

Department of Government and Public Administration

The Chinese University
of Hong Kong

Department of Government and Public Administration



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The Chinese University
of Hong Kong

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政治與行政學系

Department of Government and Public Administration



Man is by nature a political animal.

— Aristotle

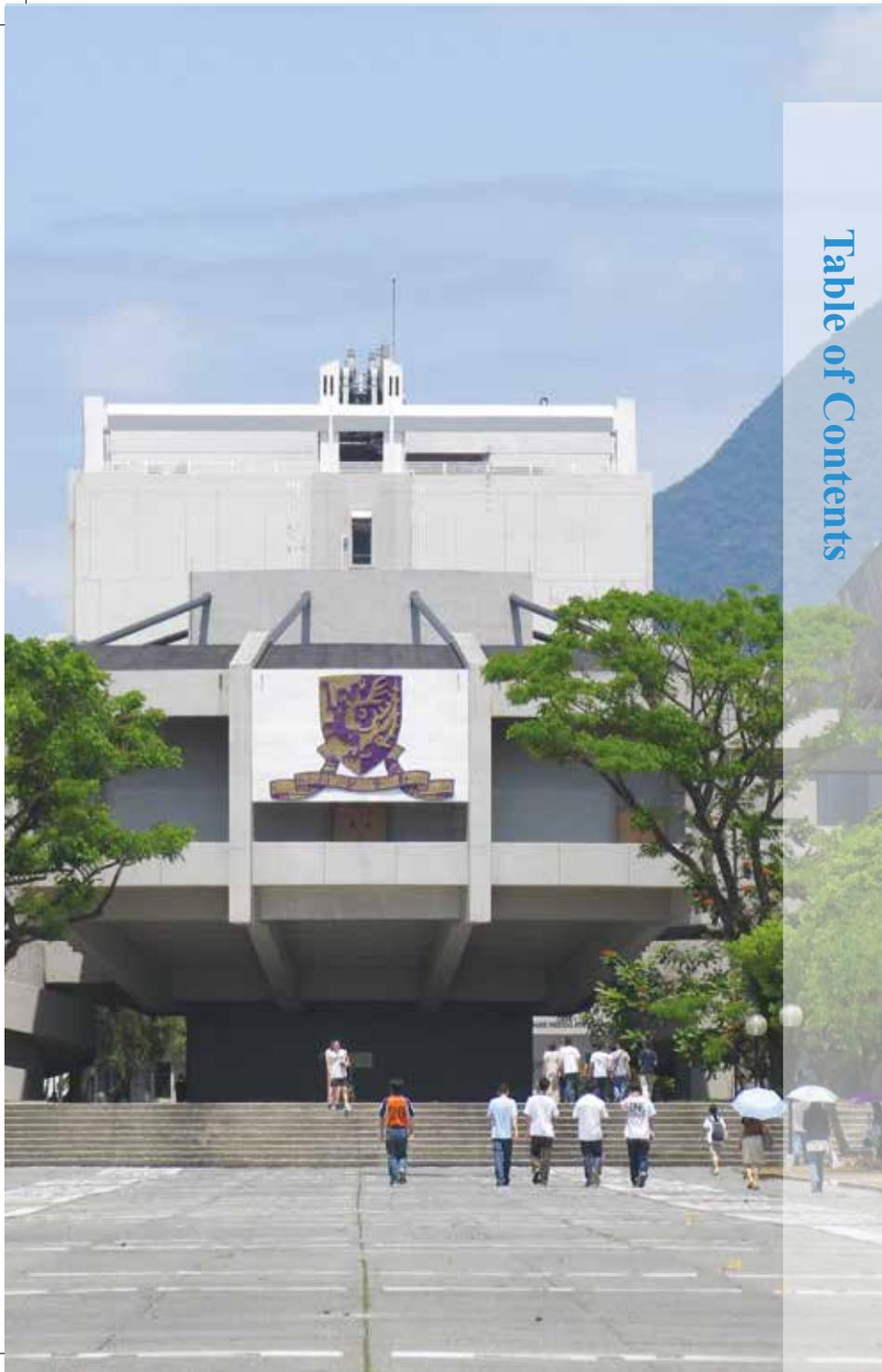


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To all new students at GPA:

On behalf of the GPA Department, I would like to welcome you all to the Department. At the same time, as a GPA graduate, I look forward to accompanying you on your University journey.

The GPA Department has accumulated a profound and fine tradition since its establishment at CUHK fifty years ago in 1970. The Department has traditionally focused on achieving the proper balance of students' intellectual development and knowledge building. On the one hand, a conscientious effort has been devoted to cultivating students' sensitivity to political and social issues, ability to perform independent thinking and critical analysis and to exercise discriminative judgement, and capacity to behave socially and politically responsibly. On the other hand, the orientation of knowledge building has set academic theories in the three disciplines of political studies, namely, political science, public administration, and international relations, as foundation and their application as the core, with the cause on advancing social development and solving practical political and policy problems. As for talent training, we have been committed to nurture academic agenda-setting researchers, responsible public administrative executives, caring political leaders, and global-focused international organization management practitioners.

The GPA Department is proud of having graduated a large pool of talented students, spreading across the political circle, the public sector, the commercial industry, and the academic community. Among those well-known graduates are Dr. Priscilla Mei-fun Leung, an incumbent

Legislative Councillor; Dr. Kenneth Ka-lok Chan, the former Chairman of the Civic Party; Ms. Carol Yip, Permanent Secretary and Deputy Secretaries of Security Bureau; Mr. Lo Wing Hung, the Publisher/Chief Curator of Bastille Post; and Prof. Shui-Yan Tang, Frances R. and John J. Duggan Professor in Public Administration at the University of Southern California. There is much for junior graduates and current students to learn from these senior GPA alumni and to take their achievements as your career inspiration. In building and extending the alumni network, the GPA Alumni Association serves importantly the networking purpose of connecting alumni together with the Department and promoting active interactions among them.

The intimate teacher-student relationship is the long-established construct framed out of the Department's conscious effort, which is aspired to maintain the close connection and benign interaction between the teachers and the students in the teaching and learning process for achieving the mutual benefits of education transcendence. In this regard, the bridging role of the GPA Society is very important.

I wish you all a fruitful University life in the coming four years with the success of finding the directions in your study, career and life. I anticipate walking with you in the Department through the most important and meaningful stages of your personal development.

Professor Carlos Lo Wing-hung

Diversified Courses

Founded in 1970, the Department of Government and Public Administration (“GPAD”) has been one of the largest departments of Government and Public Administration in Hong Kong. The study of government and public administration is a discipline which systematically investigates political systems and political phenomenon. It consists of three major parts, namely politics, public administration and international relations. GPAD offers a variety of courses for our undergraduate students. Other than required courses, there are also a number of elective courses under five categories, including Comparative Politics, Greater China, International Relations, Political Theory and Public Administration and Policy. On one hand, our courses cultivate students’ academic abilities through learning of theories and empirical research. On the other hand, GPAD broaden students’ horizons through research in regional and international relations. Students will receive a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Science when they have completed their undergraduate studies in GPAD. GPAD also offers postgraduate programmes, including Master of Social Science (MSSc) in Government and Politics (Greater China), Master of Social Science (MSSc) in Public Policy, Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), providing compact academic trainings for postgraduate students.

Small Group Tutorials

GPAD emphasizes small class teaching and tutorial sessions. This is one of the key features of teaching in GPAD. Tutorial classes would be arranged for most of the GPA courses on top of the lectures. Students would be divided into small groups to attend tutorial classes during which they would make oral presentations and participate in interactive class discussions under the guidance from teachers and teaching assistants alike. The tutorial classes allow students to have a more in-depth understanding in relevant topics and cultivate students’ abilities of independent thinking.

Rich Student Life

GPA students are actively involved in a variety of for extra-curricular activities. There are five types of student association in GPAD, which is relatively rare at CUHK. The GPA Society organizes regular different activities including academic forums, orientation camps for freshmen, sports events and farewells to graduating classes; the GPA Football Team actively participates in the University competitions; the GPA Debating Team participates in competitions within and outside the University, including The Intersvarsity Political Debate, which has a history of over 30 years; the Star Project, a student-initiated programme, offers mentorship and summer internship opportunities to students; and the Civilitas, the student-run academic journal, publishes outstanding articles from students. GPA students also participate actively in other student associations outside GPAD, including the Student Unions of the University and Colleges, in taking part in campus and social affairs in various ways.

Harmonious Teacher-Student Relationships

Many of our faculty members are holders of doctoral degrees from leading international universities. They have written extensively on political science and public administration, and many of them are well established in their academic fields. After students are admitted to GPAD, they would be assigned with an Academic Advisor according to the Colleges they are affiliated to. The academic advising system fosters students’ growth in academic aspects. GPAD teachers and students gather often outside the classroom to discuss about campus life, social affairs and even directions of life. These gatherings also facilitate the building of the mentor-mentee relationship between both teachers and students alike.



Basic Admission Requirements

Admissions via JUPAS with Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Qualification (4-year curriculum)

Applicants should have attained the following examination results in HKDSE:

- i. Level 3 or above in Chinese Language
- ii. Level 3 or above in English Language
- iii. Level 2 or above in Mathematics
- iv. Level 3 or above in Liberal Studies
- v. Level 3 or above in any 2 elective subjects

The results of additional elective subjects will be considered as well. Bonus marks will be given for up to two additional elective subjects.

If applicants have attained “Distinction” in Business Studies (595, 596, 597) or Legal Studies (654) in the Applied Learning of the New Senior Secondary Curriculum, the results will be considered as additional electives. Other Language Subjects taken by the applicants will be considered as additional electives.

Admission FAQ

Q1 Is it a disadvantage to study GPA if I took science electives in HKDSE?

For students who took arts electives, they may have a better knowledge in history which may be an advantage for them to study some of our GPA courses. However, students would need to have mathematical skills and knowledge to study some other GPA courses, such as game theory and statistics, which in turn may be an advantage for students who took science electives. From our past experiences, students who took either arts or science electives could perform well in their study of GPA.

Q2 I have great interest in and consider myself suitable for studying GPA. However, I am worried whether my academic results are not outstanding enough for admission. Do you have any suggestions?

Special considerations would be given to students who are nominated under the JUPAS School Principal's Nominations (SPN) scheme based on their outstanding achievements in extra-curricular activities.

Q3 Do students have a chance for admission if they placed GPA in Band B and Band C in JUPAS?

Applicants who placed GPA in Band A would be considered with a higher priority.

Q4 Are there any other admission channels?

Students can also be admitted into GPA via Non-JUPAS schemes of CUHK. Local applicants who have or will be obtained qualifications other than HKDSE, such as GCSE and A-Levels or possess Associate Degree or Higher Diploma qualifications can apply via the CUHK Non-JUPAS (Local) Scheme; whereas overseas applicants can apply via the CUHK Non-JUPAS International Students Admissions Scheme. The current ceiling for GPAD to admit Non-JUPAS (Local) for first year entry is 20% of the total intake, i.e. around 7- 8 students.

Q5 What are the admission scores for entry to GPA? The admission scores for 2020 entry and 2021 entry are as follows:

Year	75th Percentile (Upper Quartile)						50th Percentile (Median)						25th Percentile (Lower Quartile)									
	CHI	ENG	MATH	LS	S1	S2	S3	CHI	ENG	MATH	LS	S1	S2	S3	CHI	ENG	MATH	LS	S1	S2	S3	
2020	5	5	4	5	5*	5		5	5	4	5	5*	3		4	5	4	5*	4	4	3	
2021	5	3	4	4	5*	5		4	3	4	4	5*	4		3	4	3	4	5	4		

Q6 What are the selection principles and HKDSE subject weightings? Best 5 with subject weightings. Emphasis is placed on English Language (Weighting: 1.5), Chinese Language (1.25) and Liberal Studies (1.25). The weightings for the other subjects are the same (1.0).

Q7 How many students were admitted to GPA? There were around 38 students.

Q8 If I am admitted to CUHK through the Social Science Broad-based Admission Line (JUPAS code: JS4801), what should I do so that I can choose GPA as my major? Students who have fulfilled one of the following requirements can enroll in the GPA programme in their second year of study:

1. Have taken one or more GPAD courses and obtained an average grade of B- or above, OR;
 2. Have attained an overall grade point average of 2.70 or above in their first year of study.
- Students who have not fulfilled any of the above requirements can still apply for enrolling into the programme. The Department will consider the applications based on the interview performance of the applicants.

Q9 If I am retaking HKDSE, do I still have any chance for admission? Students retaking HKDSE could be admitted to GPA via JUPAS with combined HKDSE results. The calculation of scores for combined HKDSE results may be adjusted for consideration by the Department.

Q10 Are there any admission scholarships for students admitted via JUPAS with HKDSE examination results? GPAD offers three awards of admission scholarships with the amount HK\$10,000 each for students admitted via JUPAS with HKDSE results.

4-year Curriculum (for students admitted via JUPAS with HKDSE examination results)

Students are required to complete a minimum of 66 units of courses as follows:

(1) Faculty Package of Social Science (offered by two different Programmes/ Departments/Schools, chosen from the following): ARCH1001, 1002, COMM1110, 1120, DSPS1001, ECON1210, 1220, 2011, GLSD1001, GRMD1302, 1401, 1402, PSYC1000, 1630, SOCI1001, 1201, SOWK1001, 1113, 1114, URSP1001, 1002	6
(2) Required Courses: GPAD1020, 1030, 1095, 2111	12
(3) Elective Courses:	18
(a) Field Electives (six courses to be chosen from three of the following five fields, with two courses in each field; courses that appear in more than one field can only be counted towards one field.)	
(i) Comparative Politics	
(ii) Greater China	
(iii) International Relations	
(iv) Political Theory	
(v) Public Administration and Policy	
(b) Free Major Electives (any eight GPAD courses, other than GPAD1076 and 1077)	24
(c) Research Component (minimum 6 units chosen from the following)	6
(i) GPAD4601	
(ii) GPAD4602	
(iii) GPAD4701 and 4702	
(iv) Seminar courses at 4000 level (cannot be double counted as field electives if courses appear in both field electives and research component courses): GPAD4010, 4020, 4027, 4030, 4065, 4077, 4080, 4111, 4142, 4200, 4211, 4225, 4335, 4385	

Of the Elective Courses, at least eleven courses (33 units), including the two (6 units) research component courses, should be at 2000 or above level.

Total: 66

GPAD offered the following undergraduate courses in recent years:

Required Courses

GPAD1020	Fundamentals of Government
GPAD1030	Fundamentals of Public Administration
GPAD1095	Issues of Political Philosophy
GPAD2111	Political Research Methodology

Field Electives

Comparative Politics

GPAD1046	The Art of Leadership
GPAD2120	Democracies in the West
GPAD2130	Introductory Comparative Politics
GPAD2135	Political Economy in Asia
GPAD2145	Electoral Studies
GPAD2180	Civil Society Organizations
GPAD2215	Political Communication in Practice
GPAD2395	Asian Comparative Politics
GPAD3040	Democratization
GPAD3050	Inter-governmental Relations
GPAD3160	Governance of European Union
GPAD3161	The Rise of Populism in Europe
GPAD3360	Global Environmental Politics

Greater China

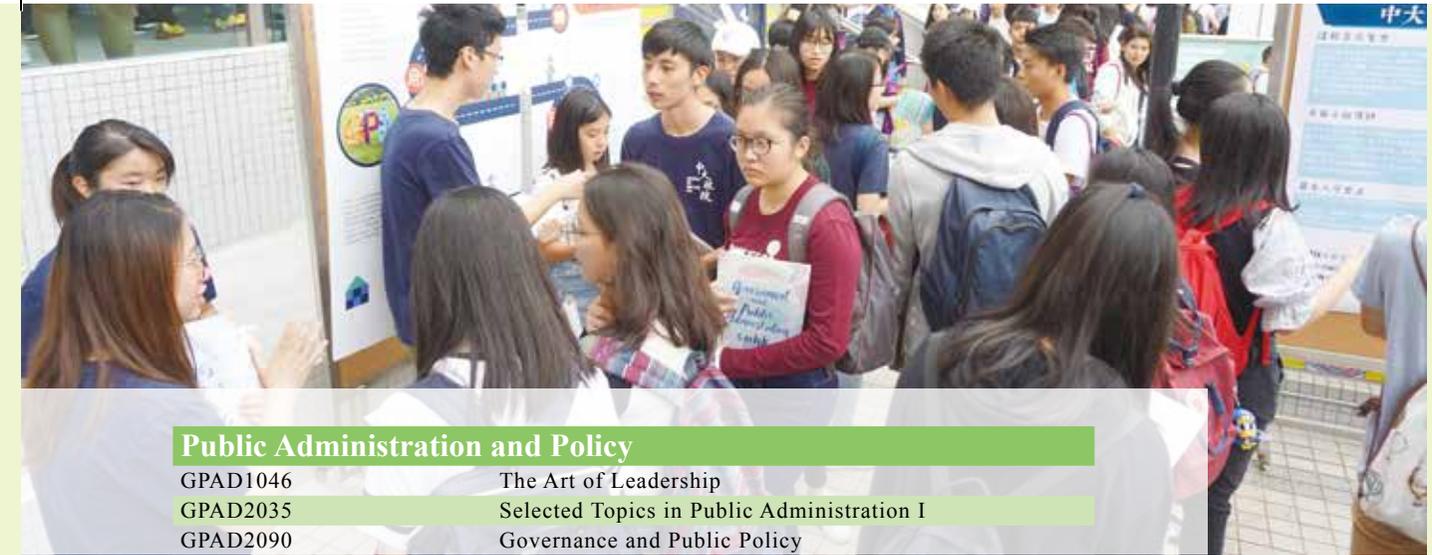
GPAD1050	Government of Hong Kong
GPAD1065	Contentious Politics in China
GPAD1066	China and The World
GPAD1070	Government and Politics of China
GPAD1073	Reading Chinese Culture and Politics through Movies
GPAD1077	Critical Debates in Hong Kong
GPAD2015	Selected Topics in Hong Kong Politics I
GPAD2025	Selected Topics in Chinese Politics I
GPAD2350	Chinese Foreign Policy
GPAD2370	Taiwan Studies
GPAD2555	State-Society Relations in Contemporary China
GPAD3026	Selected Topics in Chinese Politics II
GPAD4385	Institution and Reform in China

International Relations

GPAD1066	China and The World
GPAD2185	International Organizations
GPAD2345	International Politics
GPAD2350	Chinese Foreign Policy
GPAD2355	Globalization and Politics
GPAD2375	Asian International Relations
GPAD3160	Governance of European Union
GPAD3161	The Rise of Populism in Europe
GPAD3360	Global Environmental Politics
GPAD3365	Ethics and International Affairs
GPAD3451	International Political Economy

Political Theory

GPAD2075	Selected Topics in Political Theory I
GPAD2300	Understanding Human Rights
GPAD3071	Gender and Politics
GPAD3146	The Idea of Freedom
GPAD3220	Politics of Space
GPAD3365	Ethics and International Affairs
GPAD4077	Seminar in Political Theory
GPAD4200	Reading Political Philosophy I: John Rawls
GPAD4211	Philosophy of Social Science

**Public Administration and Policy**

GPAD1046	The Art of Leadership
GPAD2035	Selected Topics in Public Administration I
GPAD2090	Governance and Public Policy
GPAD2150	Public Human Resources Management
GPAD2160	Public Finance and Budgeting
GPAD2180	Civil Society Organizations
GPAD2215	Political Communication in Practice
GPAD3195	Government Reforms
GPAD3255	Public Policy Analysis
GPAD3260	Public Policy and Administration in China
GPAD4020	Seminar in Public Administration

Methodology and Special Issues

GPAD1015	Politics and Mass Media
GPAD1016	Politics of Sports
GPAD1056	Introductory Game Theory
GPAD1076	Thinking Politically
GPAD2020	Politics of Culture
GPAD2040	Health, Disease and Politics
GPAD4010	Seminar in Government
GPAD4111	Applied Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences

Independent Studies

GPAD4601	Independent Studies I
GPAD4602	Independent Studies II

Thesis

GPAD4701	Graduation Thesis I
GPAD4702	Graduation Thesis II



The general public may have an impression that all GPA graduates would become politicians, councillors, or civil servants. In fact, according to employment statistics, the career pathways of GPA graduates are diversified. While the ratio of GPA graduates working as civil servants is relatively higher than graduates from other departments, most of the GPA graduates embarked on their career in the Commerce & Industry field. GPA graduates are also working in a variety of sectors other than the before mentioned, including Education, Media, Social & Public Organizations and Legal sectors.

The GPA undergraduate curriculum enables students to acquire key knowledge in the fields of politics, government and public administration, which is advantageous for those who aspire to work in the government and public organizations. Furthermore, GPAD is committed to fostering students' analytical skills, adaptability to changes, awareness to contemporary issues and critical thinking skills, which are essential skills for working in various sectors.

Sector/Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Government	11.1%	10.26%	16.98%	17.65%	22.58%	28.26%
Commerce & Industry	44.5%	41.03%	32.08%	29.41%	32.26%	14.12%
Social & Public Organizations	14%	12.82%	15.09%	17.65%	6.45%	31.79%
Education	14%	12.82%	9.43%	2.94%	12.90%	14.13%
Further Studies	13.5%	17.95%	18.87%	11.76%	9.68%	8.8%
Others	2.9%	5.13%	7.55%	20.59%	16.13%	2.9%

Co-intelligence

Founded in 2019, the Co-Intelligence is a summer internship programme organized by the Department of Government and Public Administration, in collaboration with renowned local/ overseas, private/ public organizations. Co-Intelligence aims to equip the students with the capacity for logic, understanding, reasoning, self-awareness, creativity.

Partnering Organizations:



Beijing Institute of Hong Kong and Macau Scholars

Beijing-based think tank specializing in Hong Kong and Macau affairs



Edelman Data and Intelligence

Global multidisciplinary research consultancy
Part of Edelman, the world's leading public relations agency



Radio Free Asia

US gov-funded, non-profit international broadcasting corporation



Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute

HK-based public opinion research agency



Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute

HK-based public opinion research agency


FUNG, Ka Keung

2002 Graduate, Director of HR People & Culture, Greenpeace East Asia

I was much interested in current affairs before I transferred from Biochemistry to GPA. I felt that I was in need of a method to systematically analyse the power relations involved, and to express my ideas clearly. GPA does not always get you into politics, but it trains your analytical ability. After graduation I joined NGOs, advocated policies and corporate practices. GPA's training was invaluable when I negotiated with government officials, legislators or business, and did policy research. GPA helped me a lot in fulfilling my own vision in improving society.

LAU, Kylie

2013 Graduate, Compliance Practitioner

I have been working as a compliance practitioner for 7 years in diverse environments including international banks, Chinese banks and consultant firms. Choosing to study GPA is undoubtedly one of the best decisions I have ever made. The three-year study journey transformed me from a person who only studied mechanically to one with better thinking process. The training in GPA equipped me with the ability of critical thinking as well as multiple perspective thinking. Such skills are indispensable to my job in compliance which often requires me to spot deficiencies in banking processes against banking regulations. Banking regulations are inseparable from government policy setting which is always an important aspect in the GPA program. In a nutshell, I am grateful that my GPA study laid a good foundation for my career.


CHENG, Jessica

2008 Graduate, Assistant Director, Environmental Protection Department

Looking back, what I benefited most was not the knowledge from the classrooms, but the time spent on after-class discussions with GPA teachers and classmates. We may have different or contrasting views, and failed to reach conclusions after overnight debates, but we have a free and open space to exchange our ideas, and think out of the box. Those stimulations to my thought are still valuable to me.


NG, Kenneth

2006 graduate, former TV anchor and reporter

People think one must study journalism to be a journalist, but my ten-year-plus experience as a political journalist told me otherwise. To avoid hearsay and unsubstantiated stories, journalists must have the ability to think logically and critically, plus the necessary sensitivity and insight into the current political situation. The GPA programme is the best choice. Its unique teaching mode balances theory and free thinking, broadening students' horizons, laying a solid foundation for those who want to pursue a career in the news media.



TAI, Sherman
Warwick University, UK

I am incredibly grateful to the Department of Government and Public Administration for offering me the opportunity to study at Warwick University last year. It could not have been a more peculiar experience. I was in Year 5, flew there in a pandemic, went through two national lockdowns, and spent a month in Spain under the UK flight ban.

Surprisingly with all these extraordinary circumstances, I enjoyed every bit of my journey abroad. The exchange opportunity at Warwick enabled me to further identify my research interests and provided me with a clearer path down the road for my future Master's studies.

Restraining from 'household mixing', my flat ended up spending most of our free times with each other baking cakes, going to 'Pub Quizzes' alongside playing football. It is fascinating when you chat with students from diverse nationalities and cultural backgrounds. Furthermore, you also notice just how different your everyday routines are, particularly regarding different life experiences and value orientations.

The same goes for all the people that I have met in hostels across the many cities of Spain. This might be the most valuable take-away: the realization that my accustomed way of living is not the only option; and the ability to see, out of comparison about my beloved Hong Kong.



NG, Hei Man Stephanie
Uppsala University, Sweden

Last year, I went on a semester exchange at Uppsala University, Sweden. This exchange offered was a precious and invaluable journey of self-exploration. Studying in the Department of Government at Uppsala University was fascinating. Uppsala University encouraged students to actively participate in lessons, alongside weekly debates in the areas of Development Studies.

Furthermore, I was also able to immerse myself in discussions with students from distinct cultural backgrounds. This allowed us to opine on development projects across the world (e.g. agricultural development in Ethiopia) and provided me with a more comprehensive understanding of sustainable development related issues.

Living in Uppsala University, I was given a lot of opportunities to join student activities, such as high table dinners and live music shows. Through joining these events, I had a chance to try various traditional Swedish snacks prepared by local students, and at the same time enhance understanding of Swedish culture.

Deciding to complete a semester exchange during the COVID-19 pandemic was never an easy move, as many uncertainties and struggles could be encountered. Despite these constraints during the pandemic, I was able to live independently in a new environment, experiencing the annual Valborg and Midsummer festivals with the locals. Therefore, my exchange experience turned out to be fruitful, in numerous ways. Instead of sightseeing in different countries, I was able to thoroughly explore this little Swedish town. This was without doubt a precious exchange experience overall.



GPA Society 2021 - Wang4Zing3

The GPA Society is a registered student association of GPAD. All GPA undergraduate students are members of the Society.

The main duty for the society is to serve our fellow GPAD classmates by organising various activities. For one, through organising orientation camp and orientation night, the society is hoped to deliver our great welcome to our new classmates as well as help them into our warm GPAD family. For another, bonding with our teachers and classmates is also our mission. For instance, by regularly holding activities, such as ‘Dinner with Professors’ and ‘GPAD Football Contest’, we will have a chance to talk and play football with our professors. We are hence hoping to build a closer student-teacher bond. And thanks to this bonding, our classmates have a strong sense of belonging even after graduation.



The society is dedicated to fostering better communication and cooperation among our classmates and teachers. Hope to see you in GPAD next year!

belonging even upon graduation.



“We can never be sure that the opinion we are endeavoring to stifle is a false opinion; and if we were sure, stifling it would be an evil still (John Stuart Mill, 1859).”

The above quote from the British philosopher, John Stuart Mill’s “On Liberty” has pointed out that, even if we “firmly believe” there is fallacy in someone’s speech, we cannot stifle the person’s freedom of speech.

The GPA Debating Team is the only Departmental debating team joined by students of GPAD. GPAD cultivates students’ knowledge in various fields of politics. After studying GPA, you and I may be tempted to believe that there is a particular political theory which can explain our doubts, or even to disagree with any contradictory theories. However, as reminded by Mill, truth would not turn into rigid doctrine only when it is challenged.

Debate is the place where challenges are created. No matter how boring the subject matter is, the audience and the judges will always have unexpected sparks in their minds through debate. What we learn in GPAD equips us with the essential skills and knowledge to have standard judgments for the logical reasonings and empirical evidence behind the debates, together with the debating skills we acquired, we are able to go through every debate without the slightest hesitation.

Every debate is the result of our passion and dedication.

Every debate is an examination and a test of the truth.





Founded in July 2003, the Star Project is a student-initiated and student-run organisation under GPAD, with Mr. Jeremiah Wong, former Department Head, being the founding advisor of the Project. The Project consists of 3 programmes, namely the Star Mentorship Programme, the Star Internship Programme and the Star Exploration Programme. The Project provides students with training and practical opportunities to enhance their critical thinking skills. The Star Project is the only programme in the University which the students are responsible for the organization of the internship and mentorship programmes – including administrative and clerical work. Professors advising the Project allow students to run the Project with lots of flexibility. Previous cabinets of the Project shared the same experience that they have benefited extensively from the Project.

Mentorship Programme

The Mentorship Programme aims at offering exchange opportunities to students for them to learn from their mentors' experiences. Mentors of the Project are prominent members of the community from diverse backgrounds, including practitioners from the political, legal, media, education and business sectors. Students would be able to build a profound relationship with their mentors, who share similar career aspirations; and to learn from their mentors about their philosophies of life.

Internship Programme

The Internship Programme aims at offering internship opportunities to non-final year GPA students for them to integrate their knowledge with their academic work, to gain work experience and to prepare for pursuing their future career. The Project offers internship opportunities in commercial organizations, media bodies, Offices of Councillors of Legislative Council and District Councillors, alongside academic institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Exploration Programme

The Exploration Programme aims at offering a variety of activities to broaden the horizons of students. Through activities such as talks, workshops, sharing sessions and visits, students will have the opportunity to meet people from different sectors in the community and enhance their understanding of the community.

A Bridge for Communication with Alumni

Mentors of the Project and hosts of the internships are eminent members of the community and among them there are alumni of GPAD. Therefore, the Project not only provides students with a wide range of social experiences and skills trainings, but also serves as a bridge of communication between our renowned alumni and GPAD.



Scholarships

GPAD offers the following four scholarships to recognize the students with outstanding academic achievements:

1. Admission Scholarship of the Department of Government and Public Administration
2. CUHK GPA Overseas Scholarship
3. Professor Kuan Hsin Chi Scholarship
4. Professor Kuan Hsin Chi Best Thesis Award

Other than the GPAD scholarships, GPA students have been awarded several scholarships outside CUHK in recent years, including:

1. Swire Scholarships
2. Chevening Scholarships
3. Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence





CHEUNG, Lok Yiu Tramy

When I was in secondary school, I found several key interests in politics. When I became slightly older, I then discovered that courses in European politics and political philosophy attracted me considerably. Furthermore, my cousins also pursued their academic studies at CUHK. I also heard them talking about their unique and wonderful lives at CUHK! Therefore, the Department of Government and Public Administration at CUHK became my first choice!

I feel incredibly fortunate to have joined the Department of Government and Public Administration. I have been incredibly fortunate to meet many excellent academic staff and classmates alike. I have also been offered many valuable opportunities and chances to explore different fields of academic studies here. One of the unique features of GPA are the tutorials, which other Departments might not be able to offer to their students all the time.

I still remember vividly that everyone actively shared their thoughts and exchanged opinions on a particular topic. This helped to further consolidate the

knowledge that I learned in the Lectures. In addition, I also firmly believe that we can only understand some concepts and theories better if we discuss and debate with different people.

We have also been using Zoom to attend different lessons over the past few years, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, I admire the professionalism of the academic staff in the Department. My teachers and classmates adapted to the new learning mode quickly. My teachers also applied different methods to interact with us. Alongside the Blackboard discussions, the Zoom discussions also contained many insightful comments and opinions as people were extremely enthusiastic about starting and joining the discussions!

Face-to-face learning mode has resumed this school year (2021-2022). Most significantly, we can finally meet our fellow classmates in real life! I am extremely excited and look forward to seeing some old and new faces in the classes!

FUGLSANG, Anna Buelow

As an international student, I have found that studying at the GPAD is a truly local experience. Since the Department of Government and Public Administration has many local Professors and students alike, I have learned a great deal about Hong Kong society, politics and culture. Furthermore, my fellow classmates have been incredibly welcoming and helpful in enabling me to adapt to local life.

If you are an international student considering to join our Department, you will also find that our staff are extremely helpful and have invaluable academic knowledge in political science. The Professors in our Department have guided me all the way throughout my academic studies at CUHK.

During COVID-19, the Professors would even check up on me regularly to see how I was coping! In the long run, you will gain a lot of local insights, which, I believe, is one of the purposes of studying abroad, particularly at CUHK!

FUNG, Chun Yuk Jason

Studying in the Department of Government and Public Administration has been an invaluable experience for me in exploring the theory and real-world application of politics. Through intellectual discussions during tutorials and other academic activities, there have been numerous chances for me to think outside the box and to reflect on my perception of a good life.

In comparison to the learning environment in foreign universities, both CUHK and the Department of Government and Public offer a holistic and optimal environment for students to develop ourselves, whilst the interactions between teachers and students here are extremely inspiring. I have thoroughly enjoyed my university life here.

After attending ZOOM lectures for more than a year, I am also extremely looking forward to face-to-face classes this semester and in enjoying my undergraduate studies on campus!

LAI, Tsz Ting Teresa

GPA emphasizes the training of critical and multi-dimensional thinking to its students. Students always have the chance to discuss and debate on various political issues and phenomenon with our fellow schoolmates alongside teachers, especially during tutorial sessions that contain a small class size. Even though we may share different opinions on political issues, the opportunity for open discussion further enhances our scope of thinking with new and intriguing insights, alongside training students to look into issues from different perspectives. After comprehensive discussions and debates, we have all grown to understand the world and society in a more comprehensive manner.

Why should someone study politics? It sounds boring, useless, and maybe dangerous. Indeed, the general public may have certain stereotypes about those people engaged in politics—poker-faced officials in old-fashioned suits or skirt suits delivering dry speeches, bureaucrats sitting in the office busy with nothing meaningful, or people losing their freedom or even life in social unrests and wars. True, these people are often the subjects of our study in political science and public administration. However, we study them not to become one of them, but to eliminate the inefficiency, inequality, and injustice in our governments and society that breed these unwanted phenomena. We are trained as social scientists with practical skills to analyze and solve many of the socioeconomic and political problems plaguing our world.

As someone who has taught in the GPA Department for fourteen years, I can assure you that the study of politics is never boring, useless, or dangerous. I have taught courses on Chinese politics, international relations, statistics, game theory etc., all of which are driven by real-world problems and/or the need for analytical tools to tackle these problems. For example, in GPAD1066 China and the World, students and I explore how China rises and what impacts it generates on the rest of the world, and we debate whether a new Cold War is emerging between the China and the US. Students finish the course with a deeper understanding about and more preparedness for the fast-changing world. In GPAD1056 Introductory Game Theory, we play fun games to learn how to make rational choices. Students are equipped with a clearer mind to dissect the complicated reality and become smarter decision-makers for their future life and career.

In GPA, we aim to produce students with solid analytical methods, critical thinking, and grand visions. Our graduates have gone onto thriving careers in the government, education institutions, think tanks, media, voluntary organizations, and the business sector. If you care about sociopolitical issues and desire to find sound and creative solutions to make the world a better place, you are more than welcome to join GPA!



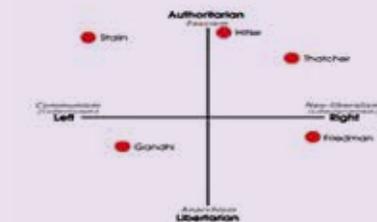
What exactly is politics you may ask? In my personal opinion, politics is all around us. The very table that you sit on exists because a political decision was made. The very conversations that we have often have with family and friends are also often ‘political.’ But what exactly is the academic study of political science? The academic study of political science contains many different areas and themes, often being linked to economics, sociology and philosophy. Political science is about the art of government, public policy, compromising and reaching a consensus, alongside the distribution of power and resources in society. Political science can also be about numbers and involve ‘detective work’, not too dissimilar to Sherlock Holmes and his deductive logic in solving crimes and mysteries.

In short, political science can be divided into different areas, such as comparative politics, political philosophy, public administration and international relations. Classical ‘thinkers’ in both the Western and Chinese worlds have throughout history sought to understand how society should be best governed and which type of political systems are the most effective. Historical thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Confucius, Karl Marx and Adam Smith may spring to your mind. Rather incredibly, these debates are still raging on today in the twenty-first century!

The academic study of political science has evolved continuously. In our Department, you will be able to study a wide range of courses that will not only interest you but allow you to think critically and challenge existing theories and arguments. Politics is also much more than dusty history textbooks... it is fast paced and ever moving! Some important questions which interest me and that I both research and teach are the following:

Why are elections important? What explains why Britain voted to leave the European Union? What are the ‘causes’ of localism in Hong Kong? How was Donald Trump able to win the landmark 2016 United States Presidential Election? Will the twenty-first century be the Chinese century? In actual fact, these are some of the most important questions that have dominated political science in the last few years and that you will be able to study in our Department. Another question that you might have is why should you study political science and how could this lead to a future career? That is a good question and the broad scope of political science means that there are a wide range of future careers that you can do based on your degree. These range from public policy and public administration, a politician/legislator, alongside working in non-governmental organizations or even the private sector in political risk analysis. I can assure you that there are many opportunities out there that a political science degree would help you with!

In my personal opinion, there has never been a more exciting time to study politics! Challenge existing conventions and think critically... ‘dare to know’ as the famous German philosopher Immanuel Kant once famously remarked.



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