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## **Press Release**

### **Launching of Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Social Data Science and Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education and Special Education**

The Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong (HKU) will launch two new undergraduate programmes from the academic year of 2019-20, the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Social Data Science [BASc(SDS)] and Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education and Special Education [BEd(ECE&SE)].

#### **BASc(SDS) Programme**

With the rapid development of information technology, “big data” has become a popular trend globally in recent years. “Digital footprint” is created when people use the internet, including records of online consumption and browsing habits, which can be used for business analysis or in the formulation of public policy. In view of this, the interdisciplinary BASc(SDS) programme is offered by the Faculties of Education, Science, and Social Sciences from the academic year 2019-20. Students will be competent in analysing “big data” derived from the different lifestyles and people’s behaviours in the framework of social sciences, which can be applied to economics, technology, society and formulation of public policy.

The BASc programmes aim at nurturing globally-minded thinkers and leaders, who are able to leverage their interdisciplinary knowledge and skills to address the contemporary and future challenges of our increasingly complex world. The BASc(SDS) programme is a senior year entry programme. It addresses our rapidly changing, data driven society, where economic, political and technological factors are interconnected. It aims to drive and catalyse new ways of thinking when analysing and applying data in the context of the social sciences.

For more information about the programme, please visit <https://web.edu.hku.hk/programme/bsds>.

#### **BEd(ECE&SE) Programme**

The programme prepares students for dual certification as both early childhood teachers and teachers of children with special educational needs in early childhood (birth to six years). It includes (i) engaging academic courses; (ii) supervised practicum placements in multiple early childhood settings; and (iii) independent research experiences to help students facilitate the development and learning of children from birth to six years.

Students will be guided by Faculty members who have extensive practical and research experience in local and international early childhood settings. They will be supported to gain the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to work in both integrated early childhood settings and special child care centres. Students will be competent in meeting the diverse developmental and educational needs of young children with typical development, children with developmental delays and children with developmental disabilities and they will therefore be eligible for certification as qualified kindergarten teachers, child care workers, child care supervisors, and special child care workers. They will also meet the academic requirements to serve as kindergarten principals.

For more information about the programme, please visit <https://web.edu.hku.hk/programme/becese>.

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