Join HKUST, a top University in Asia, where academicians gather, educators inspire, creative minds thrive and young leaders bloom. You will grow in this vibrant and exciting community and you will fly high when you leave.

**School of Science**

The School of Science is committed to pursuing cutting-edge research, making ground-breaking discoveries and establishing new research paradigms. Our quality and well-balanced education places particular emphasis on grit, curiosity and creativity. We are dedicated to equipping our students with the knowledge and confidence to be inspirational leaders who are capable of making a difference to society.

High quality education requires dedicated educators. The School of Science has recruited outstanding faculty members, many of whom have graduated from top-notch universities over the world such as Cambridge, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, MIT, Oxford, Princeton, UC Berkeley, UCLA and U Penn. They are world-renowned in their research fields and have attained international stature in recognition of their scientific contributions. With strong commitment to both teaching and research, they instill in our students the importance of scientific rigor and ethics, and at the same time, serve as mentors to inspire and encourage our students to achieve their full potential.

**Groundbreaking Research**

- Research discoveries in neuroscience, polymer chemistry, aggregation-induced emission (AIE), light-emitting materials, nanotechnology, acoustic / elastic metamaterials, protein structure and function, molecular basis of brain diseases and genome-mining based bioactive compound discovery, etc.
- Exploration into contemporary research areas in science: Particle Theory and Cosmology, Super-resolution imaging in Biophysics, Computational Science, Representation Theory, etc.

**World-class Research Facilities**

- State Key Laboratory of Molecular Neuroscience
- Hong Kong Branch of Chinese National Engineering Research Center for Tissue Restoration and Reconstruction
- Biotechnology Research Institute
- William Mong Institute of Nano Science and Technology
- Joint KAUST-HKUST Micro/Nanofluidics Laboratory
- GSK R&D China-HKUST Neuroscience Laboratory
- Sino-German Nano-Analytical Laboratory
- Coastal Marine Laboratory
- Center for Cancer Research
- Center for Chinese Medicine R&D
- Center for Fundamental Physics
- Center for Metamaterials Research
- Center for Scientific Computation
- Center for Space Science Research
- Center for Statistical Science
- Center for Stem Cell Research
- Center for Systems Biology and Human Health
- Molecular Neuroscience Center
- SSCI-IAS Super-resolution Imaging Center
Program Structure

Our 4-year curriculum enables students to have a broader knowledge base and more flexibility in their studies. Students admitted to the School of Science can opt to declare their major in any program in the School of Science, as well as the Joint School and Interdisciplinary Programs.

Year 1

Students will enroll in science foundation courses according to their interests and background, as well as courses in other areas to fulfill the University Common Core requirement.

Minimum credit requirement for graduation: 120

Year 2-4

Students will declare a major program in their second year. They may also consider declaring a minor program in order to add a secondary area of focus to their major.

Normative period of study: 4 Years

4-Year Curriculum:

Graduation Requirement:

Our aim is to provide a diverse learning experience for students. Lectures, laboratory courses, Capstone projects and language courses tailored for science students are integrated into the 4-year curriculum to ensure that students have a solid foundation and adequate exposure to a range of science disciplines.

Along with the desired study path, students will have ample opportunities to enjoy a slew of co-curricular programs and enrichment activities aimed at widening exposure and fostering personal development.
International Research Enrichment (IRE) Program

The IRE program is an independent and separate program choice. It is a pioneer study track tailor-made for students with particular interest in pursuing a research career in Science or broadening their exposure to research during their undergraduate studies. It emphasizes curiosity and grit, which are essential attributes to a successful career in scientific research. As an “Elite Program”, it offers outstanding science students an early opportunity to nurture their research abilities and solidify their discipline-specific knowledge in regular Science programs.

IRE students will enjoy:

- Free choice among six major programs: Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Mathematics, and Physics;
- Opportunities to participate in advanced research projects under the supervision of world-class professors;
- Opportunities to meet with Nobel Laureates and renowned scientists from around the world through involvement in the activities of the Institute for Advanced Study at HKUST;
- Exchange opportunity in a renowned foreign university including University of California, Berkeley; Columbia University; Northwestern University; ETH Zurich, Switzerland; University of British Columbia, etc.;
- Summer research internship opportunity in foreign universities/national laboratories such as: Cambridge; Chicago; Johns Hopkins; CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research), Switzerland; CNRS (French National Center for Scientific Research), France, etc.;
- Scholarship support for overseas learning trips.
Science School Programs

BSc in Biochemistry and Cell Biology (BCB)
BSc in Biological Science (BISC)
BSc in Biotechnology (BIOT)
BSc in Biotechnology and Business (BIBU)
BSc in Chemistry (CHEM)
• Biomolecular Chemistry Option
• Environmental and Analytical Chemistry Option
• Materials Chemistry Option
• Pure Chemistry Option
BSc in Environmental Science (ENVS)
BSc in Mathematics (MATH)
• Applied Mathematics Track
• Computer Science Track
• Mathematics and Physics Track
• Pure Mathematics Track
• Pure Mathematics (Advanced) Track
• Statistics and Financial Mathematics Track
BSc in Mathematics and Economics (MAEC)

Joint School Programs

School of Science & School of Business and Management
BSc in Biotechnology and Business (BIBU)
BSc in Mathematics and Economics (MAEC)

Interdisciplinary Programs

BSc in Environmental Management and Technology (EVMT)
BSc in Risk Management and Business Intelligence (RMBI)
Dual Degree Program in Technology and Management (BEng / BSc & BBA)

Minor Programs

Students can enjoy additional learning experiences by enrolling in various minor programs offered by different Schools.
BSc in BIOCHEMISTRY & CELL BIOLOGY (BCB)

Students will study how biomolecules, which are the fundamental building blocks of all living organisms, work harmoniously in cell-free experimental systems (Biochemistry) and also within cells (Cell Biology). The early curriculum is broad-based and teaches students the fundamental concepts and principles of Biochemistry and Cell Biology. This will enable students to explore and develop their own interests in various aspects of modern molecular life sciences. As they progress through the program, they will take more advanced and specialized elective courses. BCB students will also have the option of engaging in intensive practical training and research opportunities.

LIFE SCIENCE

/Career Prospects

BCB graduates will have a broad range of career options. Students will be well-prepared for postgraduate research studies and future employment opportunities in academia, medical and biotechnology research. In addition, BCB graduates will also be fully equipped to pursue other vocational careers in private and government sectors requiring a life science background, including healthcare, biotechnology and education. With recent advances in technology and societal expectations driving an expansion in career and employment opportunities, life science is truly at exciting times.

/BSc in BIOTECHNOLOGY (BIOT)

This program focuses on basic and advanced biotechnological elements related to research, development and manufacturing of biotechnology products, including medicines, cosmetics, agricultural goods, food and healthcare devices. It provides students with theoretical and practical knowledge of the latest biotechnological developments, with particular focus on the applied aspects of life sciences. The curriculum also requires basic understanding of concepts across various biological spectra including biochemistry, cell biology, molecular biology, microbiology and genetics.

/Career Prospects

The BIOT major equips students with various basic and specific biotechnological elements to meet the growing demand in the markets of pharmaceutical, agricultural, business and education. The underlying objective of the major is to serve as a biotechnology powerhouse to provide the manpower market with fresh impetus so as to move this emerging industry forward. Career opportunities are amply available in both the private and government sectors.

/Bcsc in BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE (BISC)

This versatile program aims to provide students with a broad coverage and a basic understanding of major principles, concepts and technologies of organismal and systems biology, including animal, plant, evolutionary and environmental biology. The flexibility of this major facilitates students in undertaking more elective courses offered by other academic departments such as Engineering, Social Sciences, Humanities and Business.

/BSc in BIOTECHNOLOGY (BIOT)

/Career Prospects

The BIOC major equips students with a solid background in physics. It prepares students with theoretical and practical training in modern life sciences, and acquaints students with practical skills that are crucial for biotech product research, development and production.

/BSc in BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE (BISC)

/Career Prospects

The emphasis of this program is to equip students with a broad scope of general biological knowledge, which provides students with comprehensive training in transferrable skills as well as opportunities in independent learning required for all career paths. Our Biological Science students are armed with strong skills in acquisition of scientific enquiry and critical thinking and the majority of graduates accept jobs requiring interdisciplinary knowledge. Moreover, students will be equipped with strong problem solving skills and analytical skills throughout their science training. A wide range of career options will be available to our Biological Science graduates.

/BSc in BIOTECHNOLOGY (BIOT)

/Career Prospects

The BIOT program provides students sound theoretical training in modern life sciences, and acquaints students with practical skills that are crucial for biotech product research, development and production.
BSc in MATHEMATICS (MATH)

Mathematics permeates almost every discipline of science and technology. It is not only a tool for understanding the abstract models of real world phenomena while solving practical problems, but it is also the language of commerce, engineering and other sciences such as biology, physics and computing. Students choosing the Mathematics program will be able to select a track of study from our diverse Mathematics program.

There are six tracks under the Mathematics program:
- Applied Mathematics Track
- Computer Science Track
- Mathematics and Physics Track
- Pure Mathematics Track
- Pure Mathematics (Advanced) Track
- Statistics and Financial Mathematics Track

/Career Prospects

On average about a quarter of MATH graduates pursue further studies, a majority of whom have enrolled in institutions abroad. Another quarter of graduates choose careers in teaching. The remaining graduates are employed in various businesses and service sectors, including but not limited to administration and management, computer programming, accounting, insurance, marketing sales, purchasing, banking and finance, and academia.

BSc in MATHEMATICS AND ECONOMICS (MAEC)

Starting from the 2016-17 academic year, this program is offered as a Joint School Program with the School of Business and Management. See page 14 for details.

BSc in PHYSICS (PHYS)

Physics covers everything from the tiniest elementary particle to the ultimate fate of the universe, and provides the foundation for all modern science and engineering. By choosing the Physics program, students will have the opportunity to learn about exciting topics ranging from quantum physics and nanotechnology, to quarks, black holes and superconductivity.

The program offers three options:
- Applied Physics Option
- Physics and Mathematics Option
- Honors Physics Option

/Career Prospects

Students can pursue further study or work in the fields of teaching, research, technical sales, forensic science, medical industry, commerce, banking, etc. Since students are rigorously trained in analytical and problem solving skills, a wide variety of job opportunities await them. Career opportunities are amply available in both the government as well as private sectors.

/Highlight

The Physics program provides students with both depth and breadth in their studies. Students who take this program can build a solid background in physics. It prepare students for science-related careers, or for further studies in physics and related fields.
BSc in CHEMISTRY (CHEM)
Students will study all aspects of chemistry and related disciplines. General areas covered include analytical chemistry, inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, and physical chemistry. Specialized areas include environmental chemistry, medicinal chemistry, biological chemistry, polymer chemistry, materials chemistry including nanostructures, advanced instrumentation, advanced computational and theoretical chemistry.

The program offers four options:
- Biomolecular Chemistry Option
- Environmental and Analytical Chemistry Option
- Materials Chemistry Option
- Pure Chemistry Option

BEHAVE and MAEC Programs
Program Structure
Majors and Minors
International Research Enrichment (IRE) Program
Current Students Sharing
Enrichment Program – “Science for Success”
Student Advising
BIBU and MAEC Programs

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (ENVS)
Environmental science is practical and closely-related to everyday life. The environment is an integrated system that encompasses the physical component (air, land, and water), biological component (living organisms and their interactions), human populations, as well as the inter-relationships among these components. The program intends to provide students with a solid training in relevant areas with special focus on ecosystems. The program offers a flexible and multidisciplinary curriculum for students to meet their career goals.

Careers Prospects
Our graduates have gone on to become chemists or technicians in government laboratories or private accredited laboratories, school teachers, environmental consultants, chemical engineers, Chinese medicine researchers, pharmacists, marketing representatives for lab equipment suppliers and computer companies, scientific patent officers, script writers, reporters for science journals or magazines, as well as post- graduates that pursue higher degrees in both local and overseas universities.

Highlighted
This program provides excellent general training in both analytical thinking and problem solving. The curriculum, which includes basic training in analytical, inorganic, organic, and physical chemistry and modern laboratory techniques and skills, has been specifically designed to allow students maximum flexibility in determining the extent of their specialization.

Careers Prospects
The ENVS program equips students to thrive in government agencies (Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Environmental Protection Department), environmental consultancies (environmental impact assessments, natural resource management), environmental related NGOs, public education (teachers, conservation groups, ecotourism) and academic research.

Highlighted
The ENVS program aims to provide students with the scientific principles required in the environmental field. Key environmental issues are examined to stimulate their critical thinking skills on current environmental problems and solutions, as well as to motivate them in contributing to environmental conservation either as responsible citizens or as professionals. Students are also encouraged to extend their learning outside of the classroom through field studies, laboratory classes, research projects, internships, etc.
**Joint School Programs**

**School of Science & School of Business and Management**

**BSc in Biotechnology and Business (BIBU)**

The newly developed program aims to groom competent students with a hybrid interest in both biotechnology applications and business operations. It offers a broad-based learning experience that cuts across biotechnology, life science and business management theories, in which students will gain transferrable skill sets to place them in good stead in the increasingly competitive job market.

/Career Prospects

The holistic BIBU experience prepares students to excel in any career path they aspire to. Potential employers include multinational pharmaceutical companies, vendors of biotechnology products/services, consulting firms focusing on the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, and many more.

/Highlight

It is the first undergraduate program in Hong Kong to offer rigorous training in both biotechnology and business, which is designed to prepare students for successful managerial careers within the biotechnology industry. The interdisciplinary curriculum equips students with a solid foundation of essential technical knowledge (e.g. recombinant DNA technology, bioprocessing, and genetic engineering) and business know-how (e.g. accounting, economics, finance, operations management, etc.).

**BSc in Mathematics and Economics (MAEC)**

As the complexity and technical aspects of contemporary economic problems exhibit strong synergy between mathematics and economics, this joint program aims to provide students with solid training in the fundamental theories of both disciplines. The MAEC program is suited to students who are keen on acquiring a strong quantitative background in economics to work in the business and financial sectors, or who intend to pursue further studies in applied mathematics or business fields such as economics, finance, and management science.

/Career Prospects

Career opportunities in the banking and finance industry are promising for those who are capable of applying mathematical tools to understand the financial markets and make economic forecasts. A number of our graduates have joined top-ranking financial institutions and multinational firms. Moreover, MAEC graduates are equipped with sufficient background for entry into postgraduate programs in economics, financial mathematics, statistics, and other business-related fields. Recent graduates have been admitted into PhD/Master’s programs at leading universities such as University of Oxford, Stanford University, and Yale University.

/Highlight

It is a unique undergraduate program in Hong Kong that combines modern economic theory with advanced mathematical skills, providing students with an excellent foundation for a successful career in the business, finance, and public sectors.

The balanced curriculum instills in students quantitative reasoning skills, conceptual understanding, and the ability to effectively communicate in mathematics and in the language of economics and social sciences. This broad-based program stresses lifelong learning abilities that translate seamlessly into various career pathways.

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**Student Life @ HKUST**

**Student Advising**

The Office of Academic Advising and Support was established in the School of Science to provide students with general orientation to the university, initial advice on course selection and consultation on the choice of major. The Office provides guidance to students on academic-related issues through –

- Providing accurate and relevant information about academic programs and other educational experiences available to them;
- Providing one-on-one consultation on the choice of major and possible double major / major-minor combinations to suit their interests, abilities and goals;
- Explaining university regulations, graduation requirements, and institutional policies and procedures;
- Enhancing their awareness of available educational resources on campus such as internship, mentorship, undergraduate research and exchange programs;
- Encouraging the use of the institutional and community services in support of academic success.

**MAGNET (Make A Great Net)**, a Peer Mentoring Program in the School of Science that aims to help freshmen make a rewarding transition to HKUST by providing a supportive environment in which they will meet a diverse group of students who share similar experiences and interests. Peer mentors are selected senior year students from different science disciplines, who are interested in assisting new students in overcoming the obstacles they may encounter during their first year. The mentor / mentee connection provides an academic, cultural, and social support network for students seeking academic excellence and satisfaction.

**First Year Course – SCIE1000 Science School Induction**

SCIE1000 Science School Induction, led by faculty advisors, advising staff and peer mentors, is a one-year course designed to provide support and guidance for all year one science students. It offers activities such as Science Majors Week, Popular Science Talk, etc., to help students adapt to university life, explore different majors and connect with faculty and other students.
Enrichment Program — “Science for Success”

Exchange Program

Currently, the School has more than eighty exchange partner institutions covering regions including Australia, Europe, North America, Southeast Asia and Mainland China, etc. Students joining the exchange program will be offered opportunities to experience overseas learning and new cultures for an entire semester.

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP)

UROP is HKUST’s signature program for undergraduate students to engage in academic research, with the aim of helping them develop a broad and insightful perspective on their areas of interest, under the supervision of seasoned faculty.

Career Training and Internship Program (CTI Program)

The CTI Program provides Science students with an array of career training activities including one-on-one career consultation on exploring students’ career goals, mock interviews with HR experts from different industries, and firm visits. It also provides individualized services such as referral to partner companies to help students find internship experiences and graduate jobs.

University Student Sponsorship Program in Wildlife Conservation (USSP)

Collaborating with the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong, Science students are sponsored to travel overseas to gain first-hand research experience, while contributing to wildlife conservation.

Cultural Study Tours to Mainland China

Our School has established close relationships with renowned institutions such as China Pharmaceutical University, Tsinghua University and Sichuan University to organize various study tours, encouraging Science students to step out of their comfort zone to experience a glimpse of Chinese culture.

MenTernship Program

Students joining the MenTernship Program are offered opportunities to shadow social dignitaries, either through social encounters and/or internship experience in the mentors’ respective fields.

Cambodia Social Service Program

To raise students’ awareness of serving the community, service learning trips to Cambodia have been held every year since 2010. Students will be involved in organizing visits and designing service programs for the needy, such as participating in science-related games with orphans, teaching them basic scientific knowledge and hospital visits to show their love and care to patients.

SCI/NUCLEUS Social Service Team

SCI/NUCLEUS is a student-driven social service team established to mobilize Science students, alumni and staff to serve the community. Passionate students will be selected as Social Leaders to not only participate in voluntary services, but also initiate more activities for members to join.

“Knowledge Without Borders” Seminar Series

To broaden students’ horizon beyond their major studies, seminars on a wide spectrum of topics covering culture, politics, economics, and environment, are held on a regular basis.
Studying Mathematics & Economics has been an immensely enjoyable journey for me so far. It has equipped me with both quantitative analytical skills as well as problem solving skills. In addition, the School of Science has provided plenty of career training and extracurricular learning opportunities. The career building course, in particular, has helped me to develop a deeper understanding of myself and allowed me to identify greater prospective career paths. The year-long Mentorship Program has offered an experience to shadow my mentor’s personal experiences and has established an environment for me to enhance my interpersonal communication skills. I have also recently completed my term as a social leader of SCI/NUCLEUS, the School of Science Social Service Team, where I was able to develop a relationship with the local community and significantly improve my organizational skills. In the coming semester, I will be an exchange student at the University of California, Los Angeles. I had never expected to be able to gain so many precious experiences. Keep an open mind, be involved, and enjoy yourself at the School of Science!

Shirley HUANG  
Year 3, Mathematics and Economics

Studying physics is not lonely, but is filled with many fun activities. You can always find someone to talk to, to play with or to study within the School of Science. Aside from my academic studies, I have also participated in mini-lectures and docent training. I had the chance to share my knowledge in physics with the general public, mini-lectures and docent training. I had the chance to share my knowledge in physics with the general public, including nanostructures, advanced instrumentation, advanced computational chemistry, biological chemistry, inorganic chemistry, environmental science, and materials science. These broad-based programs stress lifelong learning and recognize different areas of interest.

The holistic BIBU experience prepares students to be inspirational leaders who are confident, innovative, and socially responsible. It is the first undergraduate program in Hong Kong to offer rigorous training in both biotechnology and engineering. By choosing the Materials Chemistry Option, students will have the opportunity to work with professional doctors and nurses in a hospital setting to provide technical support and advice. The career path of a School of Science student can go far beyond the obvious. Aside from my internship experience, I have also participated in Science School’s MCHEM Peer Mentoring Program and the Mentorship Program. Both of these programs have helped me to expand my social network and hone my communication skills. Last summer, I worked with fellow schoolmates to organize an English Summer Camp in Fujian for underprivileged children. These valuable opportunities have really helped me to establish a stronger connection with the community. Huge thanks to the School of Science for making my university life fruitful and meaningful.

Josephine LEE  
Year 4, Biochemistry and Cell Biology

Studying Environmental Science has been immensely enjoyable as I am interested in both outreach activities and getting involved with nature. Professors and schoolmates make the learning environment incredibly motivating and harmonious. What’s more, my life in the School of Science has surpassed far beyond academics alone. I have enjoyed joining exchange and career building programs, which have given me opportunities to explore the world and find myself. The Office of Academic Advising & Support is also really helpful. I am glad to be a member of this family.

Brian LU  
Year 3, Environmental Science

Statistics of students pursuing further studies are not included in the above survey. Each year, about 20-25% of our science graduates pursue further studies in both local and overseas universities. These overseas universities include:

- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Duke University
- ETH Zürich
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- National University of Singapore
- Princeton University
- Stanford University
- University of British Columbia
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of Chicago
- University of Pennsylvania
- Yale University
Alumni Sharing

Apart from the fascinating campus setting, the HKUST undergraduate training has provided me with a strong science fundamental knowledge especially under the guidance of experienced scholars. It has equipped me with great analytical, organizational and problem solving skills. These skills are still applicable in my current design work as design is also a process to find the most optimal solution for environmental, technological and sociological problems.

Kimando KWUNG
Senior Landscape Architect (Head of the team)
BSc (Chemistry)

As a biochemistry student, we had to do a lot of laboratory studies. First and foremost, we needed to be patient and highly concentrated in conducting experiments. Our analytical skills were sharpened while we prepared for lab reports. Last but not least, it required sound logical thinking and multidimensional perspectives in problem solving. The science education I received turned out to be very useful for my career.

Ruby LAM
Associate Director, Warrants Sales
Standard Chartered Bank
(Previous Principal Anchor, NOW TV)
BSc (Biochemistry)

I have always been passionate in looking for creative solutions to solve different problems. Starting my business is like a science experiment - you identify a problem, construct a hypothesis and experiment with different possibilities. You must have perseverance to strive for the best solution!

Francis KWOK
Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer
Radica Systems Limited
BSc (Physics)

I have learned that every scientific theory is derived from logical reasoning and deduction. This has allowed me to easily understand the anatomy, physiological and nutritional impact the performance of horses. The great thing about science is not the theories, but the process of arriving at these theories. They can be applied to many subjects other than science, including business and law modules.

Sidney TAM
Management Trainee
Starley Flying Start
BSc (Biochemistry)

Admission and Scholarships

Admission Requirements

For JUPAS-HKDSE Applicants

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<th>Program</th>
<th>JUPAS Code</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Liberal Studies</th>
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Note: Students admitted to the Science program can opt to declare their major in any program in the School of Science, Joint School Programs (BIBU and MAEC), and Interdisciplinary Programs.

Applicants with International Qualifications:

In addition to fulfilling the University’s general requirements, applicants applying for:

- Science / IRE / MAEC program must have at least one senior level subject from Biology / Chemistry / Mathematics / Physics
- BIBU program must have at least one senior level subject from Biology / Chemistry / Mathematics

Application & Admission Details: [http://join.ust.hk](http://join.ust.hk)

Scholarships

The University and the School of Science offer a number of scholarships to award students for their academic and non-academic excellence both upon entry and during the course of study. In the 2015/16 academic year, over 2,200 scholarships and prizes were awarded to undergraduate students in various programs of study, with the total value awarded amounting to approximately HK$57 million.