

## Research & Innovation



### Establishment of City's First Research Laboratory on Law and Web3

Web3 is a decentralised internet built on an open blockchain network that is not owned and controlled by large entities; governments worldwide are considering how to provide an appropriate regulatory environment for its development. Against this backdrop, PolyU and the Cybaverse Academy Limited have signed a Memorandum of Establishment to set up the PolyU and Cybaverse Academy Joint Lab on Law and Web3 in Hong Kong.

Being a first-of-its-kind research laboratory in the City, it focuses on scrutinising the intersection between the law and Web3, pursuing research and

development into technological solutions, examining relevant legal and industry standards, and promoting the safety, security, and privacy protection of Web3 users. The Joint Lab also aims to provide regulators and other stakeholders with essential tools to enhance protection for the investment community and the general public, as well as to develop a solid foundation for a better Web3 ecosystem.

PolyU expertise in blockchain technology has previously been recognised by CoinDesk, which ranked it first in its "Best Universities for Blockchain 2022" list. Leveraging the University's excellence in blockchain technology education and research, the PolyU Research Centre for Blockchain Technology, the first research centre in Hong Kong to engage in research on full-stack blockchain technology, will provide a training programme related to Web3.

## Teaching & Learning

### Subject: Legal Aspects of Human Services

The Department of Applied Social Sciences hosts this subject to prepare students to become human service practitioners with essential legal knowledge and apply laws in relevant substantive legal areas. Students are taught general legal principles in the judicial system in Hong Kong and core legal concepts in areas such as tort law, labour law, protection of personal data, and equal opportunities, with which they then analyse legal problems and practical issues encountered in the context of Hong Kong. Students are expected to showcase a thorough understanding of the legal rights and obligations of human service practitioners and their clients in order to mobilise suitable support and use community resources for the interests of the clients.

### Subject: Child Maltreatment and Protection

The Department of Applied Social Sciences believes that every child has the right to a life free from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect. Against the backdrop of child maltreatment being a serious public health problem with a negative impact on the victims, their families, and societies as a whole, this subject aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the dynamics of child maltreatment from social, legal, and health perspectives and from multiple theoretical foundations. By acknowledging the special needs of victims and families, they will conduct clinical assessments to examine the associated prevalence and risk factors. Moreover, with the recognition that

### Cross-Country Examination of Lending Corruption and Bank Loan Contracting

By using World Bank survey data, a researcher from the School of Accounting and Finance has documented the phenomenon of banks extending more favourable loan terms to borrowers in countries with more lending corruption. This relation is stronger when borrowers have financing constraints but weaker in countries with stronger monitoring of foreign bank ownership or with stronger religiosity. The results also demonstrate that banks in countries with high lending corruption generally have poor loan quality and earnings performance, and are more susceptible to difficulty during a financial crisis. Overall, the findings suggest that corruption "greases the wheels" for borrowers but is detrimental to bank shareholders.

children's rights are part of the basic framework of human rights, students are guided to identify effective prevention and intervention strategies that can contribute to the development of a child-friendly society and family for child protection.



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## Outreach & Engagement

### Achieving Peaceful and Inclusive Sustainability via Social Work

The Department of Applied Social Sciences and the VNU University of Social Sciences and Humanities jointly held an international conference themed “Make a Difference – Social Work Without Barriers” in Hanoi, Vietnam, **attracting over 150 attendees from more than 20 countries**. With a focus on addressing the importance of social work in promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, sessions that included “Social Issues/Problems and the Roles of Social Work” and “Managing Change in a Risk Society” highlighted how social work is pivotal in responding to social issues and contributes to the development of strong institutions that uphold justice and peace.

## Governance & Operations

### Informed University Policies and Best Practices Frameworks

In the belief that inclusiveness and participatory decision-making should be upheld in the University, 40 student representatives are served in Council, Senate, and on various University committees, ensuring all students to have a stake in University policies. With regard to its staff, PolyU has pledged to maintain the highest professional standards in all aspects of its operation and all staff members are thus expected to demonstrate integrity and high moral principles. The Human Resources Office has implemented the Code of Ethics to promote and support ethical behaviour and accountability among all staff members, who are expected to sustain impartiality, equal opportunities, and fair treatment. Furthermore, the University has developed Probity Guidelines based on the Hong Kong Prevention of Bribery Ordinance to govern the solicitation and acceptance of advantages for staff members.

The University also offers a formal channel for dispute resolution and to deal with grievances and appeals. The Grievance Committee and the Review Committee on Human Resources Decisions are tasked with handling work-related complaints and appeals against decisions on human resources related issues.



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