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NEW ACCOUNTING DEGREE OFFERS BETTER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates without an accounting background may still pursue professional accounting, thanks to a new Master of Science Programme in Accounting introduced at HKUST this September.

These students must obtain at least six credit hours of accounting courses or take a remedial accounting course within the programme's first semester. The programme is recognised by the Hong Kong Society of Accountants, which will exempt UST Master's Degree-holders from some of the professional examinations.

Career options for graduates includes not only professional accounting, but also banking, securities, investment and finance.

The introduction of the programme was prompted by strong calls from the public and private accounting sector. "The demand for qualified accountants is especially great in China where rapid economic development makes good account controlling systems an imperative for large joint ventures," said Dr Bing Xiang, Assistant Professor in the Department of Accounting.

"Hong Kong can provide a pool of talented, competent and well-experienced accountants for Mainland China. That's one of our visions," said Dr Xiang.

Interestingly, Mainland students, lecturers and banking professionals are also attracted to the comprehensive, up-to-the-minute and career-oriented programme. Many have applied to the programme in search of quality teaching, academic enrichment and, above all, international exposure.

Apart from non-accounting graduates and Chinese students, practising accountants may also find the programme highly beneficial as a means to keeping abreast of the latest developments in their field.

"We are focusing not on the technicalities of accounting but on the environment in which accounting information is being used. Students will also gain a broad perspective on the developments of accounting in areas such as the U.S. and China," said Dr Xiang.

Note to Editors:

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