

Press release

For immediate release

HKU Science launches new double degree elite programme 6688 Science Master Class Incubating the next generation of scientists

November 11, 2020

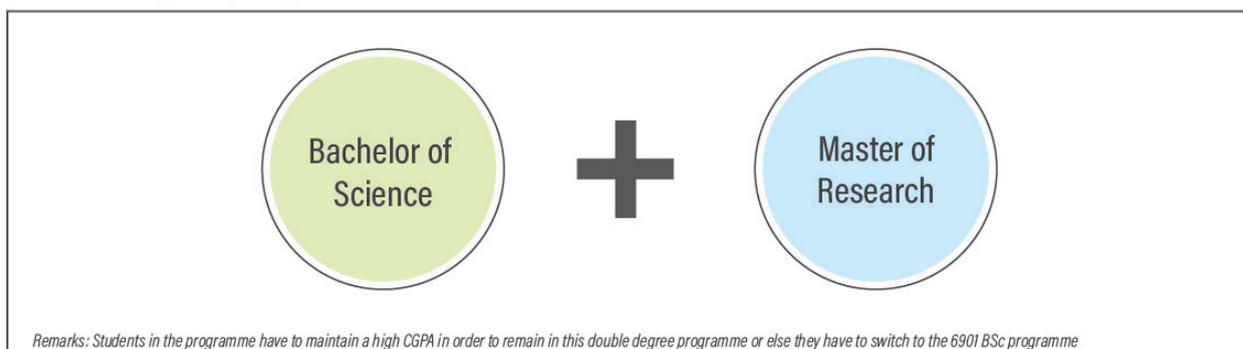
The Faculty of Science of The University of Hong Kong (HKU) is introducing a new double degree programme, the 6688 Science Master Class in academic year 2021-22, allowing talented students to complete 2 degrees – a Bachelor of Science (BSc) and a Master of Research (MRes) from HKU in a fast track. This elite programme caters specifically to the needs of science-inclined students, with Science Masters (renowned scientists in the Faculty) helping students achieve their scholastic potential in science.

One of the best ways to learn is to be inspired from those who excel. This programme allows research-aspired students to immerse themselves in an authentic research environment and learn from researchers from diverse backgrounds, incubating the next generation of dynamic scientists who are able to translate scientific knowledge into practical applications with far- and wide-reaching impacts. We have renowned scientists including Members of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Hong Kong Academy of Sciences, Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences, International Members of National Academy of Sciences USA, Foreign Member of Academia Europaea, awardees of State Natural Science Awards and a number of highly cited scientists.

“We understand the learning pace and needs of highly able students might be different – they are quick learners who can usually accomplish more than expected, which a standard pedagogical routine might not be an ideal option for them. Skills alone would not make one succeed. It is the attitude, visions and efforts that set one’s direction. Learning from our Grand Masters and Masters, our top scholars who have exceptional accomplishments in their research areas, will definitely help our students broaden their horizon and establish personal network, facilitating their pursuit of research career in the future,” said Professor Matthew Evans, Dean of Faculty of Science.

Image 1.

Double degree programme for elite students



Where will this Programme lead our students

- Career development & network
 - Nurtures students who intend to pursue research in science
 - After completing the programme, students will be fully equipped to further pursue graduate studies in prominent university overseas or in HKU
 - Builds a consortium of young researchers for cross fertilisation of innovative ideas and facilitate possible multidisciplinary projects
- Transferable skills
 - Provides students with extensive subject knowledge and specialised training
 - Nurtures a scientifically literate population to formulate solutions for research challenges

Image 2.
Features of the 6688 Science Master Class

Fast-track for completing 2 degrees

BSc
+
MRes

Learning from Science Masters



Grand Masters
through special tutorials



Masters
as academic advisers

Catering the needs of elite students



disciplinary-based intensive study for research-aspired students



ample opportunities available in our flagship Young Scientist Scheme (YSS) including

- Summer Research Fellowship
- Overseas Research Fellowship
- Exchange Study
- Entrance Scholarship
- be included in the Cambridge-track*

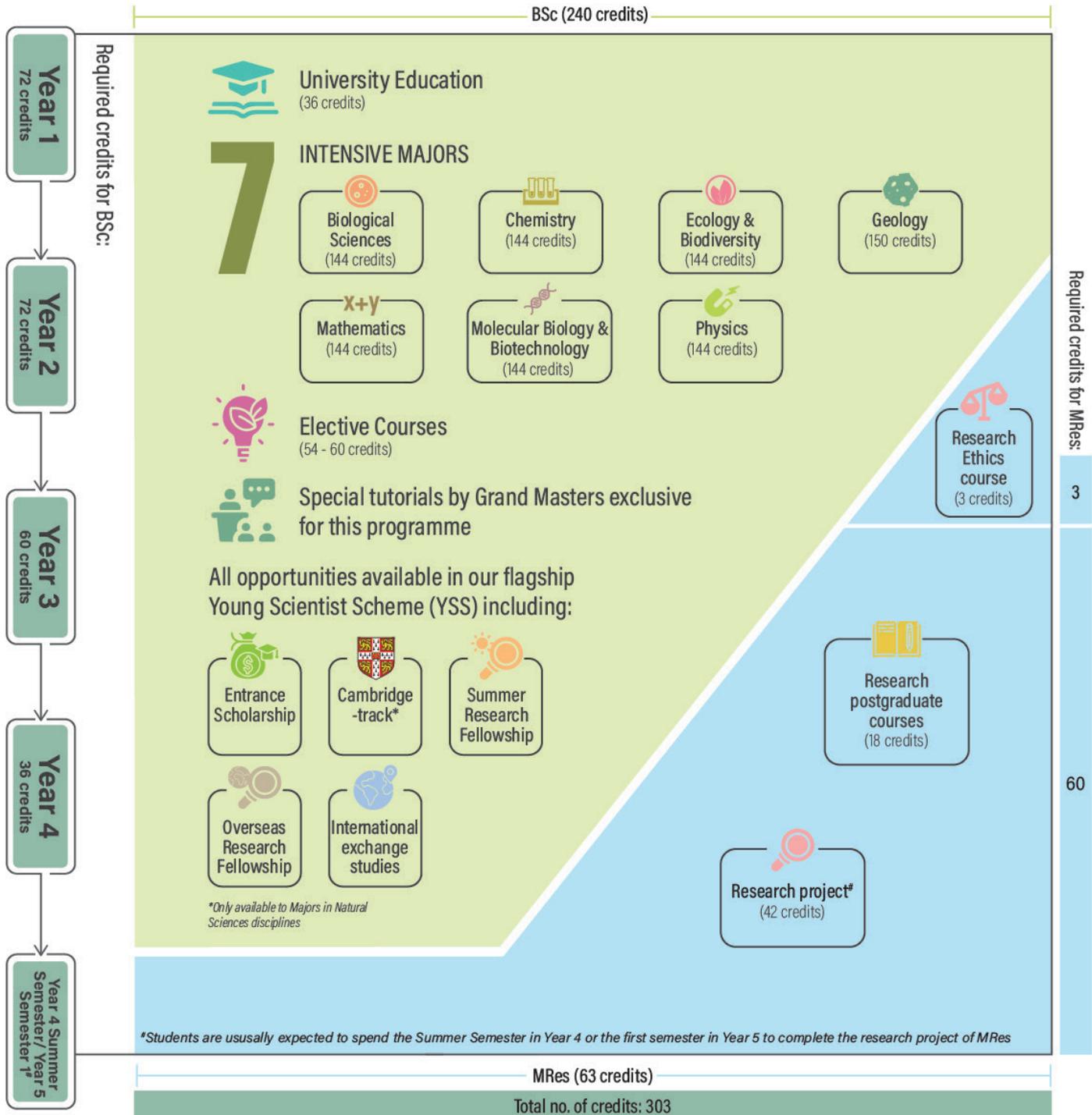
*-only available to Majors in Natural Sciences disciplines
-candidates will then follow the track if admitted to Cambridge successfully

Research-oriented



Research postgraduate courses and research projects to enhance the students' frontier scientific knowledge and research skills

Image 3.
An example of study path for the 6688 Science Master Class



What the programme covers

A list of Intensive Majors is appended below:

- Biological Sciences (Intensive)*
- Chemistry (Intensive)*
- Ecology & Biodiversity (Intensive) *
- Geology (Intensive) *
- Mathematics (Intensive)
- Molecular Biology & Biotechnology (Intensive) *
- Physics (Intensive)

**Some of the Intensive Majors fulfill the accreditation requirements of various societies in the UK*

Courses such as research ethics, research postgraduate course and research project, will be offered to students to enhance their scientific method and research skills.

In addition to the study of disciplinary-based Intensive Majors, an array of opportunities in our flagship [Young Science Scheme \(YSS\)](#) including entrance scholarship, Cambridge-track**, Summer Research Fellowship, Overseas Research Fellowship and International exchange studies are also available to the students.

***Only available to Majors in Natural Sciences disciplines; candidates will then follow the track if admitted to Cambridge successfully.*

Image 4.



From the left: Professor Alice WONG, Associate Dean (Teaching & Learning), Faculty of Science, Professor Vivian Wing Wah YAM, Philip Wong Wilson Wong Professor in Chemistry and Energy and Chair Professor of Chemistry, Professor Wing Sum CHEUNG, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Faculty of Science.

Supplementary Information

How to apply

JUPAS Applicants

Students in local secondary schools taking the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) should apply through JUPAS. Minimum requirements for the programmes:

English Language[#]: Level 5 or above; Chinese Language: Level 3 or above; Mathematics and Extended Modules 1 or 2 in Mathematics (M1/M2): Level 4 or above; 2 Science elective subjects^{##}: Level 3 or above; Liberal Studies: Level 2 or above

[#]*Candidates with level 4 in English Language but with excellent results in Science subjects/ Mathematics will be exceptionally considered on a case-by-case basis.*

^{##}*Science elective subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Combined Science and Integrated Science*

Non-JUPAS Applicants

Non-JUPAS applicants will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Higher level Mathematics is required for IB students. For GCEAL students, Mathematics and Further Mathematics are required. Excellent results in Mathematics are required for students with other qualifications.

Quota:

15-20

Scholarships:

- Entrance scholarship
- Scholarships will be provided to cover at least 50% of the tuition fee of the MRes programme

Remarks:

This is a new programme for offer from September 2021 and there may still be fine tuning to the programme. Prospective students will be informed of any updates of the programme in due course.

Our Grand Masters

Professoriate Staff	Department/ School	Award	Year of Award
Professor Chi Ming CHE	Chemistry	Founding Member of Hong Kong Academy of Sciences	2015
		Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences	2013
		State Natural Science Award (First-class)	2006
		Croucher Foundation Senior Research Fellowship	1997-1998
		Member of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)	1995
Professor Ngai Ming MOK	Mathematics	Member of Hong Kong Academy of Sciences	2017
		Member of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)	2015
		State Natural Science Award (Second-class)	2007
		Croucher Foundation Senior Research Fellowship	1998-1999
Professor Michael Kwok Po NG	Mathematics	Feng Kang Prize of Scientific Computing	2017
Professor Min SUN	Earth Sciences	National Natural Science Award (First-class) (co-winner)	2018
		State Natural Science Award (Second-class) (co-winner)	2014
Professor Vivian Wing Wah YAM	Chemistry	Founding Member of Hong Kong Academy of Sciences	2015
		Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences	2012
		State Natural Science Award (Second-class)	2005
		Member of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)	2001
		Croucher Foundation Senior Research Fellowship	2000-2001
Professor Wang YAO	Physics	Croucher Foundation Senior Research Fellowship	2019-2020
		Member of Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences	2017
Professor Alice Sze Tsai WONG	Biological Sciences	Croucher Foundation Senior Research Fellowship	2012-2013
Professor Guochun ZHAO	Earth Sciences	Member of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)	2019
		National Natural Science Award (First-class) (co-winner)	2018
		State Natural Science Award (Second-class) (co-winner)	2014

Introduction of Grand Masters and details of the Programme can be viewed at:

<https://www.scifac.hku.hk/prospective/ug/6688-science-master-class/introduction>

Register for Admissions talk@Zoom (Nov 24, 2020, 5pm): <https://bit.ly/32uqEIH>

Images download: <https://www.scifac.hku.hk/press>

For media enquiries, please contact Ms Casey To, External Relations Officer (Tel: 3917-4948; email: caseyto@hku.hk) and Ms Cindy Chan, Assistant Communications Director of Faculty of Science (Tel: 3917-5286; email: cindycst@hku.hk).