PhD Students Named Young Fulbright Fellows

Two PG students were awarded Fulbright Fellowships and will visit a host institution in the United States to conduct dissertation research for a period of six to 10 months. Sze Fan Fu and Zhou Jiantao, current PhD students in the Chemical Engineering Department and Electronic and Computer Engineering Department respectively, are among a total of six PG students from Hong Kong to receive this year's Fulbright Fellowship Award. Sze will visit Kansas State University and Zhou will visit the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The award was offered for the 2007/08 academic year by the Research Grants Council in collaboration with the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong.

Overseas Research Awards for PhD Students

To enrich the research experience of selected PhD students, an award scheme known as Overseas Research Attachment Program for PhD Students was launched in the last academic year. The scheme has provided an opportunity for selected students to work in a different research environment with a different group of researchers. The overseas experience provides students with exposure to a foreign culture and environment, better prepare them for their career developments, and widen their circle of professional contacts which may help them in their future work. The scheme, now renamed ‘Overseas Research Awards for PhD Students’, has been launched again in 2007/08. Details of the award and the application form can be found at: http://www.ust.hk/vpao/pg/guidelines.html.

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New PG Programs Launched in 2007/08

In the 2007/08 academic year, the following two taught master’s programs are being introduced:

- Master of Science in Global Finance (jointly offered with Stern School of Business, New York University)
- Master of Science in Biotechnology
Membership of the Committee on Postgraduate Studies

The Committee on Postgraduate Studies (CPS) was established by the Senate to advise and make recommendation to the Senate on policies and regulations and monitor and review procedures, quality and performance relating to postgraduate studies. Members on CPS include faculty and student representatives from the four schools. As of 1 October 2007, the membership of CPS is as follows:

**Chairman:**
Prof Mordecai J. GOLIN (CSE)

**Member and Secretary, ex-officio:**
Prof Ting-Chuen PONG (AVP-AA(PG))

**Members:**

**Science** –
Prof Zhenguow WU (BICH)
Prof Andrew Miller (BIOL)

**Engineering** –
Prof Jang-Kyo KIM (MECH)
Prof Kei May LAU (ECE)

**Business & Management** –
Mr. Chris C.O. TSANG (Assoc Dir / MBA)
Prof Rami ZWICK (Dir of MPhil/PhD)

**Humanities & Social Science** –
Prof Min ZHANG (HUMA)
Prof Virgil K. Y. HO (HUMA)

DARR, ex-officio –
Mr Robert BRASHEAR

**One postgraduate student each from the four schools**
Science – vacant
Engineering – vacant
Business & Management – vacant
Humanities & Social Science – vacant

CPS Meeting Dates

To help schools and departments better plan their curricular submissions to CPS, the meeting dates of CPS and Senate for 2007/08 are provided as follow:

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<td>Wed, 14 Nov 2007</td>
<td>Tue, 18 Dec 2007</td>
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<td>Wed, 16 Jan 2008*</td>
<td>Tue, 19 Feb 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, 12 Mar 2008*</td>
<td>Tue, 8 Apr 2008</td>
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<td>Wed, 9 July 2008*</td>
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* Tentative

Academic units are reminded that submissions to CPS should reach the PG Secretariat **eight working days before** the meeting dates. Papers which are late may be deferred to the next CPS meeting.

Listening Ears and Helping Hands at Your Service

Pursuing PG studies at HKUST may not be as easy as one might think. If you face difficulties in your studies, or if you wish to redress grievances about your program, thesis work and supervision arrangement, you should talk to your PG coordinator, and if needed your department head. If the issue cannot be solved at the departmental level, the Associate Dean (PG) of the school can also provide advice. If the problem still persists, you may contact the PG team of the Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs Office for assistance.
Academic policy matters related to PG studies can be raised with CPS for consideration.

On the personal side, the Virginia Tech incident which happened in April 2007 has led us to ponder on the keeping of the mental and emotional well being of our PG students. The following are things to watch out if you or your classmates:

✧ are overwhelmed by emotions such as depression, anxiety or anger;
✧ have become argumentative, withdrawn or allow their school performance to decline, or
✧ show or communicate intentions to act violently.

If you experience or detect any of the above signs, please contact immediately SAO’s Student Counseling and Career Service. Make it a habit to continue an open dialogue with your parents and friends during normal times and especially at adverse times when you feel stressed or anxious. These people are always there for you to talk through your feelings.

E-Thesis Submissions

In recent years, due to rapid advances made in the technology for the electronic storage of documents, many universities have revised their requirements for thesis submission by requiring students to submit an electronic copy of their final thesis for retention in the electronic thesis database of the university library. As a result of this worldwide trend of adopting a more efficient and effective practice of storing theses, as well as the need to be more caring for our environment by using less paper, the University has revised its policy on final thesis submission. From 1 July 2007 onwards, RPgs are required to submit an electronic copy of their thesis to the University Library at the time they submit their final thesis copies. At the same time, the number of hard copies of theses required for submission has been reduced.

Students may visit the following website for details on e-thesis submissions: http://library.ust.hk/th_submit.pl

Online RPG Annual Progress Reporting

As a measure to better monitor and place on record the study progress of RPgs, research students are required to submit through their home department an annual progress report every year. From the 2006/07 academic year onwards, a new web-based reporting system was introduced to replace the paper form of the annual progress report. All RPgs and faculty are required to use the online system to submit and/or endorse the progress reports. For details about online submissions of annual progress reports, please enter the system page in the intranet on Annual Progress Reporting and click the FAQ button on the top left hand corner.

Renewal of Student Visas for Non-local PG Students

Non-local PG students are required to renew their study visas with the Hong Kong Immigration Department on an annual basis. They should apply to ARRO for a supporting letter before they submit their application to the Hong Kong
Immigration Department. Students may wish to find out more about student visa matters and related immigration policy at the following website:
http://www.immd.gov.hk/ehtml/faq_ipoe.htm

Non-local students should note that the onus is on them to find out when they need to apply for an extension of their student visa. The expiry date of their visa is stated on the visa label in their Entry Permit.

It is illegal for non-local students to stay in Hong Kong without a valid visa. Offenders may face serious outcome such as deportation by the Hong Kong Immigration Department or prosecution by the Hong Kong Government when caught. Non-local students should take their visa matters seriously.

**PGS Rate for 2007/08**

The rate for PG studentship (PGS) for the 2007/08 academic year is HK$12,500 per month. PGS is a scholarship award given to full-time RPgs to ensure that they need not concern with looking for other sources of income to support themselves. Full-time RPgs should devote full efforts to their studies. The PGS Terms and Conditions for 2007/08 are available for viewing and download from the PG Studies homepage: www.ust.hk/vpaao/pg.

**Visiting Internship Students**

“Visiting Internship Students” is a student category introduced from Fall Semester 1998-99. These students usually come to study at HKUST to fulfill their directed research assignments or internship requirements of their home institutions, and the semester systems of their home units may be different from that of the University. The presence of visiting internship students may help stimulate cultural understanding among researchers and students of different origins.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a part of our ethical stance and is basic to every member of a higher education institution, whether as a student or as staff member. It goes without saying that there should be no place for dishonesty in whatever form and for whatever reason, among people in educational institutions with our lofty ideals of preparing future generations to serve the community as law-abiding, useful citizens.

As University members we rely on one and all among our staff and students to observe and uphold the highest standards of academic integrity, whether in research, studies, or any other aspect of scholastic life. Please find out more about academic integrity at HKUST, at this website: http://www.ust.hk/vpaao/integrity/

**COMMENTS WELCOME!**

This newsletter has been prepared by the PG Secretariat, Office the Vice-President for Academic Affairs. Please send us an email at pgsec@ust.hk if you have any feedback or suggestions on this newsletter.

http://www.ust.hk/vpaao/pg/