THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (GUANGZHOU)

Society Hub

HKUST(GZ)
Postgraduate Programs
2027-28

soch.hkust-gz.edu.cn

Contents

Welcome	2
Hub Profile	3
Carbon Neutrality and Climate Change Thrust	4
Financial Technology Thrust	7
Innovation, Policy and Entrepreneurship Thrust	9
Urban Governance and Design Thrust	11
MBA+	13
Submit Your Application	14

Welcome

We live in an era shaped by rapid technological advancement, evolving economic landscapes, and increasingly complex societal challenges. At the same time, breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data-driven innovation are creating new possibilities for addressing these challenges and improving people' s lives.

Society Hub was established to respond to this changing world. Guided by our vision to be a global leader in addressing societal challenges in the age of intelligence, we are committed to preparing future leaders through interdisciplinary education, impactful research, and meaningful engagement with society. Our values—**Science for People, Technology for Good, and Synergy for Innovation**—anchor everything we do.

Building on the distinctive cross-disciplinary education system of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou), Society Hub brings together faculty members and students from diverse academic, professional, and cultural backgrounds. This diversity enables us to connect scientific inquiry and technological innovation with a deep understanding of society, policy, business, and human needs.

Our academic community advances education and research across four interconnected thrusts: **Carbon Neutrality and Climate Change, Financial Technology, Innovation, Policy and Entrepreneurship, and Urban Governance and Design.** Together, these thrusts address some of the most important questions facing society today—from sustainable development and climate action to digital transformation, responsible innovation, and the future of cities.

Through educational opportunities spanning undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral levels, we encourage students to think across disciplines, engage with real-world challenges, and translate knowledge into action. Here, learning extends beyond the classroom. Students work alongside scholars, industry leaders, policymakers, and communities to explore how ideas and technologies can generate lasting societal impact.

Our mission is not simply to help students navigate change, but to empower them to shape it. Society Hub is a place where innovation serves society, technology empowers humanity, and education inspires meaningful contributions to the world.

Welcome to Society Hub—a diverse and forward-looking community innovating for societal impact.

Let us make a difference, together.

Prof. Ye QI
Dean of Society Hub

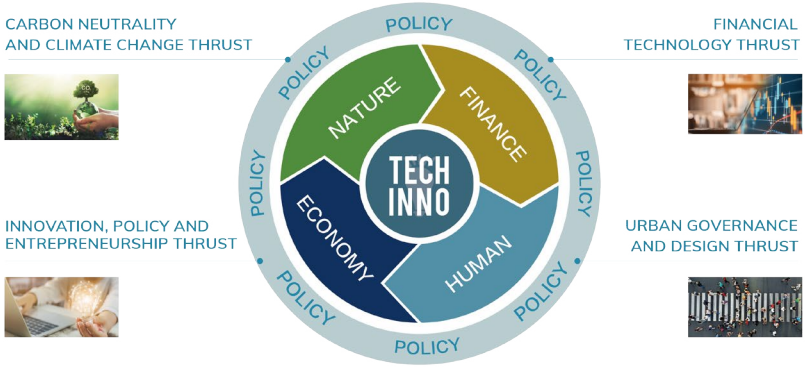
Society Hub

Vision

To be a global leader in addressing societal challenges in the age of intelligence.

Mission

To prepare future leaders to address societal challenges through innovations in a world of unprecedented change.



As one of the four Hubs of HKUST(GZ), the Society Hub is committed to becoming a globally influential research leader in the face of challenges posed by the Intelligent Era and Global Transformation. We closely monitor social development trends, actively align with national strategies, respond to societal needs, and provide integrated solutions for policy and institutional innovation.
With technological innovation at its core, the Society Hub focuses on critical domains such as people, nature, economy, finance, and policy, and has established four frontier cross-disciplinary thrusts. We aim to cultivate cross-disciplinary talent equipped with outstanding analytical skills and a global perspective, who possess an open and growth-oriented mindset. These individuals will become the leading force in addressing complex societal issues and global challenges, thus driving social progress.
We have a group of faculty with outstanding scientific research achievements and rich teaching experience graduating from world-class universities. We aim to integrate excellent scientific research capabilities, keen cross-disciplinary insights and innovative pedagogy to cultivate future talents.

Enquiries

gzsociety@hkust-gz.edu.cn

Carbon Neutrality and Climate Change Thrust

Introduction

The human beings, together with their cultures and lifestyles, are facing unprecedented threat from fundamental change of the global climate system. The Carbon Neutrality and Climate Change Thrust aims to address the greatest challenge of our age, while seizing the greatest opportunity for prosperity and sustainability of the society.

Cross-Disciplinary Focus Areas

- Carbon Science and Technology
- Sustainable Energy Transition
- Climate Change and Governance
- Climate Finance and Policy

Research Postgraduate Programs

MPhil Master of Philosophy in Carbon Neutrality and Climate Change*

PhD Doctor of Philosophy in Carbon Neutrality and Climate Change

The MPhil/PhD program in Carbon Neutrality and Climate Change will offer specialized training to tackle and adapt to the challenges of climate change that arise due to the transition towards a low-carbon society. The energy transition calls for a comprehensive array of transformations that requires deep integration of AI+ science and engineering, social science and humanities, to create intelligent and innovative solutions. This huge change will have far-reaching implications for many areas over the coming decades. We seek to educate students and provide them with state-of-the-art knowledge and comprehension of carbon neutrality and how it relates to finance, policy and AI+ environmental science.

The program focuses on in-depth integration of multiple fields of humanities and social science with AI+ science and engineering. The course design emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach, which covers key areas such as low-carbon technologies, carbon neutrality economics and policies, green investment and financial strategies, and the integration of AI+ technologies. It aims to cultivate urgently needed, highly skilled, versatile talent who are competent in "dual carbon" work and can lead industry development. The program focuses on advanced research with an aim to place graduates in academia, research institutes, and industrial jobs that appreciate research capability and quality.

This MPhil/PhD program will furnish students with project-based training to prepare them for inclusion in an exclusive cohort of carbon and engineering professionals equipped with work readiness skills and a comprehension of the low-carbon economy. The program's credentials are comparable to those of MPhil/PhD programs offered by leading universities in Europe and the United States.

This MPhil/PhD rogram will be the first of its kind in Asia, emphasizing carbon neutrality and climate change. Students will gain the knowledge, expertise, and assurance necessary to emerge as pioneers in carbon-neutral tactics and sustainable development.

**Students are admitted centrally through University-based admission to the Master of Philosophy (General) Program. By end of Fall Term, students will declare to enter one of the 16 Master of Philosophy programs offered by the Thrusts.*

Enquiries

MPhil
PhD in Carbon Neutrality and Climate Change

rbmadmit@hkust-gz.edu.cn
cnccrpg@hkust-gz.edu.cn

Taught Postgraduate Program

MSc Master of Science in Carbon Neutrality and Green Finance

In the global effort to address climate change, achieving carbon neutrality has become a shared goal among nations. Green finance is playing a pivotal role in enabling this transition. There is an urgent need for professionals with cross-disciplinary expertise, well-versed in both low-carbon technologies and financial instruments, given the global proliferation of carbon pricing mechanisms and the increasing scale of ESG investments.

The Master of Science in Carbon Neutrality and Green Finance program at HKUST(GZ) aims to cultivate future leaders in this field. Leveraging the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area's strengths in green finance innovation, the program brings together expertise from environmental science, energy engineering, finance, and public policy to create a comprehensive educational framework. This framework includes theoretical knowledge, practical training, and industry experience. Through a fully English-taught curriculum and a collaborative approach that bridges academia and industry, along with the "Unified HKUST, Complementary Campuses" framework, students will acquire advanced knowledge and skills in carbon neutrality and green finance, as well as insights into domestic and international carbon market policies.

A key highlight of this program is its cross-disciplinary curriculum, which integrates "Carbon Neutrality + Finance". The courses encompass critical areas including energy transition, industrial transformation, green finance, green technology and innovation, carbon accounting and management, carbon trading, and ESG investment strategies. This approach ensures that students develop a well-rounded skill set. Graduates will be well-prepared for roles in government and industry focused on carbon neutrality strategy, project development, trading, and investment, or for engaging in research and policy-making in the realms of carbon neutrality and green finance.

Enquiries MSc in Carbon Neutrality and Green Finance msc-cngf@hkust-gz.edu.cn

Financial Technology Thrust

Introduction

Financial Technology is an important emerging area that has been developing rapidly in recent years. It refers to the application of cutting-edge technologies and advanced analytics on various financial services, such as mobile banking, peer-to-peer lending, digital payments, blockchain, and cryptocurrencies, aiming to improve service efficiency, promote financial innovations, and increase end-user satisfaction.

Cross-Disciplinary Focus Areas

- **Blockchain technology, smart contracts, and digital currencies**
- **Robo advising, quantitative investing, and risk management**
- **Machine learning, artificial intelligence , and Big data analytics in finance**
- **Technological innovations for financial services**
- **Regulatory issues and challenges in FinTech**
- **Digital economy and financial inclusion**

Research Postgraduate Programs

MPhil Master of Philosophy in Financial Technology*

PhD Doctor of Philosophy in Financial Technology

The Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy Programs in Financial Technology provide training and education for students to undertake advanced research and have a sound grasp of developments in FinTech. Students graduating from these programs should be able to conduct and apply high-quality research that makes an impact on FinTech research and practice in academia and/or industry. The programs focus on advanced research with an aim to place graduates in academia, research institutes, and industry jobs that appreciate research capability and quality.

**Students are admitted centrally through University-based admission to the Master of Philosophy (General) Program. By end of Fall Term, students will declare to enter one of the 16 Master of Philosophy programs offered by the Thrusts.*

Taught Postgraduate Program

MSc Master of Science in FinTech and Financial Engineering*

The Master of Science in FinTech and Financial Engineering (MSc(FTFE)) at HKUST(GZ) is designed to cultivate high-level talents who possess solid financial theoretical knowledge and cutting-edge technological innovation skills, helping to address the multiple challenges of the intelligent and digital transformation of the financial industry. Students graduating from the MSc FTFE will be capable of identifying and analyzing FinTech and Financial Engineering related problems arising in financial markets, developing new quantitative models for financial data analysis, and forecasting market behavior while accounting for the inherent risks.

** Pending MOE approval*

Enquiries

MPhil	rbmadmit@hkust-gz.edu.cn
MSc in FinTech and Financial Engineering	sochmsc@hkust-gz.edu.cn
PhD in Financial Technology	ftect@hkust-gz.edu.cn

Innovation, Policy and Entrepreneurship Thrust

Introduction

Innovation, Policy and Entrepreneurship (IPE) is an emerging interdisciplinary area that has become increasing important in recent years in addressing global challenges in governance and provision of private and public goods and services. IPE focuses on linkages among innovation, entrepreneurship, and public policy in development of human society. This interdisciplinary program prepares the next generation of leaders in solving problems at the interface of technology and society through innovation in technology, institution, policy, entrepreneurship, and business model.

Cross-Disciplinary Focus Areas

- **Innovation and Technology Management**
- **Health Studies / Health Care Policy / Environmental Policies / Sustainability**
- **AI for Public Administration and Management**
- **Governance of Entrepreneurial Firms**
- **Business Technology Forecasting and Evaluation**
- **Innovation and Public Policy**
- **Experimental Economics and Decision Sciences**
- **AI and Digital Economy**
- **Corporate Governance and Sustainability**
- **Entrepreneurship**

Research Postgraduate Programs

MPhil **Master of Philosophy in Innovation, Policy and Entrepreneurship***

PhD **Doctor of Philosophy in Innovation, Policy and Entrepreneurship**

The MPhil Program aims to train students to conduct independent research in innovation, policy and entrepreneurship. An MPhil graduate is expected to acquire cross-disciplinary knowledge and demonstrate skills in the area, and to contribute to innovation, public policy and entrepreneurship in practice.
The PhD Program seeks to train students in original research with cross-disciplinary approach to innovation, policy and entrepreneurship, and to cultivate independent and innovative thinking for knowledge creation in policy, innovation and entrepreneurship. A PhD graduate is expected to demonstrate mastery of knowledge in the chosen area of research and to synthesize and create new knowledge, making an original and substantial contribution to the cross-disciplinary area.

**Students are admitted centrally through University-based admission to the Master of Philosophy (General) Program. By end of Fall Term, students will declare to enter one of the 16 Master of Philosophy programs offered by the Thrusts.*

Enquiries

MPhil
PhD in Innovation, Policy and Entrepreneurship

rbmadmit@hkust-gz.edu.cn
ipet@hkust-gz.edu.cn

Taught Postgraduate Program

MSc Master of Science in Technology and Policy

The Master of Science in Technology and Policy program will provide professional training to cope with the rapid development in technology-related sectors. In many areas, public policies play a fundamental role in shaping development, application, and market. We seek to train students and equip them with cutting-edge knowledge in technology sectors and bridge the divide between industries and government.

The rigorous two-year program will provide skill-based training in the uses of analytic methods for public policy and the development of expertise in best policy practices, emulating similar programs offered by top universities in Europe and the United States. Students will acquire the knowledge, skills, and confidence to be leaders in government, business, and NGOs to shape public policies of technology, to guide and nurture technologies that change our society. By the end of this program, they will have a deeper understanding of policy, technology, and their interactive relationship in promoting social economic development.

This program cultivates future leaders by equipping students with entrepreneurial spirit, technological know-how, and policy savvy, enabling them to craft innovative policy solutions that address the challenges of technological advancement. It fosters collaboration across the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, mainland China, and international partners in entrepreneurship education, research, and commercialization.

Enquiries MSc in Technology and Policy mstp@hkust-gz.edu.cn

Urban Governance and Design Thrust

Introduction

By 2050, two out of every three people are likely to be living in cities or other urban centers, and most of the increase is expected to be highly-concentrated in a handful of countries, including China. Rapid urbanization and growth of cities call for high-quality public services and effective governance to make urban places more livable. The study of cities becomes an increasingly cross-disciplinary enterprise. Our program employs cross-disciplinary perspectives, and analyzes the data on cities from different sources (including population census, surveys, administrative and big data) to address critical issues in contemporary urban governance and design.

Cross-Disciplinary Focus Areas

- **Urban Tech and Smart Cities**
- **Human Centered Design**
- **Digital Urban Governance**
- **AI for Society**
- **Sustainable Urban Development (Population, Health, Economy, Environment)**

Research Postgraduate Programs

MPhil Master of Philosophy in Urban Governance and Design*

PhD Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Governance and Design

The MPhil Program aims to train students to conduct independent research in urban governance. An MPhil graduate is expected to acquire cross-disciplinary knowledge of cities and employ quantitative skills to integrate and analyze the data from different sources, to write research reports addressing various audience in academia, think tanks, government, or industry, and to contribute to urban governance and design in practice.

The PhD Program seeks to train students in original research with cross-disciplinary approach to urban governance and design, and to cultivate independent and innovative thinking for knowledge creation in the field. A PhD graduate is expected to demonstrate mastery of knowledge in the chosen area of research and to synthesize and create new knowledge making an original and substantial contribution to the cross-disciplinary studies of cities.

**Students are admitted centrally through University-based admission to the Master of Philosophy (General) Program. By end of Fall Term, students will declare to enter one of the 16 Master of Philosophy programs offered by the Thrusts.*

Taught Postgraduate Program

MSc Master of Science in Urban Tech and Governance*

The Master of Science in Urban Tech and Governance (MSc UTGO) at HKUST(GZ) offers a diverse training framework that extends beyond traditional urban planning. It explores emerging fields such as urban health, smart digital governance, and sustainable urban mobility while integrating innovative technologies and methodologies. This multifaceted approach equips graduates to tackle complex urban challenges, allowing them to pursue various interests and career paths. MSc UTGO graduates will be adept at identifying and analyzing urban issues, developing innovative solutions using advanced urban tech and governance methodologies, and driving urban renewal initiatives that enhance quality of life.
The UGOD Thrust at HKUST(GZ) provides well-structured internship opportunities through partnerships with leading industrial and institutional entities, including state-owned enterprises and public authorities, 70% of which are based in the Greater Bay Area. These internships align partner expertise—ranging from smart city developers to spatial data innovators—with program objectives. Graduates can assume transformative roles such as Smart City Planners, Urban Data Analysts, and Sustainability Managers. These positions span sectors like technology, urban planning, and public policy, offering diverse pathways for graduates to contribute to smart and sustainable city development. Roles such as Urban Tech Specialist and Digital Governance Specialist are particularly sought after in government agencies and related organizations.

** Pending MOE approval*

Enquiries

MPhil	rbmadmit@hkust-gz.edu.cn
MSc in Urban Tech and Governance	sochmsc@hkust-gz.edu.cn
PhD in Urban Governance and Design	ugodt@hkust-gz.edu.cn

MBA in Innovation and Entrepreneurship

mbaplus.hkust-gz.edu.cn

Master of Business Administration in Innovation and Entrepreneurship

HKUST(GZ) MBA+ is designed for professionals who want to turn AI-driven disruption into business opportunities. Bringing together managers, investors, entrepreneurs, and innovators, the program combines an All-in-AI curriculum with entrepreneurial training and access to HKUST(GZ)' s technology ecosystem.

More than a traditional MBA, MBA+ is an accelerator for AI-era business leaders, helping students build the technological literacy, business judgment, and execution capabilities needed to lead innovation and entrepreneurship in a rapidly changing world.

Enquiries MBA in Innovation and Entrepreneurship mbaplus@hkustgz.edu.cn

Submit Your Application

Admission Requirements

To qualify for admissions to HKUST(GZ), applicants must meet all of the following requirements. Admission is selective and meeting these minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.

1. General Admission Requirements

For all applicants seeking postgraduate admission

- a **bachelor's degree** from a recognized institution, or an approved equivalent qualification

For PhD applicants (additional 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

2. English Language Requirements

Fulfill the English language requirements with one of the following proficiency attainments [1]:

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 you obtained bachelor's degree (or equivalent qualification) from 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.*

3. Program-Specific Admission Requirements

Some programs may stipulate additional requirements for admission.

Admission Timeline

2027-28 Fall Intake	
PhD	21 July 2026 to 15 June 2027 (23:59, GMT+8) for international applicants 21 July 2026 to 15 July 2027 (23:59, GMT+8) for Chinese applicants
Red Bird MPhil	Please visit *cft.hkust-gz.edu.cn/admission* for details
Taught Postgraduate	Please refer to the "Application" tab on the *fytgs.hkust-gz.edu.cn/postgraduate-programs* page for details
Admission offers issued	August 2026 to August 2027 Admission offers will be issued on a rolling basis, according to individual program's admission schedule
Program registration	Mid-August 2027
On-campus registration and New Student Orientation Week	Late August 2027
Program commencement	1 September 2027

2027-28 Spring Intake (exclusively for PhD & MBA Programs)	
Application Period	July 2027 to December 2027 Please check the detailed closing dates at *fytgs.hkust-gz.edu.cn/timeline* and apply well before the respective deadlines
Program registration	Early January 2028
On-campus registration and New Student Orientation Week	Mid-January 2028
Program commencement	End-January 2028

Studentship

Postgraduate Studentship (PGS) for MPhil and PhD Students

- **CNY 10,000 per month**, up to **2 years** for full-time MPhil students
- **CNY 15,000 per month**, up to **4 years** for full-time PhD students

Tuition Fees

Research Postgraduate Programs

MPhil/PhD (with PGS) Full-time

- CNY 60,000 per academic year

PhD (self-financed) Full-time/Part-time

- CNY 150,000 per academic year

Taught Postgraduate Programs

- **Fees vary for each program.** Please refer to fytgs.hkust-gz.edu.cn/programs ("General Information") for details.

The booklet was published in July, 2026.
For the most up-to-date information, please refer to fytgs.hkust-gz.edu.cn

hkust-gz.edu.cn

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou)