

Frequently Asked Questions

General Program Information

1. What is this HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program?

The HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program is not an undergraduate degree program offered by HKUST. It is an exchange-like program offered under a partnership agreement between HKUST and the Minerva Schools at KGI through the Minerva Project. Students may apply to enroll in this Program at their discretion. Through this Program, students can stay at the HKUST campus while taking courses offered by the Minerva Schools at KGI via an online platform. Credits earned from these courses can be transferred back to their HKUST undergraduate degree programs.

2. Why does HKUST offer this HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program?

HKUST has a diverse student body with varied learning needs. The HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program caters for students who are deeply inquisitive, academically curious and independently motivated to succeed. We aim to offer them unconventional, active learning through unprecedented undergraduate courses, using an advanced interactive learning platform that leverages cutting-edge technology, for developing these four core competencies: *thinking critically, thinking creatively, communicating effectively, and interacting effectively*.

3. How can I benefit from attending this HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program?

Through purposeful curriculum and pedagogy, the four cornerstone courses offered under this HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program will give you a unique, exceptional learning opportunity: engaging you in active and deep learning; exposing you to subject content of highly interdisciplinary and global in nature; training you to think critically and creatively, and to communicate and collaborate effectively in a team – all these are vital attributes of future leaders in the 21st century.

4. Who can apply for the HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program?

We welcome applications from students who have applied or got an offer for studying an undergraduate degree program at HKUST in September 2018. Final acceptance to enroll in this Program is subject to confirmed registration as a Year-1 student in an HKUST undergraduate degree program in Fall 2018 and meeting the required English language proficiency.

5. What is the duration of study and expected workload if I join the HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program?

This is a two-year Program comprising four yearlong Cornerstone Courses. Each Cornerstone Course is taught as two term courses, to be offered in Fall and Spring. You will enroll in three Cornerstone Courses in each of the Fall and Spring Term in your first year of study (a total of 12 credits each term), and one Cornerstone Course in each of the Fall and Spring Term in the second year (a total of 4 credits each term). In general, each course consists of two 90-minute scheduled online interactive classes per week and one substantial assignment. Additionally, each course requires a minimum of 8-10 hours of coursework outside of class per week.

6. What is the tuition fee for attending the HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program?

There is no additional tuition fee incurred for attending this program.

7. Am I required to take other HKUST courses during the study of the HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program?

You may need to take other HKUST undergraduate courses to meet your major program requirement during the study of this HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program in your first two years of study. You should consult your academic advisor about additional courses to take that best fit with your major program. Credit overload may be necessary in some terms so that you may graduate from the HKUST degree program on time. This is academically demanding on you, but the learning experience to be gained is immensely rewarding.

8. Can I use the credits earned from this Program to meet my HKUST degree requirements for graduation?

Yes. On completing the Cornerstone Courses, you can transfer the course credits to your HKUST degree program. These credits can be used to satisfy most of the Common Core requirements. Please visit the Program website at hkust-minerva.ust.hk for details.

9. Will I receive any certificate after completing this HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program?

The Cornerstone Courses are accredited and offered by the Minerva Schools at KGI. You will receive an academic transcript issued by the Minerva Schools at KGI showing your enrolled courses in this Program and the course grades. Upon completion of all four cornerstone courses within the two-year program duration, you will also receive a Certificate of Completion issued by the HKUST.

Program and Class Features

10. How is the Program's learning environment different from a conventional classroom?

The HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program offers students a highly interactive and engaging class experience that is unmatched by other courses. This is done through an Active Learning Forum platform which uses the latest advances in information technology, and ensures that everyone is visibly engaged and actively participating. Live, video-based seminars enhance student-to-professor and peer-to-peer interactions.

11. What is the class size?

Class size is small, fewer than 20 students. All classes focus on building skills and understanding — not mere information dissemination. Coupled with the advanced technology used by the Active Learning Forum, instructors can provide expert instruction, direct personal interaction, and frequent feedback. The small class size ensures that every student can participate actively in the class. Cognitive and behavioral research documents that students learn most effectively when actively engaged with the subject matter — a learning approach that large lectures or other passive forms of teaching do not facilitate.

12. Where do the classes and activities take place?

All classes and activities take place via the Active Learning Forum. Seminars are conducted real-time via this online platform — the equivalence of giving each student a front row seat.

You do not need to go to a fixed, specific location for attending seminars. You may attend seminars at any location with high-speed wireless internet where you are able to follow classes attentively. You can be in your dorm room, in the student lounge, at a local cafe, or local library. See [more about internet connection and computer requirement](#)

13. What is the Active Learning Forum and how can it help me learn effectively?

The Active Learning Forum is Minerva's proprietary technology platform, an advanced learning environment designed to facilitate real-time, continuous face-to-face interaction with your professors and classmates.

The Active Learning Forum is custom built to incorporate the science of learning and to ensure successful student learning outcomes. It is highly interactive and student-oriented. It facilitates students moving from full group discussion to smaller breakout groups; one-on-one and team debates; collaborative document sharing and editing; as well as dynamic polling and real-time simulations. It will also collect data on your performance during each session, providing rapid feedback that help you to learn more effectively. Its asynchronous tools provide powerful

capabilities for students and professors, enabling deeper and more frequent data-rich feedback, schedule and assignment management, and searchable review of prior class footage.

Enrollment Requirements

14. What are the requirements for enrolling in the HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program?

We welcome applications from students who have applied or got an offer for studying an undergraduate degree program at HKUST in September 2018. Final acceptance to enroll in this Program is subject to confirmed registration as a Year 1 student in an HKUST undergraduate degree program in Fall 2018, and attainment in one of the following English language requirements:

- HKDSE: 5* or above, with no sub-score lower than 5
- HKAL: B or above, with no sub-score lower than C
- IELTS: 7.0 or above, with no sub-score lower than 6.5
- TOEFL (paper-based): 600 or above, and 5 or above on TWE
- TOEFL (internet-based): 100 or above and 24 or above on Writing
- Certificate in Advanced English: B or above
- AP English Language and Composition / Literature and Composition: 4 or above
- IB English A (HL/SL): 4 or above
- IB English B (HL/SL): 6 or above
- GCEOL / GCSE / IGCSE English (First Language) : A*
- GCE English (AL/AS): A

15. What are the selection criteria for the HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program?

The learning mode of this Program requires students to possess certain learning traits and styles to succeed. We look for the following traits in selecting the best matched candidates:

- Academically curious and deeply inquisitive
- Have broad interests in a variety of subjects
- Are independently motivated
- Possess a drive to continuously excel
- Are globally minded
- Ability to collaborate and lead

Application & Enrollment

16. How should I submit my application? Do I need to enclose any documentation with the application form?

Please submit your application online. Apart from your basic personal information, you need to write a statement (about 350 words) describing your fit, expectations, and purpose for applying to this program. Interview is a required part of the selection process. Please indicate your preferred interview time slots in the application form. You may need approximately 30 minutes to complete the online application form. [More about application and the online form](#)

17. When is the application deadline for the HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program?

We accept applications for Fall 2018 enrollment in this Program between now and **12 August 2018**. Interested students are advised to submit their applications as soon as possible.

18. Can I apply for this Program if my English examination results have not yet been released?

Yes, you can submit your application for the Program based on interim / predicted / anticipated results. Please submit the English examination results to us as soon as they are released, but not later than 27 August 2018. Final acceptance to this Program is subject to your meeting the Program's [requisite English language proficiency](#).

19. How do I know that my application has been received by the Program?

You will receive an email acknowledging receipt of your application. If you do not receive this confirmation email, please send an email to hkustminerva@ust.hk with this subject line: **“Missing email notification [Your Full Name and email address you entered in the application].”**

20. Can I change the information in my application after submission?

If you need to make any changes to the information you have submitted (for example, phone number), please send an email to hkustminerva@ust.hk with this subject line: **“Application Updates for [Your Full Name and JUPAS/HKUST Application Number].”** In the email, please give details about the changes you would like to make and the reason for making the changes.

21. Do I need to attend an interview?

Interview is a required part of the selection process, which is conducted via an online platform such as Skype. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an online interview to be conducted in May, July or August 2018. If you are shortlisted, you will be notified of the interview arrangement by email. As much as we can, we will schedule the interview according to your preferred interview time slots indicated in the application form.

22. When will I receive an offer from the HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program?

Offers are made on a rolling basis during June to August 2018 for successful applicants. A Notice of Enrollment Offer will be sent to you via email.

23. What should I do to accept the offer from the HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program?

On receiving the Notice of Enrollment Offer from the HKUST-Minerva Scholars Program (firm or conditional), you should indicate your acceptance of the offer by completing the procedures on or before the reply due date as stipulated in the Notice.