

# THEi breaks new ground and attains its first Programme Area Accreditation which paves the way for becoming a University of Applied Sciences



As announced in the Chief Executive’s Policy Address in 2023 and 2024, the Government would facilitate the development of Universities of Applied Sciences (UASs), and strive to raise the status of Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET). The Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi), a member institution of VTC, is working towards becoming a University of Applied Sciences (UAS). In addition to joining the “Alliance of Universities of Applied Sciences” last November, THEi has successfully achieved the Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) with the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) for the programme area of Sports and Recreation Management. This marks a significant step forward in THEi’s journey to becoming a UAS, alongside plans to launch a master's programme in sports related area.

Since its establishment in 2012, THEi has been offering professional "Applied Science-Oriented" degree programmes. Professor Alan LAU, President of THEi, stated that following the approval of the first PAA, the institution is working full steam to attain accreditation for the other two programme areas “Built Environment” and “Computer Science and Information Technology”. It is anticipated that all PAAs will be completed by 2026, with the aim for THEi to achieve UAS status within the same year.

## Strengthen synergies through Alliance of UASs

THEi joined the Alliance of UASs as a founding member last November and has actively strengthened collaboration among institutions to create synergy. Recently, THEi’s Department of Sport and Recreation was in talks with Tung Wah College’s School of Nursing to establish a new centre, aiming to leverage the professional strengths of Sports and Nursing to offer interdisciplinary learning opportunities. It showcases THEi’s strong connections with institutions and its commitment to advancing vocational and professional education training.

## Emphasising applied research while nurturing talent for industries

While THEi is steadily advancing towards becoming a UAS, it remains committed to developing applied research talents to drive the innovative growth of society. Earlier, some of THEi’s research projects in Chinese Medicine and Food Science have reached the clinical trial stage in the mainland, showing the impact of applied research on social development. THEi also works closely with industry and places emphasis on equipping students with applied skills to meet the industry needs. THEi students are required to complete Work-Integrated Learning training during their studies, with some programmes offering up to 720 hours of internship experience.



Successfully awarded the first PAA in Sports and Recreation Management, THEi is progressing towards becoming a UAS with its plan to achieve PAA for the “Built Environment” and “Computer Science and Information Technology” programme areas by 2026.

In line with the institution's future development, THEi is actively seeking locations for expanding its campus and constructing student accommodation to provide students with enriched learning environment and advanced facilities. Looking ahead, THEi will continue to collaborate with local, mainland, and overseas industries to further align the curriculum with industry developments, consolidating the advantages of applied science education and preparing professionals to meet future challenges.