

Further Particulars for Job Applicants **(Ref.: FSH/DECO/ASO/09/2010)** **(Ref.: FSH/DECO/ASI/09/2010)**

The University

The University of Macau (U.M.) is a public institution of higher learning dedicated to the creation, transmission and diffusion of culture, science and technology. In March 1981, the University of East Asia (U.E.A.) had been founded as a private institution with the support of the government of Macao, which gave land in lease for the campus on Taipa Island. In February of 1988 the Macao government took over the University through the Macao Foundation. Since then, the commitment to the high-quality education, including training local people, has been intensified. 2006 marks the 25th anniversary of the University.

The University's campus overlooks the Pearl River estuary and commands impressive views of the Macao Peninsula, China, and the South China Sea. Its buildings are laid out in such a way that the residential, teaching and administrative facilities are linked by walkways and staircases and form an integrated whole.

Currently, basic academic activities of the University are organized into five faculties, namely Faculty of Business Administration, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, and Faculty of Science and Technology. The total student population is about 6,600 in 2008 / 2009 while academic staff amounts about 400. The medium of instruction is English for most of the courses.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of our University, the Economics Programme had the honour to invite Joseph Stiglitz, 2001 Nobel Laureate in Economics, to deliver a public lecture titled "Lessons from the Financial Crisis in Asia" under our Distinguished Lecture Series. Stiglitz made his first public lecture in Asia after receiving the Nobel Prize and received the honorary degree of Doctor of Social Sciences conferred by our University. His lecture attracted an audience of more than 1,200 - attending at four venues with the aid of simultaneous broadcasting - and was one of the successful academic events of the last decade in Macao.

In 2005, a university-level appointment was made to Sir James A. Mirrlees, 1996 Nobel Laureate in Economics, as Distinguished Professor of Economics. His role is mainly to improve the research capacity of economics in UM.

An International Symposium on Chinese Economic Growth: Causes, Prospects and Its Implications for Macao on the 2nd and 3rd March 2007. This symposium had the objective of further understanding China's recent economic success, particularly the issues related to the sources of growth; and was organized in three parts: distinguished lecture, paper presentation, and a Macao roundtable. Two Nobel laureates and six economists presented their research papers:

Douglass North: Will China evolve from a "Natural State" to an "Open Access" society?

James Mirrlees: Where is Chinese economic growth going?

Gary Jefferson: Productivity growth and convergence across China's industrial economy;

Chenggang Xu: Chinese reform and Chinese regional decentralization;

Jun Zheng: Triggering economic growth in China: some stylized facts;

Carsten Holz: The role of state ownership in China's economic reform;

John Wong: China's economic growth in East Asian perspective.

The event was well-attended by colleagues, graduate students, and general public.

The International Conference on Economic Integration in the Greater China Region, co-organized by the US Chinese Economists Society (CES) was held on the 29th – 30th March 2009. Invited speakers included Professor Robert Koopman, Professor Laurence Lau, Professor Jeff Lin, Professor Sir James Mirrlees, Professor Xiaolu Wang, Professor Wing Thye Woo, and Professor Yuxin Zheng. There were more than 100 people participated in the conference. Over 40 papers were presented, in addition to two roundtable discussion panels. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for scholars from all over the world to present their researches on the sources of economic growth in the Greater China region, especially the influence of the global financial crisis on sustainable economic growth. Selected papers will be published in a special issue of the *Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy* in late 2010.

The Study of Economic Science

The study of economics at UM, leading to the award of Bachelor of Social Sciences, started in 1981 when the discipline was part of the *Faculty of Social Sciences* of the ex University of East Asia. The *Economics Programme* was

formed in 1993 as a unit of the combined *Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSH)*. In 2002, the Department of Social Sciences was created inside FSH and the *Economics Programme* is under this new departmental structure.

With the resumption and expansion of the *FSH Economics Programme*, areas such as economic research (especially those dealing with the local economy), conferences / seminars and publications (including the currently well-established Workshop on Economics and the Social Science Roundtable) have been strengthened.

With continuous support from the University, the *Department of Economics* was created in September 2006. The Department sees further expansion (at both undergraduate and graduate levels). It is expected that there will be substantial increase of academic staff in the coming academic years; many to be internationally recruited.

Teaching

Our Department offers three degrees in economics, undergraduate (B.Soc.Sc.) and postgraduate (M.Soc.Sc. and Ph.D.) respectively. Since its resumption, the undergraduate degree had expanded rapidly: 193 full-time students (September, 2009). Undergraduate students are admitted either through the University's entrance examination or through the scheme of direct admission from secondary school. The quality of student has been improving as the result of higher minimum scores set on the entrance examination of each intake. We plan to further strengthen the student quality by increasing the share of good students from mainland China and those under the scheme of direct admission.

Our Department also offers teaching to students majoring in Sociology, History, English, Public Administration and Psychology. In addition, *minor in economics* is possible to students from other academic programmes of our University since 2006.

Workshop on Economics

The *Workshop on Economics* was established in June 1996. Subsequently, the *Workshop on China Studies*, *Workshop on Social Sciences* and *Social Science Roundtable* were created. The *Distinguished Lecture Series* was resumed in 1998

to include first class lecture presentations. Both our economics colleagues and outside scholars are welcome to give presentations on the topics of their choice. During 2008 / 2009, eight workshops were organized.

Research

Following the tradition of our University that teaching is emphasized, research activity in our Department is still in its infant stage. However, the research atmosphere in our Department has been improved due to the addition of new academic members. In the past, we had a very high ratio of succeeding internal research and conference funding which are managed by the University's Research Committee.

The Department's research focuses on all the mainstream areas of economics, covering economic growth, econometrics, international finance, microeconomics, economic development and others. A particular centre of attention has been the empirical research on the Asia-Pacific, China and the Macao economy.

In addition to the formal academic economic research, it is the hope of our Department to provide consultancy and policy research to the local economy.

Library

The *University Library* is located at an independent building, a five-minute walk from the main campus. With a working space of 15,000 square meters and a seating capacity of 400, the Library has a stock of more than 300,000 volumes, and receives 1,500 periodicals / 35,000 e-journals, other audio-visual materials, maps, microforms, newspapers, and other special materials. A special feature of our Library is a rich and up-to-date collection of official publication from ten international organizations (UN, ILO, WB, WTO, WFP, APEC, ADB, NATO, UNRISD, and EU), through the establishment of the Document Centre. In recent years, significant progress has been made on the provision of electronic databases, which greatly enhances the research capacity to our academic staff and research students. Amongst the inclusion of these databases related to economics are JStor, ScienceDirect, EconLit, EBSCO, and the Blackwell Publishers' Humanities and Social Science Collection.

E-campus

There are over 2100 personal computers, and over 100 workstations and servers in the University of Macau. More than 500 computers that are mainly used by the students are located in the computer rooms and laboratories at all the Faculties. The computer rooms are open for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and provide Internet connection free of charge. In 2002, the Macao's first remote mirroring storage area network was built in the UM, and it is also the first establishment to use the same class in South-east Asia.

In order to facilitate the development of the multimedia applications for teaching purposes, the UM has established the multimedia supporting center. The LCD projectors, audio and video equipment are also equipped in most of the classrooms. Moreover, the WebCT system -- the on-line education platform, the Optical Mark Recognition, the Video Conference system and the Streaming Video system are setup to carve the new epic of academic exchange and teaching mode.

The Net-Wireless service has covered most areas of the UM campus including hostels, so that our staff and students can connect to the campus network and the Internet at their convenience. Every year the UM has arranged for the promotion of notebook computer and the loan of wireless network card for students. In 2004, our wireless network has started the pilot run on the IEEE 802.11g industry standard with a high-speed of 54Mbps. SUN and PC are the two major OS adopted in our University. Standard software (MS Office) and special econometrics packages (such as SPSS, SAS, STATA, Limdep and EViews) are available to our staff members and students.

Living in Macao

Staff members have access to the University's own medical service, which is further supported by the local KiangWu Hospital and the government hospital - Hospital Centre S. Januario.

The cost of living in Macao is relatively lower than the neighbouring regions. It is estimated that a monthly minimum of MOP4,200 (around USD525) covers meal, transportation and other basic living expenses. The rental for a reasonably sized flat with minimum furniture is approximately MOP 4,000 (around USD500).

The official currency in Macao is MOP.

HKD1 = MOP1.03

USD1 = MOP7.97

EUR1 = MOP11.6

Macao's climate is warm and humid with a fairly wide variation in temperature over the year. From June to September, the temperature can rise to over 30°C while it can drop to below 10°C from November to February. The average temperature rarely drops below 14°C. Macao's weather is also influenced by tropical cyclones from the South Pacific Ocean during the typhoon season.

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