

Legislative Council Brief on the
Statutes of the University of Hong Kong (Amendment) Statute 2019

INTRODUCTION

1. The University of Hong Kong (“HKU”) proposes to amend the Statutes of the University of Hong Kong (“Statutes”) contained in the Schedule to the University of Hong Kong Ordinance (Cap. 1053) (“Ordinance”) as set out in the Statutes of the University of Hong Kong (Amendment) Statute 2019 (“Amendment Statute”).
2. Section 13(2) of the Ordinance stipulates that “The Council may propose to the Court additions to, or the amendment or repeal of, any of the statutes, whereupon on the recommendation by the Court to the Chancellor, the Chancellor may make any such addition, amendment, or repeal as recommended by the Court”. The HKU Court, on the proposal of the HKU Council, has made a resolution for making the Amendment Statute, which was approved by the Chancellor on 11 December 2019. The Amendment Statute is now submitted to the Legislative Council for negative vetting.

THE AMENDMENT STATUTE

3. In the Explanatory Note of the Amendment Statute, it is stated that:

“This Statute amends the Statutes of the University of Hong Kong in the Schedule to the University of Hong Kong Ordinance (Cap. 1053) to add certain bachelors and masters degrees which may be conferred by the University of Hong Kong.”
4. HKU, as a comprehensive University, has always been working towards offering more diversified programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels to meet the demands of graduates gearing for the future in this rapidly changing world. The addition of the degrees as set out in the Amendment Statute is proposed in recognition of the rising needs of academic education and training in the respective disciplines.

CONSULTATION

5. The proposed Amendment Statute has gone through the proper procedure in HKU which involved its relevant departments and faculties, the Senate, and the Council. HKU has also consulted the Education Bureau and, through the Bureau, the Law Draftsman. The Law Draftsman’s comments on the Amendment Statute have been incorporated as appropriate.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

6. The legislative timetable is as follows –

Publication in the Gazette	27 December 2019
Tabling at the Legislative Council	8 January 2020

Subject to negative vetting by the Legislative Council, the Amendment Statutes will come into operation on 1 March 2020.

ENQUIRIES

7. Any enquiry on this brief can be addressed to Mr. Henry Wai, Registrar of HKU (Telephone: 2859 2222).

The University of Hong Kong
December 2019