



HKU
SWSA

Department of Social Work and Social Administration
The University of Hong Kong
香港大學社會工作及社會行政學系

Master of Social Sciences in Gerontology

Information Session

**1-year full-time programme
2026-2027 admission**

Date: Nov 4, 2025

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Admission 2026-27
MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN GERONTOLOGY
ONE-YEAR FULL-TIME PROGRAMME

» OBJECTIVES
In view of the rapid ageing population in the globe, the MSocSc(Gerontology) programme offers cutting-edge education and training in gerontology. Students will be equipped with research-driven evidence-based knowledge on topics like mental health, long-term care, caregiving, and end-of-life care, as well as management skills at both the case and agency levels. The programme is tailored to professionals seeking to specialize in working with older adults or advance their knowledge of ageing-related policies and services. Our program could be your stepping stone to a rewarding career. Join us and shape the future of gerontology!

» CAPCHE FRAMEWORK
To prepare you to become a future leader in ageing industry, a "CAPCHE" framework is designed to equip you with the necessary competencies for career development:

- † Clinical assessment of frail older adults and their families to guide interventions
- † Analysis of national aging survey data to inform future strategies
- † Policy briefs to advocate for people with unmet needs
- † Capstone projects on self-directed topics to sharpen independent research skills
- † Health talks to promote healthy aging
- † Environment audit survey to support age-friendly community development

» ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT
Candidates shall hold a bachelor's degree or other qualification accepted as its equivalent; working experiences in aging industry / sector would have advantages

» TUITION FEE
1-Year Full-Time study
HK\$231,840 per annum

» INFORMATION SESSION
Format: Zoom
Date: November 4, 2025
Time: 6:30pm to 8:00pm
Registration: Please scan the QR code

» ONLINE APPLICATION
<https://portal.hku.hk/tpg-admissions>

» APPLICATION DEADLINES
Round 1: December 2, 2025
Round 2: January 26, 2026
Round 3: March 19, 2026

Apply Now

Tel: 3910 2580 / 3917 3094 | Email: mssgeron@hku.hk
Website: <https://web.socialwork.hku.hk/msocsc-gerontology/>

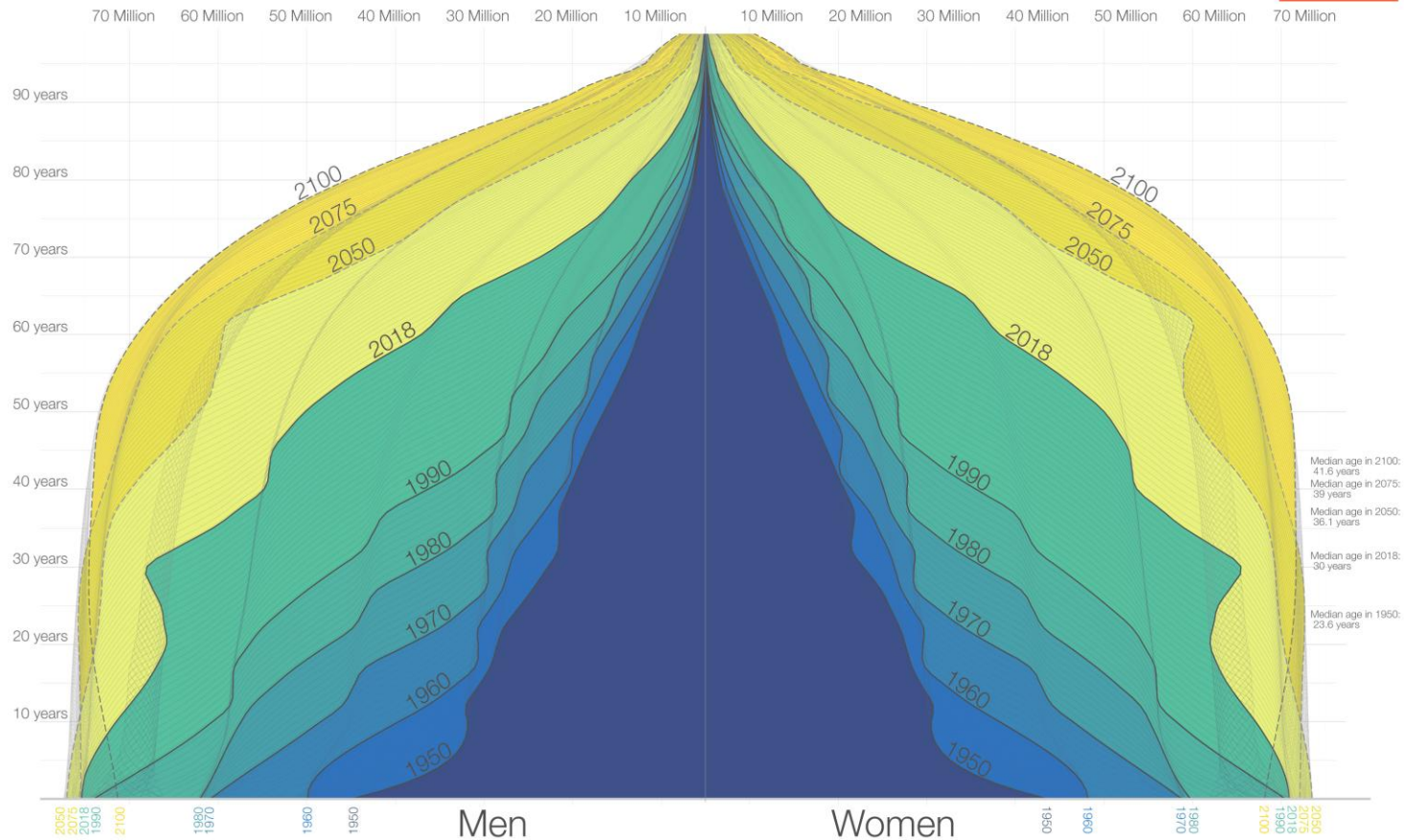
Population ageing

Global trend

The Demography of the World Population from 1950 to 2100

Shown is the age distribution of the world population – by sex – from 1950 to 2018 and the *UN Population Division's* projection until 2100.

Our World
in Data



Data source: United Nations Population Division – World Population Prospects 2017; Medium Variant.

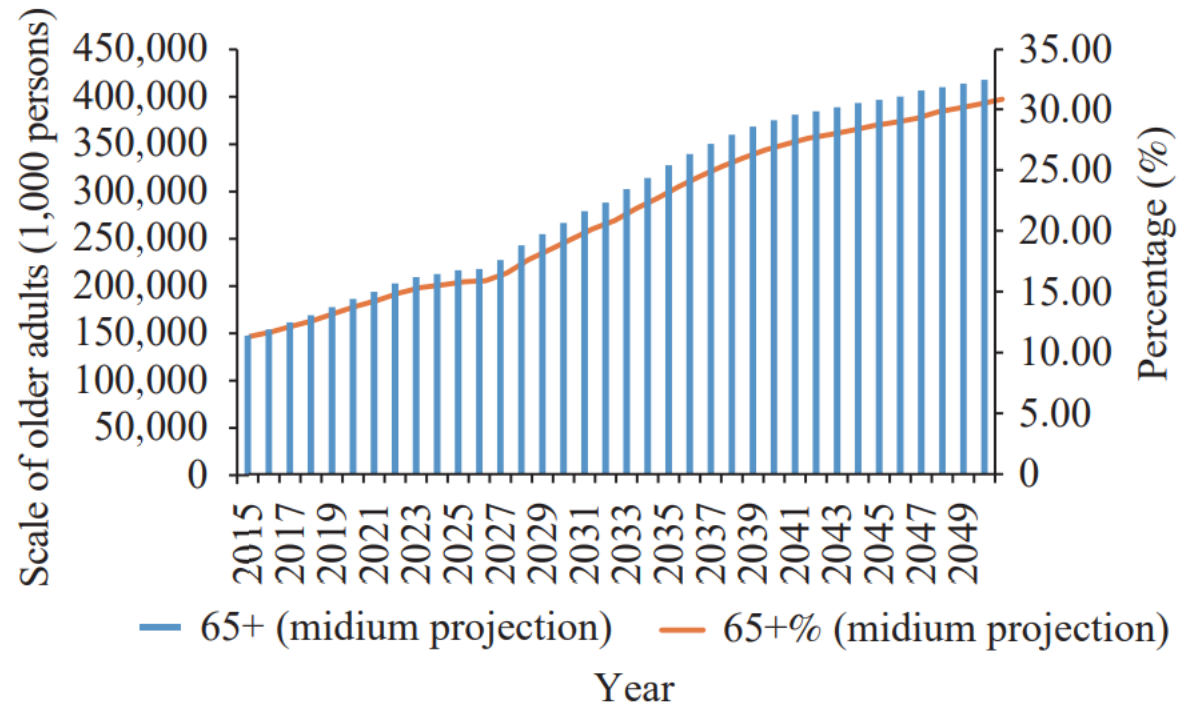
The data visualization is available at [OurWorldinData.org](https://ourworldindata.org), where you find more research on how the world is changing and why.

Licensed under CC-BY by the author Max Roser.

Population ageing

Mainland China

The predicted proportion and prevalence of older adults in China, 2015–2050



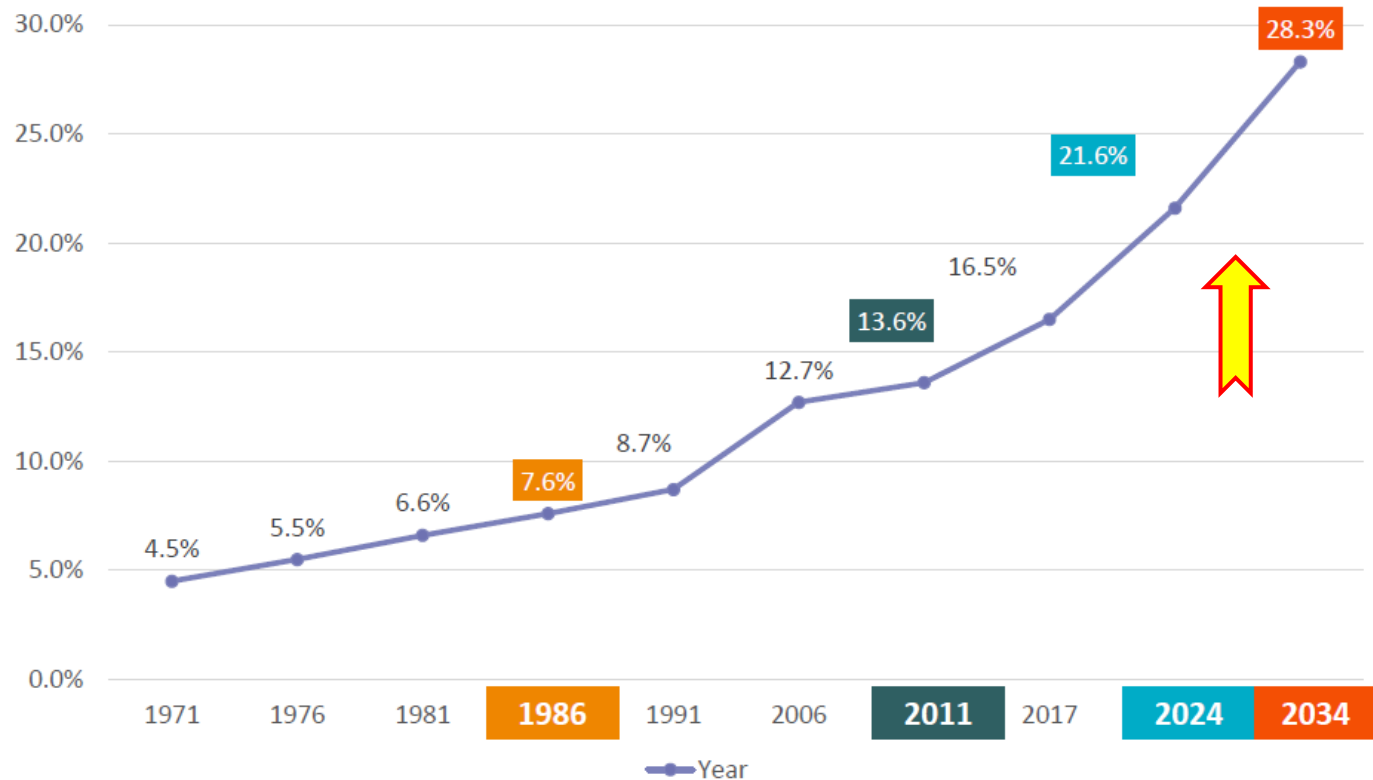
Aging society	Aged society	Super aged society	Years of transition	
>7%	>14%	>21%	7% to 14%	14% to 21%
2000	2022	2033	22	11

Source: China Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Population ageing

Hong Kong

In 2024, Hong Kong became a **super-aged society**, with 21.6% of its population aged above 65.



Sources:

Census and Statistics Department. (1991). Hong Kong 1991 Population Census. Retrieved from Hong Kong: https://www.statistics.gov.hk/pub/hist/1991_2000/B11200711991XXXXE0100.pdf

Census and Statistics Department. (2007). Hong Kong Population Projections 2007–2036. Retrieved from Hong Kong: <https://www.statistics.gov.hk/pub/B70708FD2007XXXXB0100.pdf>

O'Connor, S. (2014). World will have 13 'super-aged' nations by 2020. Financial Times. Retrieved from <https://www.ft.com/content/f356f8a0-1d8c-11e4-8f0c-00144feabdc0>

Population ageing

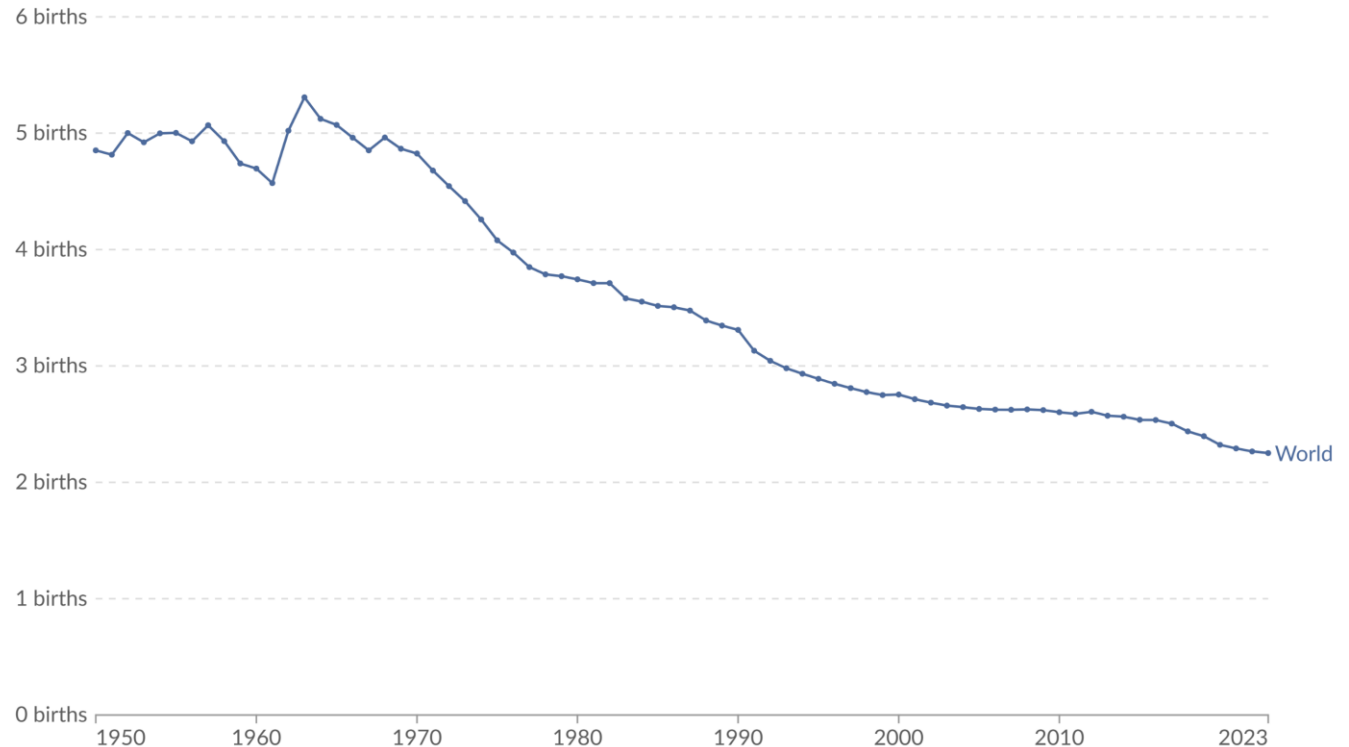
Global

Fertility rate in the globe, 1950 - 2023

Total fertility rate: births per woman

The total fertility rate¹ summarizes the total number of births a woman would have, if she experienced the birth rates seen in women of each age group in one particular year across her childbearing years.

Our World
in Data



Data source: Human Fertility Database (2025); UN, World Population Prospects (2024)

OurWorldinData.org/fertility-rate | CC BY

1. Fertility rate The total fertility rate is a period metric; it summarizes data from one particular year.

For a given year, the total fertility rate represents the total number of children born to a hypothetical woman on average, if she (1) lived to the end of her childbearing years, and (2) experienced the same age-specific fertility rates throughout her whole reproductive life as the age-specific fertility rates seen in that particular year.

It is different from the average number of children born to women that eventually have across their childbearing years, which is the cohort fertility rate.

Read more in our article: [Why the total fertility rate doesn't necessarily tell us the number of births women eventually have](#) and on our page on the [Fertility Rate](#).

Source: Our world in data

Population ageing

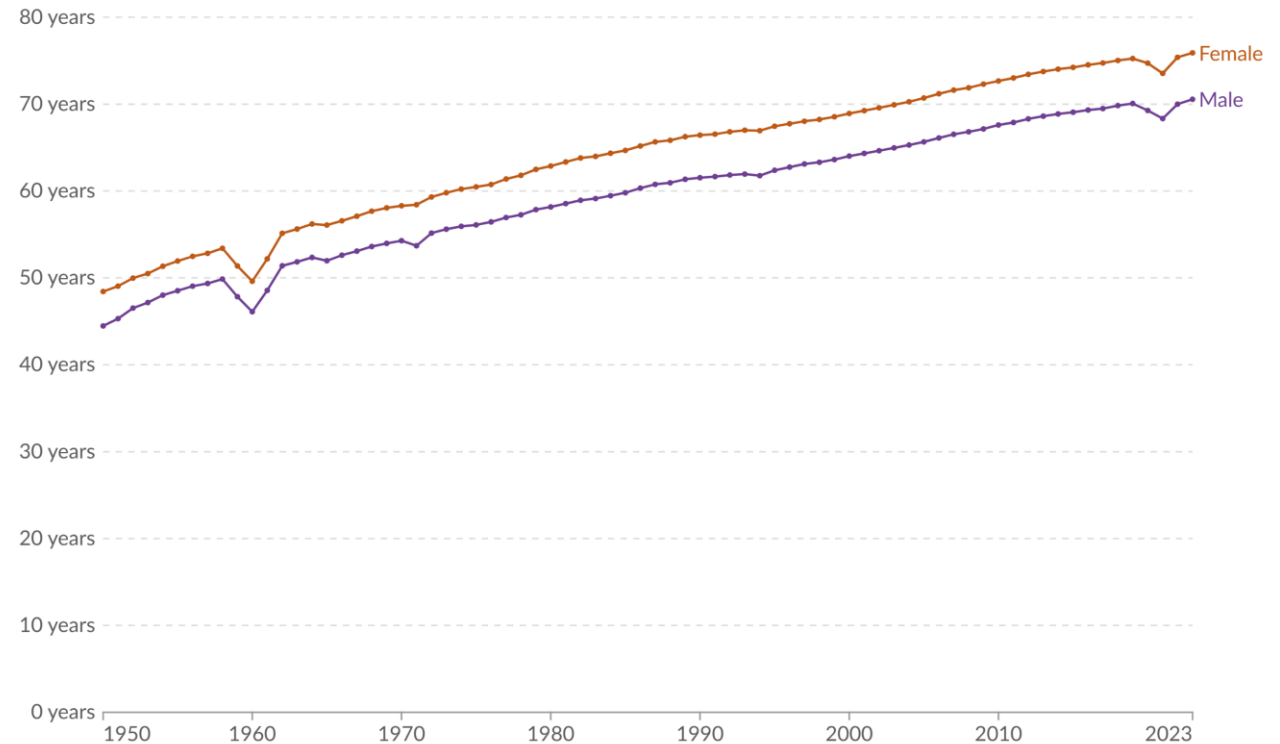
Global

Life expectancy at birth by sex in the globe, 1950 - 2023

Life expectancy by sex, World

The period life expectancy¹ at birth, in a given year.

Our World
in Data



Data source: Human Mortality Database (2025); UN, World Population Prospects (2024)

OurWorldinData.org/life-expectancy | CC BY

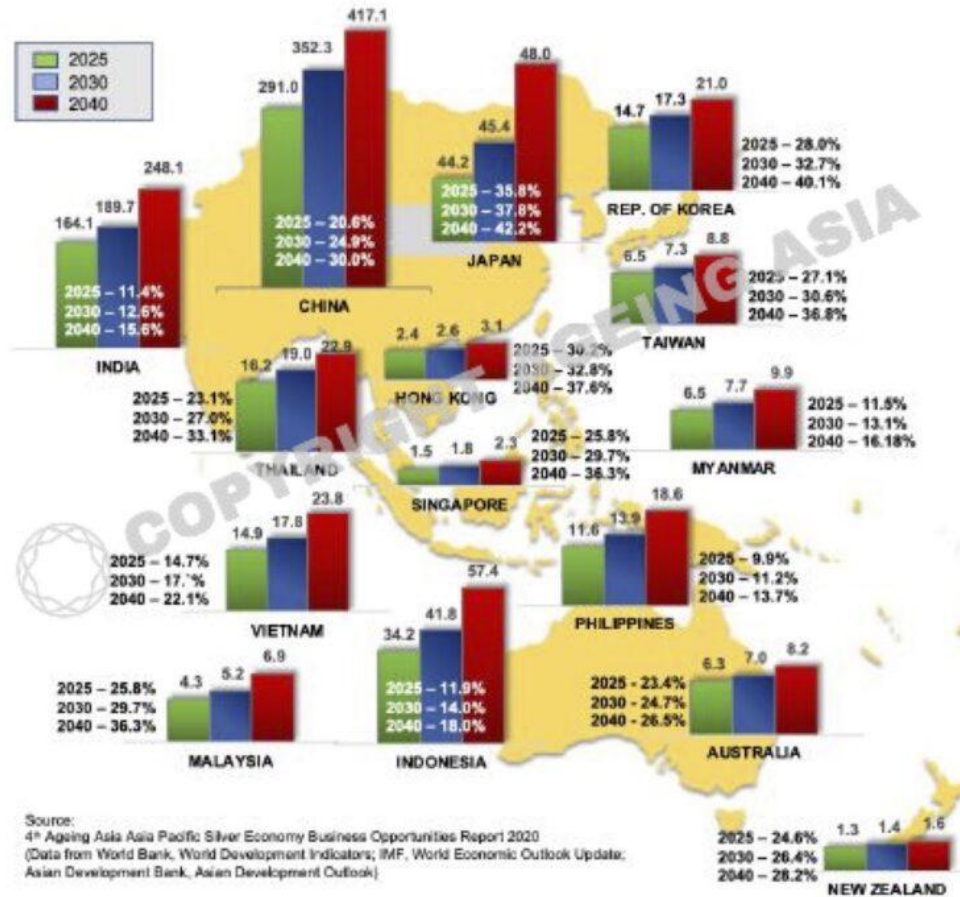
1. Period life expectancy Period life expectancy is a metric that summarizes death rates across all age groups in one particular year. For a given year, it represents the average lifespan for a hypothetical group of people, if they experienced the same age-specific death rates throughout their whole lives as the age-specific death rates seen in that particular year.

Learn more in our articles:

- [Life expectancy – what does this actually mean?](#)
- [Period versus cohort measures: what's the difference?](#)

Population ageing

Growth in silver economy



**ASIA PACIFIC TOTAL
AGEING POPULATION BY 2025:
600 MILLION**

**ASIA PACIFIC
AGEING MARKET POTENTIAL
BY 2025:
US\$ 4.56 TRILLION**



Ageing Asia™

Source: 4th Asia Pacific Silver Economy
Business Opportunities Report 2020 edition

For WHOM is this programme catered?

- Social workers, community leaders
- Healthcare professionals
- Entrepreneurs in silver economy
- Others....
- **Anyone** who is interested in studying aging and promoting well-being among older adults are welcome!



Specific features

- ✓ **Most established** postgraduate gerontology program in Asia
- ✓ **Global vision** with indigenous passion and international scholars
- ✓ **Competence – based** curriculum design that focuses on leadership
- ✓ **Social science mission** with trans-disciplinary knowledge and skills



Meet our esteemed faculty



Asst. Prof. Peiyi Lu
Programme Director

Specialising in:
Gerontology social work, social
determinants of health, health
disparity, social welfare policy,
quantitative methodology



Prof. Vivian Lou
Programme Advisor
Director, Sau Po Centre of Ageing

Specialising in:
Family gerontology, family caregiving
for dementia, stroke, end-of-life
older adults, social adaptation and
mental health of Chinese older adults
and family caregivers

Meet our esteemed faculty



Prof. Amy Chow

Head of Department

Specialising in:
Bereavement counselling, the
founder of the first community-
based bereavement counselling
centre



Prof. Terry Lum

Professor

Specialising in:
Long-term care,
productive aging,
environmental gerontology,
geriatric mental health

Meet our esteemed faculty



Adj. Prof. Iris Chi
Founding Director, Sau Po
Centre on Ageing, HKU

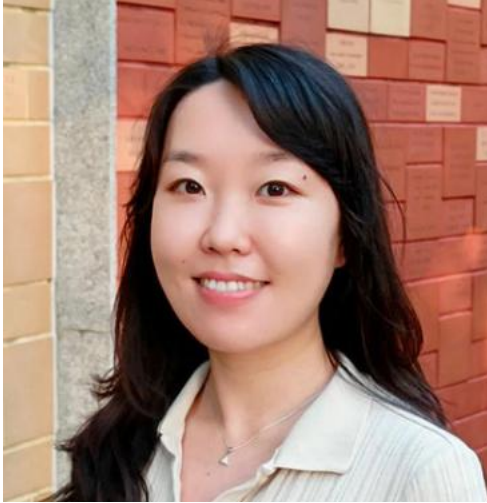
Specialising in:
Social work, gerontology



Adj. Prof. CK Law
Social welfare expert

Specialising in:
Social welfare planning, urban
Renewal, digital inclusion,
welfare reform, social impact

Meet our esteemed faculty



Asst. Prof. Sally Cao

Specialising in:
Mental health, social cognition
and social affect across the
lifespan



Asst. Prof. Ethan Cheung

Specialising in:
Environmental gerontology, dementia
caregiving



Asst. Prof. Lei Chai

Specialising in:
Economic hardship, mental health

Meet our esteemed faculty



Asst. Prof. Xuejie Ding

Specialising in:
Social demography, health disparity



Assoc. Prof. Cheryl Chui

Specialising in:
Social innovation and social
entrepreneurship, empowerment of older
adults, aging-friendly city



Asst. Prof. Tracy Lu

Specialising in:
Timebanking, community-based
innovation, social determinants of health
in later life

Programme objectives

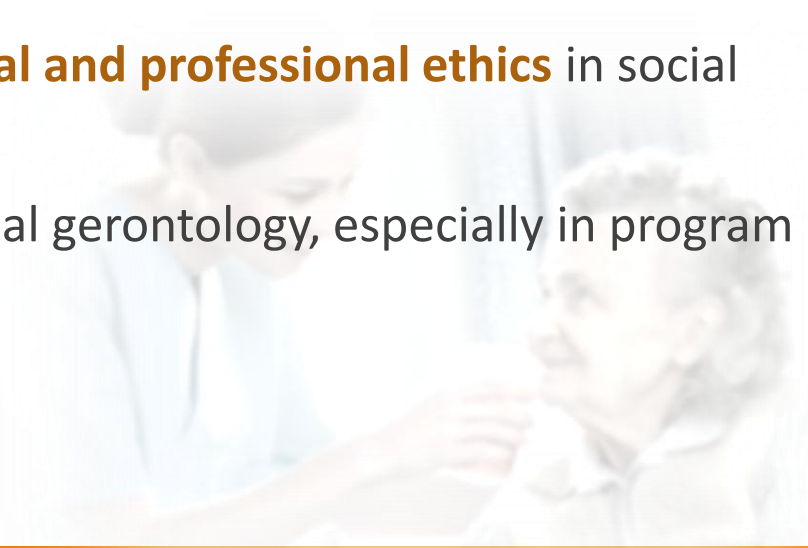
To offer cutting-edge education and training in gerontology:

- ✓ **Research-driven evidence-based knowledge** on topics like mental health, long-term care, caregiving, and end-of-life care
- ✓ **Management skills** at both the case and agency levels
- ✓ **Tailored to professionals** seeking to specialize in working with older adults or advance their knowledge of ageing-related policies and services



Learning outcomes

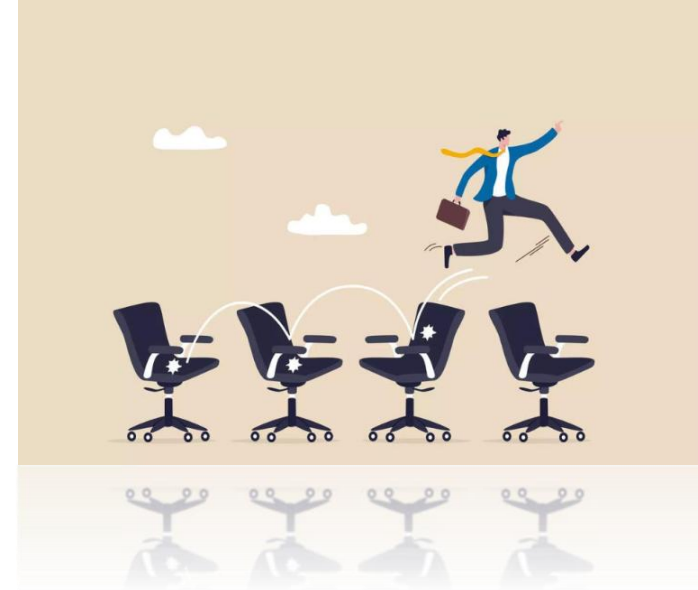
1. **Critical intellectual enquiry** and acquiring up-to-date knowledge and research skills in social gerontology;
2. **Application of knowledge** in social gerontology and research skills to practice or theoretical exploration, demonstrating originality and creativity;
3. **Tackling novel situations** and ill-defined problems related to aged population;
4. **Collaboration and communication of knowledge** in social gerontology to multi-disciplinary health care professionals and the general public;
5. **Awareness of and adherence to personal and professional ethics** in social gerontology;
6. **Enhancement of leadership skills** in social gerontology, especially in program evaluation and policy advocacy.



Career prospect

Possible career paths

- ✓ Senior administrator, manager in healthcare service
 - E.g., nursing home, retirement community
- ✓ Social worker and community leader
 - E.g., Social service agencies, NGOs
- ✓ Civil servant in government agency
 - E.g., Civil Affairs Bureau, Public Health Department
- ✓ Advanced PhD study or research-based position
 - E.g., Hong Kong, mainland China, worldwide
- ✓ And so on...



CAPCHE framework

A “CAPCHE” framework is designed to equip you with the necessary competencies for career development:

- ✓ **C**linical assessment of frail older adults and their families to guide interventions
- ✓ **A**nalysis of aging survey data to inform future strategies
- ✓ **P**olicy briefs to advocate for people with unmet needs
- ✓ **C**apstone projects on self-directed topics to sharpen independent research skills
- ✓ **H**earth talks to promote healthy aging
- ✓ **E**nvironment audit survey to support age-friendly community development



Curriculum

60 credits (10 courses)

- **5 Compulsory courses**

- ✓ SOWK6193 Social gerontology
- ✓ SOWK6207 Social policy and ageing
- ✓ SOWK6265 Research methods in human service
- ✓ SOWK6293 Ageing in global contexts
- ✓ SOWK6334 Applying comprehensive geriatric assessment for quality long-term care

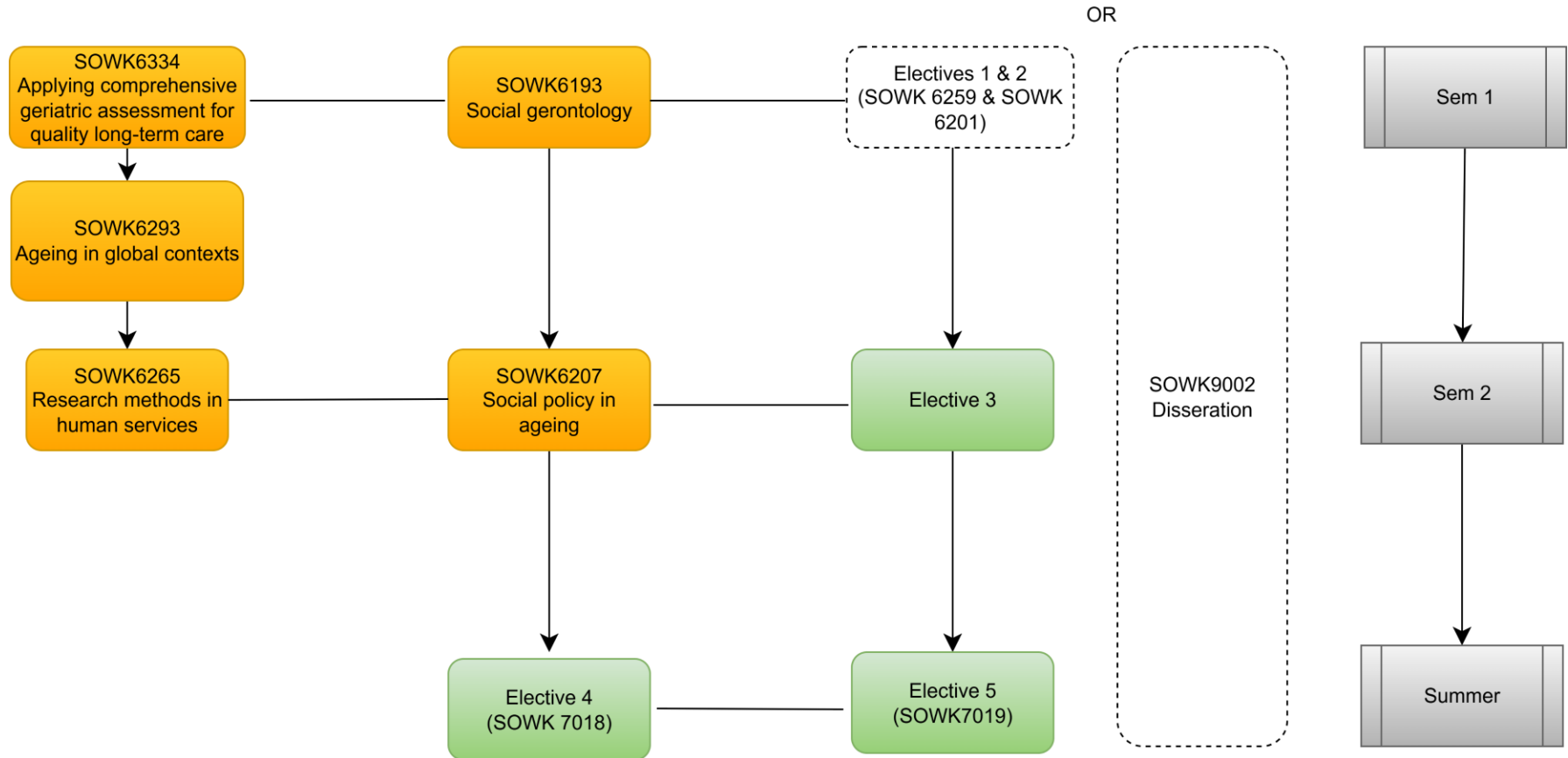
Curriculum

60 credits (10 courses)

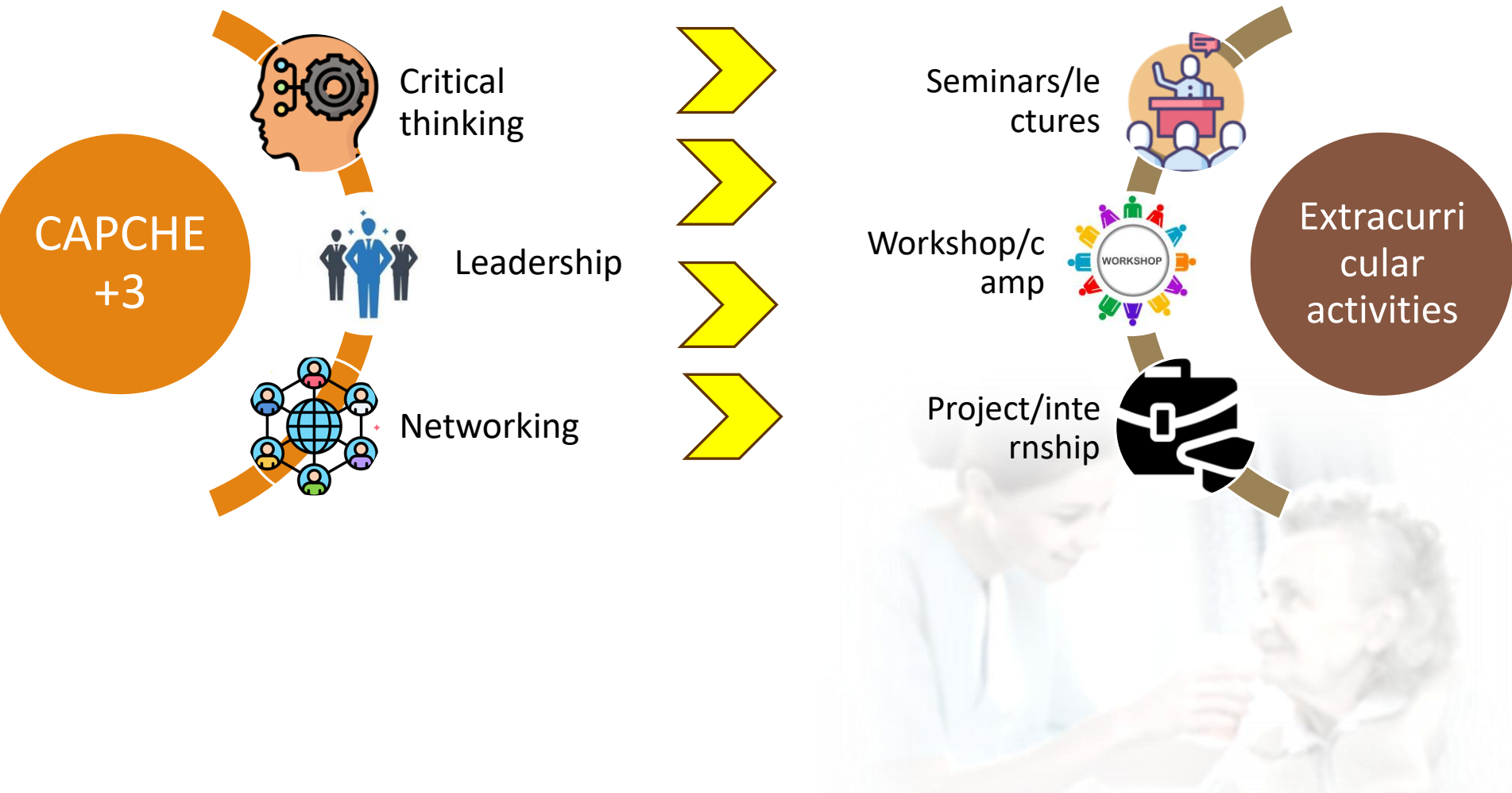
- **5 Electives OR 3 Electives + Dissertation**
 - ✓ SOWK6259 Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement
 - ✓ SOWK7018 Smart ageing
 - ✓ SOWK7019 Non-pharm intervention for people with dementia and their family caregivers
 - ✓ SOWK6127 Cognitive behavioral interventions
 - ✓ SOWK6201 Mental health problems in old age
 - ✓ SOWK6310 Psychosocial approaches in mental health care
 - ✓ SOWK6291 Advanced gerontological seminars
 - ✓ Electives in other MSocSc programmes in the SWSA department
 - ✓ **SOWK 9003 dissertation (12 credits)**

Not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.
The elective courses are subject to approval.

Suggested timeline for 1-year full-time programme



CAPCHE +



Mapping to Gerontology Competencies by AGHE

- **Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE)** at the Gerontological Society of America (GSA)
- **“Gerontology Competencies for Undergraduate and Graduate Education”**

CATEGORY I - Foundational Competencies to All Fields of Gerontology

I.1 FRAMEWORKS FOR UNDERSTANDING HUMAN AGING —

Utilize gerontological frameworks to examine human development and aging.

I.2 BIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF AGING —

Relate biological theory and science to understanding senescence, longevity and variation in aging.

I.3 PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF AGING —

Relate psychological theories and science to understanding adaptation, stress and change in aging.

I.4 SOCIAL ASPECTS OF AGING —

Relate social theories and science of aging to understanding heterogeneity and context of aging.

I.5 THE HUMANITIES AND AGING —

Develop comprehensive and meaningful concepts, definitions and measures for well-being of older adults and their families, grounded in Humanities and Arts.

I.6 RESEARCH AND CRITICAL THINKING —

Distinguish factors related to aging outcomes, both intrinsic and contextual, through critical thinking and empirical research.

CATEGORY II - Interactional Competencies Across Fields of Gerontology

II.1 ATTITUDES AND PERSPECTIVES —

Develop a gerontological perspective through knowledge and self-reflection.

II.2 ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS —

Adhere to ethical principles to guide work with and on behalf of older persons.

II.3 COMMUNICATION WITH AND ON BEHALF OF OLDER PERSONS —

Engage, through effective communication older persons and community, in personal and public issues in aging.

II.4 INTERDISCIPLINARY AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION —

Engage collaboratively with others to promote integration and aging.

CATEGORY III - Contextual Competencies Across Fields of Gerontology

III.1 WELL-BEING, HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH —

Promote older persons' strengths and adaptations to maximize well-being, health and mental health.

III.2 SOCIAL HEALTH —

Promote quality of life and positive social environment for older persons.

III.3 PROGRAM/SERVICE DEVELOPMENT —

Employ and design programmatic and community development with and on behalf of the aging population.

III.4 EDUCATION —

Encourage older persons to engage in life-long learning opportunities.

III.5 ARTS AND HUMANITIES —

Promote engagement of older people in the arts and humanities.

III.6 BUSINESS & FINANCE —

Address the roles of older persons as workers and consumers in business and finance.

III.7 POLICY —

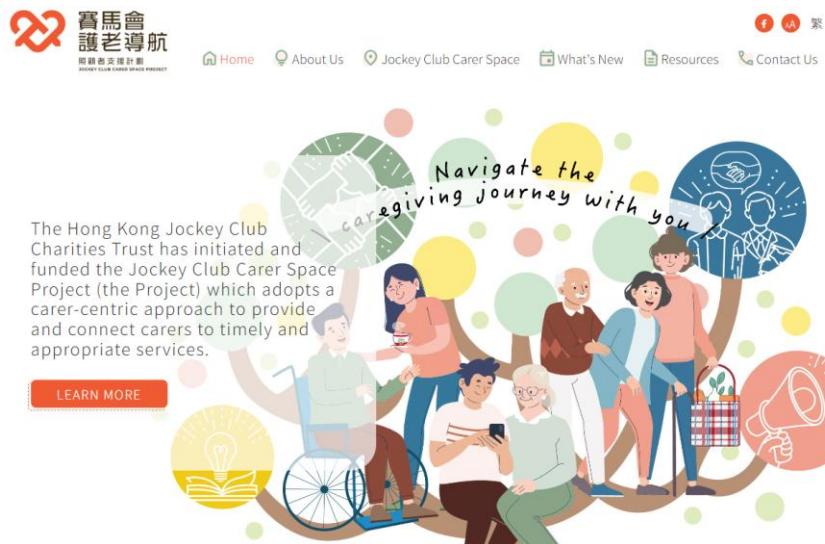
Employ and generate policy to equitably address the needs of older persons.

III.8 RESEARCH, APPLICATION AND EVALUATION —

Engage in research to advance knowledge and improve interventions for older persons.

Diverse learning experiences

Sau Po Centre On Ageing, HKU



賽馬會 護老導航
Jockey Club Carer Space Project

Home About Us Jockey Club Carer Space What's New Resources Contact Us

Navigate the caregiving journey with you.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust has initiated and funded the Jockey Club Carer Space Project (the Project) which adopts a carer-centric approach to provide and connect carers to timely and appropriate services.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Jockey Club Empowerment-based Transitional Care Project



賽馬會e家易 賽馬會e家易離院支援計劃
Jockey Club Empowerment-based Transitional Care Project

專業關懷離院家庭
科技聚焦精準支援

Jockey Club "Stand-by U" Caregivers Community Support Project



賽馬會 友伴同盟
護老者支援計劃

The Jockey Club Golden Age Journey (JCGAJ)



賽馬會躍動啟航計劃

Diverse learning experiences

Sau Po Centre On Ageing, HKU



Field trip to Zhuhai nursing home, March 2024



Summer camp at Peking University, July 2025

Important dates

Deadline of Online Application	Round 1: 2 Dec 2025, noon Round 2: 26 Jan 2026, noon Round 3: 19 Mar 2026, noon
Admission Tests and Interviews	Round 1: Mid Dec 2025 Round 2: Mid Feb 2026 Round 3: Early Apr 2026
Announcement of Results (Provisional Offer)	Round 1: Early to mid-Jan 2026 Round 2: Mid to late-Mar 2026 Round 3: Early to mid-May 2026

To apply, please click <https://portal.hku.hk/tpg-admissions>



Programme Leaflet



Entrance Requirement

Candidates shall hold a bachelor's degree or other qualification accepted as its equivalent; working experiences in aging industry/ sector would have advantages.



Tuition Fee

1-Year Full-Time study
HK\$231,840 per annum



Important Dates

Information Session (Zoom)

Date: November 4, 2025
Time: 6:30pm to 8:00pm
Registration: Refer to website



Online Application

<https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/programme/master-social-sciences-field-gerontology>



Enquiry

Tel: 3910 2560 / 3917 3094

Email: mssgeron@hku.hk



Website



HKU
SWSA

Department of Social Work and Social Administration
The University of Hong Kong
香港大學社會工作及社會行政學系

Master of Social Sciences in Gerontology

Admission 2026-27

One-year Full-time Programme



Enquiry

Programme Director

Prof. LU, Peiyi

Tel: (852) 3917 2080

Email: peiyilu@hku.hk

Programme Team

Tel: (852) 3910 2560 / 3917 3094

Email: mssgeron@hku.hk

