A number of students who graduated in 2007 from CityU’s Master of Science in Applied Economics (MSAE) have taken up exciting opportunities to study for further degrees overseas and experience new cultures.

The MSAE, first launched in 2005, is designed to provide rigorous training in economic analysis and empirical and quantitative methods for fresh university graduates and young professionals. “In recent years, techniques for economic analysis, modelling and forecasting have advanced substantially,” said Dr Fred Kwan, Programme Leader. “Economic analysis is now widely applied in areas such as international trade, telecommunication markets, competition law, banking and financial systems, regulation, and business strategy.”

Liu Rui, who is now enrolled for a PhD at the University of California (UC)–Irvine in the USA, cites the high calibre of the staff and the opportunities for interaction with famous economists as distinct benefits of the programme. “I was attracted by the distinguished faculty on the MSAE,” she said. “Courses are organised very efficiently, teachers are very serious about their research and enthusiastic and passionate about teaching.”

“Lectures and seminars are often held,” Liu Rui added, “and I got to know many great professors such as Prof Gregory Chow [a world-renowned economist who is an Honorary Professor of CityU].”

Fellow graduate Lu Mi has taken up her PhD studies at UC–Riverside this autumn. She said that the first-class professors on the MSAE programme attracted her to CityU, and she was not disappointed. “I have had great opportunities to learn from first-class faculty and share ideas with them,” Lu Mi said. “The professors really care about the students,” she added.

“I have been taught by world class professors at CityU and under their guidance my understanding of economics has been enhanced,” said Jiao Qian, who is now undertaking her doctorate studies at the National University of Singapore. “In addition, by attending seminars and conferences, I have had the opportunity to meet first-class economists from all over the world and to get to know cutting-edge economics research.”

Classmate Wang Zishi is now undertaking his MSc in Economics at the London School of Economics and Political Science in the UK, and is planning to go on to study for a PhD after completing his current studies. Wang Zishi chose to study at CityU because of the University's reputation in Economics and Finance.

“The programme emphasis is on both theoretical study and the application of economics,” he said. “Besides the core economics courses, students who are interested in other subjects, such as finance and management, can also take courses from other departments.”

Two other MSAE graduates will study for their MPhils in Economics in Hong Kong: Li Xindun at CityU and Wu Zhouheng at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Graduates of the programme who have chosen to take up employment rather than further study opportunities also have found prestigious positions, including at the Beijing office of a multinational consultancy firm, the People’s Bank of China, the Head Office of China Citic Bank, and the Shenzhen branch of Citibank.

Xing Jing, a graduate from the first student intake into the programme, went on last year to study for her PhD at Oxford University in the UK. “The MSAE at CityU not only offered me frontier economics knowledge, both theoretical and practical, but it also helped me be able to study economics at Oxford,” Xing Jing said.

“The standard of the programme is high and the content essential,” she added, “and my one-year stay in CityU is the most unforgettable experience I have ever had.”
Tommy Yang Guomin, a Computer Science PhD student at CityU, has been offered an international scholarship by the International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium, known as (ISC)². He is one of just eight awardees worldwide and the only one from Hong Kong to receive the award this year. The scholarship, which he received in July 2007, is in recognition of his cryptography research into digital signature schemes. His work helps to improve security for online transactions in e-commerce.

Tommy said he was delighted to receive the scholarship, worth US$12,500 (approximately HK$97,500), which will support his tuition fees and the purchase of equipment for conducting experiments, adding that this level of recognition will motivate him to do even better. “This scholarship enables me to improve my previous theoretical concepts and encourages me to continue my research into developing reliable and practical cryptographic systems,” he said.

An exchange student from Fudan University in 2000, Tommy did his undergraduate studies and his MPhil at CityU’s Department of Computer Science (CS) and is now pursuing his PhD studies. He thanked Prof Deng Xiaotie and Dr Duncan Wong Shek, Chair Professor and Assistant Professor respectively in CS, for their guidance and support. “I am grateful that they have inspired my interest in cryptography and helped me make up my mind to pursue my career in this field upon my graduation,” Tommy said.

(ISC)² is a non-profit organisation dedicated to certifying information security professionals around the world. It offers scholarships annually to postgraduate students conducting pioneering information security research projects.

Adapted from an article by CityU NewsCentre

Orientation for Research Degree Students, 2007

To welcome new research degree students and provide information on issues related to their studies, an orientation event organised by the Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies (SGS) was held on 4 October 2007.

The event, attended by new students as well as supervisors, was opened by Prof Roderick Wong Sue-chuen, Vice-President (Research) and Dean of Graduate Studies. His welcoming address was followed by a presentation from Prof Y V Hui, Associate Dean of SGS, covering a wide range of issues relevant to research studies. An introduction to the CityU Postgraduate Association (CUPA) was given by the CUPA President.

The first Outstanding Academic Performance Award ceremony was also held at the Orientation. This award was established in 2006 to recognize students with outstanding academic performance in their research studies. In the 2005/06 and 2006/07 academic years, 66 awards were conferred. The orientation ended with a lively sharing session.

Adapted from an article by CityU NewsCentre