Innovation, social relevance and multidisciplinary approach are hallmarks of the Faculty of Social Science. We are dedicated to:

- Enlightening and inspiring students and the community through rigorous social science education and research; and
- Seeding and growing an integrated body of knowledge for the betterment of personal and collective well-being.

With over 230 academic staff coming from diverse, multidisciplinary backgrounds, the Faculty is committed to quality research and teaching and active service in the community.

The Faculty of Social Science comprises six departments and two schools, and offers the following undergraduate Major programmes/admission lines.

- Social Science (broad-based admission)
  - Architectural Studies
  - Economics
  - Geography and Resource Management
  - Urban Studies
  - Government and Public Administration
  - Journalism and Communication
  - Global Communication
  - Psychology
  - Social Work
  - Sociology
  - Global Studies (2*/4-year)

- Data Science and Policy Studies
- Interdisciplinary Major Programme in Global Economics and Finance (joint programme with Faculty of Business Administration)
- Gender Studies*

*2-year programme for articulation of local Associate Degree/Higher Diploma Holders

Our curriculum provides students with a balanced education that encompasses a broad knowledge base to support specialised learning. The curriculum covers a breath of academic subjects, such as personal growth, cultural identity, popular culture, political economy, social welfare, social systems, and environmental management and design, etc. We help students sharpen their critical-thinking skills and develop social awareness, creativity and innovativeness.
The Social Science broad-based admission line is designed for students who are undecided about their majors or would like to have more time to explore different options. This admission line provides applicants with the option of entering the Faculty of Social Science without committing to a particular Major programme. Students follow a common study plan in their first year, after which they will declare any one of the following Major programmes without any competition or quota imposed to continue their studies in Years 2–4.

- Architectural Studies
- Economics
- Geography and Resource Management
- Urban Studies
- Government and Public Administration
- Journalism and Communication
- Psychology
- Sociology

By taking different Major foundation courses in the first year, students gain first-hand experience of a variety of Social Science disciplines while at the same time seek counselling and academic advice from teachers and senior students. After some exploration in the first year of study, students can freely* choose their Majors based on their academic strength, interest and career aspirations.

* Admission to Architectural Studies and Government and Public Administration programmes is subject to conditions set by respective School / Department.

Architectural Studies

Architecture is concerned with human habitation in all its aspects and scales, from the house to the city. It fulfills the human imperative for shelter and celebration of life by creating places for gathering, work and solitude.

The professional architectural curriculum of the School of Architecture comprises two consecutive programmes: a four-year programme leading to a Bachelor of Social Science in Architectural Studies, followed by a two-year postgraduate programme culminating in a Master of Architecture degree.

The Bachelor of Social Science (Architectural Studies) programme provides a basis for education in general, as well as a first stage in the preparation for a professional career in architecture. The core of the programme is the design studio, complemented by courses in the humanities, technology, design computation and professional practice. Students are encouraged to enrich their basic architectural studies through an extensive range of elective courses, both architectural and cross-disciplinary, to experience other cultures made possible by field trips, international collaborative design studios and student exchange programmes.

A sequence of core design studies promotes learning through discovery and making, and beginning with an introductory design studio course in the second year of the four-year programme. Subsequent studios advance progressively through more complex issues in architectural design, concluding with a capstone studio that combines the acquired knowledge and design skills in a comprehensive building design project.

The School offers opportunities to learn through discourse, design and discovery. We aim to foster students’ initiative, encourage independent learning, support skill development, and engender the appreciation of moral and aesthetic values.

In addition to University-wide amenities, the School is supported by a host of specialised facilities and resources, including the Architecture Library, digital design and digital fabrication labs, workshops for model building and general construction, exhibition zones, and designated design studio workspace. All events and student activities of the School of Architecture take place in the AIT Building located in close proximity to the University Station.

Economics

CUHK Economics was established in 1963, the same year the CUHK was established. We are the only department that offers pure economics programmes in Hong Kong.

Like many top universities around the world, CUHK Economics is an indispensable part of the Faculty of Social Science but not part of the business school.

We provide in-depth training in theories, mathematics, statistics, quantitative skills and economic modeling skills.

Around one-fifth of our graduates pursue postgraduate studies in top universities, a significant fraction of them become professional economists or college professors. Many other graduates become entrepreneurs, consultants, data analysts, bankers and teachers, etc.

Geography and Resource Management

Our world faces numerous challenges, including globalisation, climate change, resource depletion and environmental pollution. Geography, a long-standing discipline that makes
use of a variety of techniques, has demonstrated tremendous flexibility in helping to identify solutions to these challenges. Resource management, particularly in the context of the relationship between mankind and the environment, has always been a focal point of interest and inquiry in geographical studies. Our department strives to pursue the geographical knowledge and effective resource management pertinent to the sustainable development of the human race. Our programme equips students with knowledge and skills in the geographical sciences, with an emphasis on integrating various subjects and specialisations. Our curriculum maintains a balance between theory and application and provides broad and solid training through a wide variety of teaching and learning activities. Students are also educated to cultivate attitudes and values that will enable them to become socially and environmentally responsible citizens in today’s globalised world.

The curriculum has evolved to include four concentrations: (a) physical and environmental systems; (b) urban and regional development; (c) geographical information and analysis; and (d) global change and resource management. We adopt a wide range of teaching and learning activities from the very first year of study, and most of the courses offered by the Department use interactive methods and encourage interactive learning. For example, tutorials, laboratory and field work are adopted to expose students to experiential learning. Field study courses are conducted both locally and outside Hong Kong, with students having the option of taking part in field studies in China, Africa, Australia, Europe, North America, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia, among other destinations.

Urban Studies

The interdisciplinary Urban Studies programme is designed to allow students to explore the complexities and challenges of the rapidly evolving urban world, global urbanisation processes and various strands of urbanism. The programme encourages students to reflect on the socio-economic, environmental and political forces that shape our urban experience while investigating practical solutions to a range of urban issues through integrated policy-making, planning, design and management. In addition to the active learning of urban development theories, the rigorous application of skills and techniques to urban analysis and a contextual understanding of the world’s best sustainable urban practices, students are required to develop expertise in a particular area of concentration. Through their selection of concentration courses and a thesis or research project, students specialise in one of three areas: urban planning and design, the urban environment, or urban policy and governance.

The Urban Studies programme is jointly organised by the Department of Geography and Resource Management and the School of Architecture, with strong input from the urban-studies-related courses offered by various departments in the Faculty of Social Science and the Faculty of Arts. The programme’s aim is to nurture the future leaders of the urbanised world. Our graduates are capable of adopting multidisciplinary perspectives to conceptualise urban issues and to develop creative and sustainable solutions—qualities that will equip them for a wide range of careers in the public, private and non-governmental sectors. The programme is recognised by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) [Spatial qualification]. Graduates are eligible to apply for membership in that institute.

Government and Public Administration

The Government and Public Administration (GPA) programme provides all-round training in political science. The subject is comprised of three primary specialisms that span the areas of politics, public administration and international relations. The programme also offers more than 80 courses that cover core areas such as political theory, comparative politics and public administration. While a large proportion of courses focus on the Greater China region, the programme is renowned for its diversity of courses that encompasses the area of global politics. These courses cover fundamental political, economic and social issues in different parts of the world and enable students to foster an enhanced global vision and mindset for the future.

The main characteristics of our programme are as follows:

1. Fostering independent and critical thinking amongst students through a wide range of teaching methods that include tutorial, seminar and supervision in the final year graduation thesis.
2. Providing exchange opportunities through cooperation with world-renowned universities, such as the University of Warwick, the University of Westminster and Waseda University.

3. Facilitating extensive internship and work experience opportunities for undergraduate students through the student organisation ‘Star Project’.

Our students are extremely active in a wide range of extracurricular activities. The GPA student bodies organise activities such as academic forums, sporting events, debates, and policy workshops. They also publish the student academic journal *Civilitas*. GPA students also benefit from exchange programmes with universities in North America, Europe and Asia. Furthermore, the Department’s debating team regularly participates in competitions against teams within the University and from other universities. In addition, GPA students are also actively involved and well represented in the Department through consultative meetings and formal representation on the Departmental Board.

The programme is proud of both its caring commitment towards students and its renowned alumni. Over the past four decades, many of our graduates have gone on to pursue highly successful careers. Most significantly, our GPA alumni can be found in all walks of life, both in Hong Kong and overseas, including government, public institutions, business sectors, the legal field, mass media alongside education.

### Journalism and Communication

The School of Journalism and Communication is dedicated to educating communication experts adept at information technology and capable of generating high-quality communication content, products and services. The School is also dedicated to research into various important aspects of communication.

The programme places equal emphasis on theoretical and professional training. Students are grounded in professional knowledge and instilled with a breadth of vision and professional ethics. The programme offers three professional tracks: Journalism, Advertising and Public Relations, and Creative and New Media. Based on their particular interests, students can specialise in one or two professional tracks, or select courses from different tracks.

The School is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including high-definition (HD) television and radio studios, a Blackbox Studio, a Creative Hub for HD video editing and numerous networked computer laboratories.

The programme offers four practicum groups to Major students: *U-Beat*, *Varsity*, *Pinpoint*, and *Creative Media Laboratory*. Students can choose to participate in the writing, editing and production of one of the School’s two news practicum magazines: *U-Beat*, which is published in Chinese, or *Varsity*, published in English. Students can also acquire hands-on experience conducting social and commercial campaigns by working at *Pinpoint*. Those who join the *Creative Media Laboratory* gain knowledge and skills in audio and visual media production. In addition, the programme arranges summer internship placements for all Major students.

### Double-Degree Options

To equip students with professional training in journalism, communication and business administration, the School of Journalism and Communication and the CUHK Business School launched Double-Degree options in the Journalism and Communication programme and Integrated BBA programme in 2012–13. Students are awarded a Bachelor of Social Science (BSSc) degree in Journalism and Communication, and a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree in Integrated BBA upon completion of studies.

Students who are admitted to either the Journalism and Communication programme or the Integrated BBA programme under the four-year curriculum are eligible to apply. Please refer to www.com.cuhk.edu.hk/bba-jlm for further details.

### Global Communication

The Global Communication programme is built on collaboration with the School of Media, Film and Music at University of Sussex in the UK. Students will study certain foundation courses and Faculty Package courses locally for two semesters. They will travel to the UK to study with the Sussex students in their second year, and then the Sussex students will study at CUHK with the same cohort of our students in their third year. The aim is to promote ‘internationalisation at home’, i.e., to encourage teachers and students from all backgrounds to learn from each other, and to respond to the values/expectations that non-local students bring to campus. In the final year, all students will study at their respective home universities.

The programme aims at equipping students with professional knowledge, unique international learning exposure and a global mindset through exchange studies in Europe. Students who enrol in this programme will have opportunities to
widen their horizons, by closely interacting with UK students. Courses in the programme will examine the complex nature, processes and the effect of globalisation on media, and the innovations associated with the development of new modes of communication in a transversal approach to media studies, cultural studies, global media management, cross-cultural communication, etc. There will be study trips and visits to media agency in major cities in Asia and Europe, enabling students to apply theory to practice.

Graduates will be able to enter a wide range of careers around the world, including transnational corporations, multinational news organisations, global advertising and public relations organisations, international entertainment enterprises, non-government organisations, inter-governmental organisations (IGOs), and more.

**Psychology**

Psychology is the scientific study of all aspects of human behaviour. Psychologists are interested in understanding sensation, perception, cognition, emotion, personality, human development and abnormal behaviour. The undergraduate programme balances theory and application to provide students with the basic knowledge and research methods required in the study of psychology, and a strong foundation for public service and further studies in psychology and related disciplines. The cross-cultural orientation of the Department’s teaching and research provides students with an international perspective on their future career development in a global setting.

Psychology is closely related to other subject areas that involve the study of human behaviour, and students who are familiar with psychology will find it easy to pick up these other subjects.

Our undergraduate curriculum is comprehensive, offering more than 40 courses in various research areas. In addition to basic courses, such as General Psychology, Introduction to Statistics and Research Methods, the following five areas of concentration are available.

- **Cognitive Science**: The study of memory, cognition, language, and human intelligence, and their neural underpinnings.
- **Education and Human Development**: The psychology of personal growth, educational psychology, and the psychology of children, adolescents and adults from a developmental perspective.
- **Social and Industrial-Organisational Psychology**: Social, cross-cultural, and industrial and organisational psychology.
- **Clinical and Health Psychology**: Abnormal and health psychology, neuropsychology and related areas.
- **Training in Guided Self-Help for Low Intensity Psychological Interventions**: Application of evidence-based psychological principles in the treatment of common mental disorders and the promotion of mental health using the guided self-help approach.

**Social Work**

The mission of the Social Work undergraduate programme is to provide quality professional and academic education in social work, to develop knowledge related to social welfare and social work, and to contribute to the social development of Hong Kong. The programme prepares students to become professional social workers committed to the well-being of their clients and social justice. The curriculum is designed to develop students’ ability in independent and critical thinking, to inculcate a commitment to professional values and ethics, to maintain concern for vulnerable groups in society, and to keep abreast of current social issues. Upon graduation, students are eligible to apply for Registered Social Worker status and to legally assume professional social work positions.

The programme places a heavy emphasis on small group learning and uses a variety of learning activities, such as seminars, role-play and experiential learning to enhance students’ personal, intellectual and professional growth. In addition, the curriculum has a practicum component that requires students to undergo supervised practice in field agencies to integrate classroom learning with practice. To develop a cultural sensitivity and global perspective in students, academic exchange activities and non-local field placement opportunities in Canada, Singapore, Taiwan and mainland China are provided. In recent years, our Department also provided exchange study opportunities for our students. Destination includes Taiwan and Europe.

Social work training is holistic. It encompasses social science
knowledge and social work theories, and the skills needed to analyse social phenomena, to understand human needs and to help individuals, families and communities develop potential, solve problems and improve their quality of life. With this generic professional social work training, graduates are well equipped to assume positions in social welfare or related fields such as education, refugee and relief work, and global humanitarian assistance. In past 55 years, the Social Work undergraduate programme has nurtured more than 2000 graduates. Many of the graduates are now serving as leaders in government and non-governmental organisations, while some of them are now serving, with excellence, in various front-line professional social work positions.

Sociology

The Department of Sociology at CUHK offers one of the highest quality sociology programme in Asia. In 2017/18, the Department ranks 40th worldwide as according to the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings by Subject. Our faculty members are dedicated to offer the best learning experience for those interested in the scientific study of society. Students will acquire unique knowledge and skill set for analysis of social phenomenon ranging from social behavior between strangers to social processes happening at global level.

Each admitted student will be mentored by one senior faculty members. There is a high degree of flexibility and the maximisation of student choice in our programme structure. Students can choose from three areas of academic concentration: (1) Social Research, (2) Sociology and Liberal Studies, and (3) Sociology and Social Policy (to be introduced in 2018-19). Major students who have taken 15 to 18 units in each of these areas can declare their concentrations upon graduation. Students are highly encouraged to participate in overseas academic exchanges. We offer a flexible credit recognition scheme to facilitate this process. By the end of study, students will complete a capstone thesis project that integrates what they have learnt.

Since the 2008–09 academic year, the Department of Sociology has offered a BSSc (Sociology)-Juris Doctor Double-Degree option in collaboration with the Faculty of Law. From 2013–14, we have also a Double-Major option with the School of Journalism and Communication. Apart from these two options, the Department provides extensive internship and scholarship opportunities each year to nurture students’ professional skills.

With the longest history in Hong Kong and strong support from our alumni network, the Department of Sociology continues to train sociologists that are ready to answer for up-to-date society needs.

Global Studies

Our undergraduate programme nurtures future global leaders by cultivating a global mindset. The courses Emphasise global consciousness, the ability to think globally and act locally, multilingual and multicultural competencies, as well as skills in managing global talent and handling international relations. In response to the increased mobility of talent and the integration of national markets, the Global Studies programme offers two tracks of studies to cater different needs of students and to meet rapidly rising demands for global leadership.

4-year programme for all applicants except local Associate Degree/Higher Diploma holders:
- A broad curriculum including theoretical and practical training and overseas exposure;
- Five concentrations areas consisting of Global Media, Cultures and Societies, World Politics, Sustainability and Environment, Global Economy;
- To enhance students’ global competitiveness of international corporations by equipping them with expertise in managing a culturally diverse workforce and diplomatic skills to cope with international relations and geopolitics;
- To cultivate students’ global citizenship to handle parochialism and its attendant symptoms (e.g., supra-nationalism, terrorism); and
- To develop students’ competences to deal with global environmental and health challenges (e.g., pollution, HIV, SARS).

2-year programme for articulation of local Associate Degree/Higher Diploma Holders:
- A comprehensive curriculum to cover theoretical and empirical knowledge of Globalisation, and skills to analyze global issues in a critical and scientific manner;
- An elite gateway to the globalising world with focus on International Relations, International Political Economy, Global Governance and Comparative Politics in global affairs;
- A range of experiential learning and field trip activities to explore the World; and
- Active support to enhance students’ competitiveness in the globalising career markets in Hong Kong and abroad.

**Data Science and Policy Studies**
(A new programme to be introduced in 2019)

Data Science and Policy Studies links up the two interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary fields of data science and policy science to equip students with essential knowledge, skills and capacities to design innovative, big data-driven and evidence-based policy solutions to complex problems in society.

Our Programme provides all-round training to students to be data scientists, policy innovators and communicators through a well-designed curriculum, interactive and experiential learning activities:

- Required courses that provide students with essential and integrated knowledge in data science, data analytics, policy studies and public policy.
- Elective courses offered by Faculty of Science and Faculty of Engineering on programming and coding languages such as R and Python, data mining and statistics to solidify knowledge in big data, computer and statistical learning.
- Required resident study overseas that gives students opportunities to understand the latest global developments and connect with global talents.
- A capstone project that requires students to apply what they have learned to address a real-world issue under a globalised and collaborative environment.

Our graduates can pursue a wide spectrum of careers in governments, local and international NGOs, policy think tanks, consulting firms, multinational corporations, technology and science sectors.

**Interdisciplinary Major Programme in Global Economics and Finance**

Please refer to P.30.

**Gender Studies**
(A 2-year programme for articulation of local Associate Degree/Higher Diploma Holders)

This is the first undergraduate Major programme in gender studies in Hong Kong. Building on our strength as the first and only local integrated Gender Studies programme, one which offers a range of research and taught programmes (including an undergraduate Minor programme, MA, MPhil, and PhD programmes), this programme is grounded in its local social and cultural context. Our experience working with cutting-edge scholars in gender studies and women’s studies worldwide, through individual research links as well as our successful Visiting Scholar Programme and Public Lecture Series, provides a valuable intellectual basis for undergraduate teaching.

The programme focuses on the gender topics related to diversity and social policy, and affords a broad, critical view of gender issues as they relate to contemporary social life. The programme focuses on the diverse perspectives of stakeholders, the developments of debates and discourses in the larger society, and how gender affects the relationship between the social minorities and majorities, and among different belief systems and ethnic groups. Students will develop capabilities in gender mainstreaming and social commentary, as well as in policy design, implementation and evaluation.

Programme structure:

- This is an interdisciplinary and inter-faculty programme, drawing its expertise primarily from the Faculty of Social Science and the Faculty of Arts.
- Students complete 69 units, covering a minimum of 54 units for Major Requirement and up to 15 units of general University Requirements to fulfil the graduation requirements.
- Major Requirement includes 39 units of Required Courses and 15 units of Major Elective Courses.
- Students should complete an internship or a thesis as capstone experience.

Career opportunities:

Graduates will fill the increasing demand for gender-aware personnel in the civil service, in statutory bodies such as the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Women’s Commission, human resources departments in business corporations, educational professions, and in social services. Our first cohort of graduates enters various industries and positions, such as education, NGOs, as well as business sectors, while some further their studies in CUHK.

For more details, please visit the programme website at www.gender.cuhk.edu.hk.