

Welcome Address at the Convocation for New Undergraduate Students 2026-27

3 September 2026

Yip Kit Chuen and Yuen Yuk Hing Hall, Yuen Campus, HSUHK

Students and Colleagues,

My warmest welcome to all the new students joining The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK). I am delighted to see the happy faces of about 2,500 new undergraduates embarking on a transformative learning journey here at HSUHK, a university that is both proudly rooted in Hong Kong and dynamically connected to the world.

Hong Kong's strength as a global city has always been its international connectivity. To tackle future challenges and identify new opportunities, we must have a good understanding of the world around us and see issues from multiple perspectives. To equip our students with this global mindset, learning at HSUHK extends far beyond the classroom. I encourage you to explore widely and learn with curiosity and care. Embrace artificial intelligence and emerging technologies while remaining anchored to critical thinking and human care. Also, make full use of the resources and learning opportunities available at HSUHK. You can participate in overseas exchange programmes, global internships, service-learning projects, research projects, entrepreneurial programmes. You can also take up leadership roles in student organisations, experience residential college life and take part in other co-curricular activities across the University. Engaging with peers and teachers from different countries and cultural backgrounds will expose you to new ideas and help you gain greater cross-cultural understanding.

Together, these experiences will expand your knowledge, broaden your horizons, cultivate your creativity, empathy, and leadership, and prepare you to become a responsible global citizen. In my own academic journey, I was fortunate to have many different learning opportunities both locally and overseas. Along the way, I have faced challenges along with some valuable experiences, all of which have benefited me greatly and shaped me to what I am today. I can assure you that learning can happen anywhere, sometimes when you least expect it. Let me share with you one of my particularly unforgettable experience when I was a student in the UK. I worked as a freelance correspondent for a Hong Kong television station and out of my expectation, I was given the chance to interview the then Hong Kong political figures at Downing

Street. Had I not been in UK as a student at that time, this opportunity would never have come my way. Learning comes anytime, anywhere, so are opportunities.

Dear Students, you are joining at an exciting time as HSUHK has grown rapidly in academic quality, research impact and international outlook over the years. The HKSAR Government is committed to developing Hong Kong into an international education hub and attracting high-calibre talent from across the globe. Our educational philosophy aligns closely with this vision. Building upon our strong foundation in liberal arts education, HSUHK aspires to become a leading private university in Asia, distinguished by our excellent student learning, impactful research and purposeful engagement with society. At HSUHK, we seek to nurture caring professionals with a global vision and responsible leadership, who can address human challenges and contribute meaningfully to society.

With a strong conviction to enhance student learning experience, our University has recruited global talents to join our academic team. I am happy to share that we have a remarkable 24% year-on-year increase in the number of HSUHK World's Top Scholars. 2026, our roster of internationally recognized experts has grown to 31, rising from 25 in the previous year. This prestigious standing is determined through a rigorous, multi-dimensional criteria that aggregates the world's most competitive academic indices. Our "Top Scholar" designation is awarded exclusively to faculty members who have achieved recognition in the Stanford/Elsevier Top 2% of Scientists, Clarivate's Top 1% Highly Cited Researchers, Research.com Best Scientists, ScholarGPS Top 2% (Overall & Specialties), or who have received prestigious international academic awards. This significant growth trajectory demonstrates that HSUHK is not only recruiting world-class talent but actively cultivating an environment where research excellence thrives, solidifying our reputation as a rapidly emerging hub for global research impact on top of quality teaching and learning.

In addition to these top scholars, we are excited to have six distinguished emerging scholars with outstanding research performance joining us in this new academic year. Some of these early career researchers are already internationally recognized as Top 10% scholars in the management science, social sciences, computer science and transdisciplinary studies, reflecting the University's strong commitment to attracting and supporting talented scholars in teaching, learning and research.

According to Research.com, an international platform highlighting research excellence of universities, HSUHK is ranked 23rd in business and management; economics and finance; and 24th in social sciences and humanities among top universities nationally. In the years to come, we, together, will partner with leading universities in the region and beyond for promoting impactful research enriching student learning and creating positive impact on the wider society.

As HSUHK students, you will learn from outstanding scholars who are not only experts in their fields, but also committed to guiding and inspiring you throughout your university journey.

Lastly, while university life is full of excitement and rewarding experiences, there may also be times when you encounter difficulties. Our dedicated faculty and staff are here to provide the support and guidance you need. They will witness and celebrate your achievements and milestones, both big and small. Whenever you need advice or assistance, do not hesitate to reach out to them - you are never alone in your university journey.

Once again, welcome to HSUHK. I wish you all a fulfilling academic year ahead!