was then brought to HKU for further study. "This is a dream come true for us and Hong Kong's space science community. We hope to reveal the secrets of the moon and gain insights into the early Earth, which could have important implications for our understanding of the solar system and beyond," he said.



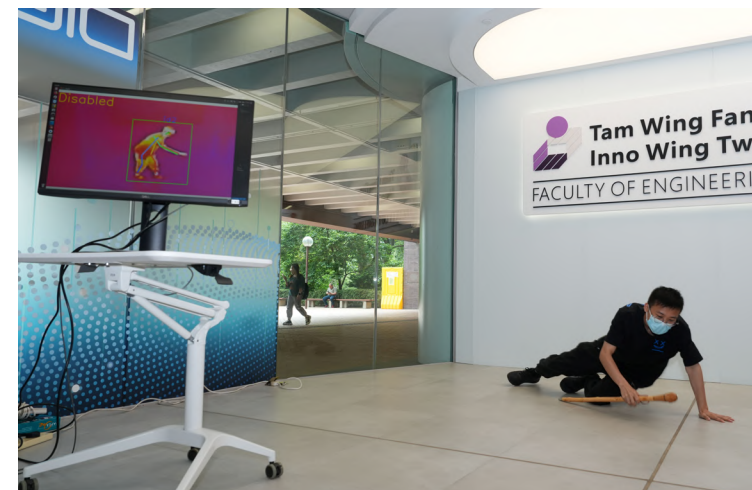
Dr Qian Yuqi's team obtained approval from the China National Space Administration's Lunar Exploration and Space Engineering Centre to study the lunar soil samples.

From left: Dr Alfred Tan, Deputy Director of Technology Transfer Office; Ms Carol Chen, Project Manager; Dr Wilton Fok, Director of Sports AI Laboratory; Professor Anderson Shum, HKU Associate Vice-President (Research and Innovation).



## TECHNOLOGY TO DETECT FALLS, ABUSE AND OTHER ANOMALIES

Artificial intelligence technology developed by Dr Wilton Fok's team in the Sports AI Laboratory of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering was awarded two special grand prizes (Invention & Innovation CAI Award and Prize of the Delegation of Malaysia) and a gold medal at the 48th Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions in April. The Glance and Focus AI Anomalies Detection technology can analyse human posture and movements via real-time video to identify anomalies such as falls, fainting, abuse, drowning or criminal behaviour. It can be deployed to provide timely alerts for rescue efforts and help prevent accidents. The team have also received funding from the government's Smart Traffic Fund to explore the use of thermal images in analysing pedestrian movements at traffic light junctions and determine if individuals in need, such as the elderly, children, or disabled, can be given an extended flashing green time to cross the road and enhance road safety. The team members include Dr Wu Yik Chung, Dr Qi Xiaojuan and Ms Carol Chen.



Real-time detection of falls from thermal images.



# ACCOLADES FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

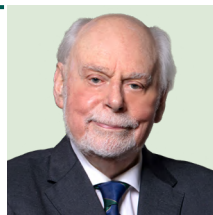
HKU scholars were widely honoured in 2023 for the excellence of their work and their contributions to many disciplines. In November, a record high number of 50 academics were named among the 'Highly Cited Researchers 2023' by Clarivate for producing multiple highly cited papers that ranked in the top 1% by citations during 2012–22, a significant increase from 38 named last year. HKU also ranked 13th globally among all institutions on the list and its rise was acknowledged by Clarivate as contributing to Hong Kong's ascent into the Top 10 nations and regions of 2023.

## CHEMISTRY

PROFESSOR  
DAI HONGJIE  
Department of  
Chemistry



PROFESSOR  
SIR FRASER  
STODDART  
Department of  
Chemistry



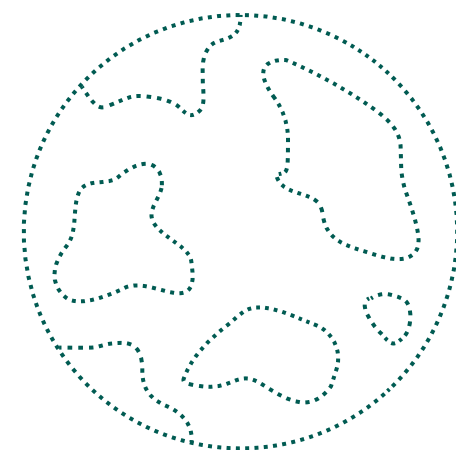
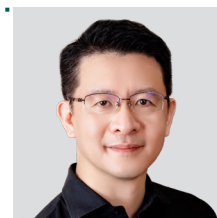
## CHEMISTRY, MATERIALS SCIENCE

DR TAN  
CHAOLIANG  
Department of  
Electrical and  
Electronic  
Engineering



## COMPUTER SCIENCE

PROFESSOR  
HUANG  
KAIBIN  
Department of  
Electrical and  
Electronic  
Engineering



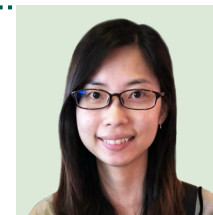
HKU IS RANKED  
**13<sup>TH</sup>**  
GLOBALLY BY THE NUMBER  
OF HIGHLY CITED RESEARCHERS

## CROSS-FIELD

PROFESSOR  
ESTER CERIN  
School of  
Public Health



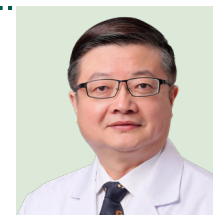
DR CHAN WAN  
MUI  
Department of  
Microbiology



PROFESSOR  
CHEN  
HONGLIN  
Department of  
Microbiology



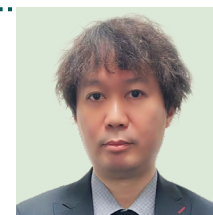
PROFESSOR  
CHEN ZHIWEI  
AIDS Institute;  
Department of  
Microbiology



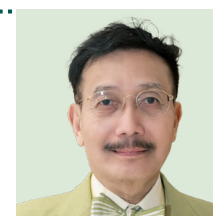
PROFESSOR  
VINCENT  
CHENG CHI  
CHUNG  
Department of  
Microbiology



DR KOK KIN  
HANG  
Department of  
Microbiology



PROFESSOR  
LAI CHING  
LUNG  
Department of  
Medicine



DR ERIC LAU  
HO YIN  
School of  
Public Health



DR KATHY  
LEUNG SZE  
MAN  
School of  
Public Health



PROFESSOR  
LI YUGUO  
Department of  
Mechanical  
Engineering



PROFESSOR  
LIANG  
SHUNLIN  
Department of  
Geography



PROFESSOR  
MAK TAK WAH  
Department of  
Pathology



PROFESSOR  
JOSEPH  
SRIYAL MALIK  
PEIRIS  
School of  
Public Health



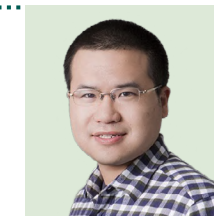
DR ANTHONY  
RAYMOND  
TAM  
Department of  
Medicine



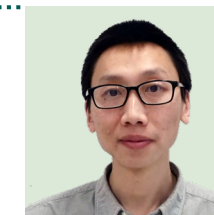
PROFESSOR  
TANG  
CHUYANG  
Department of  
Civil Engineering



PROFESSOR  
WANG HAN  
Department of  
Electrical and  
Electronic  
Engineering



DR WANG  
ZHONGRUI  
Department of  
Electrical and  
Electronic  
Engineering



# 50

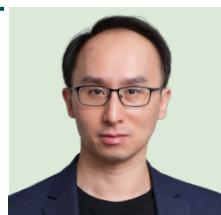
HKU SCHOLARS NAMED TO CLARIVATE'S  
'HIGHLY CITED RESEARCHERS 2023' LIST



DR WU PENG  
School of  
Public Health



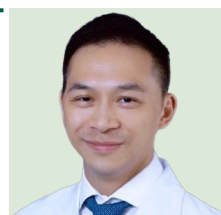
PROFESSOR  
JOSEPH WU  
TSZ KEI  
School of  
Public Health



DR YEN HUI  
LING  
School of  
Public Health



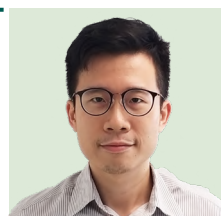
PROFESSOR  
KELVIN  
YEUNG WAI  
KWOK  
Department of  
Orthopaedics and  
Traumatology



PROFESSOR  
YIN XIAOBO  
Faculty of  
Engineering;  
Faculty of Science;  
President's Office



DR CYRIL YIP  
CHIK YAN  
Department of  
Microbiology



DR ANNA  
ZHANG JINXIA  
Department of  
Microbiology



PROFESSOR  
ZHANG  
XIAOLING  
Department of  
Real Estate and  
Construction



DR ZHOU JIE  
Department of  
Microbiology



PROFESSOR  
ZHOU YUYU  
Department of  
Geography



## ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY, GEOSCIENCES

PROFESSOR  
LIU ZHU  
Department of  
Geography



## GEOSCIENCES

PROFESSOR  
GONG PENG  
Faculty of Science;  
Faculty of  
Social Sciences;  
President's Office

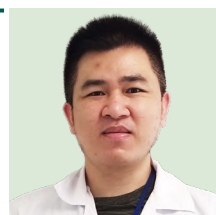


PROFESSOR  
ZHAO  
GUOCHUN  
Department of  
Earth Sciences



## IMMUNOLOGY

MR CAI  
JIANPIAO  
Department of  
Microbiology



PROFESSOR  
IVAN HUNG  
FAN NGAI  
Department of  
Medicine

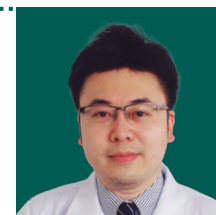


PROFESSOR  
GABRIEL  
MATTHEW  
LEUNG  
School of  
Public Health



## IMMUNOLOGY, MICROBIOLOGY

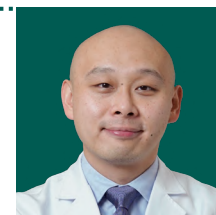
DR JASPER  
CHAN FUK  
WOO  
Department of  
Microbiology



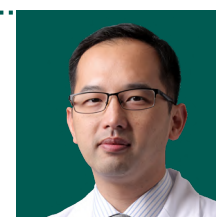
DR CHAN  
KWOK HUNG  
Department of  
Microbiology



DR CHU HIN  
Department of  
Microbiology



PROFESSOR  
KELVIN TO  
KAI WANG  
Department of  
Microbiology



PROFESSOR  
YUEN KWOK  
YUNG  
Department of  
Microbiology



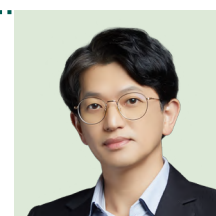
## IMMUNOLOGY, SOCIAL SCIENCES

PROFESSOR  
BENJAMIN  
JOHN  
COWLING  
School of  
Public Health



## MATERIALS SCIENCE

PROFESSOR  
LI LAIN JONG  
Department of  
Mechanical  
Engineering



## MICROBIOLOGY

PROFESSOR  
LEO POON  
LIT MAN  
School of  
Public Health



DR YUAN  
SHUOFENG  
Department of  
Microbiology



PROFESSOR  
ZHANG TONG  
Department of  
Civil Engineering



## PHYSICS

PROFESSOR  
YAO WANG  
Department of  
Physics



PROFESSOR  
ZHANG  
SHUANG  
Department of  
Electrical and  
Electronic  
Engineering;  
Department of  
Physics



PROFESSOR  
XIANG ZHANG  
Faculty of  
Engineering;  
Faculty of Science;  
President's Office



THE ELITE OF THE ELITE  
BELONG TO THE

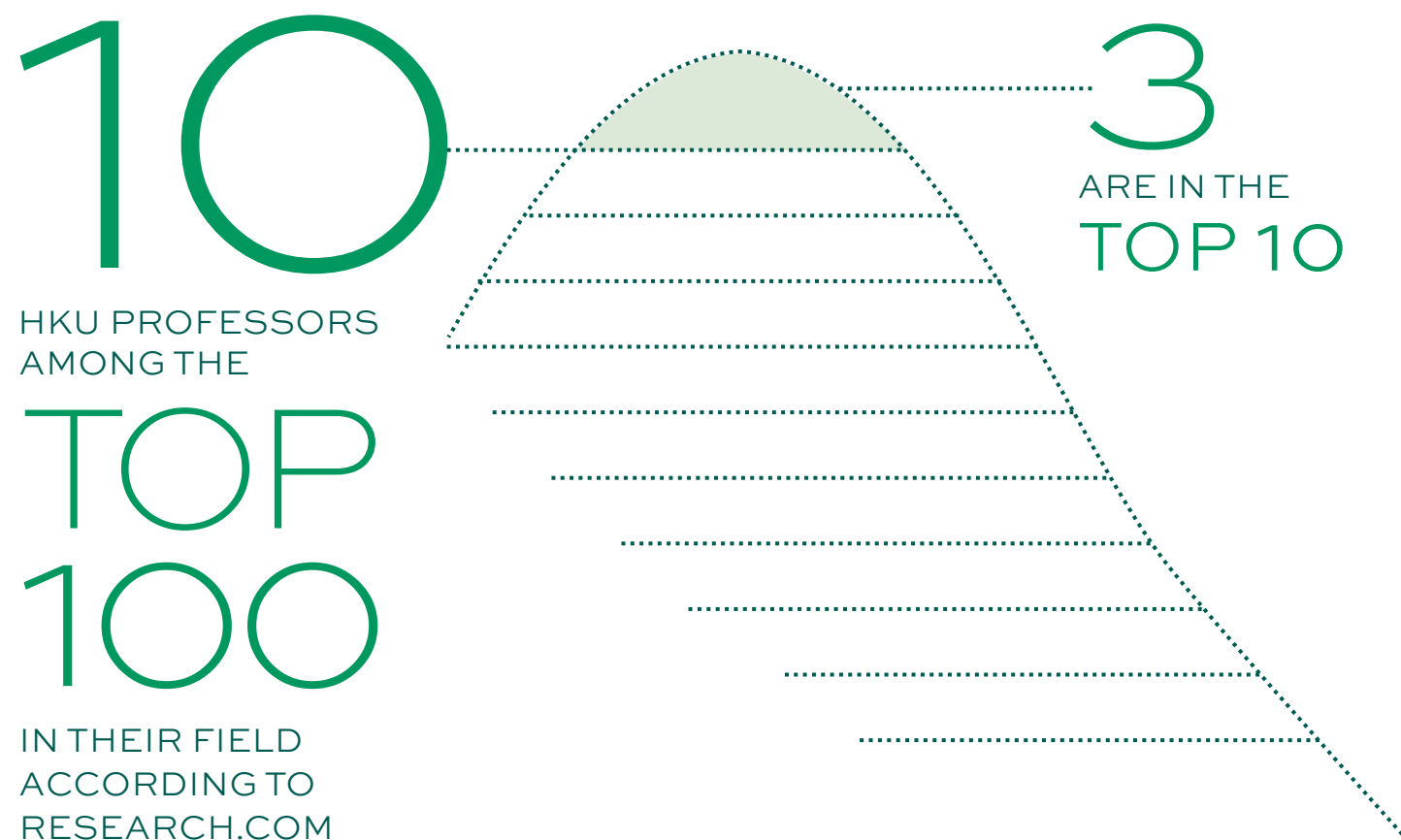
TOP  
0.1%  
OF ALL SCIENTISTS WORLDWIDE



Accolades were also bestowed on 10 HKU professors named among the top 100 best scientists in their discipline by Research.com in its 2023 Best Scientists, and three ranked among the top 10 in the world: Professor Yuen Kwok Yung, Henry Fok Professor in Infectious Diseases and Chair of Infectious Diseases, in Microbiology; Professor Mak Tak Wah, Honorary Professor at the Department of Pathology, in Molecular Biology; and Professor Zhao Guochun, Chair Professor of Earth Sciences, in Earth Sciences. Research.com also ranked six HKU professors as first in their fields in China – the most of any university in the nation.

Other honours were bestowed on researchers in specific disciplines, such as the AI 2000 Most Influential Scholar Annual List, which included six HKU scholars. Selected highlights of honours for senior professors include Professor Vivian Yam, Philip Wong Wilson Wong Professor in Chemistry and Energy, who became the first Asian and first Chinese awarded

the prestigious Bailar Medal (2023–24) for contributions to inorganic chemistry; mathematician Professor Mok Ngai Ming, Edmund and Peggy Tse Professor in Mathematics and Chair of Mathematics, who is the first Hong Kong recipient of the Tan Kah Kee Science Award in Mathematics and Physics (2022); and Professor Sun Hongzhe, Norman and Cecilia Yip Professor in Bioinorganic Chemistry and Chair Professor of Chemistry, who was awarded the 2023 Horizon Prize by the Royal Society of Chemistry's Dalton Prize Committee. Dr Joseph Michalski became the first non-Chinese recipient of the Xplorer Prize (2023) funded by Tencent's New Cornerstone Science Foundation. The latter also offered grants to three scientists through the New Cornerstone Investigator Program to support their excellence in basic research: Professor Yao Wang, Chair Professor of Physics; Professor Zhang Shuang, Interim Head and Chair Professor of Physics; and Professor He Xuhua, Chair Professor of Mathematics.



“ I AM HONoured BY THE AWARD AND COMMITTED TO CONDUCTING OUTSTANDING RESEARCH FOSTERED BY HKU’S EXCEPTIONAL RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO COLLABORATING WITH THE TALENTED AND DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS IN ASIA AS WELL. ”



DR YANG YI

## INAUGURAL ASIAN YOUNG SCIENTIST FELLOW

Dr Yang Yi, Assistant Professor of Physics, was one of 12 exceptional early-career scientists from the Asia region selected as an inaugural Fellow of the Asian Young Scientist Fellowship, based on his track record and future potential in optical physics and photonics. Nominations for the fellowships came from around 500 deans and heads of university faculties and research institutes around the region. Dr Yang was also named one of 35 Innovators Under 35 for China in 2022 by *MIT Technology Review* and was a recipient of the 2022 Excellent Young Scientists Fund (Hong Kong and Macau).

Watch the HKU Young Innovator Award video



DR YUAN SHUOFENG

## YOUNG INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

Dr Yuan Shuofeng, Assistant Professor of Microbiology, has made headway in antiviral therapies that could address the next pandemic, and his research successes have resulted in a bumper year. In 2023, he was named one of the top Innovators Under 35 in the Asia Pacific region by *MIT Technology Review*, as well as one of eight HKU recipients of the Excellent Young Scientists Fund (Hong Kong and Macau) by the National Natural Science Foundation of China for his project on druggable antiviral targets. Dr Yuan was also bestowed the HKU Young Innovator Award in March 2023 for his work on small-molecule drugs that could provide cheap and effective treatment against the next pandemic threat.

“ MY AIM IS TO ESTABLISH CONCEPTS THAT CAN BE HARNESSSED TO DEVELOP NEW STRATEGIES, METHODS AND LEADS FOR ANTIVIRAL TREATMENT. ”

”



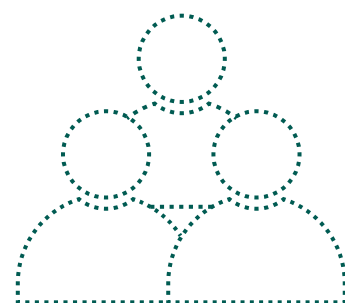


# HELPING THE COMMUNITY



The University actively encourages scholars to apply their research for the benefit of people and the community. In 2023, we sharpened that encouragement with a new funding scheme that rewards scholars who aim for international as well as local impact. The Strategic Impact Scheme, launched in March, awards up to HK\$500,000 to new projects in seven globally strategic areas – green and sustainable energy; health and medical technologies; industry 4.0; smart cities; food security and nutrition; use of IT in education; and community engagement for governance and law. This is in addition to our ongoing Impact Project Scheme, which awards up to HK\$150,000 to each project. Knowledge exchange (KE) is also promoted through the annual KE Excellence Awards at both the faculty and university levels. An example of the reach of our KE work is the project ‘Revitalising Hong Kong’s Abandoned Villages – Mui Tsz Lam & Kop Tong’ from the Faculty of Social Sciences, which has had more than 840,000 views on Instagram.

HKU launched the Wellness@HKU initiative to promote campus health and well-being.



Social responsibility and a sense of community are encouraged among students through curricular and co-curricular activities. Many experiential learning and capstone projects include these elements, which aim to not only develop students’ professional and ‘soft’ skills, but also make them cognisant of their deeper connections and roles within society. This is part of the bigger picture of whole-person development, which is also a valued part of students’ education. In 2023, we launched the student-staff partnership, Wellness@HKU, a communication platform to promote mental and physical health and well-being on campus.



Watch the ‘Revitalising Hong Kong’s Abandoned Villages – Mui Tsz Lam & Kop Tong’ video

# 13

PROJECTS  
AWARDED IN THE  
**IMPACT  
PROJECT  
SCHEME**  
FOR 2022–23

# 17

PROJECTS  
AWARDED IN THE  
**STRATEGIC  
IMPACT  
SCHEME**  
FOR 2022–23

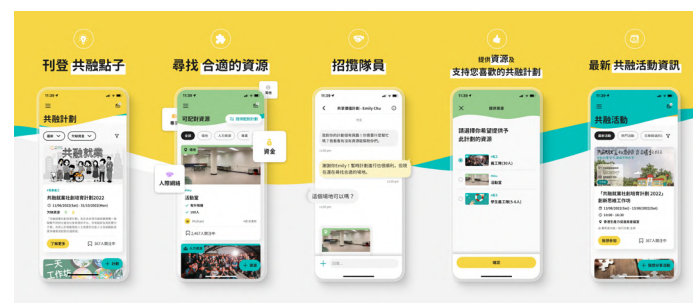


## OUTREACH FOR THE ELDERLY



More than 90% of older people have dental caries and around half of them remain untreated, often put off by a lack of dental knowledge or the cost of dental care. While the Hong Kong Government offers several dental care services, these are only available to limited groups and most older adults have difficulty choosing and accessing an appropriate service. To address this problem, the Faculty of Dentistry has been working with an NGO to establish a community-based outreach programme in community centres for the elderly.

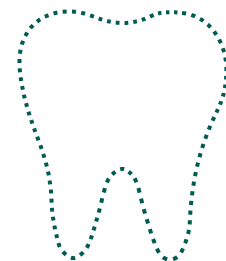
Volunteer dental professionals do check-ups, basic procedures and dental care promotion, while the NGO follows up with advice on available services, either at government clinics or their affiliated charitable dental clinics. The programme has helped more than 700 elderly in the past three years. The Faculty coordinates the programme and provides an outreach service to train dental professionals and staff in elderly community centres. "This model is sustainable and it reaches more people who might not otherwise get dental care. We hope it can be adopted by the government and become a community-wide service in future," said Dr Ollie Yu Yiru, Clinical Assistant Professor, who is leading the project.



As a resource-matching platform connecting different sectors, the 'InMatch' mobile app fosters a conducive environment in which communities of interest can engender a socially inclusive and cohesive society, while also facilitating more efficient and effective allocation of community resources.



The Faculty of Dentistry has partnered with an NGO to establish a community-based outreach programme in community centres for the elderly.



## INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT FOCUS

More than 500,000 Hong Kong people have disabilities and their job prospects are discouraging. Their unemployment rate is double that of the general population and fewer than half of people with disabilities who have post-secondary qualifications are employed. A three-year Jockey Club-funded project, launched in 2020, is trying to improve the situation by raising awareness and designing collective action. The Centre for Civil Society and Governance is the convening organisation and is working with four partner NGOs.

Early on, the Centre conducted a diagnostic study of the current situation and policy responses, followed by nine public seminars attended by more than 480 stakeholders to identify key areas of improvement. It has also created an online platform of information for people with disabilities, employers, social sector practitioners and other interested parties, as well as a mobile application linking to community resources. The next phase, launching in 2024, will reach out to business organisations and promote the benefits of inclusive employment, given that multiple overseas studies show it can improve staff retention, profitability and total shareholder return.



The team conducting an interview with a stroke patient and his caregiver in the Hong Kong Stroke Association.

## PROMOTING AIDS PREVENTION THROUGH ENRICHMENT MODULE

Year 4 Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm) students are spending two days a week during their second semester working with an NGO or academic institution of their choice. This Enrichment Module, launched in 2022–23, gives students deeper experience in real settings so they can apply and expand their knowledge. Donald Lee, a 2023 BPharm graduate, worked with AIDS Concern, where he used his knowledge to contribute information posters, give a talk to ethnic minorities on the proper use of antibiotics, design leaflets for doctors on medical treatments and approaches to sexual and gender minorities during consultations, and join a podcast about HIV prevention in the community. The experience helped him understand common problems faced by sexual and ethnic minorities and build up his presentation and communication skills. "I also gained a better understanding of the operation of an NGO. My contribution to AIDS Concern was valued by them, which boosted my confidence. I have not confirmed my future career path, but I am considering being a pharmacist in an NGO."



Donald (second from right) giving a talk regarding the appropriate use of antibiotics to ethnic minorities in April 2023.



## OVERCOMING COMMUNICATION BARRIERS

Speech-Language Pathology students are participating in a project to understand the difficulties experienced by people with aphasia during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how to help them in future. Aphasia affects the ability to understand, speak, read and write, and is often an outcome after a stroke. The three-year project, led by Dr Anthony Kong Pak Hin, was launched in 2022–23 for primarily Year 4 students, who this year interviewed people with aphasia and documented and investigated the challenges they face (students in subsequent years will develop plans and strategies to help people with aphasia engage in social activities both online and in person). Student Bonita Sham Po Yan heard first-hand of the lengths that speech therapists went to to serve their clients during the pandemic and learned from the experience. "I had the opportunity to establish a rapport with stakeholders and learned to express ideas clearly, ask relevant questions and actively contribute to discussions. Overall, it was an invaluable learning experience."



# THE UNIVERSITY PROFILE

Some percentages or figures in this section do not add up to 100% or total owing to rounding.

## STUDENTS\*

### STUDENT ADMISSION

New intakes

	All	Undergraduate	Taught Postgraduate	Research Postgraduate
2022–23	15,340	4,844	9,565	931
Male	6,462	2,296	3,661	505
Female	8,878	2,548	5,904	426
% Non-local (Based on Nationality)	57.5%	29.5%	69.1%	84.7%
2021–22	13,565	4,513	8,012	1,040
Male	5,593	2,017	3,042	534
Female	7,972	2,496	4,970	506
% Non-local (Based on Nationality)	51.5%	28.3%	60.5%	82.8%

### ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS ON ALL PROGRAMMES

Faculty	Undergraduate		Taught Postgraduate		Research Postgraduate		All Levels	
	2022–23	2021–22	2022–23	2021–22	2022–23	2021–22	2022–23	2021–22
Architecture	730	721	768	748	163	136	1,661	1,605
Arts	1,871	1,859	1,076	886	225	236	3,172	2,981
Business and Economics	3,076	2,956	4,562	3,598	179	163	7,817	6,717
Dentistry	466	452	83	87	120	96	669	635
Education	939	975	1,413	1,435	248	243	2,600	2,653
Engineering	2,558	2,437	2,405	1,899	933	843	5,896	5,179
Law	569	552	1,145	1,149	96	85	1,810	1,786
Medicine	3,485	3,353	937	878	908	866	5,330	5,097
Science	2,626	2,532	708	549	684	649	4,018	3,730
Social Sciences	1,708	1,680	1,445	1,393	261	246	3,414	3,319
All Faculties	18,028	17,517	14,542	12,622	3,817	3,563	36,387	33,702
In % Distribution	49.5%	52.0%	40.0%	37.5%	10.5%	10.6%	100%	100%

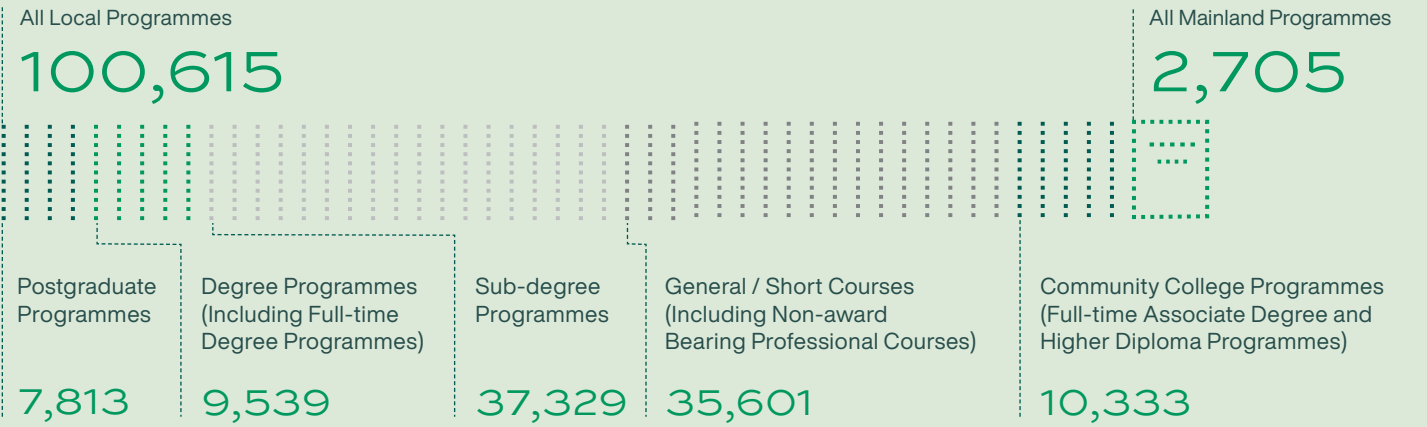
### ENROLMENT OF NON-LOCAL STUDENTS (BASED ON NATIONALITY)

Region	Undergraduate		Taught Postgraduate		Research Postgraduate		All Levels	
	2022–23	2021–22	2022–23	2021–22	2022–23	2021–22	2022–23	2021–22
Headcount								
Mainland China	2,887	2,487	7,769	5,462	2,749	2,465	13,405	10,414
Other Asian Countries	1,522	1,481	316	320	212	210	2,050	2,011
Australia and New Zealand	64	65	61	66	14	14	139	145
European Countries	207	217	189	251	88	93	484	561
North American Countries	134	138	158	188	54	61	346	387
Others e.g. Central and South America, African Countries	30	20	39	16	32	30	101	66
All Regions	4,844	4,408	8,532	6,303	3,149	2,873	16,525	13,584
%								
Mainland China	59.6%	56.4%	91.1%	86.7%	87.3%	85.8%	81.1%	76.7%
Other Asian Countries	31.4%	33.6%	3.7%	5.1%	6.7%	7.3%	12.4%	14.8%
Australia and New Zealand	1.3%	1.5%	0.7%	1.0%	0.4%	0.5%	0.8%	1.1%
European Countries	4.3%	4.9%	2.2%	4.0%	2.8%	3.2%	2.9%	4.1%
North American Countries	2.8%	3.1%	1.9%	3.0%	1.7%	2.1%	2.1%	2.8%
Others e.g. Central and South America, African Countries	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	1.0%	1.0%	0.6%	0.5%
All Regions	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

\* All student statistics shown above include students on UGC-funded, self-funded as well as outreach programmes. Exchange-in and visiting students are excluded.

## HKU SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION (HKU SPACE)

### ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS IN PROGRAMMES RUN BY HKU SPACE IN 2022–23



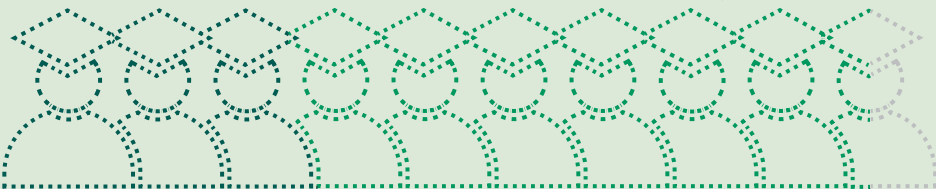


GRADUATES\*

GRADUATES OF ALL PROGRAMMES

Cumulative Number of Alumni as of August 2023

278,250



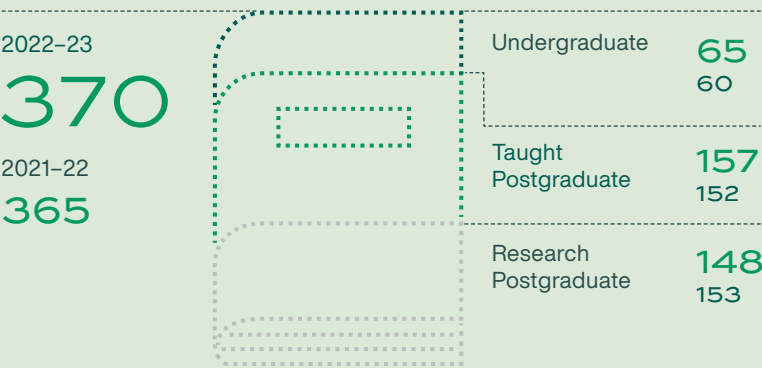
	All	Undergraduate	Taught Postgraduate	Research Postgraduate
2022–23	13,256	3,847	8,747	662
Male	5,334	1,676	3,313	345
Female	7,922	2,171	5,434	317
% Non-local (Based on Nationality)	54.0%	23.0%	65.6%	80.1%
2021–22	12,105	4,034	7,421	650
Male	4,994	1,758	2,881	355
Female	7,111	2,276	4,540	295
% Non-local (Based on Nationality)	47.5%	23.3%	58.1%	76.8%

DISTRIBUTION OF NON-LOCAL GRADUATES (BASED ON NATIONALITY)

Region	Undergraduate		Taught Postgraduate		Research Postgraduate		All Levels	
	2022–23	2021–22	2022–23	2021–22	2022–23	2021–22	2022–23	2021–22
Headcount								
Mainland China	422	483	5,318	3,846	453	418	6,193	4,747
Other Asian Countries	356	341	189	194	37	40	582	575
Australia and New Zealand	12	17	39	24	3	1	54	42
European Countries	65	57	107	131	20	21	192	209
North American Countries	29	38	78	109	9	13	116	160
Others e.g. Central and South America, African Countries	1	5	9	10	8	6	18	21
All Regions	885	941	5,740	4,314	530	499	7,155	5,754
%								
Mainland China	47.7%	51.3%	92.6%	89.2%	85.5%	83.8%	86.6%	82.5%
Other Asian Countries	40.2%	36.2%	3.3%	4.5%	7.0%	8.0%	8.1%	10.0%
Australia and New Zealand	1.4%	1.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.2%	0.8%	0.7%
European Countries	7.3%	6.1%	1.9%	3.0%	3.8%	4.2%	2.7%	3.6%
North American Countries	3.3%	4.0%	1.4%	2.5%	1.7%	2.6%	1.6%	2.8%
Others e.g. Central and South America, African Countries	0.1%	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	1.5%	1.2%	0.3%	0.4%
All Regions	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

\* All graduate statistics shown above include graduates on UGC-funded, self-funded as well as outreach programmes.

NUMBER OF PROGRAMMES#



# The number of programmes listed above include where applicable, programmes offered in the full-time and part-time modes which are counted as separate programmes. The counting of research postgraduate programmes is based on the academic departments with research postgraduate students enrolled in the year under reference.

STAFF+

NUMBER OF STAFF IN HEADCOUNT



	All	Professoriate	Research and Non-professoriate Teaching	Other Academic	Administrative and Support	Technical
2022–23	8,526	1,118	3,127	51	2,964	1,266
Male	3,779	814	1,469	31	758	707
Female	4,747	304	1,658	20	2,206	559
2021–22	8,627	1,114	3,144	55	3,030	1,284
Male	3,862	805	1,503	37	772	745
Female	4,765	309	1,641	18	2,258	539

DISTRIBUTION OF NON-LOCAL PROFESSORIATE STAFF (BASED ON NATIONALITY)

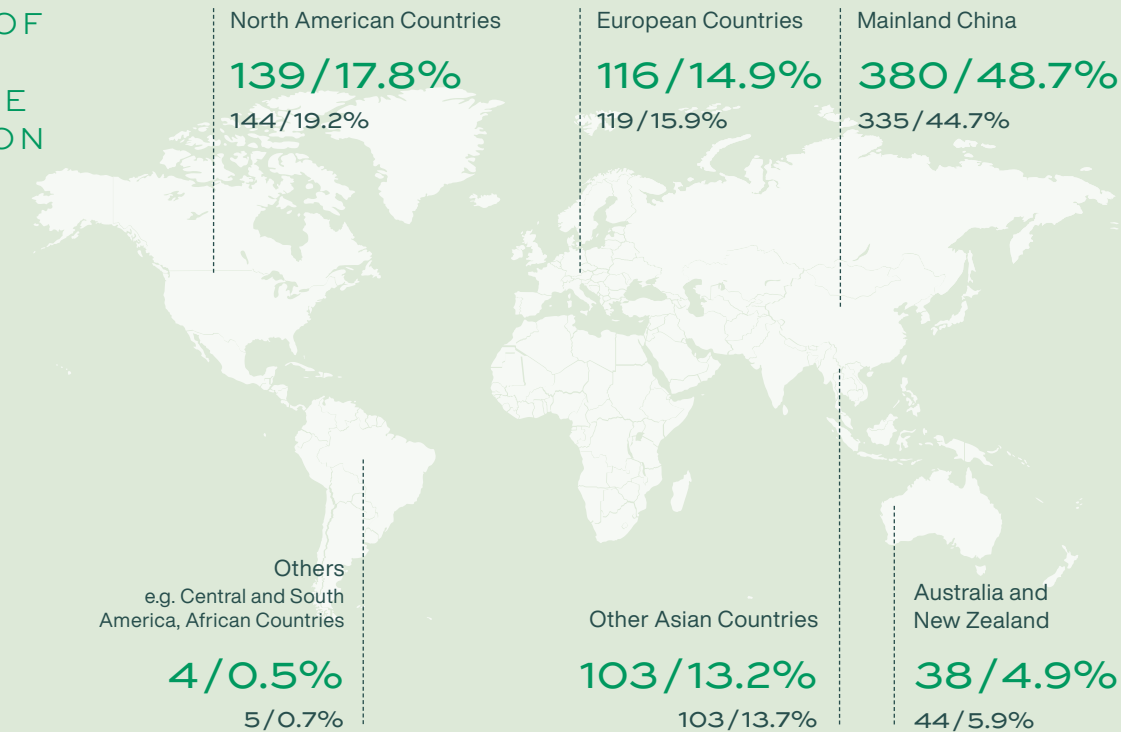
2022–23

780

2021–22

750

+ All staff statistics shown above include UGC-funded and self-funded staff, honorary and visiting staff are excluded.

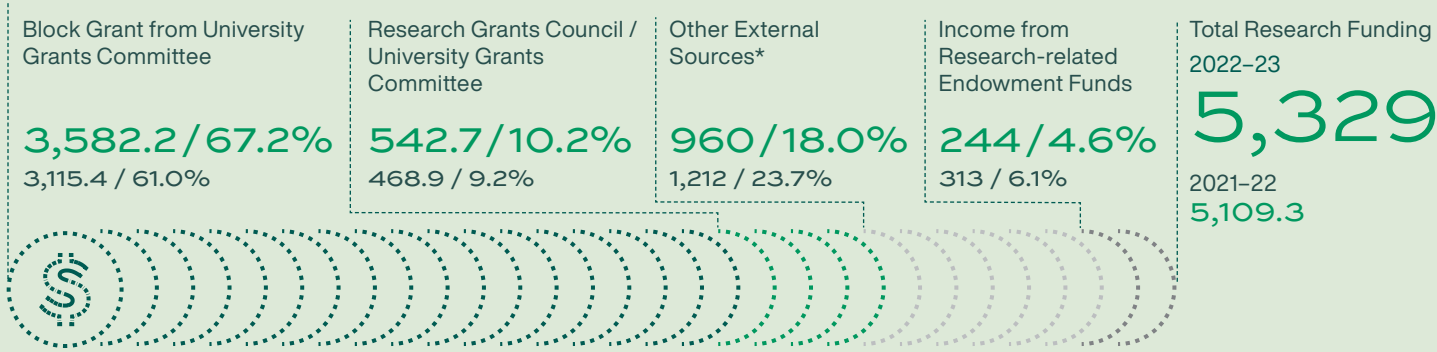




RESEARCH

RESEARCH FUNDING

HK\$ (in million)



\* Includes the following fund sources: government, private, industry and HKU Foundation.

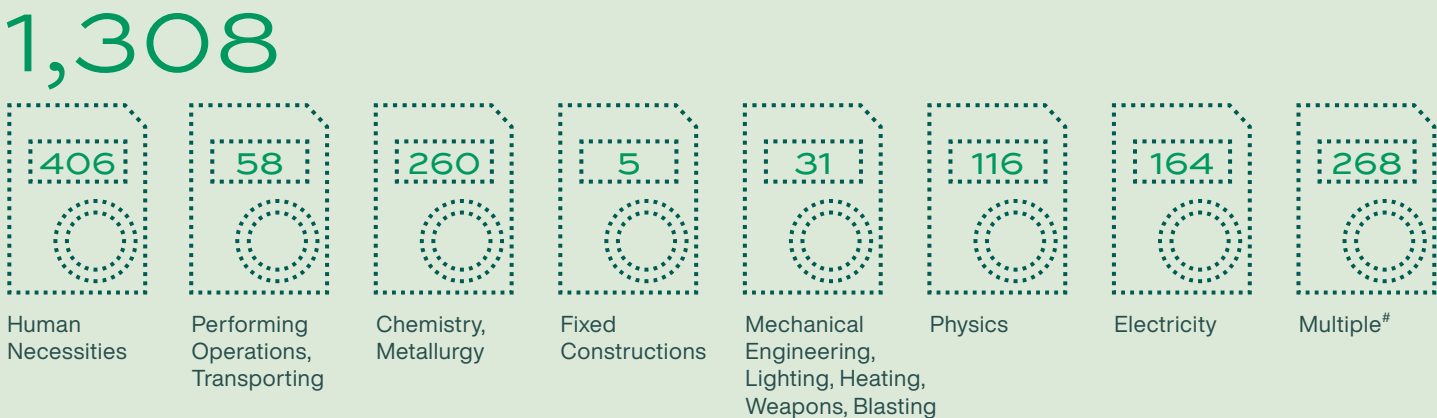
RESEARCH PROJECTS

Ongoing and new

		Research Grants Projects		Research Contract Projects		All	
		No. of Projects	HK\$ M	No. of Projects	HK\$ M	No. of Projects	HK\$ M
Biology and Medicine	2022-23	4,488	8,750.4	423	1,020.9	4,911	9,771.2
	2021-22	4,122	8,129.9	381	1,222.6	4,502	9,352.5
Engineering	2022-23	956	1,470.1	186	282	1,142	1,752.1
	2021-22	816	1,201.7	147	216.7	963	1,418.4
Humanities, Social Sciences and Business Studies	2022-23	1,704	2,355.5	167	281.4	1,871	2,636.9
	2021-22	1,546	2,191.2	156	326.6	1,702	2,517.8
Physical Sciences	2022-23	689	959.6	43	94.6	732	1,054.2
	2021-22	637	806.5	38	87.8	675	894.4
All Disciplines	2022-23	7,837	13,535.6	819	1,678.9	8,656	15,214.5
	2021-22	7,121	12,329.3	721	1,853.7	7,842	14,183

CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF PATENTS GRANTED

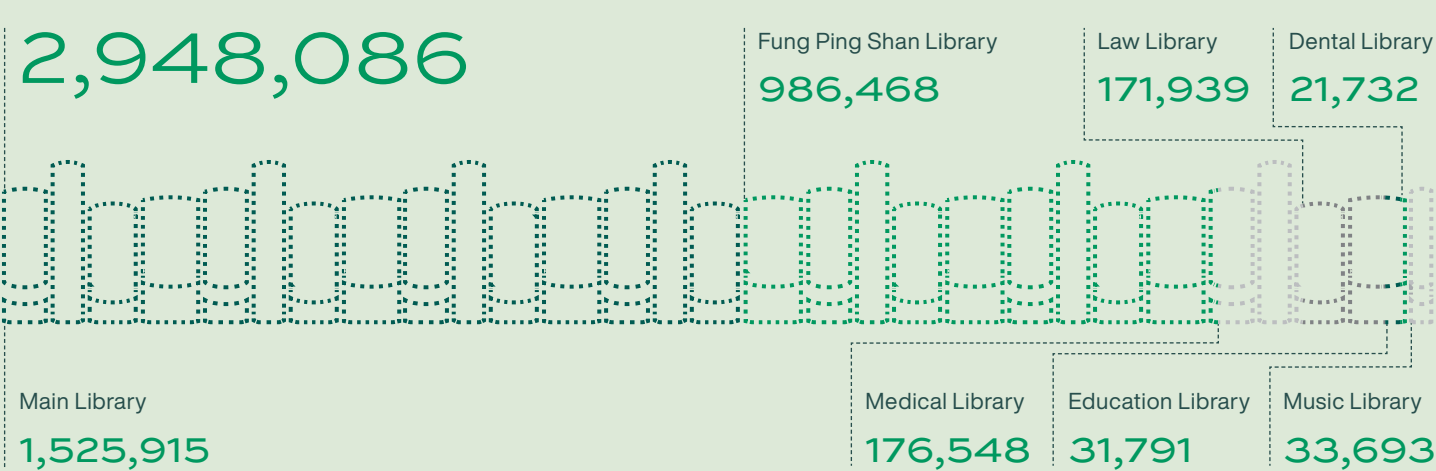
Since 1998 and up to June 2023



<sup>#</sup> Multiple types refer to patent granted which covers more than one of those types specified.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

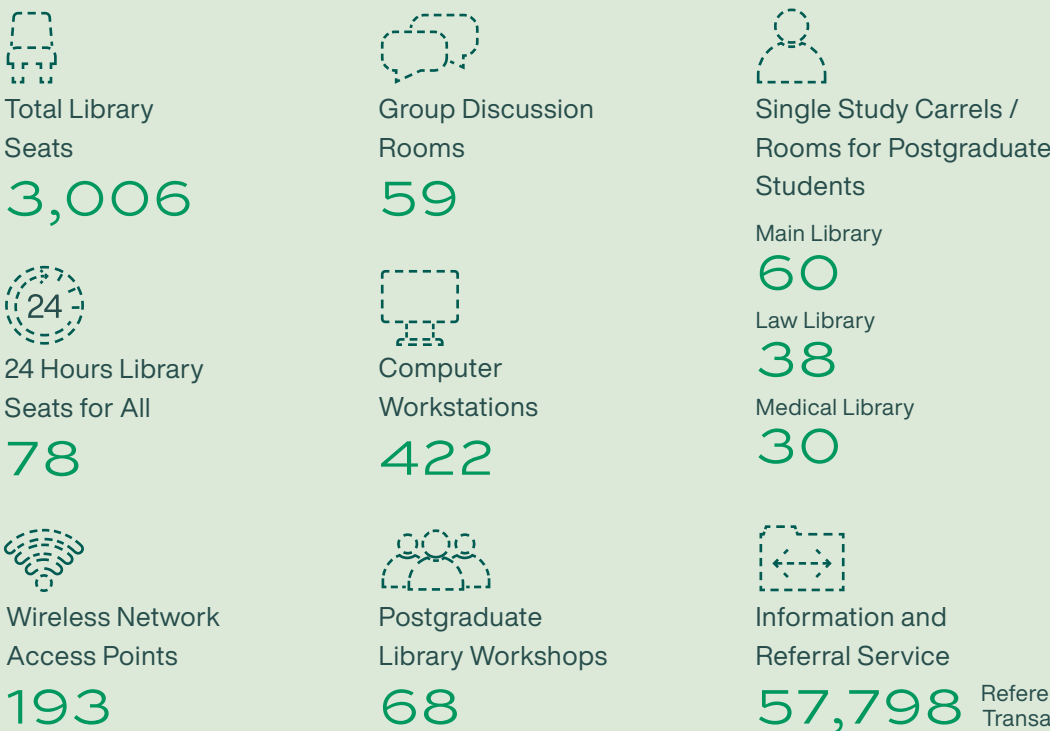
NUMBER OF BOUND VOLUMES IN MAIN AND SPECIALIST LIBRARIES 2022-23



E-RESOURCES 2022-23



STUDENT LEARNING SUPPORT RESOURCES / SERVICES 2022-23



TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED LIBRARY USERS 2022-23

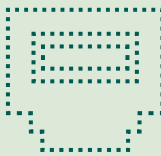




# COMPUTING AND NETWORK RESOURCES

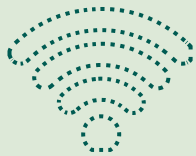
## COMPUTING AND NETWORK RESOURCES

As of June 2023



Wired Network  
Access Points

50,216



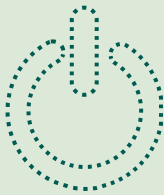
Wireless Network  
Access Points

10,241



Total Bandwidth for  
Direct Connection to the  
Internet and Research /  
Education Networks

42  
Gbps



Aggregated Central  
Computing Power for  
Teaching and Research  
Purposes (Theoretical  
Peak Computing Speed)

1,099.4  
TFLOPS

# GIVING TO HKU

## DONATION FACTS 2022-23

Total Number of Gifts Received

5,016

Total Amount of Donations

HK\$702M

Total Number of Donors

3,686

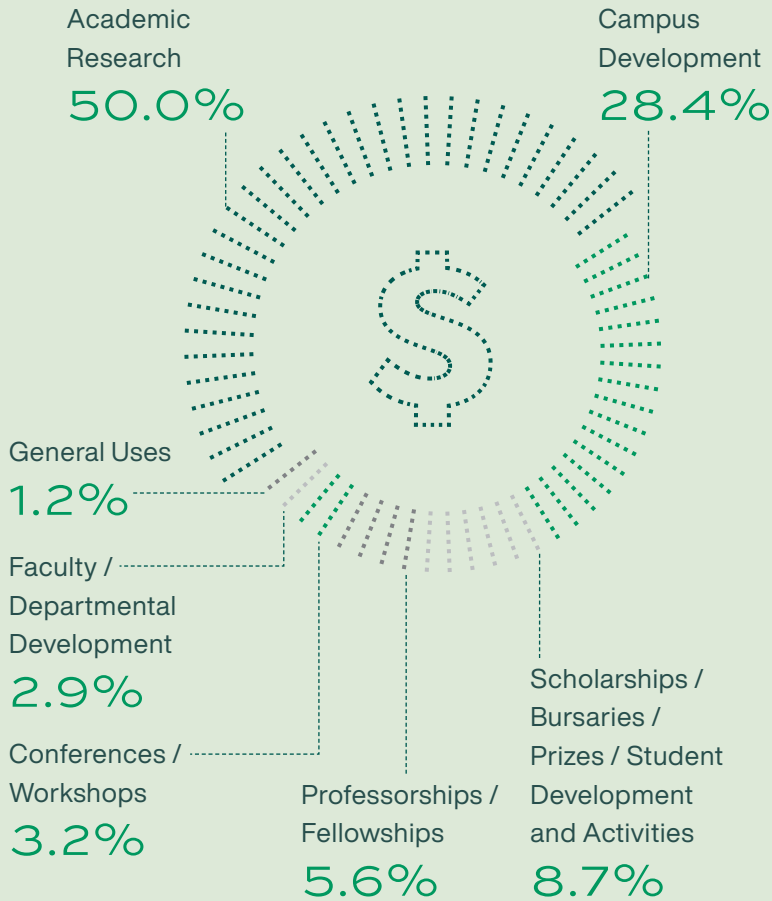
Number of First-time Donors

2,364

Ratio of Alumni vs Non-alumni Donors

82:18

## DISTRIBUTION OF DONATIONS 2022-23



# FINANCE

## AN ANALYSIS OF CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For the year ended June 30, 2023  
In thousands of Hong Kong dollars

### REVENUE

14,160,174

Government Subventions  
6,572,361 46.4%

Tuition, Programmes and Other Fees  
4,813,732 34.0%

Other Income, Net  
1,322,727 9.3%

Donations and Benefactions  
636,242 4.5%

Interest and Investment Gain, Net  
456,007 3.2%

Auxiliary Services  
359,105 2.5%

### EXPENDITURE

12,201,241

Teaching and Research  
65.1% 7,939,736

Other Academic Services  
4.1% 498,737

Central Computing Facilities  
1.9% 237,050

Library  
1.7% 201,709

Teaching, Learning and Research  
72.8% 8,877,232

Premises and Related Expenses  
14.6% 1,786,947

Student and General Education Services  
5.6% 686,312

Management and General  
5.0% 608,902

Other Activities  
2.0% 241,848

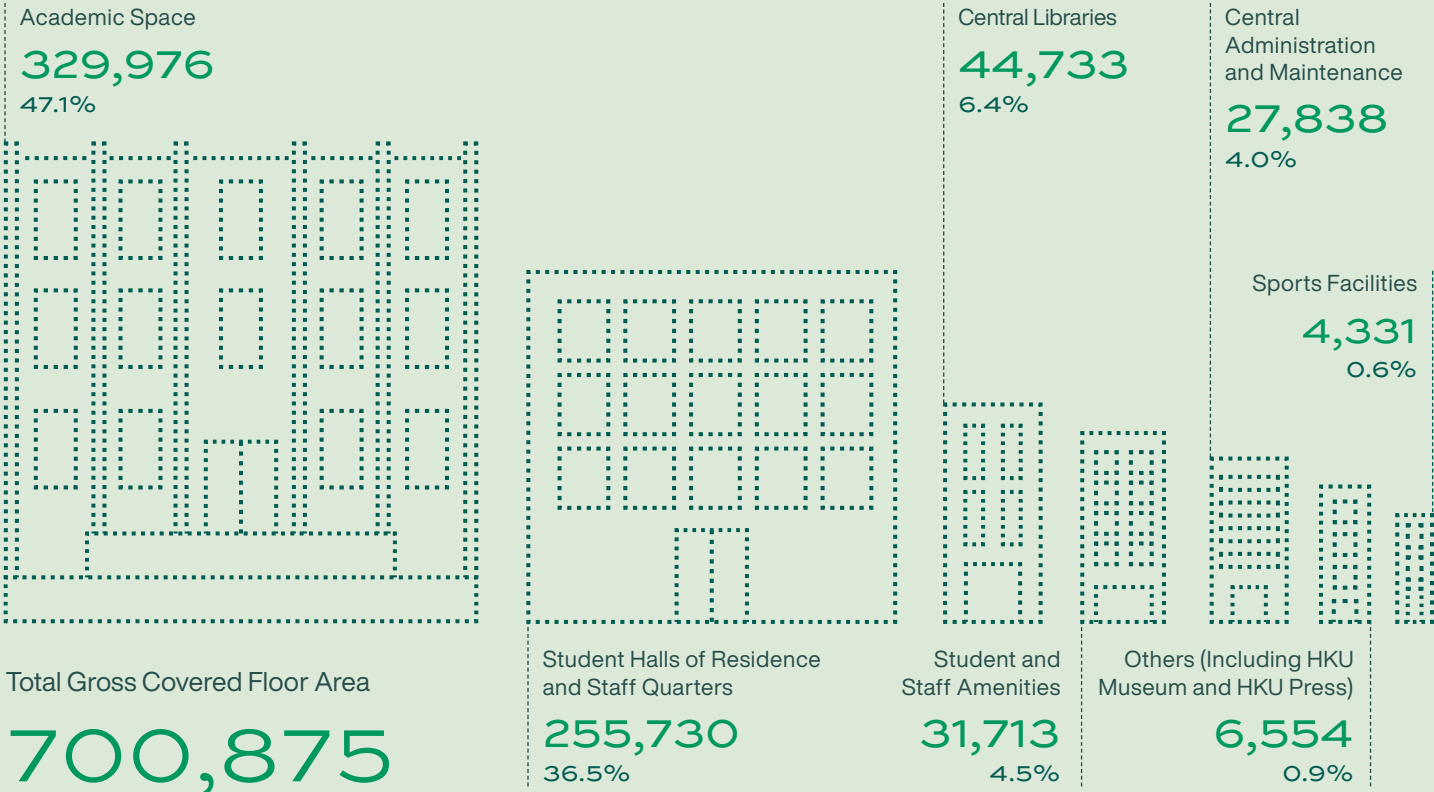
Institutional Support  
27.2% 3,324,009



SPACE

DISTRIBUTION OF SPACE BY CATEGORIES  
BASED ON TOTAL GROSS COVERED FLOOR AREA

As of June 2023  
In sq.m.

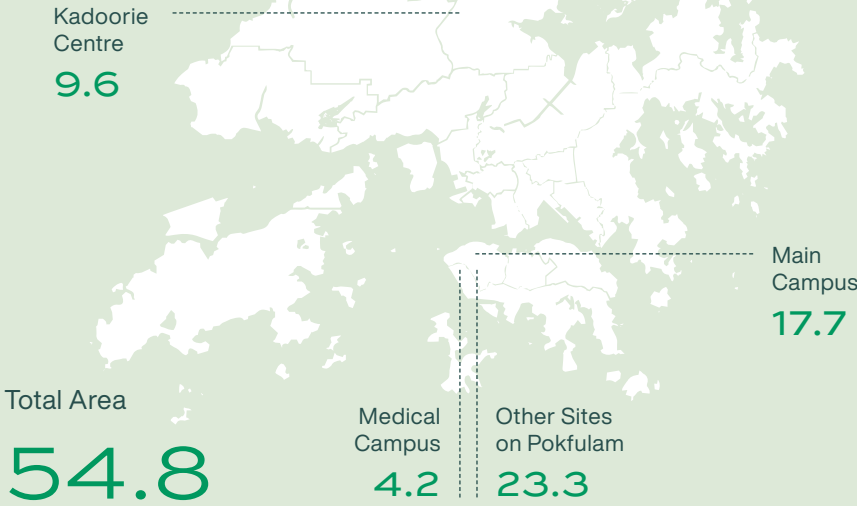


HKU SPACE GROSS COVERED FLOOR AREA  
As of June 2023

48,561 sq.m.

LAND HOLDINGS

As of June 2023  
In hectares



HALLS AND STUDENT RESIDENCES  
As of June 2023



AN EXTRACT FROM  
THE UNIVERSITY'S  
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022-23

OVERVIEW

The financial year 2022-23 was the first year of the 2022-25 triennium.

The Group demonstrated its commitment to provide world-class education and research, and delivered impact through internationalisation, innovation and interdisciplinarity.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, the Group has adopted certain new / revised Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (HKFRS) issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants which are relevant and applicable to the Group's operation and comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice for the University Grants Committee (UGC)-Funded Institutions.

During the financial year, the Group recorded a surplus of HK\$1,961 million. Compared to the previous year, there was a reverse from deficit to surplus in 2022-23 as investment performance improved.

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

The Group's consolidated results for the year ended June 30, 2023 are summarised as follows:

	2023 HK\$ (in million)	2022 HK\$ (in million)
Income	14,160	10,628
Expenditure	(12,201)	(11,610)
Surplus / (Deficit) from Operations	1,959	(982)
Share of Surplus of Joint Ventures and Associates	15	14
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	1,974	(968)
Other Comprehensive Loss	(13)	(11)
Total Comprehensive Income / (Loss)	1,961	(979)

The consolidated income for the year 2022-23 was HK\$14,160 million, an increase of HK\$3,532 million from last year. This was mainly due to reverse from investment loss to gain earned during the year, as well as increase in subventions from the UGC and steady growth in tuition fees.

The consolidated expenditure increased slightly by 5% to HK\$12,201 million (2021-22: HK\$11,610 million), of which HK\$8,877 million (2021-22: HK\$8,614 million) was expended on the Group's teaching, learning and research activities.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

As the financial year 2022-23 ends, the University has entered into the second year of the triennium of 2022-25. The University continues its strong commitment to intellectual freedom, liberty and diversity.

For the pursuit of the University's education mission, the University will continue to invest in human resources, infrastructure and technology upgrades in order to bring high calibre professors and attract top-scoring students.



The University's Annual Accounts can be found at [www.feo.hku.hk/finance/](http://www.feo.hku.hk/finance/).

Any correspondence or feedback on this extract or the accounts should be emailed to [finance-mail@hku.hk](mailto:finance-mail@hku.hk).



CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended June 30, 2023  
In thousands of Hong Kong dollars

	2023	2022
<b>Revenue</b>		
Government Subventions	6,572,361	6,164,559
Tuition, Programmes and Other Fees	4,813,732	4,114,089
Donations and Benefactions	636,242	1,017,597
Auxiliary Services	359,105	351,039
Interest and Investment Gain / (Loss), Net	456,007	(2,161,783)
Other Income, Net	1,322,727	1,142,769
	14,160,174	10,628,270
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Teaching, Learning and Research</b>		
Teaching and Research	7,939,736	7,678,155
Library	201,709	210,428
Central Computing Facilities	237,050	227,698
Other Academic Services	498,737	497,635
<b>Institutional Support</b>		
Management and General	608,902	569,612
Premises and Related Expenses	1,786,947	1,468,355
Student and General Education Services	686,312	690,154
Other Activities	241,848	268,554
	12,201,241	11,610,591
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year before Share of Joint Venture and Associates</b>	1,958,933	(982,321)
<b>Share of Surplus of a Joint Venture</b>	15,392	14,520
<b>Share of Deficit of Associates</b>	-	(348)
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year</b>	1,974,325	(968,149)
<b>Other Comprehensive Loss</b>		
<b>Items that may be recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income</b>		
Exchange Differences	(11,900)	(4,364)
Share of Other Comprehensive Loss of a Joint Venture	(803)	(1,201)
<b>Items that will not be recognised subsequently in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income</b>		
Re-measurement of Defined Benefit Retirement Scheme Assets	(431)	(5,185)
	(13,134)	(10,750)
<b>Total Comprehensive Income / (Loss) for the Year</b>	1,961,191	(978,899)
<b>Attributable to</b>		
UGC Funds	458,169	88,882
Restricted Funds	(236,896)	(960,997)
Other Funds	1,739,918	(106,784)
	1,961,191	(978,899)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at June 30, 2023  
In thousands of Hong Kong dollars

	2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	11,899,181	10,264,655
Right-of-Use Assets	2,085,525	2,135,476
Intangible Assets	12,256	11,344
Interests in Associates	-	-
Interests in Joint Ventures	305,527	290,938
Financial Investments at Amortised Cost	1,037,138	1,451,294
Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit or Loss	13,790,225	15,615,862
Loans Receivable and Assets Classified as Held for Sale	2,802	2,957
Accounts Receivable, Prepayments and Deposits	1,002,885	794,953
Defined Benefit Retirement Scheme Assets	14,665	14,801
	30,150,204	30,582,280
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Financial Investments at Amortised Cost	367,776	503,591
Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit or Loss	740,204	268,842
Loans Receivable and Assets Classified as Held for Sale	84,943	107,190
Inventories	2,320	3,014
Accounts Receivable, Prepayments and Deposits	1,906,172	1,489,462
Amount Due from a Joint Venture	5,360	16,936
Bank Deposits with Original Maturity over Three Months	11,554,796	8,147,451
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,748,068	2,264,926
	16,409,639	12,801,412
<b>Total Assets</b>	46,559,843	43,383,692
<b>Funds</b>		
UGC Funds	2,794,904	2,383,799
Restricted Funds	10,846,015	10,355,117
Other Funds	18,302,314	17,243,126
<b>Total Funds</b>	31,943,233	29,982,042
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accruals	170,643	94,406
Employee Benefit Accruals	16,234	24,209
Loans and Borrowings	95,008	95,008
Lease Liabilities	224,683	290,348
Deferred Capital Funds	6,657,820	4,514,788
	7,164,388	5,018,759
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accruals	3,594,484	3,956,541
Employee Benefit Accruals	773,927	859,164
Loans and Borrowings	50,310	60,270
Lease Liabilities	109,109	97,804
Deferred Income	2,924,392	3,409,112
	7,452,222	8,382,891
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	14,616,610	13,401,650
<b>Total Funds and Liabilities</b>	46,559,843	43,383,692
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	8,957,417	4,418,521
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>	39,107,621	35,000,801



# OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY\*

As at November 15, 2023

CHANCELLOR	The Honourable John Lee Ka Chiu, GBM, SBS, PDSM, PMSM MPubPol&Admin <i>CSturt</i>	DEANS OF FACULTIES	
		▪ ARCHITECTURE	Professor Christopher John Webster BSc, MSc <i>Wales</i> ; PhD <i>Hull</i>
PRO-CHANCELLOR	Dr the Honourable Sir David Li Kwok Po, GBM, GBS, JP HonLLD <i>Cantab</i> , <i>Warw</i> and <i>HK</i> ; HonDSSc <i>CUHK</i>	▪ ARTS	Professor David Martin Pomfret BA, PhD <i>Nott</i>
		▪ BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS	Professor Cai Hongbin BS <i>Wuhan</i> ; MEcon <i>Peking</i> ; MS, PhD <i>Stan</i>
PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR	Professor Xiang Zhang, JP MS/BS <i>Nanjing</i> ; MS <i>Minn</i> ; PhD <i>Berkeley</i> ; MCAS; MNAE; MAS	▪ DENTISTRY	Professor Thomas Frank Flemmig MBA <i>Duke</i> ; Dr med dent <i>Freiburg</i> ; Dr med dent habil <i>Würzburg</i>
PROVOST AND DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR	Professor Richard Wong Yue Chim, SBS, JP AB, AM, PhD <i>Chic</i>	▪ EDUCATION	Professor Yang Rui BA <i>Anhui</i> ; MEd <i>Fujian Normal</i> ; PhD <i>Syd</i>
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE) (ACTING)	Professor Pan Wei BEng <i>Hunan</i> ; MSc, PhD <i>Lough</i> ; PgCert; MCIOB; CEnv; FHEA; MHKIE	▪ ENGINEERING	Professor David Joseph Srolovitz BS <i>Rutgers</i> ; MS, PhD <i>Penn</i>
VICE-PRESIDENT AND PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT)	Professor Gong Peng BSc, MSc <i>Nanjing</i> ; PhD <i>Waterloo</i>	▪ LAW	Professor Fu Hualing LLB <i>SW Pol Sc &amp; Law</i> ; MA <i>Tor</i> ; JD <i>York</i>
VICE-PRESIDENT AND PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR (TEACHING AND LEARNING)	Professor Ian Michael Holliday MA <i>Cantab</i> ; MPhil, DPhil <i>Oxon</i>	▪ MEDICINE	Professor Wallace Lau Chak Sing, BBS, JP MBChB, MD <i>Dundee</i> ; FRCP <i>Edin</i> ; FRCP <i>Glas</i> ; FRCP <i>Lond</i> ; FACR; FHKCP; FHKAM (Medicine)
VICE-PRESIDENT AND PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH)	Professor Max Shen Zuojun BEng <i>Shandong</i> ; MEng <i>Tsinghua</i> ; PhD <i>Northwestern</i>	▪ SCIENCE	Professor Zhou Qiang BSc <i>USTC</i> ; PhD <i>Los Angeles</i>
TREASURER	Mrs Margaret Leung Ko May Yee, SBS, JP BSocSc <i>HK</i>	▪ SOCIAL SCIENCES	Professor Wen Ming BSc <i>Peking</i> ; MA, MSc, PhD <i>Chic</i>
		DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS	Professor Samson Tse Shu Ki MSc, PhD <i>Otago</i> ; PDOT <i>HKPU</i> ; DipSocSc <i>Massey</i>
		REGISTRAR	Ms Dora Yue Kar Man BA <i>HK</i> ; MA <i>York</i> ; ACS
		DIRECTOR OF FINANCE	Mr Tony Lo Tung Sing BBA <i>CUHK</i> ; MSc <i>Lond</i> ; CPA
		LIBRARIAN	Ms Flora Ng Lai Kuen BAppSc <i>Tor</i> ; MAsc <i>Waterloo</i>
		DIRECTOR OF ESTATES	Mr Sy Wai Yin BA(ArchStud), MArch <i>HK</i> ; RA

\* Officers of the University are listed in the University Ordinance and Statutes.



# THE COURT

As at November 15, 2023

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE	CHANCELLOR	The Honourable John Lee Ka Chiu
	PRO-CHANCELLOR	Dr the Honourable Sir David Li Kwok Po
	PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR	Professor Xiang Zhang
	PROVOST AND DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR	Professor Richard Wong Yue Chim
	VICE-PRESIDENTS AND PRO-VICE-CHANCELLORS	Professor Gong Peng Professor Ian Michael Holliday Professor Pan Wei Professor Max Shen Zuojun
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL	TREASURER	Mrs Margaret Leung Ko May Yee
	LIFE MEMBERS OF COURT	Dr the Honourable Victor Fung Kwok King Dr the Honourable Leong Che Hung Professor the Honourable Arthur Li Kwok Cheung
	CHAIRMAN	Ms Priscilla Wong Pui Sze
	SIX PERSONS, NOT BEING STUDENTS OR EMPLOYEES OF THE UNIVERSITY, APPOINTED BY THE CHANCELLOR	The Honourable Chan Chun Ying Mr Jason Chiu Ms Winnie Chiu Wing Kwan Professor Ian Grenville Cross Mr Abraham Shek Lai Him Mr John Zhao
	SIX PERSONS, NOT BEING STUDENTS OR EMPLOYEES OF THE UNIVERSITY, APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL	Professor Frank Chan Fan Mr Vincent Cheung Sai Sing Professor Chow Shew Ping Mr Daryl Ng Win Kong The Honourable Jimmy Ng Wing Ka Dr Thomas Brian Stevenson
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE	TWO PERSONS, NOT BEING STUDENTS OR EMPLOYEES OF THE UNIVERSITY, ELECTED BY THE COURT	Professor Henry Chan Hin Lee Mr David Lau Pak Wai
	PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR	
	TREASURER	
	FOUR FULL-TIME TEACHERS ELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS	Professor Daniel Chan Tak Mao Professor Danny Chan Professor Chen Zhiwu Dr Wendy Lam Wing Tak
	ONE FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE OF THE UNIVERSITY, NOT BEING A TEACHER, ELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS	Dr Chu Yiu Leung
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL	ONE FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS	Mr Cassey Chik Yau Hong
	ONE FULL-TIME POSTGRADUATE STUDENT ELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS	Miss Hu Jiaming

## MEMBERS OF THE SENATE

PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR	
PROVOST AND DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR	
VICE-PRESIDENTS AND PRO-VICE-CHANCELLORS	
DEAN OF EACH FACULTY	Professor Christopher John Webster (Architecture) Professor David Martin Pomfret (Arts) Professor Cai Hongbin (Business and Economics) Professor Thomas Frank Flemmig (Dentistry) Professor Yang Rui (Education) Professor David Joseph Srolovitz (Engineering) Professor Fu Hualing (Law) Professor Wallace Lau Chak Sing (Medicine) Professor Zhou Qiang (Science) Professor Wen Ming (Social Sciences)
CHAIRMAN OF EACH BOARD OF THE FACULTY	Professor Anthony Yeh Gar On (Architecture) Dr Loretta Eumie Kim (Arts) Professor Wong Kit Pong (Business and Economics) Professor May Wong Chun Mei (Dentistry) Professor Frederick Leung Koon Shing (Education) Professor Kao Chi Ming (Engineering) Professor Thomas Scott Veitch (Law) Professor Leung Suet Yi (Medicine) Professor Yuen Kam Chuen (Science) Professor Karen Ann Laidler (Social Sciences)
TWELVE ELECTED PROFESSORS	Professor Douglas Wayne Arner Professor Michael Chau Chiu Lung Professor Rina Hui Yee Man Professor Edmund Lam Yin Mun Professor Leung Wing Hang Professor George Lin Chu Sheng Professor Wilson Lu Weisheng Professor Eric Tse Wai Choi Professor Wang Min Professor Kenneth Wong Kak Yuen Professor Yuan Xiaoming .....
SIX ELECTED TEACHERS, NOT BEING PROFESSORS	Dr Jason Cheung Pui Yin Dr Cheung Sai Hung Dr Ben Alan Gerlofs Dr Georgios Halkias Dr Louis Wong Ngai Yuen Dr Victoria Wong Wing Yee
DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION	Professor William Lee Keng Mun
DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL	Professor Max Shen Zuojun
LIBRARIAN	Ms Flora Ng Lai Kuen
DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS	Professor Samson Tse Shu Ki
THREE ELECTED FULL-TIME STUDENTS (AT LEAST ONE UNDERGRADUATE AND ONE POSTGRADUATE)	Mr Cho Siu Tong Miss Gu Ying Mr Wong Chak Ming



▪ REGISTRAR	Ms Dora Yue Kar Man
▪ CHAIRMAN OF CONVOCATION	Mr Mak Tung Wing
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF CONVOCATION	Mr Jeffrey Tse Hoi Shing
CLERK OF CONVOCATION	Dr Alex Chan Wo Shun
▪ FIVE PERSONS ELECTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FROM AMONG THEIR OWN NUMBER	The Honourable Chan Hok Fung The Honourable Vincent Cheng Wing Shun The Honourable Mrs Regina Ip Lau Suk Yee The Honourable Jimmy Ng Wing Ka The Honourable Stanley Ng Chau Pei
▪ TWELVE MEMBERS ELECTED FROM AMONG ITS NUMBER BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION	Mr Ching Ming Tat Professor Fu King Wa Mr Ip Kim Ching Mr Alex Lai Chun Hung Mr Edmond Lau Kin Chung Dr Liu Chun Wah Mr Ng Kwok Wa Mr Eddie Shee Shing Chung Mr Simon Wong Kai Tung ..... ..... .....
▪ FIVE MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE COURT	Ms Wendy Gan Kim See Dr David Mong Tak Yeung Mr Ernest Wong Yiu Kit Professor Richard Yu Yue Hong Mr George Yuen Kam Ho
▪ THREE MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE GRANT SCHOOLS COUNCIL	Miss Maggie Chau Wai Chu Mr Frederick Poon Siu Chi Mr Dennis Yuen Dick Yan
▪ THREE MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE HONG KONG SUBSIDIZED SECONDARY SCHOOLS COUNCIL	Mr Ringo Chan Chi Wai Ms Lee Yi Ying Dr Yim Chi Shing
▪ NOT MORE THAN TWENTY MEMBERS, NOT BEING ALREADY INCLUDED IN ANY OF THE FOREGOING CLASSES, APPOINTED BY THE CHANCELLOR	Mr Adriel Chan Wenbwo Dr Charles Chen Yidan Mrs Jennifer Cheng Mr Vincent Cheung Sai Sing Mr Karson Choi Ka Tsan Mr Andrew Fung Hau Chung Ms Sabrina Fung Wing Yee Mr Don Gao Zhen Dong Dr Aron Hari Harilela Mr Kuok Khoon Hua Ir Edgar Kwan Chi Ping Dr Martin Lee Ka Shing Mr Kenneth Benjamin Li Ms Amy Lo Choi Wan Dr Ma Weihua Mr Tam Chun Kwok Mrs May Tam Mak Mei Yin The Honourable Jasper Tsang Yok Sing Dr Alan Yu Ho Lam Mr Zhang Lei

EDITORIAL TEAM

CHIEF EDITOR  
Terence Leung  
Acting Director of Communications and Public Affairs

MANAGING EDITOR  
Jack Ng

EDITOR  
Yu Nga Wing

COPY EDITORS  
Kelvin Au, Sendy Leung

WRITER  
Kathy Griffin

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION  
THE CABINET

CONTRIBUTION AND FEEDBACK

With special thanks to faculties, departments, staff and students who contributed their time and their photographs to the *HKU Annual Report 2023*.

CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

While our publication is printed on environmentally friendly paper, we urge you to share your copy with friends and colleagues to help reduce our carbon footprint. Alternatively, you may like to read the *HKU Annual Report 2023* online at [go.hku.hk/annualreport](https://go.hku.hk/annualreport).

If you would like to opt-out of receiving a printed copy and subscribe to the electronic version of publications from the Communications and Public Affairs Office, please visit [go.hku.hk/puboptout](https://go.hku.hk/puboptout).

Further information about the *HKU Annual Report*, or the University, may be obtained from the Communications and Public Affairs Office at [cpao@hku.hk](mailto:cpao@hku.hk).







