Appendix

Zhizhen School of Interdisciplinary Mathematical Sciences

- The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) has established the **Zhizhen School of Interdisciplinary Mathematical Sciences** (Zhizhen School, or "the School"), as an initiative of internationally renowned mathematician Professor Yau Shing-tung. It aims to cultivate mathematical science talent in Hong Kong, aligning with the national aspiration to building China into a leading country in education, as well as the 14th Five-Year Plan's vision of strengthening basic research. This also aligns with the aspiration in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government's policy address to develop Hong Kong as an international hub for post-secondary education and establish the "Study in Hong Kong" brand.
- Zhizhen School plans to cooperate with world-renowned institutions, such as Qiuzhen College of Tsinghua University and Fudan University.
- Professor Yau is currently CUHK Distinguished Visiting Professor-at-Large and Director of The Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSCI). He has deep ties with CUHK, having collaborated academically with CUHK on numerous occasions and established the IMSCI at the University as early as 1993.
- In 2024, Professor Yau made a generous donation of US$1 million to CUHK to establish the Chiu Chin Yin Early Career Professorship in Mathematics under the University's IMSCI and Department of Mathematics. As Dean of Qiuzhen College at Tsinghua University, Professor Yau also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CUHK, marking closer collaboration between it and Tsinghua University in fields such as mathematics, applied mathematics, statistics and artificial intelligence.
- Professor Yau will serve as the Founding Director of Zhizhen School.

Mission and Vision of Zhizhen School

Mission

To build a robust platform that cultivates leaders in mathematical sciences who can make important original contributions in mathematical sciences and lead the breakthrough of interdisciplinary mathematical-science applications.

Vision

To be acknowledged nationally and internationally as a world-class mathematical science education and research hub that leads the development of mathematical science in Hong Kong, Mainland China and beyond.

Mode of operation

Admission and programme

- The first cohort of students is set to enrol in the 2025/26 academic year. 40 students will be recruited annually in the initial stage, 10 of them local and 30 non-local.
- These students will need to pass an examination administered by the School in collaboration with Tsinghua University's Qiuzhen College. The School will also admit talented students who have completed preparatory study requirements but have not taken the respective regional (e.g. HKDSE) or national (e.g. Gaokao) university admission examinations.
- Collaborating with partner universities, the School will offer a preparatory study programme for matriculation to interested secondary school students, in order to advance mathematical science talent development in Hong Kong.
- The School offers an eight-year training programme similar to that of Qiuzhen College, and will closely collaborate with Qiuzhen College, Fudan University and other institutions.
    - The programme includes three years of mathematical foundation training, two years of scientific research training and three years of doctoral training.
    - Students who fulfil the general and whole-person education graduation requirements will be awarded CUHK Bachelor and Ph.D degrees.

Research and teaching

- The School will be responsible for training in relation to mathematical sciences, while the University will provide general and whole-person education.
- The School will invite world-class scholars, who will participate in high-level scientific research, lead various academic activities of the School, and also be responsible for teaching and supervising students and postdoctoral fellows.
- The scope of research of the scholars will include but not be limited to:
    - Basic and applied mathematics
    - Physics
    - Computer science
    - Artificial intelligence
    - Big data processing
    - Machine learning