

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Job Specifications for the Directorship of the Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences

The University of Hong Kong

Since its foundation in 1911, the University of Hong Kong (<https://www.hku.hk>) has given invaluable service to Hong Kong and the region, drawing on the great cultural traditions of China and the West. The University has maintained the highest standards of teaching, research and scholarship as practised in the wider, international academic community, in an environment conducive to creativity, learning, and to freedom of thought, enquiry and expression.

The University has around 30,000 students, with more than 10,860 mainland Chinese and international students. The staff comprises more than 4,000 professoriate and academic-related staff affiliated with ten Faculties, which offer a comprehensive range of academic course offerings together with a sizeable number of sub-divisions of studies and learning:

- Architecture
- Arts
- Business & Economics
- Dentistry
- Education
- Engineering
- Law
- Medicine
- Science
- Social Sciences

The bulk of the University's finances is borne by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, though the trend is to rely increasingly on outside sources of funding, including investment income and income from tuition fees. Annual recurrent expenditure, excluding capital expenditure, amounts to some HK\$10 billion.

The Hong Kong Institute of the Humanities and Social Sciences (HKIHSS)

Established in 2001 by Helen Siu of Yale University, and under the directorship of Angela Leung since 2011, the HKIHSS provides a dynamic academic platform for research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences. The Institute works closely with local and international scholars to create cutting-edge projects on Hong Kong, China, Asia and the world. Its programmes are cross disciplinary, regional and institutional boundaries, and challenge conventional mindsets in academia, business and public policy. It aims to give Hong Kong a pivotal position in producing top quality minds for a fast-moving globe in the 21st century.

The overall organizational frame of our programmes is Hong Kong/China and the world, and “Inter-Asia Fluidities”. The theoretical goal is to move beyond the static, land-based and state-centred paradigms of the 20th century social sciences and area studies. The signature research clusters at the Institute are “Science, Technology and Medicine in Asian Societies (STMS)”, “Hubs, Mobilities and the Asia Urban (HMAU)”, and “Asian Religious Connections (ARC)”. Further information about the Institute can be obtained at <https://www.hkihss.hku.hk/en/>.

Institutional Structure and Position Summary

The Institute's programmes are highly inter-disciplinary, and the Institute is independent of any Faculty at the University. The Director is the head of the Institute, reporting directly to the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), and an Executive Committee which forms the core of the Institute's leadership structure. The past and present members of the Institute's Executive Committee are senior academics and professionals in Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas, who volunteer their time and efforts.

Major Responsibilities

The Director should work closely with the Executive Committee of the Institute and its staff to:

- build on the existing strengths of the Institute, and infuse it with vision
- forge collaborative and synergistic links both within and beyond the University
- contribute towards institutional development and long-term funding needs
- undertake all other duties as assigned from time to time by the Vice-Chancellor or the Pro-Vice-Chancellor in charge of research

Candidate Specification: Key Selection Criteria

We expect the new Director to be a scholar of distinction in his/her discipline, preferably in the humanities and social sciences. The Director is expected to strategically use the existing strengths of the Institute to forge collaborative and synergistic links within and beyond the University. The long-term goal is to transform it into an institute of advanced studies in the humanities and social sciences in Asia.

Critical Competencies

- scholarship in Greater China with research focusing on, or related to, Greater China and Asia
- globally recognized academic achievements and networks
- interdisciplinary interests in the humanities and social sciences
- rich experience in programme building with regard to research training
- knowledge of research funding and foundations (public and private)
- administrative experience in university and research institute setting

Other Personal Characteristics

- demonstrated ability to lead a growing research institute with multi-cultural sensibilities
- highest standards of integrity
- a collegial, consultative, yet decisive management style
- excellent interpersonal and communication skills

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