

The University of Hong Kong
Faculty of Education

Master of Education (MEd)
Educational Administration and Management

Dr Vincent Wong, Specialism Coordinator
(Tel: 2859 2986; Email: wongvin@hku.hk)

This specialism provides educators with related theoretical background, cultivates their research interests and abilities to understand and analyse the effective practice of administration and management in education, as well as in other relevant contexts as appropriate. Topics discussed will include organisation theories; management theories; theories and strategies for decision-making; sociological perspectives of educational institutions; educational policy-making and planning; organisational performance; accountability and law in education; and research methodology in educational administration.

Who would benefit from this specialism?

Serving or aspiring leaders in overseas or local educational organisations, edu-business corporations, government ministries or departments relevant to education, manpower training or human resources planning would benefit from this specialism. Overseas ministerial directors, regional government officials, aspiring or serving principals and school leaders, global & regional organisational leaders or CEOs, strategic corporate administrators, medical doctors, bankers, entrepreneurs for educational and business groups, teachers with supreme potential and excellent educational background have been our applicants, students or graduates.

Mode of study:

The specialism is available in 1-year full-time and 2-year part-time modes of study.

Outline of the four specialist courses:

Course 1: Administrative and Organizational Theory for Educational Institutions (6 credits)

This course will trace the evolution of administrative and organisational theories, from classical to contemporary schools of thought, in the context of educational institutions. It will enable students to conceptualise and analyse organisational phenomena from various perspectives, including classical, human resource, systems, political, cultural, critical and postmodern schools of thought. Particular attention will be given to the application of these ideas to leadership and organisational learning, change and effectiveness.

Course 2: Concepts and Issues in School Based Management (6 credits)

This course provides a systematic study of the theory and practice of School-Based Management (SBM), its background and its major features. Within the SBM framework, topics to be covered will include organisational structures, proposed leadership models and leadership training, data on learning outcomes, preferred funding models, models of school planning, implementation and evaluation, and quality assurance. Particular emphases will be placed in the area of staff development and appraisal. Related theories, concepts, skills and strategies will be studied and the relationship between staff development and appraisal, with special reference to the implications for school effectiveness and educational change, will be closely examined.

Course 3: Educational Leadership and School Management (6 credits)

This course traces the recent development of leadership theory in education in order to explore what it really means to build an effective school of tomorrow, and what types of leadership would be most adequate for this enormous task. The course has integrated a comparative perspective, and looks into case-studies and findings from Asia Pacific, Australia, Europe and North America. The participants will explore the latest themes in leadership theories and will examine differentials in cultures, values, intelligences, and styles. The course will focus on approaches to school leadership that promote high quality learning environment and student learning achievement. However, the course will draw on examples from both educational and non-educational settings to relate theories to practice. There will be an opportunity for students to share their own experiences by contributing to group discussions and presentations.

Course 4: Legal Aspects of Educational Administration (6 credits)

The course aims to better equip students with legal literacy, concepts and reasoning so that they would be able to understand legal aspects of educational administration, examine the implications for effective operation of the school, make sensible administrative decisions effectively and legally. The content covers basic legal concepts and legal jurisdiction. Issues such as employment, student rights, school liabilities, staff relation, equal opportunities, personal data, collaboration with law enforcement bodies will be explored.

In addition to four specialist courses, students will also have to complete:

- The compulsory core course Educational Issues and Research (6 credits);
- Three elective courses (6 credits each); and
- An option of a professional portfolio (12 credits) or a research project (12 credits).