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# Business degree 'is on course'

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By AGNES CHEN

The director of the Hongkong Polytechnic, Dr John Clark, is confident it will start a degree course in business studies next year.

He is also optimistic that the existing design degree course will expand to cover two additional options — fashion design and graphic design — at the same time.

Speaking before heading a polytechnic delegation to Peking, Dr Clark said the University and Polytechnic Grants Committee indicated its support for the business studies degree in a letter earlier this week.

Although it is still subject to the internal and external academic approval of the Academic Board and the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA), Dr Clark said he is optimistic the polytechnic will be able to start the degree programme in October next year.

A CNAA team will be visiting the polytechnic in January to validate the degree.

The degree programme for business studies will include two streams — international marketing and financial management.

On its design degree programme, Dr Clark said they hope the two further streams to the design degree will be validated in October when a separate CNAA validating team visits.

Dr Clark also said the polytechnic had, before he was appointed director, made applications to the grants committee for a degree course in languages.

It hopes to start the degree course in languages and communication in October 1987.

In October, the polytechnic will start three degree programmes — manufacturing engineering, building services engineering and textile marketing.

"We currently have seven degree courses in operation and we are hoping to raise that to about 15 by the end of the triennium," Dr Clark said.

On their fortnight visit to China, Dr Clark said:

"We are very interested in seeing the prospects for collaborative research particularly in areas which would lead to applications in industry and commerce."

Other areas of particular interests include electronic engineering, civil and structural engineering and textiles, he said.

The purpose of the visit to a large extent is to build up links already formed, Dr Clark said, adding that they already have agreements with eight Chinese institutions.

The invitation was jointly extended to the polytechnic by Xian Jiaotong University, Qinghua University, the Shanghai Institute of Mechanical Engineering, the Suzhou Institute of Silk Textile Technology and the South China Institute of Technology.

Apart from visiting the five host institutions, the delegation will call on another nine academic institutions in Peking, Xian, Shanghai, Suzhou and Canton.