

# First anniversary of academic excellence

City University of Hong Kong (Dongguan) offers students a host of scientific research resources

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One year ago, the establishment of City University of Hong Kong (Dongguan) was officially approved by the Ministry of Education.

As a collaborative school of City University of Hong Kong, CityUHK (DG) in South China's Guangdong province abounds in scientific research resources and focuses on national needs, Hong Kong's strengths, and Dongguan city's expectations to create an international, interdisciplinary and open collaboration platform.

CityUHK (DG) enjoys nearby advantageous scientific research resources, such as the China Spallation Neutron Source, Songshan Lake Materials Laboratory, advanced attosecond laser facilities and a photon source research testing platform.

It has been approved for four undergraduate majors: Computer Science and Technology; Materials Science and Engineering; Intelligent Manufacturing Engineering; and Energy and Power Engineering. The 10 postgraduate programs that have been approved are Computer Science; Mechanical Engineering; Engineering Management; Materials Engineering and Nanotechnology; Business Information Systems; Data Science; Electronic Information Engineering; Energy and Environment; Biomedical Engineering; and Civil and Architectural Engineering.

The school adheres to the principle of "consistency in academic excellence" with City University of Hong Kong and maintains the same academic quality and standards.

The CityUHK ranked 62nd in the QS World University Rankings 2025 published on June 4, 2024 and 10th in the QS Asia University Rankings 2025 published on Nov 6, 2024. It also ranked 78th in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025, and first in the THE most international universities in the world 2024 and 2025.

Lu Chun, executive president at CityUHK (DG), said: "To ensure consistency (in academic excellence), 80 percent of the teachers in our team were sent from the City University of Hong Kong in Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong, to teach here."

The two universities have signed an agreement allowing excellent undergraduate and graduate students to study at each other's school each academic year to broaden students' horizons.

CityUHK (DG) also regularly organizes students' visits to CityUHK. In December, about 60 students from CityUHK (DG) went on a two-day study trip to CityUHK. In March, first-year postgraduate students majoring in Business Information Systems visited CityUHK to experience the international atmosphere and attended an introduction lecture for the technological innovation project named "HK Tech 300".

Li Juan, vice-president (academic) of CityUHK (DG), said: "In terms of curriculum design, we follow an important principle of 'Hong Kong's strengths, national needs and the development needs of the (Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao) Greater Bay Area and Dongguan'."

Within this framework, CityUHK (DG) has introduced CityUHK's superior disciplines, involving computer



From left: CityUHK (DG) students stroll on the campus. Interactions and discussions on an e-learning classroom.



science, materials, energy and intelligent manufacturing. The four disciplines align with the industrial upgrading and strategic development direction of Dongguan, according to Li.

The integration of teaching and research is another principle that

CityUHK (DG) has adhered to, according to Liu Zishun, vice-president (research and innovation) of the university, who thinks teaching should be advanced with a solid research foundation.

"Although our school is young and funding is not abundant, we are com-

mitted to providing start-up funds for newly recruited professors to help them carry out research smoothly," Liu said.

The school also promotes cooperation between professors and industries. Professors in the field of electronic information negotiate with

related companies to seek common research projects. "This collaboration helps professors secure project funding from companies, while we also encourage teachers to cooperate with international institutions and apply for international project support," said Liu.

To attract high-level international professors, the school provides a good research environment, including adequate laboratory space, equipment and facilities. As some equipment is expensive, it has collaborated with surrounding research facilities and laboratories to share resources, maximize resource utilization and meet the research needs of professors.

CityUHK (DG) also provides students with diverse opportunities. "HK Tech 300" projects create chances for students to collaborate with teams in different fields. "In these projects, students can exercise and enhance their interdisciplinary practice skills," said Li.

To help students understand the latest technology applications and industry talent needs, CityUHK (DG) regularly organizes visits to enterprises. Recently, about 200 undergraduate and graduate students visited companies such as Tencent, Vivo, Midea, Honor and CMB Network Technology, a subsidiary of China Merchants Bank, to understand their organizational culture and market strategies, as well as gain career planning and employment guidance.

Xie Shenlei, a freshman who graduated from Quanzhou No 7 High School Fujian, said: "I chose to study at CityUHK (DG) because the school has unique geographical advantages. There are many new-type research and development institutions and high-tech companies nearby, such as the China Spallation Neutron Source, Songshan Lake Materials Laboratory and Huawei. The industry-university-research cooperation at CityUHK (DG) provides students with rich innovation opportunities and practice experience."

A first-year graduate student majoring in Electronic Information Engineering said that the reason for choosing CityUHK (DG) is simple — it is not only an academic palace but an innovative ecosystem. It takes less than an hour to reach major airports, ports and high-speed rail stations in the Greater Bay Area from the school, giving him many opportunities to participate in cutting-edge industry exchanges, according to the student surnamed Yuan.

Hu Chenxuan, a freshman who graduated from Beijing 101 Middle School, said that she believes the international educational resources and cutting-edge majors at CityUHK (DG) will help her broaden an international perspective and prepare for studies abroad.

"The rich student activities also make me very happy. We participated in study trips to research institutions and museums to learn about cutting-edge technology and historical treasures; we made mooncakes and admired the full moon during Mid-Autumn Festival, and made dumplings at winter solstice, having a great time together. These experiences of learning and celebrating together make me feel the unity and friendliness of the CityUHK (DG) family," Hu said.

The school is located in the start-up zone of the Greater Bay Area's comprehensive national science center. In 2020, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Science and Technology approved joint construction of the zone by Songshan Lake Science City in Dongguan and Guangming Science City in Shenzhen.

## CityUHK (DG) sets sights on internationalization and cooperation

By SONG MENGXING

City University of Hong Kong (Dongguan) — aka CityUHK (DG) — incorporates internationalization and industry-university-research cooperation as signature goals for its development.

As a key project of the City University of Hong Kong, CityUHK (DG) in Dongguan city is striving to replicate the former's internationalization success in faculty, students' learning experiences and curriculum.

City University of Hong Kong, also known as CityUHK, has made remarkable achievements in internationalization, with 70 percent of its faculty members recruited from more than 40 countries and regions. At CityUHK (DG), 80 percent of the teachers are from CityUHK.

CityUHK (DG) is also recruiting academic staff and teachers internationally and attracting overseas Chinese scholars to return and work in

the dynamic Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Students are another priority in the university's internationalization. The school is carrying out exchange plans with many overseas universities, aiming to provide students with richer international learning experiences. It plans to ramp up recruitment of students from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, as well as international students.

With the promotion of the Belt and Road Initiative, 200 students from Kazakhstan are sent to study at the CityUHK annually. "We also hope that these students can cross the boundary to Dongguan for short-, medium- or long-term study," said Lu Chun, executive president at CityUHK (DG).

Lu said the university plans to launch more student and teacher exchanges with countries involved in the BRI. "I worked in the Middle East for eight years and we have many

contacts there to promote the projects," he added.

On Feb 28, the Industry-University-Research Cooperation Matchmaking Conference of City University of Hong Kong (Dongguan) was hosted by the university and the Dongguan science and technology bureau. The event aimed to build a bridge for in-depth integration of university research with local industries, accelerate the application of scientific and technological achievements, and support the upgrading and innovative development of sectors in Dongguan.

More than 120 representatives from enterprises and research institutions visited CityUHK (DG) to meet with the university's research team, focusing on areas such as artificial intelligence and cutting-edge new materials to explore cooperation opportunities.

The location of CityUHK (DG) is ideal for serving the Greater Bay

Area, especially the surrounding enterprises. Many local companies are facing industrial upgrading challenges, and CityUHK (DG) hopes to apply its scientific research achievements and cooperation projects with professors from CityUHK to enhance development of those companies.

Liu Zishun, vice-president (research and innovation) at CityUHK (DG), and his professorial team have visited many enterprises in the Greater Bay Area to understand their needs. They plan to learn more about the technology and talent needed by the businesses and drive the close integration of their research with practical industry applications.

Meanwhile, CityUHK (DG) is co-hosting the Dongguan segment of the third HK Tech 300 National Start-up Competition, which aims to promote the application of research achievements of the university and CityUHK and build a more robust start-up ecosystem involving Hong

Kong and the Chinese mainland.

Besides prize money, start-up winners will benefit from support policies. They can run in the incubation space of CityUHK (DG)'s scientific and technological innovation center, preferentially use intellectual property rights of CityUHK, CityUHK (DG) and related research institutes, and connect with investment organizations.

On Jan 15, CityUHK (DG) hosted a media day and signing ceremony with partners to strengthen industry-university-research collaboration. It signed agreements with more than 20 scientific research institutes and well-known companies and potential donors at the event.

The signed projects cover fields such as discipline development, industry-university-research cooperation and talent cultivation, aimed at promoting the school's programs and providing more research and practice opportunities for students while

expanding employment channels.

Zheng Guohong, director at Dongguan's university preparation and construction office, said CityUHK (DG) is a powerful measure of the city's ability to deepen higher education cooperation and development in the Greater Bay Area.

"We will leverage Dongguan's advantages of 'technological innovation and advanced manufacturing,' actively introduce Hong Kong's high-quality international first-class educational resources, and strive to build the CityUHK (DG) into a world-class institution of excellence in research, education and innovation, so as to better serve the high-quality economic and social development of Dongguan," Zheng said.

Wang Weihua, director of the Songshan Lake Materials Laboratory, said CityUHK (DG) is truly a "good neighbor" and he hopes to achieve in-depth cooperation in materials science, AI and talent training.