

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2011 **SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST**

# Timely lessons on taming risks

**Master of Science in Finance  
City University of Hong Kong**

Sound financial management has become more important than ever and the market demand for financial management professionals continues to be keen, particularly in the aftermath of the many high-profile corporate comedowns of recent years.

The integration of the global economy has made for a fast-changing corporate operating environment fraught with risk. City University of Hong Kong's master of science in finance equips sector professionals to adapt to uncertainties.

Dr Joe Zou, programme leader, says the course provides a well-designed structure that mixes streams in financial management, investments, and risk management, and emphasises both academic rigour and strong professional orientation.

"We offer a compulsory year-long professional seminar series that aims to familiarise students with current market trends and state-of-the-art practices, [plus] a large alumni network," he says.

"Experienced industry professionals are invited to share their knowledge of current industry practices and their views on latest developments in the financial markets. The activities also allow students to interact and establish contact with speakers and alumni."



The programme aims to equip students with advanced knowledge of modern theories and industry practices in financial management, including financing, investment strategies, and risk management.

"Topics on capital budgeting appraisal, portfolio theory, pricing and valuations, features of financial products, different tools and risk hedging strategies are covered," says Zou.

"The innovations in financial products and financial markets, and the dynamic regulatory environment present new challenges for practitioners of finance and banking. The programme informs students of new theories and practices in financial and risk management to equip them to handle challenges," he adds.

Students are required to complete eight courses and two electives, and earn a total of 30 credit units.

To strike a balance between theory and practice, most courses are assessed on course or project work and an examination.

Practitioners of finance and banking are welcome to join the course. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree from a recognised university, preferably with at least two years of full-time work experience in the fields of banking or finance.

Applicants who have outstanding academic records but less than two years of work experience will also be considered. Applicants with no work experience are expected to produce GMAT or GRE test scores.

Students can choose to complete the programme in one year full-time, or in 24 months part-time. Almost all classes (above) take place on weekday evenings and Saturday afternoons *Wong Yat-hei*