Department of
Biomedical Sciences

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong

Application Guide for PhD Admission (2021 Entry)

The latest version of this guide is available at: www.cityu.edu.hk/bms/prog/rpg.htm

Programme Overview.

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme offered by the Department of Biomedical Sciences (BMS) at City University of Hong Kong (CityU) aims to understand fundamental mechanisms of biological processes and diseases, and translate new knowledge into the development of novel diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for prediction, prevention, and treatment of human diseases. It is student-centred and led by faculty who are accessible, engaged and committed to ensuring that our research students reach their full potential in research, teaching and professional development. Students will be led to research in one of the four strategic areas on which the department's research is focused:

- Cancer biology and therapy
- Genomics and bioinformatics
- Regenerative medicine
- Infectious diseases and immunity

Programme Code	BMS2/P
Period of Study	Full-time: 4 years Part-time: 8 years
Curriculum	https://www.cityu.edu.hk/catalogue/pg/current/programme/BMS2_P.htm
Medium of Instruction and Assessment	English

Research in BMS.

The Department's research focuses on the relationships between human health, organisms, and diseases, covering specific areas of life sciences including molecular and cell biology, genetics and genomics, physiology and systems biology, pharmacology and medicinal chemistry, microbiology and immunology, and epidemiology and public health. We aim to understand fundamental mechanisms of disease initiation and progression, and translate new knowledge in biomedical sciences to the development of new therapeutic strategies and clinical practices for health services and healthcare industry.

Financial Aid.

Postgraduate Studentship (PGS)

- At least HKD17,510/month (rate in 2020/2021, subject to review every September)
- Eligible new students will be considered for the award of the Studentship as part of their application for admission i.e. no separate application is required.

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS)

- HKD26,600/month (rate as of July 2020, subject to review every July; not to be awarded with PGS concurrently)
- Conference and research-related travel allowance of HKD13,300/year
- Waiver of tuition fees and on-campus accommodation in the first year of study
- A list of additional funding is available here.

Merit Awards

- Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies (SGS) Scholarships: one-off cash award of HKD60,000
- Research Tuition Scholarship: in form of tuition fee exemption for the academic year
- Outstanding Academic Performance Award: award certificate and cash prize of HKD1,000

Others

- Please click here to find out more about our funding opportunities to students.
- Apart from the listed funding, external scholarships are also open for applications from time to time throughout the year. Announcements will be made through emails.

Tuition Fee.

Fund Type	Full-time	Part-time
Government-funded Students	HKD3,508/month	HKD1,754/month
Self-financing Students	HKD7,016/month	HKD3,508/month

For details and other fees, please browse SGS' Admissions Handbook (Section 7).

Tuition Waiver for Local Students

The Government has introduced a Tuition Waiver Scheme for all local students enrolled in the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded research postgraduate programmes.

Admission.

Key Dates.

Semester A 2021/2022	Commencing 30 August 2021
Application Deadline	12:00 noon, 1 December 2020
	Applications received after deadline will be considered subject to the number of student places left outside the main admission round. The Department has rolling start dates of study throughout the year.
Result Announcement	March 2021 onwards

How to Apply.

1	**Check Eligibility (page 3)**	Check academic qualification requirements Check English proficiency requirements
2	**Obtain Potential Supervisor's Consent**	Contact our academic staff directly to discuss your research plan Seek consent from ONE professor to be your prospective supervisor before submitting an application
3	**Prepare Required Documents (page 5)**	Check sheet, proofs of qualifications and supervisor's consent, referee's reports, etc.
4	**Apply Online (page 4)**	Complete application online Pay application fee Upload all required documents

Eligibility.

Academic Qualifications

You should have a first-class bachelor's degree (or its equivalent) or a master's degree (or its equivalent) in a related field from a recognised university.

Minimum English Proficiency Requirements

IELTS	TOEFL (iBT)	CET6
6.5	79	490
Validity period and details available on SGS website	Validity period and details available on SGS website MyBest™ Scores are NOT accepted	Considered on a case-by-case basis for regular admission NOT accepted for HKPFS applicants

Exemption

The above English test result can be exempted if you are:

- with at least one of your degrees (for regular admission), or all degrees (for HKPFS applicants), from Hong Kong or a country with English as the SOLE official language e.g. USA, UK and Canada (this waiver is NOT applicable to those with a degree majoring in Chinese / Chinese medicine); OR
- able to provide institutional proof that English is the medium of instruction of at least one degree (for regular admission) or all degrees (for HKPFS applicants).

Important Notes

The above information is excerpted from SGS' guidelines. Please refer to SGS website for the latest requirements on English proficiency.

Apply Online.

Application Type	Research Degree
Department/School	Biomedical Sciences
Records of Post-secondary Qualifications	Your full education history starting from bachelor's degree
Online Application Fee	HKD200 per application (non-refundable and non-transferable)

You are strongly advised to submit your application with all required documents at least one week before application deadline, given that full applications will be handled first and we may not be able to help you with all questions in time during the peak application period.

Applications will NOT be processed if (i) the application fee is unsettled, (ii) any required documents remain unreceived, or (iii) false/misleading information is found.

Notes to HKPFS Applicants

You need to firstly submit an initial application at Research Grants Council (RGC)'s HKPFS Electronic System, then quote the HKPFS reference number in CityU's application online by deadline (12:00 noon, 1 December 2020). RGC does NOT accept late applications.

Your research plan and vision statement, which should be PERSPICACIOUS instead of lengthy, will be undergone through plagiarism checking. In the event of false information or committed plagiarism with suspicious contents, both applications for HKPFS and admission at CityU will be DISQUALIFIED.

Notes to VM/P Applicants

The Interdisciplinary PhD Programme in Veterinary Sciences (VM/P) is offered by Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences (JCC) and has different admission requirements. Please consult your proposed supervisor to submit a SEPARATE application if necessary.

Notes to MPhil Applicants

Please browse SGS website for relevant information and consult your potential supervisor on possible vacancies prior to application submission.

Required Documents.

A scanned/digital copy of the following OFFICIAL documents should reach the online application system on time. All documents including transcripts should be in CLEARLY READABLE PDF format. We DO NOT ACCEPT word files (.doc and .docx) or transcripts you typed yourself.

HKPFS applicants must provide their research plan and vision statement in the online application. Applicants applying for regular PhD studies should consult their proposed supervisor whether such kind of documents (CV, personal statement, research proposal, etc.) are required or not.

Check Sheet

- Complete and upload the prescribed Check Sheet

Proof of Supervisor's Consent

- A pdf of email showing that ONE of our academic staff has agreed to be your prospective supervisor

Applicants who failed to find a supervisor will normally not be considered.

Identity Document

- Your identity proof e.g. a passport page showing your full name in English

Certificate of (Expected) Graduation

- Certificates of (expected) graduation of all bachelor's degrees
- Certificates of (expected) graduation of all master's degrees (if applicable)

Each non-English certificate must be accompanied by a certified English translation.

Applicants with a degree in Mainland China must provide Chinese and English versions of both graduation certificate (畢業證書) and degree diploma (學位證書) i.e. four documents in total for each degree.

Transcript and Grading System

- Final/Up-to-date transcripts of all bachelor's degrees
- Final/Up-to-date transcripts of all master's degrees (if applicable)
- Grading system showing the grading scale and the maximum achievable score/GPA (normally displayed on the back / last page of the transcript)

Each non-English document must be accompanied by a certified English translation.

Applicants with a degree in Mainland China must provide transcripts (成績單) in both Chinese and English for each degree. If the transcript does not show the cumulative GPA or the average score, a testimonial showing the info should be accompanied.

Required Documents. (cont.)

Proof of English Proficiency

- Test report / institutional document(s) proving your English proficiency as specified on page 3

Proof of Publication Record (if applicable)

- For PUBLISHED papers: upload the front page of each paper
- For papers ACCEPTED for publishing: upload the letter/email of acceptance and abstract of each paper

Each proof should clearly show the name of journal, abstract, list of authors in order, publishing status (published / in press / accepted etc.) and DOI.

You are NOT required to upload the entire paper.

Papers without proof will NOT be counted in support of your application.

Two Academic Referee's Reports

- Provide information on two academic referees in your online application

  - For applicants seeking regular admission, SGS will email your referees to complete the referee's reports via an online platform directly. If they missed the emails, please ask them to download the Referee's Report Form for completion.
  - INSTEAD OF THE ABOVE, HKPFS applicants are required to email the HKPFS-specific Referee's Report Form directly to their referees for completion.

Eligibility of Referees

PhD holders in academic circles with current/previous supervisory role on you, thus with ability to comment on your academic performance e.g. MPhil supervisor, academic advisor and teacher

INELIGIBLE: proposed supervisor/co-supervisor in BMS, postdoc, general technical/research staff, same-level colleague, schoolmate, friend, etc.

Screening.

The admission committee will take into account various factors such as your academic excellence and research ability/potential in making admission decisions. Communication and interpersonal skills, leadership abilities and cultural diversity will also be considered, especially for HKPFS applicants. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for a compulsory face-to-face/video interview.

Application Result and Enrolment.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis after deadline. Application results will be announced from March 2020 onwards normally. You can check your application status through the online application system.

Successful applicants will receive email notification from SGS. They should then follow the offer letter to settle the acceptance fee of HKD7,016 within two weeks and complete enrolment as given in the admission notes.

Useful Links.

For prospective students	BMS	List of Supervisors
	BMS	List of Research Students and Research Areas
	SGS	Admission Website
	SGS	Admissions Handbook
For admitted students	SGS	Admission Notes

Enquiries — You may get instant answers to the most frequently asked questions at our FAQ webpage. If you still have remaining questions after reviewing the comprehensive information provided, please contact the relevant unit:

RGC	Enquiries about HKPFS
SGS	Enquiries about online application
BMS	Enquiries about our PhD programme

Check Sheet Sample.

URL: www.cityu.edu.hk/bms/prog/rpg/checksheet.pdf