

Recruiting new students for PhD studies starting September 2022

The PC group aims to train lab group members to become excellent *Chemist-citizens*, who will be able to perform well in either academia or industry.

Our group welcomes PhD applications from highly motivated students, who are interested and well-versed in organic chemistry, to learn and do research in **organic synthesis** with us!

If you have a high academic standing (ranking within top **10%** of your class), you are also invited to apply and compete for the prestigious *Hong Kong Postgraduate Fellowship*.

FAQ:

1. Is an MPhil or MSc a pre-requisite for application?

No, both BSc and MSc candidates are welcomed to apply for PhD studies. However, prior research experience in a synthetic laboratory is a plus.

2. What kind of academic background do applicants need?

Our group's **main** research focus is in Organic Synthesis—both the development of synthetic methodology and applications in total synthesis of natural products. This requires a good background (both theory and laboratory skills) in organic chemistry and synthesis. HKU applicants should have achieved “A” grades in organic chemistry courses, such as “Integrated Organic Synthesis”. Applicants outside HKU should have achieved an excellent mastery of organic chemistry from a major textbook such as *Organic Chemistry* by Paula Bruice, or *Organic Chemistry* by Clayden, Greeves and Warren.

We are also interested in chemical biology of natural products as an application and by collaboration. But students who only intend to do, or only has isolation of natural products as background, will not be accepted.

3. What are the procedures to apply to enter into the PC group for RPg studies?

First, you should communicate with Prof. P. Chiu (pchiu@hku.hk) about your intent and interest. In any year, the number of students who can be admitted to the group is limited. The selection will be based on the applicant's level of motivation and academic qualifications. We are seeking students who are passionate about organic synthesis, have a good mastery of organic chemistry as a foundation for research, eager to learn and work hard to do that, and who will build up the research group together.

Two letters of recommendation should be arranged to be sent to Prof. Chiu by email by October 10, 2021, and also uploaded to the HKU Graduate School application website.

There will also be an interview to be conducted in English, in person or via Skype.

In the online application, you will also need to produce a research proposal and statement—but the Department of Chemistry and Prof. Chiu will provide guidance to prospective students.

4. Are students applying for MPhil accepted?

In the past we have found that the learning curve for organic synthesis is quite steep, so that unfortunately, not much work or learning can be achieved within an MPhil time frame.

Because of this, our group will only be accepting students who are applying to study PhD. Only under very exceptional circumstances will MPhil applicants be considered.

5. What are the deadlines?

Deadline for application to HKU Graduate School: **December 1, 2021**

Deadline for application for Hong Kong Postgraduate Fellowship: **December 1, 2021**

The interview will be conducted no later than December 10, 2021.