

# THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEEDS OF CUHK'S POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

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*The number of postgraduate students from the People's Republic of China studying in Hong Kong tertiary institutions has expanded rapidly since the early 1990's. This study examined the English language needs of this group of students. Data was collected via a questionnaire, interviews and observations. The results are organized and discussed in four areas: biographical data, learning styles/strategies, English language needs, and situational factors/learning constraints. The findings revealed that PRC postgraduate students place a high priority on learning English because most of their academic tasks and professional responsibilities must be performed in English. The study also revealed that with respect to their fields of expertise students were most confident about their ability to read and least confident about their ability to speak. The paper concludes with a discussion of the implications of the findings for curriculum planning and syllabus/materials design.*