The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) was established on 17 October 1963 when the government combined three private science and arts colleges—New Asia College (founded in 1949), Chung Chi College (founded in 1951) and United College (founded in 1956)—on the recommendation of the Fulton Report. The fourth constituent College, Shaw College, was founded in 1986. To further strengthen the collegiate system and to cater for the expected growth of the student population as a result of the implementation of the new secondary school curriculum in 2012, five new Colleges, namely, Morningside College, S.H. Ho College, CW Chu College, Wu Yee Sun College and Lee Woo Sing College, have been established.

At the time of the University’s foundation, the three constituent Colleges were dispersed throughout Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories, which was inconvenient for both teaching and administration. Later, the University was allocated a 110-hectare plot of land that was connected to Chung Chi College. After seven to eight years of development, the buildings on the main campus, New Asia College and United College were completed. Today, the Chinese University boasts a scenic campus set against a luxuriant mountain range and overlooking the sea.

To prepare for future development, the University undertook a series of reforms in 1977 based on the second Fulton Report. The departments of the constituent Colleges were combined into academic departments responsible for all subject-oriented teaching, while the Colleges themselves became responsible for all student-oriented teaching. The other functions of the Colleges were to implement general education and to promote extracurricular activities. The new system also increased the participation of senior academics in the University’s administration and management.

The University has expanded continuously since 1963. In addition to the original Science and Arts Faculties, a Graduate School was established in 1966. Other milestones in the University’s development include the establishment of the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Engineering and School of Law in 1981, 1991 and 2005, respectively. The University currently has eight Faculties—Arts, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Law, Medicine, Science and Social Science—offering 76 full-time undergraduate programmes. In addition, the 58 divisions of the Graduate School provide 27 doctoral programmes, 41 MPhil–PhD programmes, 150 Master’s programmes and 14 Postgraduate Diploma programmes.

Since 1965, the University has established a number of research centres and units that allow academic staff and students to conduct basic and applied research. In 1968, the Publications Office (renamed The Chinese University Press in 1977) was set up to publish specialised books and journals of great academic merit to disseminate the valuable insights and research results of academics and experts.

The University’s governance structure is modelled on that of British Commonwealth universities, with a Vice-Chancellor as the head of the institution, a Senate as the highest academic authority and a University Council as the governing body.
MAJOR EVENTS
IN THE HISTORY OF
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF
HONG KONG

1969  New Asia College was founded.
1951  Chung Chi College was founded.
1956  United College was founded.
1963  The Chinese University of Hong Kong was officially inaugurated with Chung Chi College, New Asia College and United College as the foundation Colleges.
1964  Dr. Choh-ming Li was installed as the first Vice-Chancellor. ‘博文約禮’ (or ‘Through Learning and Temperance to Virtue’ in English) was adopted as the University motto.
1966  The Graduate School was established to introduce higher degree programmes.
1967  The Institute of Chinese Studies was founded. The University conferred its first Master’s degrees.
1974  The Faculty of Business Administration was established.
1978  The first Vice-Chancellor Dr. Choh-ming Li retired. He was succeeded by Prof. Ma Lin.
1980  Doctoral programmes were launched.
1981  The Institute of Chinese Studies was founded. The University conferred its first Master’s degree.
1982  The University conferred its first PhD degrees.
1986  Shaw College was established as the University’s fourth constituent College.
1987  The second Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ma Lin retired. He was succeeded by Prof. Charles K. Kao.
1991  The Faculty of Engineering was established.
1996  The third Vice-Chancellor Prof. Charles K. Kao retired. He was succeeded by Prof. Arthur K.C. Li.
2002  The fourth Vice-Chancellor Prof. Arthur K.C. Li resigned from the University on 1 August to assume office as the then Secretary for Education and Manpower of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. He was succeeded by Prof. Ambrose Y.C. King.
2003  The University celebrated its 40th anniversary.
2004  The fifth Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ambrose Y.C. King retired. He was succeeded by Prof. Lawrence J. Lau.
2005  The School of Law* was established.
2006  The School of Law admitted its first batch of students. The University Council approved the establishment of Morningside College and S.H. Ho College.
2007  The University Council approved the establishment of CW Chu College, Wu Yee Sun College and Lee Woo Sing College.
2008  The University’s teaching and learning quality was commended by the Quality Audit Council of the University Grants Committee.
2009  School of Biomedical Sciences, School of Architecture, and School of Public Health and Primary Care were established. Prof. Charles K. Kao, former CUHK Vice-Chancellor, was awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physics.
2010  The sixth Vice-Chancellor Prof. Lawrence J. Lau retired. He was succeeded by Prof. Joseph J.Y. Sung.
2011  The Shenzhen Research Institute opens.
2012  Re-adoption of a four-year normative curriculum in line with the Government’s ‘3+3+4’ curriculum reform. CUHK (Shenzhen) approved by the State Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China.
2013  The University celebrated its 50th anniversary.
2014  Establishment of CUHK (Shenzhen) officially approved by the State Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China.
2015  The Quality Assurance Council of the University Grants Committee released its second Report of a Quality Audit of The Chinese University of Hong Kong which commended that ‘the University is justly proud of its achievements in teaching, research and international outreach’.
2018  Prof. Rocky S. Tuan assumed office as the University’s eighth Vice-Chancellor on 1 January.

* The School of Law was upgraded to the Faculty of Law with effect from 1 August 2008.