



Policy for Doctoral Thesis Deposit and Open Access

This policy applies to all doctoral degree candidates at the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK), and forms part of the requirements for the award of a doctoral degree as approved by the Academic Board at its meeting in June 2026. All doctoral theses are to be deposited in the HSUHK Theses Collection for long-term preservation and open access, subject to any approved embargoes or access restrictions.

(a) Copyright

Copyright in a doctoral thesis is vested in the individual student who created the work.

(b) License to the University

By depositing the thesis, the student grants the University a non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free, perpetual license to reproduce, distribute, preserve, and provide public access to the thesis, in any form of media now known or hereafter developed for academic or institutional purposes under the terms of this Policy.

(c) Open Access under Creative Commons

All theses are made publicly accessible under the [Creative Commons Attribution–NonCommercial–NoDerivatives 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/) (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) License.

(d) Relationship between Licenses

For the avoidance of doubt, the license granted to the University is separate from and not limited by the Creative Commons license applied to the thesis. This allows the University to use the thesis for academic, administrative, quality assurance, accreditation, promotional, and educational purposes.

(e) Embargoes and access restrictions

The author(s) of theses may apply for restricted access for a specific period by submitting a request to their programme office or academic department. Such requests shall be considered on a case-by-case basis and are subject to approval by the University, following reviewed by the delegated programme office or academic department and the Library.

Notwithstanding the above, the University reserves the right to impose embargo periods or restrict access to doctoral theses where appropriate, including in cases involving confidential, proprietary, or sensitive information.

(f) Technical and repository requirements

Detailed specifications relating to thesis file format, metadata, and repository management are provided and updated by the Library, in consultation with relevant academic and administrative offices, as appropriate, to serve the scholarly and institutional interests of the University.