

Joint-PhD Programme
University of Hong Kong & King's College London

OVERVIEW

The Joint-PhD Programme between the University of Hong Kong (HKU) and King's College London (KCL) is an innovative integrated programme that offers unique opportunities for the very best PhD supervision in a global context. The programme provides candidates with the opportunity to divide their PhD study between two prestigious universities, enjoying full supervision at both. While supervision and regular graduate seminars enable students to construct a theoretical, historical, and critical framework for their research, the Joint-PhD Programme also organizes international colloquia and workshops at which students can present and discuss their work with peers and academic staff across both institutions. The programme builds on an extensive network of existing institutional links, joint teaching experience, and collaborative graduate programmes between the University of Hong Kong and King's College London.

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

The Department of Comparative Literature at the University of Hong Kong is international and interdisciplinary in the scope of its expertise, and bridges contemporary critical and cultural theory in Asian and Euro-American traditions. The Comparative Literature Programme at HKU has a strong focus on the study of literature, cultural studies, and film in Hong Kong, China, East Asia, and South-East Asia. HKU's Department of Comparative Literature is home to the Center for the Study of Globalization and Cultures, which has research strengths in areas such as the cultures of capitalism, global flows of culture, new communities, publics and identities, and post-colonialism and neo-liberalism. Depending on the nature of the research, applicants should investigate one of two departments at King's College London for the joint-PhD. Applicants with a more literary focus should consider the Department of Comparative Literature at KCL. Applicants with a more cinematic focus should consider the Department of Film Studies at KCL.

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

The Department of Comparative Literature at King's College London is attractive for its strengths in classical and modern European literary tradition and theories, as well as in Asian, Middle-Eastern, African, Australian, and postcolonial studies. In addition to cross-linguistic, transnational and transregional explorations, the programme encourages research that is both firmly rooted within literary studies and looks across different media – from print to visual, cinematic and dramatic. The Department has strong ties to the English, Classics, Film Studies, German, French, and other modern languages departments. They are also actively involved with the King's College London Global Institutes, particularly the King's India Institute and the Lau China Institute, both of

which combine social science and humanities approaches to the study of these regions. The research activity and institutional networks of KCL's Department of Comparative Literature provide a vibrant and rigorous intellectual environment to embark upon a Comparative Literature research degree jointly with HKU.

THE DEPARTMENT OF FILM STUDIES, KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

The Department of Film Studies at King's College London is ranked by *The Sunday Times University Guide 2013* as the best in the UK for the study of film and is one of the best in the world. Established first as a programme in 2000 and a department in 2007, it has been known for conducting world-leading research and training postgraduate students in pursuing their work in a number of areas: European cinema, which is considered in both its art and popular dimension, with a particular emphasis on French and Italian cinema; American cinema, the mainstream and the avant-garde; world cinema, especially East Asian cinema; cultural history (the representation of the city, national and trans-national cinema, stardom, music and film); critical theory; and new media. Overall, the department stresses both theoretical and historical studies, and serves as a forum where film is studied in relationship to other disciplines such as philosophy, psychoanalysis, literature, geography and art. The research activity and institutional networks of KCL's Department of Film Studies provide a vibrant and rigorous intellectual environment to embark upon a Comparative Literature research degree with a strong emphasis on the cinema jointly with HKU.

INTELLECTUAL SYNERGIES

The three departments have complementary areas of expertise in Asian and postcolonial studies, as well as gender and sexuality studies, critical theory and cultural studies, , political theory and Marxism. Areas in which the three departments' different areas of expertise could provide the grounds for joint-PhDs include combinations of European, Middle-Eastern and African literary traditions with those of South, East or South-East Asian studies along several themes and across different media and genres.

All three departments are interested in developing research on transnational literary and film studies, which includes work on the BRIC countries. Urban landscapes and literary or cinematic representations of Hong Kong and London is another focused area of research that could be developed through the Joint-PhD. These research areas actively engage with theories of international and global studies approaches, both at research and institutional levels.

RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

Applications are welcome from across the field of Literary and Film Studies, and from various linguistic and research areas in Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Europe. Applications for projects that genuinely engage the research interests of faculty at both universities are particularly welcome.

At the University of Hong Kong, students benefit from the expertise of all the programme's academic staff in the Department of Comparative Literature, as well as the expertise of the staff in collaborating departments in the Faculty of Arts and its seven Schools. The core academic staff members either hold joint appointments or have strong research ties with other departments such as Chinese, English, German, Classics, and American Studies.

Postgraduate students at both institutions hold reading groups, organize conferences, and regularly present their research to the larger academic community. Our affiliated departments also run research seminars, which our students can participate in, and both universities bring a wide range of speakers from within and outside of their institutions to present new and innovative research. Finally, the locations of the programmes in Hong Kong and London connect postgraduate students to a wider sphere of cultural and academic resources in Asia and Europe.

Please visit the individual departments' websites for a full list of areas of research:

University of Hong Kong, Department of Comparative Literature
<http://www.complit.hku.hk>

King's College London, Department of Comparative Literature
<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/complit/index.aspx>

King's College London, Department of Film Studies
<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/filmstudies/index.aspx>

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applicants are encouraged to contact members of either or both departments regarding their research interests, and members from both institutions will discuss the viability of joint-supervision.

Applications should initially be submitted to the proposed home institution only, i.e. where the student will start and finish their programme.

Please contact the Research Post-Graduate (RPG) Coordinator for more information on the application process.

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