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HKUST’s pioneering Interdisciplinary Programs Office (IPO) plays an integral part of the University’s well-established tradition for innovative teaching, learning and research. IPO brings together two or more different academic disciplines and offers a brand-new type of educational experience, characterized by select multicultural cohorts, high-powered curricula across different schools, and wide-ranging personal and professional enrichment activities. Why not find out the IPO difference for yourself?

IPO has led the way in many ways in Hong Kong and the region:

- to establish an interdisciplinary academic unit at a Hong Kong university
- to create an undergraduate dual degree program integrating technology and business knowledge – Dual Degree Program in Technology & Management
- to start an undergraduate program nurturing ecologically and economically sound future leaders to embed and advance sustainability – Environmental Management and Technology
- to introduce a novel academic framework “Major + X” as a new degree option for undergraduates to excel in an extended major of an emerging hot topic such as Artificial Intelligence or Digital Media and Creative Arts, in addition to a traditional major program.

- to offer an undergraduate program that allows students to create their own majors and curricula – Individualized Interdisciplinary Major

**THE IPO DIFFERENCE**

IPO has been a pioneer in Hong Kong and Greater China, leading the way in:

- Undergraduate Programs
- Dual Degree Program in Technology & Management (T&M-DDP)
- BSc in Environmental Management and Technology (EVMT)
- BSc in Individualized Interdisciplinary Major (IIM)
- BSc in Sustainable & Green Finance (SGFN)
- Major + X: Extended Majors

*Jointly offered with The School of Business and Management*

- **920** undergraduates
- **506** postgraduates
- **23** nationalities
- **26** nationalities
- **51%** regular faculty with interdisciplinary joint appointments

**BEST**
Faculty-Student Relationship

**STRONG**
Partnership with Industry

**TRUE**
Interdisciplinary Education and Research

**IN HONG KONG**
1st

**IN GREATER CHINA**
1st

920 undergraduates
23 nationalities
506 postgraduates
26 nationalities
51% regular faculty with interdisciplinary joint appointments
Undergraduate education at IPO references key trends and global developments through far-sighted combinations of fields that are driving our rapidly evolving world. Close links with business and industry along with a special emphasis on character-building and identification of individual interests add to our empowering student experience.

We understand that an all-round development is more than academic knowledge, personal understanding of motivations and goals, professional know-how and business experience all help students plan for their future and adapt well to the working environment.

IPO career advisors support and assist students in understanding themselves and potential career directions throughout their studies. Professional assessment tools may include the Lumina Spark, which provides a unique portrait of who they are, increase self-awareness, reveal hidden potential and cope better under pressure. Career advisors also run individual advising sessions, mock interviews, and CV clinics.

IPO Industrial Fellows

This innovative initiative links IPO students with seasoned executives and entrepreneurs to bridge the transition from graduate to professional and build career and intergenerational insights. IPO Industrial Fellows come from diverse backgrounds, including finance, IT, environmental services, regulatory and legal services and the non-profit sector. They meet with students and share career advice, pathways to success in a particular field, professional knowledge, goals, hopes and dreams.

At IPO, We Care About Your Future

Significant career guidance and personal insight opportunities are available to foster students’ capabilities to map out their own career path.

Symposiums, Forums and Seminars

Gatherings of different scales are regularly organized for students to learn from successful executives and obtain first-hand accounts of the latest trends and issues from academic and industry leaders.
The Dual Degree Program in Technology & Management, the first of its kind in Hong Kong, offers high-flying students an inspiring opportunity to gain two internationally-recognized degrees in five years: Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) or Bachelor of Science (BSc), and Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA).

Dual Degree students learn how to analyze issues from technological and business viewpoints and solve both quantitative and qualitative problems. Students also develop awareness of different cultures and global perspectives and foster a willingness to serve, gaining much more than two degrees. With double degrees in technology and management, our graduates have a wide variety of career advancement opportunities.

The Dual Degree Program has equipped me with both essential technical expertise and business skills for our technology-centered world. This joint approach not only offers a competitive advantage, but also gives me an edge in innovation.

1. International Business Plan Competition
A popular international event, co-organized with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (US), University of Bayreuth (Germany), University of Sao Paulo (Brazil) and other universities. Participants work in multinational teams to develop creative applications and viable business plans for an emerging technology.

RECENT CONTESTS
- 2020-21: “EdTech for COVID-19” – Hong Kong (Mixed-mode)
- 2019-20: “Startup for COVID-19” – Online
- 2018-19: “Integrating the Disabled” – Sao Paulo & San Carlos
- 2017-18: “Healthy Living for China” – Shenzhen

2. Corporate Projects
Students solve real-world challenges faced by our corporate sponsors that require the use of advanced technologies and business strategies in the format of consulting, desktop research or solution prototyping. Past corporate sponsors include Arup, Bayer Japan, Google, Harman, P&G, UBS Zurich/APAC and many others.

The Dual Degree Program in Technology & Management
Science Option
1. BEng in Aerospace Engineering
2. BEng in Bioengineering
3. BEng in Chemical Engineering
4. BEng in Civil and Environmental Engineering
5. BEng in Civil Engineering
6. BEng in Computer Engineering
7. BEng in Computer Science
8. BEng in Decision Analytics
9. BEng in Electronic Engineering
10. BEng in Industrial Engineering & Engineering Management
11. BSc in Integrative Systems & Design
12. BSc in Mechanical Engineering

Science Option
13. BSc in Biotechnology

Business Options
1. BBA in Economics
2. BBA in Finance
3. BBA in General Business Management
4. BBA in Global Business Management
5. BBA in Management
6. BBA in Marketing

CAREER PROSPECTS
1. Capstone Projects
Final-year students work in teams with a corporate partner on a current environmental issue, under the supervision of an experienced manager and engage in environmental decision-making. Corporate partners include AECOM, ARUP, Civic Exchange, CLP, Foodpanda, HSBC, HSH, Link REIT, Swire Properties Limited, and The Green Earth.

2. Visits and Field Trips
A great chance to go on-site in Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas to see environmental developments up close and learn first-hand from the people involved.

- Food waste recycling system, Hong Kong
- Green building operations, Hong Kong
- Bio resources, Malaysia
- Waste management, Germany, Taipei and Tokyo
- Sustainable city, Seoul and Singapore
- Air pollution, Beijing
- Natural resources and conservation, Jeju

Sustainability and the protection of our environment are among the greatest global concerns of today and tomorrow, with an ever-more pressing need to find a balance between human development and environmental well-being.

The pace-setting BSc in Environmental Management and Technology program offers a unique opportunity for motivated students to move ahead in this area, educating a new generation of environmental professionals with cross-disciplinary knowledge to deliver ecologically and economically sound solutions and to take up the role of sustainability managers in corporations in Hong Kong and around the globe.

EVMT is accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

EVMT offers numerous openings and the freedom to explore and develop your interests and abilities. This dynamic program connects people committed to improving the environment and enables them to create their own pathways to achieve this.
The IIM program is a challenging but unique opportunity to study what you are truly interested in and passionate about as, unlike any other major, you have the flexibility to design your own studies.

The Individualized Interdisciplinary Major, currently the only program of its kind in Greater China, offers a non-traditional, cross-School academic pathway for exceptional students with the vision, talents and character to initiate an interdisciplinary major tailor-made to their intellectual interests. Joining this exciting degree program enables those selected to subsequently pursue a novel interdisciplinary research field or a career in an area of emerging significance.

APPROVED IIM PROGRAM EXAMPLES

- Anthropomorphism in Interactive Systems
- Behavioral Consumer Science
- Bioenergy Management
- Bionics
- Brain Computer Interface
- Built Environment Design
- Computational Cognitive Science
- Environmental Geoscience
- Human-Computer Interaction
- Innovation Management
- Medical Engineering

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<th>Course Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Common Core and fundamental courses</td>
<td>48-49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major courses planned by student</td>
<td>At least 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective courses planned by student</td>
<td>At least 18</td>
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<td>Interdisciplinary Capstone Project</td>
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The world is changing fast; technology is evolving faster than ever and shaping the rules and future of our society. Companies and individuals that do not keep up with some of the major tech trends run the risk of being left behind. On top of highly specialized experts, the society needs talents with multidimensional visions and knowledge, who can apply innovative technological skills to solve real-world problems. To promptly answer the need for this special breed of graduates in an effective way, we enrich existing Majors with extended study in “X”, which is innovative in emerging area of significance recognized for the current need, and could be essential for the future scientific, engineering, business and social breakthrough.

HKUST is the first in Hong Kong to introduce a novel academic framework “Major+X” as a new degree option for undergraduates to excel in an Extended Major of an emerging hot topic such as Artificial Intelligence in addition to a traditional major program. Blending traditional programs with the emerging hot topics, this new degree structure not only offers students with greater flexibility, but also allows timely curriculum adjustment and better integration between existing and new knowledge to meet with the emerging need of the society.

The Extended Major framework (Major+X) offers an organic study pattern for students from different disciplines to learn solid knowledge from their Own Majors PLUS innovative application of “X” in their Major areas. Students need not take a full degree of “X” to learn about emerging technologies. Currently, we offer two Extended Majors: Artificial Intelligence and Digital Media and Creative Arts. For more details, please refer to https://emia.hkust.edu.hk/extended-majors

The collective effort among nations with clear milestones and targets to address climate change creates tremendous opportunities in new energy technologies, development of financial markets such as carbon pricing and trading to facilitate the replacement of fossil energy, digitization of infrastructure of transportation to save energy consumption, the market for green and sustainability-linked bonds and other instruments to fund sustainability projects. The interdisciplinary nature of the program will provide students with a broad-based learning experience that cuts across business as well as environment, science, and technology. The specialized curriculum includes the following required courses:

**Business and Finance**
- Derivative Securities
- Fixed Income Securities
- ESG Investing
- Green Finance Case Analyses
- Sustainable Supply Chain Management

**Environment and Sustainability**
- Introduction to Sustainability
- Circular Economy and Life Cycle Assessment
- Green Business Strategy
- Environmental Sustainability Risks and Challenges
- Governing Green Finance: National and International Perspective and Approaches

The holistic program will equip students with a solid foundation of knowledge and skills to function effectively in related fields, enhance students’ creativity and critical thinking skills, and provide students with a global outlook on the development of Sustainable and Green Finance. The graduates of this program will contribute to the economic and social development of Hong Kong, the Greater Bay Area, and beyond.

For more details, please refer to https://sgfn.hkust.edu.hk/
ANDREW NG  
Class of 2018, EVMT

“Submerged in a program that focuses on a wide range of topics and offers opportunities to present myself, I become a person who is aware of major issues happening around the world, able to think holistically and come up with recommendations from different perspectives, and know how to lead, communicate, persuade and work with others. The skills I learned and the mindset I developed from EVMT allowed me to excel, no matter as a candidate in job hunting, as an employee in the workplace or as myself in my personal growth.”

AKSHAY PRAKASH  
Class of 2018, T&M-DDP

“The Dual Degree Program at HKUST breaks the traditional barrier students faced in choosing between a STEM major and a business major, by offering a unique program that prepares specialists who are also capable to manage. T&M-DDP prepared me for my role at Goldman Sachs, which requires a balance between technology and finance and gave me advantage over peers who only had one specialisation. I became the project leader by learning to manage financial projections and product simultaneously through T&M-DDP’s corporate project competitions. As more and more multinational corporations look for cost efficiency opportunities, being a multitasker ensures your indispensability in the workforce.”

KAREN LAM  
Class of 2021, T&M-DDP

“What T&M-DDP has provided me is far more than two degrees. Faculty members have been really supportive and encouraging to inspire our creative innovations. We are always given exclusive opportunities for international exposure that constantly help us challenge the status quo of the world. With T&M-DDP, we are able to step out of our comfort zone to uncover the exciting journey beyond the known.”

IRENE CHEUNG  
Class of 2024, IIM (Human-Computer Interaction)

“As university students, we all have thought about “I want to change the world”, and the IIM program is the best opportunity for trying to achieve that. My tailor-made IIM program is Human-Computer Interaction. I want to design software to help people improve their lives, especially underprivileged and disadvantaged groups. The amount of trust, support and freedom provided by IIM on academic choices and exchange opportunities are incredible and professors are extremely helpful with generous feedback and mentoring. Since joining IIM, I have definitely improved greatly not just academically but also personally.”

CONNIE CHOW  
Class of 2023, IIM (Built Environment Design)

“My self-designed major Built Environment Design allows me to focus on the particular goal I want to achieve – enhancing sustainability with greater efficiency. My IIM major includes courses on urban planning, environmental science, system design and engineering, a combination you can’t find anywhere else, yet essential for my goal. I have been receiving great support from IPO that allows me to absorb knowledge and gain experience in different disciplines via various channels.”

KARINA CHOW  
Class of 2021, EVMT

“Combining different facets of the environment industry, the EVMT program offers a great pathway to the sustainability field. I chose the program because I wanted to know a bit of everything: the science, the engineering, and the business behind it all. I knew that I could always build on this foundation when I find an area I want to specialize in afterwards. Indeed, the study was exactly what I had anticipated. It also helped me further understand my strengths and weaknesses, which was important in determining suitable jobs for me.”
Admission

IPO offers both School-based and Program-based Admission. We do this to provide flexibility and to cater for two different types of applicants: those who are clear about their academic and career interests and keen to opt for Program-based Admission; and those who would like more time to explore their interests after admission and prefer to choose School-based Admission. The Individualized Interdisciplinary Major Program (IIM) is the only IPO undergraduate program NOT to recruit students through Program-based Admission.

Program-based Admission

Prospective students apply for the IPO program they wish to join. Upon successful admission, they enroll in the interdisciplinary program from their first year of study.

Local mainstream secondary school students should apply via the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS). Local students with non-HKDSE qualifications and non-local students should apply via Direct Entry Admission. Please go to join.hkust.edu.hk for information about application procedures, admission requirements, and important dates.

Application via School-based Admission

Applicants select the School (Science, Engineering, Business and Management, or Humanities and Social Science) they wish to join at HKUST at the admission stage. Visit join.hkust.edu.hk for application details.

Application via Program-based Admission

Students should apply to one of the following Programs:
- Dual Degree Program in Technology & Management (T&M-DDP)
- Environmental Management and Technology Program (EVMT)

Successful Admission

Year 1: Dual Degree Program in Technology & Management (T&M-DDP)
Year 2: Environmental Management and Technology Program (EVMT)

Remarks:
1. The Individualized Interdisciplinary Major Program will only admit Year 1 students who have entered HKUST through School-based Admission.
2. For the admission to the BSc in Sustainable and Green Finance, please refer to sgfn.hkust.edu.hk/admissions.

School-based Admission

Applicants select the School (Science, Engineering, Business and Management, or Humanities and Social Science) they wish to join at HKUST at the admission stage. Visit join.hkust.edu.hk for application details.