

Foreword

The *Improving Postgraduate Learning* (IPL) programme is a structured and cross-disciplinary framework which aims to facilitate the learning of research skills for all postgraduate students. It covers a wide variety of topics to equip students with practical and useful skills to enrich their postgraduate studies, such as information search and analysis, research ethics, laboratory safety, computer techniques as well as writing and presentation skills.

Postgraduate students are naturally deeply focused in the development of their specialized knowledge and expertise, however, it is equally important for them to pursue cross-disciplinary intellectual development. I believe the cross-disciplinary nature of the IPL programme can broaden students' minds and galvanize creativity in research.

Over the past two decades, the IPL programme has been well received by postgraduate students. While most of the courses are optional, students are highly encouraged to grasp the opportunity to attend as many courses as possible to build a solid foundation for their postgraduate studies. Supervisors and Heads of Graduate Divisions are also invited to promote the suitable courses to their respective students. Furthermore, the course on "*Observing Intellectual Property and Copyright Law*" is compulsory for all research postgraduate students and the course on "*Laboratory Safety*" is compulsory for all those who engage in laboratory work.

The success of the IPL programme is a concerted effort of the Centre for Learning Enhancement And Research (CLEAR) and the Graduate School. I am most grateful to CLEAR for its tremendous support in organizing the programme as well as to the colleagues who will be teaching the courses.

Pang Chui Shaw
Acting Dean of Graduate School
The Chinese University of Hong Kong