

IDEA



ACADEMY OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

POSTGRADUATE
PROGRAMS
2027-28



CONTENTS



02	Welcome	08	Division of Environment and Sustainability
03	School Profile		
04	Division of Arts and Machine Creativity	10	Division of Integrative Systems and Design
06	Division of Emerging Interdisciplinary Areas	12	Division of Public Policy
		16	Submit Your Application



WELCOME



Welcome to the Academy
of Interdisciplinary Studies
at HKUST!

Prof. QU Huamin

Dean, Academy of Interdisciplinary Studies

Since our inception in 2008 as the Interdisciplinary Programs Office (IPO), we have grown rapidly into an education center nurturing crossdisciplinary professionals, an incubator for new interdisciplinary programs, and an interdisciplinary research powerhouse. The renaming to the **Academy of Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS)** in 2023 reflects our school-level scale, the evolved functions in interdisciplinary education and research, as well as the new role as a special academic zone to carry out missions with flexibility and agility.

AIS has introduced pioneering initiatives in interdisciplinary education, including offering the Individualized Interdisciplinary Programs at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels – the first of their kind in Greater China, that allow students the academic freedom to create their custom majors; launching the first Division of Arts and Machine Creativity in Hong Kong to nurture Art Tech talents who can leverage cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning in art creation process.

Offering over 10 interdisciplinary postgraduate programs, AIS provides a dynamic academic environment supported by our worldclass faculty. Our faculty members are clustered into five academically significant and socially impactful divisions, namely

Environment and Sustainability, Public Policy, Emerging Interdisciplinary Areas, Integrative Systems and Design, and Arts and Machine Creativity. One-third of our faculty members have joint appointments with other departments such as Mathematics, Computer Science and Engineering, Chemistry, Economics, Civil Engineering, and Social Science.

Our diverse portfolio exemplifies our dedication to interdisciplinary innovation, driving breakthroughs through multi-disciplinary collaborations across a wide range of research areas, including air and health, climate adaptation and resilience, green finance and net zero solutions, science, technology, and innovation policy, environment policy, sustainability, social changes, robotics and AI, IoT for integrative systems, art management and machine creativity, and other emerging areas.

In today's rapidly evolving world, grand challenges require solutions beyond individual disciplines. AIS will explore new pedagogies to cultivate students' competencies in fusing knowledge and knowhow from different fields for positive changes. New interdisciplinary research clusters will be established at AIS to tackle today's challenging and multi-faceted issues. AIS also plays an important role in supporting the strategic plan of HKUST, including HKUST (GZ).

As the Dean of AIS, I encourage you to join us in transcending traditional academic boundaries and broadening our reach through partnerships within the community, industry, academia in Hong Kong and beyond.

ACADEMY OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES ^[AIS]

1st

to establish an
interdisciplinary academic
unit among universities
in Hong Kong

1100+

Postgraduate students
from 33 nationalities

120+

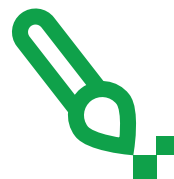
faculty members from
20+ countries/ regions

5 Divisions

- Division of Arts and Machine Creativity
- Division of Emerging Interdisciplinary Areas
- Division of Environment and Sustainability
- Division of Integrative Systems and Design
- Division of Public Policy

35%

regular faculty with
interdisciplinary joint
appointments

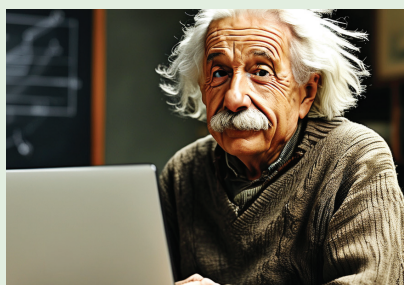


Established in July 2024, the Division of Arts and Machine Creativity (AMC) is an interdisciplinary academic division envisioned to become a leading cross-disciplinary center where technology, art and humanities converge to drive creativity and innovation. The Division will offer both research and taught postgraduate programs to equip students with the ability to integrate new technologies into their creative processes and fields of interests.

RESEARCH FOCI

The Division's main areas of focus are:

Machine
creativity



Machine-
assisted
art practice

Art
management



Critical
studies on
arts and
machine
creativity

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

- Aspiring **managers** and **innovators** who envision leading the intersection of arts and technology, blending administrative acumen with creative insight to drive the future of creative industries
- **Artists** with a substantive portfolio, seeking to deepen their creative practice through advanced technology, fostering a professional mastery of art that resonates in the digital age
- **Scholars** with a solid foundation in the arts and a demonstrated potential for technological innovation, ready to embark on rigorous research that pushes the boundaries of art-tech convergence

Research Postgraduate Programs

MPhil

PhD

Master of Philosophy/ Doctor of Philosophy in Arts and Machine Creativity

The Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy programs are designed for students focused on advanced research and scholarly exploration in the field of arts and machine creativity. The research programs offer opportunities for in-depth study and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the discipline, pushing the boundaries of the integration of art and technology.

Applicants are required to develop a research plan in the form of a written proposal. Prior to submitting the application, applicants are encouraged to form a research team consisting of at least two faculty members from diverse academic backgrounds, with one member from the Division of Arts and Machine Creativity serving as the prime supervisor. Such an arrangement serves the purpose of converging arts and machine creativity research. For example, an applicant intending to conduct research in AI music would benefit from receiving advisement from a secondary supervisor with a background in music performance. While it is not mandatory, applicants with a similar academic background who demonstrate efforts to form such a research team would stand out in the screening process.

Email amcprg@ust.hk
Contact (852) 3469 3065

Taught Postgraduate Program

MA

Master of Arts in Arts and Machine Creativity

The Master of Arts in Arts and Machine Creativity program is an interdisciplinary program that provides students with an understanding of the full impact of artistic and machine creativity, as well as the professional skills to develop and implement innovative solutions for current and emerging global challenges. Designed for students who seek a comprehensive understanding of the intersection between art and technology, focusing on both theoretical knowledge and practical application.

The program emphasizes critical analysis and examines legal and business issues from social, cultural and management perspectives, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Non-Homogenous Tokens (NFT). Through project-based learning, the program enhances students' professional skills in developing and implementing innovative solutions, enabling them to become effective decisionmakers, lead the intersection of art and technology, and promote the future development of the creative industry by combining managerial intelligence and creative thinking.

Email amcma@ust.hk
Contact (852) 3469 3065

DIVISION OF EMERGING INTERDISCIPLINARY AREAS



In today's world, technology is evolving faster than ever and shaping the rules and future of our society. Society needs talents with multidimensional vision and knowledge, who can apply innovative technological skills to solve real-world problems. In light of the above, the Division of Emerging Interdisciplinary Areas (EMIA) was established on July 1, 2021, to foster the agile development of new education programs and contribute to identifying emerging, cutting-edge, and niche topics. EMIA also helps coordinate interdisciplinary education and research initiatives within and outside HKUST for agile development of emerging topics and, while supporting the added responsibilities regarding university-wide undergraduate teaching and learning endeavors.

RESEARCH FOCI

The Division's main areas of focus are:

AI+

Interdisciplinary Scientific Computing

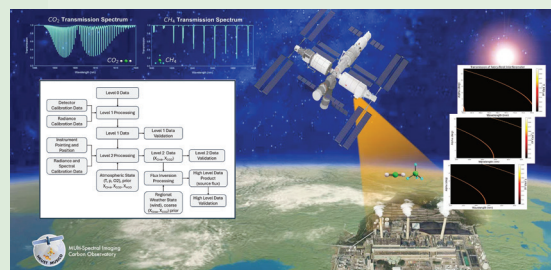
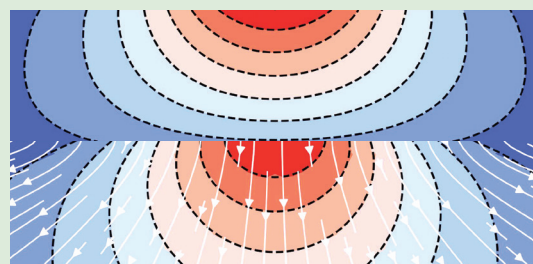
Integrated Photonic - III-V Active Devices for photonic integration

Media, Communication, Human-AI interaction

Remote Sensing



Innovation



Research Postgraduate Programs

MPhil **PhD**

Master of Philosophy/ Doctor of Philosophy in Individualized Interdisciplinary Program (Research Area)

The MPhil/ PhD in Individualized Interdisciplinary Program (Research Area) offers students broad academic freedom to create a unique research postgraduate program focused on a specialized area of research in ways that best suit their own intellectual interests and passion, by working on an interdisciplinary research topic and using courses from different departments/ divisions to fulfill the curriculum requirement. It aims to create an organic curriculum to facilitate students' intellectual growth, exploration into novel research directions and a long term commitment in an interdisciplinary research field bridging seemingly unrelated areas.

The program is an ideal choice for students with academic and research interests which extend beyond the boundaries of HKUST's existing RPg programs. Students have to develop a research plan and framework which allows them to explore their unique research interests and to work with their supervisors to pursue and complete their degree.

The program is designated for:

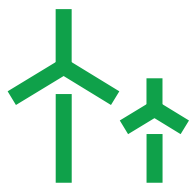
- Students who have particular, well-articulated research goals which cannot be achieved through established RPg programs.
- Students who wish to combine the knowledge from two or more disciplines in order to develop a research plan that best aligns with their academic needs.
- Students with strong exploratory mindset and have strong interest in specialized areas at the interface of more traditional disciplines.

Applicants are required to develop a research plan as a written proposal. Before submitting an application, they should form a research team which is composed of at least two faculty members working on different research areas to warrant that the research is interdisciplinary in nature. One faculty member of the research team will serve as the primary supervisor and the rest will serve as co-supervisors.

Email iip@ust.hk
Contact (852) 3469 3293

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

envr.ust.hk



We are living in a world facing serious interrelated environmental problems, including climate change, pervasive pollution, reduction in biodiversity, and looming supply constraints for a number of key natural resources. Individually, and especially in combination, these issues pose serious challenges to sustainable development.

The Division of Environment and Sustainability has been created to meet such challenges. Our faculty members have diverse backgrounds in science, engineering, business and social sciences to provide integrated and cutting-edge education and research on global environmental issues and emerging solutions.

Our postgraduate programs offer students a great opportunity to gain a broader understanding of environmental science and related policies to help increase their understanding of the issues involved in tackling the environment and their ability to generate meaningful solutions.

RESEARCH FOCI

The Division's main areas of focus are:

Air and Health

Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Sustainable Finance and Net Zero Solutions

We also work at the points where these areas intersect, such as the scientific understanding of management strategies and policy formulations.



FACILITIES

HKUST has excellent central facilities and equipment to support the Program's teaching and learning. These include: Environmental Central Facility, the Air Quality Research Supersite Facility, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Laboratory, environmental monitoring facilities, realtime air quality and meteorological forecasting systems, satellite receiving systems and Geographical Information System.



Research Postgraduate Programs

The MPhil and PhD programs offered by Division of Environment and Sustainability are broad-based research postgraduate programs that embrace a wide spectrum of environmental interests. The programs serve as an innovative platform for interdisciplinary research involving scientific, technological, environmental socio-economic and policy challenges. The programs also provide students with the background to solve complex environmental problems and to engage in interdisciplinary environmental research that can have a high impact on Hong Kong and the world. Co-supervision on student thesis work is a core feature in the program, an approach that enhances the interdisciplinary education experience for students.

MPhil

Master of Philosophy in Atmospheric Environmental Science

The MPhil Program aims to train students to conduct independent research in Atmospheric Environmental Science. A candidate for an MPhil degree is expected to demonstrate knowledge in the discipline and to synthesize and create new knowledge, making a contribution to the field.

Email envr@ust.hk
Contact (852) 2358 8363

PhD

Doctor of Philosophy in Atmospheric Environmental Science

The PhD Program seeks to train students in original research in Atmospheric Environmental Science and to cultivate independent and innovative thinking that is essential for a successful research career in environmental science. A candidate for a PhD degree is expected to demonstrate mastery of knowledge in the chosen discipline and to synthesize and create new knowledge, making an original and substantial contribution to the discipline.

Email envr@ust.hk
Contact (852) 2358 8363

MPhil

Master of Philosophy in Environmental Science, Policy and Management

The MPhil Program aims to train students to conduct independent interdisciplinary research in Environmental Science, Policy and Management. A candidate for an MPhil degree is expected to demonstrate knowledge in the discipline and to synthesize and create new knowledge, making a contribution to the field.

Email envr@ust.hk
Contact (852) 2358 8363

PhD

Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Science, Policy and Management

The PhD Program seeks to train students in original research and to cultivate the independent, interdisciplinary and innovative thinking that is essential for a successful career in research, management or policy formulation in this area. A candidate for a PhD degree is expected to demonstrate mastery of knowledge in the chosen discipline and to synthesize and create new knowledge, making an original and substantial contribution to the discipline.

Email envr@ust.hk
Contact (852) 2358 8363

Taught Postgraduate Program

MSc

Master of Science in Environmental Science, Management and Sustainability

Accredited by the Hong Kong Institute of Qualified Environmental Professionals (HKIQEP), this program equips students to tackle the rapidly developing environmental and sustainability issues in Hong Kong and the surrounding region. The multidisciplinary program offers a unique opportunity to combine advanced environmental science and management courses with engineering electives to help broaden capabilities. It strengthens student's professional status with updated and advanced knowledge and development in important and emerging environmental and sustainability issues and concepts and enhance their ability to address local, regional and global sustainability challenges through proper technical and management strategies. It also cultivates student's stewardship towards sustainable development in their professional industries and sectors.

Email evsm@ust.hk
Contact (852) 2358 5927



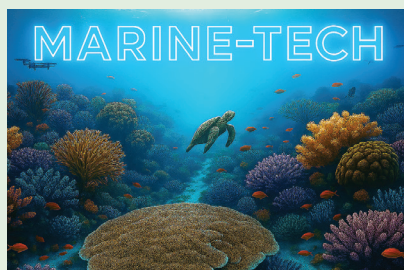
The Division of Integrative Systems and Design (ISD) was founded in 2017, aiming at nurturing a new generation of technology innovators and entrepreneurs. Interdisciplinary vision, human-centered mindset, technical ability and design thinking skills are the core dimensions of ISD's unique pedagogy. We provide a platform for students to fully unleash their potentials and contribute to the society.

The interdisciplinary background of our faculty drives collaborations across academic fields and bridges research outcomes with industry to create societal impacts. Building on our current research foundation, ISD aims to delve deeper into focused areas, such as Bio Health, Marine Tech and AI Design.

RESEARCH FOCI

The Division's main areas of focus are:

Marine-Tech



Sustainable-Tech



Health-Tech



Design-Tech

FACILITIES

Prototyping is a core part of the integrative systems design process, and therefore our students are encouraged to gain hands-on practice throughout the program. Our makerspaces, ISDworks! and Design Studio, are equipped with state-of-the-art prototyping equipment, such as advanced 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC machines, solar simulator, nanoimprint machine, electrochemical stations and robotic arms. The makerspaces also serve as project spaces for inspiration, collaboration and project showcases. They are the heart and soul of ISD where students make their dreams a reality.



Research Postgraduate Programs

MPhil

Master of Philosophy in Integrative Systems and Design

MPhil students of ISD are trained to conduct research on interdisciplinary topics, while demonstrating sufficient knowledge about the state-of-the-art in the areas related to the research problem and on the broader related topics. Their research will adopt principles of design in solving technical problems with clear emphasis on human and societal benefits.

Email isdpg@ust.hk
Contact (852) 3469 2811

PhD

Doctor of Philosophy in Integrative Systems and Design

The PhD program trains students in leading world-class research based on their original ideas and driving a team of interdisciplinary experts to make a substantial research contribution. It is also a platform for students to demonstrate mastery of understanding in the chosen areas and initiate interdisciplinary research cooperations to create new knowledge. By the time of graduation, students should possess the essential expertise and experience for a successful career in the academia.

Email isdpg@ust.hk
Contact (852) 3469 2811

MPhil

Master of Philosophy in Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The establishment of our new TIE program is a transformative step towards redefining research and industry impacts at postgraduate level. It enables our graduates to become pioneers in their respective fields, driving technological progress and contributing to a thriving, future-ready economy. Students will form dynamics teams to engage in rigorous trainings, interdisciplinary exposure and industry connections. They are required to independently complete a thesis under the mentorship of a faculty member. Candidates with a robust foundation in science and engineering, a profound sense of curiosity, and an aptitude for learning are ideal for this program.

Email isdtie@ust.hk
Contact (852) 3469 3352

Taught Postgraduate Programs

MEng

Master of Engineering in Design Intelligence

The establishment of our MEng DI program is a forward-looking step toward nurturing a new generation of interdisciplinary innovators, design strategists, and creative technology connectors. The program enables students to leverage artificial intelligence and digital technologies as a seamless extension of the design thinking process to create impactful, technology-driven products and services. Students will engage in advanced training that bridges the gap between deep tech and creative design, preparing them to drive profound societal and commercial impact. Candidates with a strong desire to lead innovation and a curiosity for digital transformation are ideal for this program.

Email isd@ust.hk
Contact (852) 3469 2957

MSc

Master of Science in Technology Leadership and Entrepreneurship

Jointly offered by the Academy of Interdisciplinary Studies and the School of Business and Management, this unique program seeks to nurture engineering talents with an entrepreneurial spirit and a design thinking mindset, so that they can become technology entrepreneurs. Students will work independently or in a team to conceptualize and develop a product or services prototype. Along the way, they can enroll in a diverse selection of technical and business courses to build in-depth knowledge related to their project. A start-up workshop will equip students with practical details of venturing in the Greater Bay Area.

Email enquirytle@ust.hk
Contact (852) 3469 2957



RESEARCH FOCI

Global policy challenges such as aging, climate change and economic crises call for innovative solutions beyond institutional and disciplinary boundaries, and public policy schools, departments, institutes and programs have been set up in leading universities around the world to tackle these global challenges. With substantial strengths in science, engineering, business and management, and quantitative social science areas, the Division of Public Policy (PPOL) and the Institute for Public Policy (IPP) are established to develop public policy as an emerging strategic area by fostering close collaboration across disciplines and to contribute more to policy development in key policy areas both locally and globally.



Students in MPhil/ PhD in Public Policy programs will have the opportunity to specialize in one of the following five policy areas.

Science and Technology (Innovation) Policy

Social and Urban Policy

Public Policy and Governance for emerging technologies

Environment and Sustainability Policy

Public Health Policies



The program aims to develop unique interdisciplinary postgraduate programs to provide rigorous training in policy research on a wide range of policy areas, such as Science and Technology (Innovation) Policy/ Social and Urban Policy/ Public Policy and Governance for emerging technologies/ Environment and Sustainability Policy/ Public Health Policies, that meet society's needs and professional requirements.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC POLICY



Research Postgraduate Programs

MPhil PhD

Master of Philosophy/ Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy

The MPhil and PhD programs provide rigorous training in public policy research to academically outstanding students aspiring to pursue a career in policy research and teaching. Given the breadth and depth of research faculty expertise across departments and schools in HKUST, students in the Public Policy Programs will have the opportunity to specialize in one of the following key policy areas: Science and Technology (Innovation) Policy, Social and Urban Policy, Public Policy and Governance for emerging technologies, Environment and Sustainability Policy and Public Health Policies.

The MPhil program aims to train students to conduct independent interdisciplinary research in public policy. A candidate for an MPhil degree is expected to demonstrate knowledge in the discipline and to synthesize and create new knowledge, making a contribution to the field.

The PhD program seeks to train students in original research in public policy and to cultivate the independent, interdisciplinary and innovative thinking that is essential for a successful career in public policy research and formulation. A candidate for a PhD degree is expected to demonstrate mastery of knowledge in the chosen discipline and to synthesize and create new knowledge, making an original and substantial contribution to the discipline.

Email ppolpg@ust.hk
Contact (852) 3469 2426

Taught Postgraduate Programs

MPM

Master of Public Management

The Master of Public Management (MPM) Program prepares students for senior management roles in organizations providing public services or having frequent interactions with the public sector. By equipping them with the skills and knowledge to cope with the increasingly dynamic and complex challenges of the public sector, they would develop managerial capacities, such as the analytical skills, managerial competence, and political acumen, that are essential for successful career in public sector organizations. Given the importance of technology innovation and sustainability, the program provides the students with an interdisciplinary study with a strong emphasis on the policy, management and governance issues concerning technological innovation and sustainability.

Email ppolmmp@ust.hk
Contact (852) 3469 2256

MPP

Master of Public Policy

The Master of Public Policy (MPP) Program is an interdisciplinary program that equips students with knowledge of the full impact of science and technology innovations, and professional skills in the formulation and implementation of innovative solutions to current and emerging global challenges. It provides students with complete professional training that focuses on problem-solving skills with real-world cases and examples, such as information technology and telecommunications, environment, energy, health care, transportation and finance.

Designed for students with diverse educational backgrounds, including social science, science, engineering, business, and other fields of study, this two-year full-time program consists of a core curriculum, a client-based policy analysis project, and elective courses allowing students to develop their areas of specialization.

Email ppolmmp@ust.hk
Contact (852) 3469 2001



SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

@ fytgs.hkust.edu.hk/apply



Admissions Requirements

@ fytgs.hkust.edu.hk/adm-req

To qualify for admissions to the University, applicants should have:

- Obtained a **bachelor's degree** from a recognized institution, or an approved equivalent qualification;
- For PhD applicants (in addition to the above): a proven record of outstanding performance from a recognized institution or presented evidence of satisfactory work at the postgraduate level on a full-time basis for at least one year, or on a part-time basis for at least two years;
- Fulfilled the **English language admissions requirements** with one of the following proficiency attainments¹:

PROFICIENCY TEST	MINIMUM SCORE
TOEFL Internet-based Test (iBT) ²	80 (for tests taken prior to 21 January 2026) 4.5 (for tests taken from 21 January 2026 onwards)
TOEFL Paper-based Test (pBT)	550
TOEFL Revised Paper-delivered Test	60 (total scores for Reading, Listening and Writing sections)
IELTS (Academic Module) ²	Overall Score: 6.5 and All Sub-scores: 5.5

¹ You are not required to present TOEFL or IELTS score if your first language is English, or your bachelor's degree (or equivalent qualification) was awarded by an institution where the medium of instruction was English.

² Refers to scores in one single attempt only. Test at home option is not accepted.

- Met program-specific admissions requirements, if any.



Wide Range of Programs

@ fytgs.hkust.edu.hk/programs



World-Class Faculty

@ fytgs.hkust.edu.hk/faculty



Extensive Scholarships

@ fytgs.hkust.edu.hk/funding

This booklet was published in August 2026. The details may be subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to **fytgs.hkust.edu.hk**.





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