

Foreword

The *Improving Postgraduate Learning* (IPL) programme is a structured and cross-disciplinary framework that aims to equip postgraduate students with basic research and communication skills. It covers a wide variety of topics, such as information search and analysis, research data management, research ethics, laboratory safety, computer techniques, expository writing, and oral presentation, which serve to enrich students' postgraduate studies.

Postgraduate students are naturally deeply focused in the development of their specialized knowledge and expertise. However, it is equally important for them to pursue cross-disciplinary intellectual development. Through the IPL programme, students can broaden their minds and cultivate their creativity in research.

Over the past two decades, the IPL programme has been well received by postgraduate students. While most of the courses are optional, students are highly encouraged to grasp the opportunity to attend as many courses as possible, so as to build a solid foundation for their postgraduate studies. Supervisors and Heads of Graduate Divisions are also invited to promote suitable courses to their students. Furthermore, the course on *Observing Intellectual Property and Copyright Law* and *Basics of Research Data Management* are compulsory for all research postgraduate students and taught doctoral students, while the course on *Laboratory Safety* should be taken by students doing laboratory work.

The success of the IPL programme is a concerted effort of the Centre for Learning Enhancement And Research (CLEAR) and the Graduate School. I am most grateful to CLEAR for its tremendous support in organizing the programme as well as to the colleagues who will be teaching the courses.

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