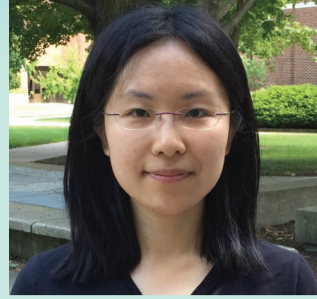


**Dr SHI Haolun**

*Assistant Professor in Data Science  
Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science  
Simon Fraser University, Canada  
(PhD graduate 2018)*

My PhD study at the University of Hong Kong was undoubtedly the most important journey in my life. The lessons I learned from the top-tier researchers here have equipped me with sufficient knowledge and skillset to pursue a career as a university professor in academia. It is very fortunate for me to learn from and work with a group of faculty members who possess vast and deep knowledge in statistics and at the same time enthusiastic about mentoring students. Under the help and encouragement of my supervisor, Professor Guosheng Yin, I was illuminated and guided effortlessly into the fantastic world of statistical research, and gradually developed the mindset and skills necessary for becoming an independent thinker and researcher. As a result of Professor Yin's guidance and support, seven scientific research papers were accepted for publication in statistical journals at the time of my PhD graduation. These publications opened doors to job opportunities in academia.

As a complement to the training in research, the department provided me with abundant opportunities to hone my teaching and communication skills through preparing and delivering independent example classes and holding office sessions to answer students' queries on a weekly basis. I found it fun and rewarding to share my knowledge and thoughts about statistics with students and help out those in need. Through such an instructive training program, I have gained not only expertise in effective statistical teaching but also confidence as a public speaker.



**Dr ZHENG Yao**

*Assistant Professor  
Department of Statistics  
University of Connecticut, US  
(PhD graduate 2017)*

Doing the PhD in the Department was one of the greatest experiences in my life. I benefited tremendously from the great guidance and support from my PhD supervisors, valuable help from the faculty members, and inspiration and friendship of fellow RPG students in the Department. There were plenty of opportunities to learn from top researchers from all around the world via seminars, regional events, as well as international conference travel which was generously supported. The departmental staffs were always caring and helpful, and the library resources and research facilities at the University were top-notch. All these factors helped make my PhD experience truly rewarding and enjoyable.

Just like any adventure, in my PhD journey there were moments of frustration and obstacles but also lots of hopes and blessings. What I learned was that there was no wasted effort, that every sweat would eventually pay off and all one needed was just a bit more patience and positivity. There is no doubt in my mind that the valuable lessons I learned from this journey will carry me through my whole career.

# Our PhD graduate testimonials

## Department of Statistics & Actuarial Science The University of Hong Kong



**Dr LIN Ruitao**

*Assistant Professor  
Department of Biostatistics  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, US  
(PhD graduate 2016)*

The Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Hong Kong was a truly ideal and unique place for me to pursue my doctorate degree. The helpful attention and the professional training offered by the faculty and staff prepared me for a career in academic research. Throughout my journey at HKU, I interacted with fellow students from diverse backgrounds and academic interests, and built a support network outside of my research group and department that I know will be essential to my success over the next several years. As a research student, I had been amazingly fortunate to have an advisor (Professor Guosheng Yin) who gave me the freedom to explore on my own, and at the same time, the guidance to recover when my steps faltered. His patience and support helped me overcome many crisis situations and finish my dissertation. My journey in Biostatistics and Clinical Trials would not have been possible without him. Besides my primary advisor, other faculties/instructors in the department also helped and supported me a lot, through mentoring/consulting activities or daily communications.

At HKU, not only can you learn how to question thoughts and express ideas but also how to think deeply and develop innovative yet decent methodologies independently. The diverse and inclusive environment around the University also facilitates the cultivation of communication skills and civic responsibility. I feel proud to be an alumnus of HKU and I express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the wonderful training and opportunities offered by the department.