

## INTRODUCTION

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, incorporated in October 1963 under a Hong Kong Ordinance, is a bilingual and multicultural institution of higher learning. Its objectives are to (i) assist in the preservation, dissemination, communication, and increase of knowledge; (ii) provide regular courses of instruction in the humanities, the sciences, and other branches of learning of a standard required and expected of a university of the highest standing; and (iii) stimulate the intellectual and cultural development of Hong Kong and thereby assist in promoting its economic and social welfare.

The University has its origin in three post-secondary colleges: New Asia College (founded 1949), Chung Chi College (founded 1951), and The United College of Hong Kong (founded 1956). In December 1976 a new ordinance was enacted, making important changes in the constitution governing the University and its constituent colleges. An ordinance for the fourth college — Shaw College — was enacted in July 1986. Shaw College began to admit students in 1988. In May 2006, the University Council decided to establish two new colleges: Morningside College and S.H. Ho College. Then in May 2007, the University Council further decided to establish two more colleges: C.W. Chu College and Wu Yee Sun College. All four colleges will be ready for full operation before 2012.

The University is a self-governing corporation drawing its income mainly from grants made by the government, supplemented by fees and donations from private sources.

The governing and executive body of the University is the Council, in which is vested the management and control of the affairs, purposes, and functions of the University. The Senate controls and regulates instruction, education, and research.

The faculties advise the Senate through the faculty boards on the programmes of studies recommended by the departments, who are responsible for subject-oriented teaching. The colleges, in turn, are responsible for student-orientated teaching, and the provision of residential accommodation. Teaching staff and full-time undergraduate students are assigned to different constituent colleges.

A wide range of full-time undergraduate programmes leading to the BA, BBA, BChiMed, BEd, BEng, LLB, BMedSc, MB ChB, BNurs, BPharm, BSc and BSSc degrees are offered by various departments under the faculties of Arts, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Medicine, Science, and Social Science, and the School of Law. There are also part-time degree programmes leading to the degrees of BA and BEd.

Postgraduate programmes leading to the degrees of DMus, EdD, PhD, PsyD, JD, LLM, MA, MAcc, MArch, MBA, MChiMed, MCLinPharm, MDiv, MEd, MFA, MFM, MHSc, MMus, MNurs, MOM, MPAcc, MPH, MPhil, MSc, MSSc, MSW, and to postgraduate diplomas are offered by the Graduate School through various graduate divisions. The University started offering double degree programmes in 2006–07.

Since its inception, the University has adopted bilingualism and multiculturalism as the basis of its teaching, giving equal emphasis to both Chinese and English and Eastern and Western cultures. The majority of the teaching staff are bilingual (Chinese and English) and have studied and/or taught in major universities all over the world. The University is international in outlook and enjoys close association with many universities, foundations, and organizations abroad.

The total enrolment of the University as at 31 December 2006 was 20,256, of whom 10,284 were undergraduate students and 9,972 postgraduate students.

The University has 22 research institutes to provide faculty members with financial support and other facilities for research. Under these institutes are a number of research centres. There are many more smaller research/consultancy units set up under the auspices of individual faculties and departments to promote research in various subject disciplines.

Extensions of the University include the School of Continuing and Professional Studies and the New Asia—Yale-in-China Chinese Language Center.