3. Admissions

3.1 Admission process

Postgraduate admissions are coordinated by the Graduate School, which invites applications all year round. Applications are considered based on their merits. Local and non-local applications are handled fairly and equally. Successful applicants are normally admitted to the following Fall Term (beginning in August). Applications for deferred admission to the Spring Term (beginning in January) or the next academic year will only be considered if students are unable to take up the study due to illness or an unavoidable cause. The maximum period for deferred admission is one year. Applications for deferred admission should be made to the Graduate Division Head before the start of the academic year.

Each year the Graduate School arranges a briefing on postgraduate admission for staff members of the University. The Manual on Postgraduate Admissions will be updated and distributed to guide them through the exercise. The admission and notification processes are summarised in the diagram on the following page.

3.2 Entrance requirements

Entrance requirements of different RPg programmes are set out in the General Regulations Governing Postgraduate Studies (http://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk). Graduate Divisions may set additional programme-specific requirements, such as a subject test, or waive such requirements for some special cases. Applicants are also required to fulfil the University’s minimum English language requirements for admission to our RPg programmes. Details are given in the latest year version of the Research Postgraduate Prospectus (http://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/admission).

Applicants holding academic qualifications awarded by completing a programme which differed substantially from “traditional” curricula may be required to provide evidence or objective assessment from accreditation bodies, e.g., Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), for further consideration.

3.3 Quality of students admitted to RPg programmes

For quality assurance purposes, the entrance qualifications of admitted RPg students is closely monitored. The Executive Committee of the Graduate Council (GCExCo) resolved in November 2011 to entrust Faculties with the responsibility of monitoring the quality of RPg admissions. Statistics are collected from the Faculties for presentation to the Resource Allocation Committee (RAC). Supervisors and staff members responsible for RPg admissions should uphold the standards for student admissions, as one of the quality assurance measures.
Admission and Notification Processes

Applications
  ↓
Graduate Divisions

Recommend to admit

Reject
  ↓
GS
  ↓
Post result on Web

Applicants who meet all requirements
  ↓
GS

Applicants who do not meet all requirements
  ↓
Division submits full justification to GSAC

Applicants who are expected to meet all requirements and awaiting documentary proof
  ↓
GS

Approve
  ↓
GS posts result on Web

Reject
  ↓
GS posts result on Web

Applicant declines offer
  ↓
Offer void

Applicant accepts offer
  ↓
Registration

Applicant declines offer
  ↓
Offer void

Applicant accepts offer
  ↓
Registration

Evidence provided by applicant do not meet condition or no evidence provided by deadline
  ↓
Offer void

Evidence provided by applicant meets condition
  ↓
Registration

GS - Graduate School
GSAC - Graduate School Admissions Committee