



香港城市大學  
City University of Hong Kong



Department of  
**Applied Social Sciences**  
應用社會科學系

# Master of Social Sciences in Counselling

Programme Code:	MSSC (P20)
Normal Duration:	1 Year (full-time) / 2 Years (part-time)
Maximum Study Period:	2.5 Years (full-time) / 5 Years (part-time)
Mode of Programme:	Combined†
Intermediate Award:	Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling (PGDC) Postgraduate Certificate in Counselling (PGCC)
Minimum No. of Credits Required:	Master's Degree --30; Postgraduate Diploma -- 24 Postgraduate Certificate -- 12
Medium of Instruction:	English

## Programme Aims

This programme aims to develop the competence of professional practitioners working in a broad range of human services by offering professional and advanced education in counselling.

### For beginners in counselling:

- ▲ The foundation of counselling: professional worldview, theories and approaches, basic counselling skills and application;
- ▲ Beginning competence and personal qualities in counselling;
- ▲ Transfer learning to work context; and
- ▲ Professional preparation for advanced-level counsellor education.

### For practitioners with experience in counselling:

- ▲ Critical re-examination of counselling theories and the 'theory-practice' link;
- ▲ Continuous professional reflection;
- ▲ Reflectivity in self and practice;
- ▲ Theorizing from practice and constructing practice knowledge; and
- ▲ Developing cultural sensitivity and appreciation of client knowledge and strength.

## Programme Features

- ▲ A common 'general counselling' foundation with choices of programme electives in three areas: General electives; Research methods; and Specialized electives.
- ▲ For part-time students: A choice of two-semester practicum route or research route of professional preparation; for full-time students: An accelerated two-semester research route of academic preparation.
- ▲ Multiple exit points.

## Course Load and Duration

- ▲ Part-time students normally take a course load of 6 to 9 credits (about 2 to 3 courses) per semester and complete the programme within 5 to 10 semesters.
- ▲ Full-time students normally take a course load of 12 to 18 credits (about 4 to 6 courses) per semester and complete the programme within 3 to 6 semesters.
- ▲ Classes will be held on weekday evenings and Saturday afternoons/evenings.

## Entrance Requirement

To be eligible for admission, you must

- ▲ hold a degree of one of the universities in Hong Kong or of any overseas institution recognized for this purpose by the University; or
- ▲ have obtained an equivalent qualification, or provide evidence of academic and professional attainments acceptable for this purpose by the University; and
- ▲ preferably with two years' working experience in social service, education, health, human services, human resources or related areas, and voluntary work experience in counselling-related area.

Applicants whose entrance qualification is obtained from an institution where the medium of instruction is not English should also fulfill the following minimum English proficiency requirement:

- ▲ TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based test) or 213 (computer-based test) or 79 (internet-based test); or
- ▲ Overall band score of 6.5 in International English Language Testing System (IELTS); or
- ▲ Score 450 in the new College English Test (CET-6) of Chinese mainland or a pass in the old CET-6 test; or
- ▲ Other equivalent qualifications

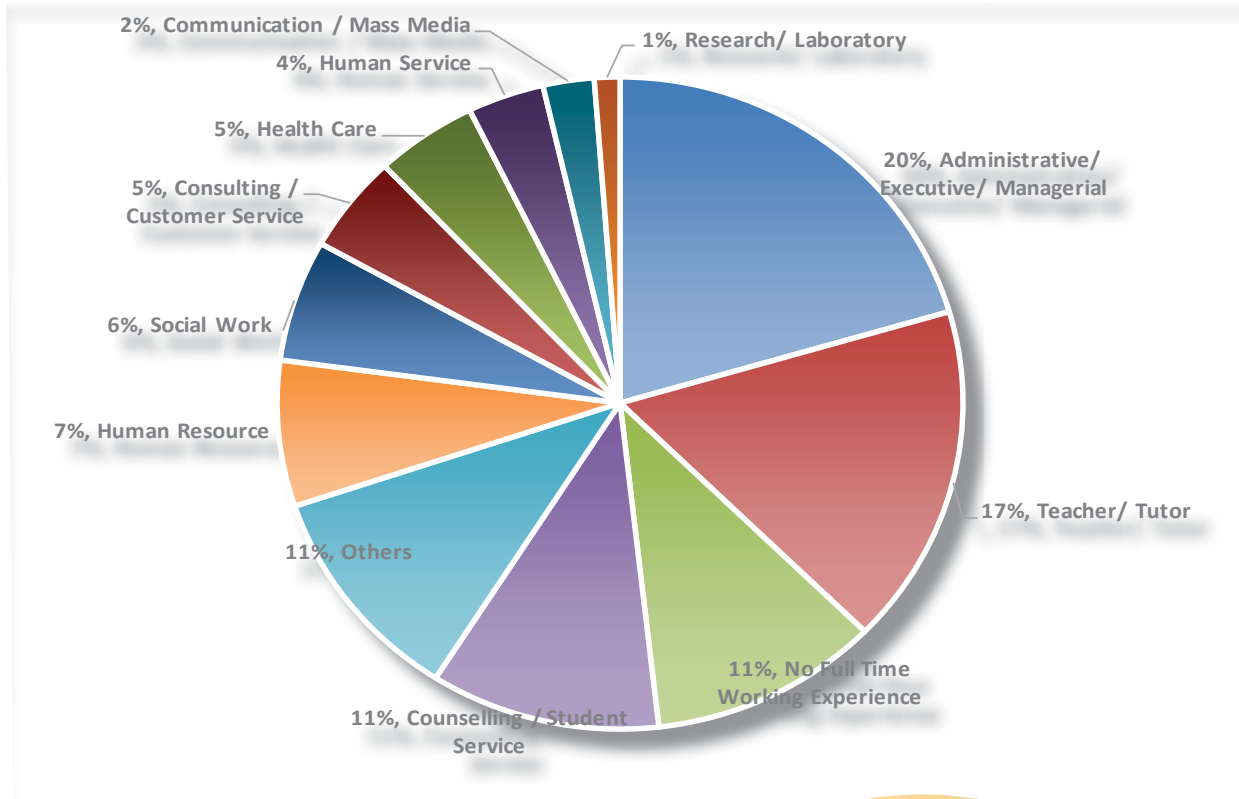
## Does this Programme Suit You?

This is a programme for:

- ▲ Counsellors and social workers seeking continuous professional education in counselling;
- ▲ Teachers providing school counselling service and 'embedded counselling' in classroom interaction with students;
- ▲ Health professionals working in medical and mental health settings;
- ▲ Human service professionals working with children, young people, parents, couple, and families; and
- ▲ Human resource managers responsible for personnel work, career counselling, and employee welfare.

## Student Profile

Student Profile - 2017 Cohort



## Curriculum Highlight

### SS5800 Counselling Theories and Practice

... to critically examine how selected counselling theories and therapy models are being used by practitioners in the context of exploring the positivist epistemology of counselling practice as revealed in the connection between theories and practice, and to make accurate case analyses and assessment on theoretical formations. Then to devise an appropriate and specific counselling intervention for each individual. Integration of counselling theories and practice is highlighted.

### SS6806 Counselling Practicum (part-time mode only)

... to provide practice-based instruction of knowledge, attitudes, and skills required for effective participation in the counselling profession with confidence. It is the culminating activity in the training of professional counsellors with the opportunity for students to apply, under professional support through group and individual supervisions, counselling theories and skills integrally in real-world practice.

### SS6805 Project

... to provide hands-on experience in initiating, planning and implementing an independent research project with the view to foster disciplined thinking as a researcher and to develop the capacity for constructing counselling knowledge through empirical investigation.

## Students may obtain the MSocSc degree either by completing

- ▲ Path A - full-time mode in one year with taking Project; or
- ▲ Path B - part-time mode in two years with taking either Project or Counselling Practicum

## Programme Structure

Programme curriculum is made up of (a) core courses; and (b) elective courses forming a "general electives" group, a "research method" group, and a "specialized electives" group.

To graduate with the MSSC award, full-time students must complete the Project (two-semester course) in Semester B and Summer Term in their first year of study; for part-time students, to complete either the Counselling Practicum or the Project (both are two-semester courses) in the last part of study.

Nature	Course Name	Credits	Level of Award			
			PGC	PGD	Master	
Core Courses	SS5800 Counselling Theories and Practice	3	✓	✓	✓	
	SS5801 Counselling in Society and Across Culture	3	–	✓	✓	
	SS5802 Group Counselling and Therapy	3	✓	✓	✓	
	SS5803 Psychopathology	3	–	✓	✓	
	SS5822 Family-based Service and Family Practice	3	✓	✓	✓	
	SS5841 Counselling Skills Laboratory and Pre-practicum	3	✓	✓	✓	
	SS6805 Project OR SS6806 Counselling Practicum	6	–	–	✓	
Programme Electives	General Electives	SS5208 Cognitive-behavioural Interventions	3	–	Take 2 out of 11	Take 2 out of 11
		SS5752 Life Span Development	3			
		SS5757 Personality Theories and Assessment	3			
		SS5805 Narrative-based Therapeutic Conversations: Theory and Practice	3			
	Research Methods	SS5302 Research Methods in Social Sciences*	3			
	Specialized Electives	SS5110 Assessment and Interventions in Mental Health Counselling	3			
		SS5116 Empowerment-oriented Practice with Socially Disadvantaged Groups*	3			
		SS5316 Aggressive Behavior and Homicide*	3			
		SS5814 Vocational Counselling and Assessment	3			
		SS5821 Counselling Children and Youth	3			
		SS5832 Counselling Older Adults	3			
<b>Total Credits</b>			<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>30</b>	

\* subject to approval

## Professional Accreditation

The MSSC programme has been accredited by the Hong Kong Professional Counselling Association (HKPCA) since 2011, all graduates after 2004 could be eligible to apply for a full membership at HKPCA.

In addition, our graduates who have completed the Counselling Practicum are eligible to run for Certified Counsellor. The HKPCA recognizes all the 120 face-to-face direct client contact hours and 26 individual supervision hours as well as 34 group supervision hours. Therefore, these abovementioned MSSC graduates could pursue the status of “Certified Counsellor” after fulfilling the required post-master face-to-face direct client contact hours and supervision hours by HKPCA Approved Supervisor.

A post-master training to facilitate the acquisition of ‘Certified Counsellor’ status for MSSC graduates is currently under preparation.

## Career Prospects

The programme is designed for graduates from diverse disciplinary backgrounds and supports continual professional development. It opens up career fields and enhances career advancement in human services (notably counselling, social work, and health care), education, and human resources management where sensitivity and effectiveness in working with people is an asset.

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<b>Tuition Fee:</b>	<b>Pay on credit unit basis</b> <b>HK\$4,200 per credit for non-local students</b> <b>HK\$3,690 per credit for local students</b>
<b>Application Deadline:</b>	<b>31 December 2017 (1st round) for local and non-local students</b> <b>28 February 2018 (2nd round) for local and non-local students</b> <i>(Applicants are processed on a rolling basis. Review of applications will start before the deadline and continue until all places are filled. Early applications are therefore strongly encouraged.)</i>
<b>Programme Email:</b>	<b>mssc@cityu.edu.hk</b>

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## Education Loan

Successful applicants are eligible to apply for education loan under the Government’s Non-means Tested Loan Scheme. Application forms are obtainable from District Offices and the Student Financial Assistance Agency (SFAA) of Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices.

Enquiries: 2150 6222  
Website: [www.sfaa.gov.hk](http://www.sfaa.gov.hk)

## Application

You can submit online application at [www.cityu.edu.hk/sgs/tpg/admission](http://www.cityu.edu.hk/sgs/tpg/admission)  
Application deadline may be extended depending on the number of applications received. However, priority will be given to the applicants who submit an application before the initial deadline.

## Mode of Programme

† Combined mode: Local students taking programmes in combined mode can attend full-time (12-18 credit units per semester) or part-time (no more than 11 credit units per semester) study in different semesters without seeking approval from the University. For non-local students, they will be admitted to these programmes for either full-time or part-time studies. Non-local students must maintain the required credit load for their full-time or part-time studies and any changes will require approval from the University.

## Enquiry

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### For academic matters

Department of Applied Social Sciences (SS)  
City University of Hong Kong  
Room 7400, 7/F, Yeung Kin Man Academic Building  
Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
Enquiries: (852) 3442-8991/ (852) 3442-8996  
Fax: (852) 3442-0283  
Email: [ssgo@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:ssgo@cityu.edu.hk)  
Website : [www.cityu.edu.hk/ss](http://www.cityu.edu.hk/ss)  
Programme Website:  
[ssweb.cityu.edu.hk/programmes/taught\\_postgraduate](http://ssweb.cityu.edu.hk/programmes/taught_postgraduate)

### For Taught Postgraduate Programmes (Admission)

Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies (SGS)  
City University of Hong Kong  
4/F Fong Yun Wah Building  
Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
Enquiries: (852) 3442-5588  
Fax: (852) 3442-0237  
Email: [tpadmit@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:tpadmit@cityu.edu.hk)  
Website: [www.sgs.cityu.edu.hk/prospective/tpg/Online](http://www.sgs.cityu.edu.hk/prospective/tpg/Online)  
Enquiry form: [www.cityu.edu.hk/sgs/enquiry](http://www.cityu.edu.hk/sgs/enquiry)

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