

Background

The HKUST Inter-University Public Policy Case Competition is a flagship event at the Division of Public Policy of HKUST. The Competition aims to provide students with an opportunity to analyze pressing public policy issues and recommend practical solutions to policy makers. The inaugural session was successfully launched in Spring 2019, followed by the second session in Spring 2021. After years of the pandemic, the third session of the Competition will be hosted on the HKUST Clear Water Bay campus in Spring 2024.

Objectives

The HKUST Inter-University Public Policy Case Competition:

1. Provides students with an opportunity to analyze pressing public policy issues and recommend practical solutions to policy makers; and
2. Develops students' practical problem-solving, decision-making, critical thinking, teamwork, and presentation skills.

Eligibility

Sub-degree, undergraduate and postgraduate (taught and research) students from all higher education institutions in Hong Kong are eligible for participation.

Teams

All eligible students may form a team of **3 to 4 members**. **Members of the same team must be affiliated to the same institution**. Each team may consist of members from the same discipline/education level or a variety of disciplines/education levels.

Case

The case for the competition is developed by the Division of Public Policy at HKUST, which features the background of a public policy challenge that real-life policy makers need to address.

Registration

Interested teams should register for the Competition at the following website **by 23:59, 4 March 2024 (Monday)**:

https://ust.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cTObGbeASINaRAa

Briefing Session

(5 March 2024)

- To facilitate the preparation, an online briefing session will be provided, which will introduce to the participating teams the general expectations for the competition and principles of case analysis.
- All registered participants are eligible to participate.
- It will take place on Zoom on **March 5, 2024 (Tuesday) from 6:30 – 7:30pm.**

Round 1

(22 March 2024)

- After the briefing session on **March 5, 2024**, each team will receive a copy of the competition case and the prescribed task.
- The team will submit a digital poster responding to the task no later than **23:59, 22 March 2024.**
- The digital poster should be of **90 cm (width) x 140 cm (height)** in **JPEG or PDF format.**
- A panel of judges will review all submissions and shortlist teams for Round 2.
- All shortlisted teams will be notified on **6 April 2024** by e-mail.

Round 2

(13 April 2024, afternoon)

- Round 2 will take place on the Clear Water Bay campus of HKUST on **13 April 2024 from 14:00 to 18:00.**
- Each team will verbally pitch their digital poster (submitted for Round 1) in **3 minutes.**
- The order of the pitches is preassigned, of which participating teams will be notified a few days before the Competition.
- Pitches will be timed and halted at the 3-minute mark.
- The **‘Q&A Session – Teams’** will commence after the pitches.
- Each team will need to answer ONE question about their poster. **Based on the lottery results,** each question will be raised by ONE of the teams, except the team who is going to answer the same question. **Each question can only be addressed to ONE team only.**

- **The maximum duration for asking each question is 1 minute. The maximum duration for answering each question is 2 minutes.**
- The Q&A session will be timed and halted at the 1-minute mark for the question and 2-minute mark for the answer.
- All teams will be granted access to all posters shortlisted for Round 2 a few days before the Competition. They are advised to read through the shortlisted posters in advance and prepare their questions.
- Next, there will be a **20-minute ‘Q&A Session – Judges’**. Judges will ask questions to one or more teams.
- The team(s) being asked the question will offer a response right after the question is raised.
- There is no time limit to a question or an answer, as long as it does not exceed the duration of this Q&A session.
- The judges will rate the performances of the finalists and decide the winners.

Judging

The panels of judges will consist of policy scholars and/or practitioners from within and outside HKUST.

Enquiries

Organizing Committee, HKUST Inter-University Public Policy Case Competition 2024

Address: Division of Public Policy, Room 4611, Academic Building, Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong

E-mail: ppcasecomp@ust.hk

Web: <https://ppol.hkust.edu.hk/event/hkust-inter-university-public-policy-case-competition-2024>

Competition Rules

General

- All shortlisted teams to Round 2 must show up on time and participate in all sessions on the Competition Day (i.e., 13 April 2024).
- All team members must observe and follow the competition rules.
- Any violation of the rules by a team member may result in disqualification of the whole team. The Case Competition Organizing Committee (“Committee”) has the final decision on any case of disqualification.
- The Committee reserves the right to make necessary changes to the competition rules, and all teams will be informed accordingly should this possibility arise.

Preparation

- All presentation materials must be in English only.
- Presentation files must be saved in PDF format.
- It is the teams’ responsibility to ensure that their presentation files are uploaded to the computers provided in the competition venue. If in doubt, the teams may send a copy of their presentation files to the Committee in advance.

Presentation

- The recommended dress code is business formal attire.
- **All members must be present for their team’s presentation.**
- At least TWO members of a team must participate in the pitches and Q&A sessions.
- All presentations and Q&As must be delivered in English only.
- The presenting teams must stop when the time is up. No buffer time will be offered.
- Any teams failing to show up on time will be deemed to have dropped out from the Competition. No make-up time will be arranged.
- All electronic devices, including mobile phones and tablets, must be switched off inside the competition venue.
- Personal belongings should not be left unattended. The Committee cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage of personal belongings.
- Eating and drinking are not allowed inside the competition venues.

Copyright

- All materials distributed and produced in the competition, including but not limited to the competition case as well as the photos and video recordings of the competition, shall remain the rightful property of the HKUST Inter-University Public Policy Case Competition.
- The above materials must not be reproduced or disseminated without the written permission of the Committee.
- Events on the Competition Day will be photographed and/or video-recorded. Consent will be sought from the participating teams at the time of registration.