SCHOOL OF SCIENCE MAJOR DECLARATION 2014-15

Office of Academic Advising and Support

Overview

- New Major Declaration Policy
- Update on course and 4Y curriculum
- Major Declaration statistics
- Major Declaration - What students have to do?
- Major Declaration – Roles of pre-major faculty advisor
- Things to do during the advising session
- Advising session – demonstration
- Case study

New Major Declaration Policy

- **Division-based admission** for Life Science Majors
- **Life Science students** can **FREELY** choose among BCB/BIOT/BISC after Fall term in Year 2.
- Students are ranked based on their
  - Student preference first
  - Best **4 science foundation courses*** *(*SCIEXXXX and Lab courses are excluded)*
- Calculation formula: **Sum of Course Grade points** of 4 BEST science foundation courses *(Not applicable to students with transferred credits on entry)*
- Students can declare up to 3 choices

Case Study

Student A

- Transferred
  - **LIFS1901 (1), CHEM1010 (2), MATH1013 (3) , PHYS1112 (4)**
- Taken
  - **CHEM1030 (5), LIFS1902 (6) , MATH1014 (7)**
- Declare in **CHEM**
- **She is allowed to use other science courses for score calculation.**

Student with advanced credits I

Student B

- Transferred
  - **CHEM1010 (1), CHEM1030 (2)**
- Taken
  - **LIFS1902 (3), MATH1013 (4) , PHYS1112(5)**
- Declare in **LIFS**
- She plans to take LIFS1030 and LIFS1930 to fulfill the 7 foundation requirement
- **She is allowed to use other science courses for score calculation**

Student with advanced credits III

Student C

- Transferred
  - **CHEM1010 (1), MATH1013 (2), LIFS1901 (3), PHYS1111 (4)**
- Taken
  - **LIFS1902 (5), MATH1014 (6) , CHEM1030(7)**
- Declare in **CHEM**
- Already fulfilled most of the common core credits (except SA- SSC and CLANG); She plans to take LIFS1030 to fulfill S&T SSC
- She cannot take any 2000-level science courses
- **Solution?**

Student with advanced credits IV

Student D

- Transferred
  - **MATH1020 (1), PHYS1111 (2)**
- Taking
  - **MATH2023(3), MATH2121 (4) , PHYS1114 (5)**
- Declare in **MATH**
- Wants to take CHEM and LIFS foundation course in his year ¾
- **Solutions?**

DSE Students with failed courses

Student D

- Failed in Fall:
  - **MATH1013, CHEM1020**
- Taken:
  - **LIFS1902 (1)**
- Retake in Spring:
  - **MATH1013 (2), CHEM1020 (3)**
- She cannot take other science foundation courses because
  - Not offered/pre-requisite not met
- **She can decide either**
  - **Use 3 courses for score calculation/joining the 2nd round**

- If you are unsure about how to advise students without 4 best science foundation courses, please refer the students to the advising office.

Updates on Curriculum

- One more LIFS foundation course: LIFS1930
- PHYS1312 require 5** in 0.5/1X Physics
- New calculus course MATH1012 (proposed
- 9 credit double counting policy
- Credit reuse for minor programs (applicable to 4Y students)

Major Declaration Statistics (Reference only)

Total number, CGA Mean and StDev of the students getting into each major

Program	No. of students		CGA Mean		StDev	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
BCB	49	64	3.108	3.056	0.351	0.393
BISC	59	47	2.417	2.078	0.487	0.449
BIOT	21	30	2.662	2.952	0.469	0.292
CHEM	92	90	2.872	2.672	0.358	0.44
PHYS	57	70	2.921	2.921	0.555	0.63
MATH	103	66	2.681	2.599	0.534	0.576
MAEC	30	28	3.312	3.393	0.356	0.404
ENVS	47	45	2.66	2.606	0.342	0.277
RMBI (for science students)	8	10	3.239	3.231		
EVMT (for science students)	16	21	3.068	2.99		
DDP	0	0	-	-	-	-

MAJOR DECLARATION 2014-15

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:



STEP 1

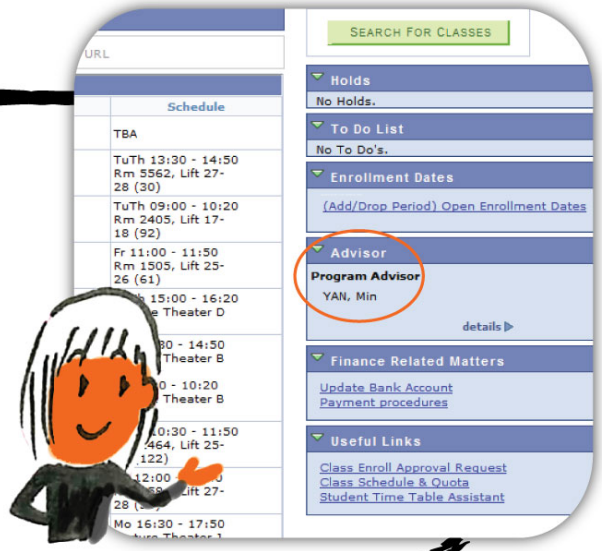
Download the **Major Declaration Form** from advise.science.ust.hk

** Read the **Important Notes** carefully before filling the form.



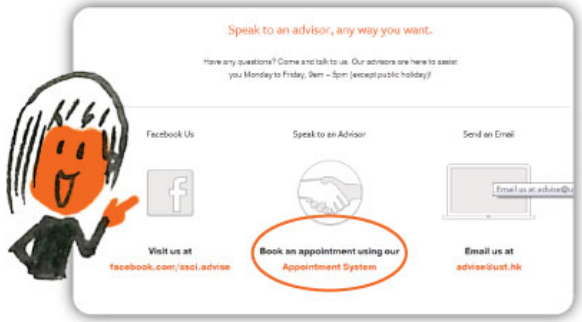
STEP 2

Check out your advisor. Please login to your SIS. The name of your advisor is at the right-hand column.



STEP 3

From 16 Feb 2015 onwards, go to advise.science.ust.hk
to make appointment with your advisor.
You have to meet your advisor from **2 Mar - 24 Apr 2015**.



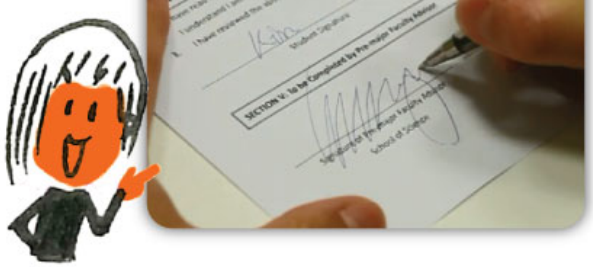
STEP 4

Bring your completed Major Declaration Form and meet your advisor on your scheduled day.



STEP 5

Make sure your Major Declaration Form is signed by your advisor and advising staff.



STEP 6

Submit your Major Declaration Form to the Office of Academic Advising and Support

NO later than 12nn, 27 Apr 2015

Change of major choice is allowed before the deadline. Please contact our office if you want to make changes to your major choices.



Roles of the Pre-major faculty advisor

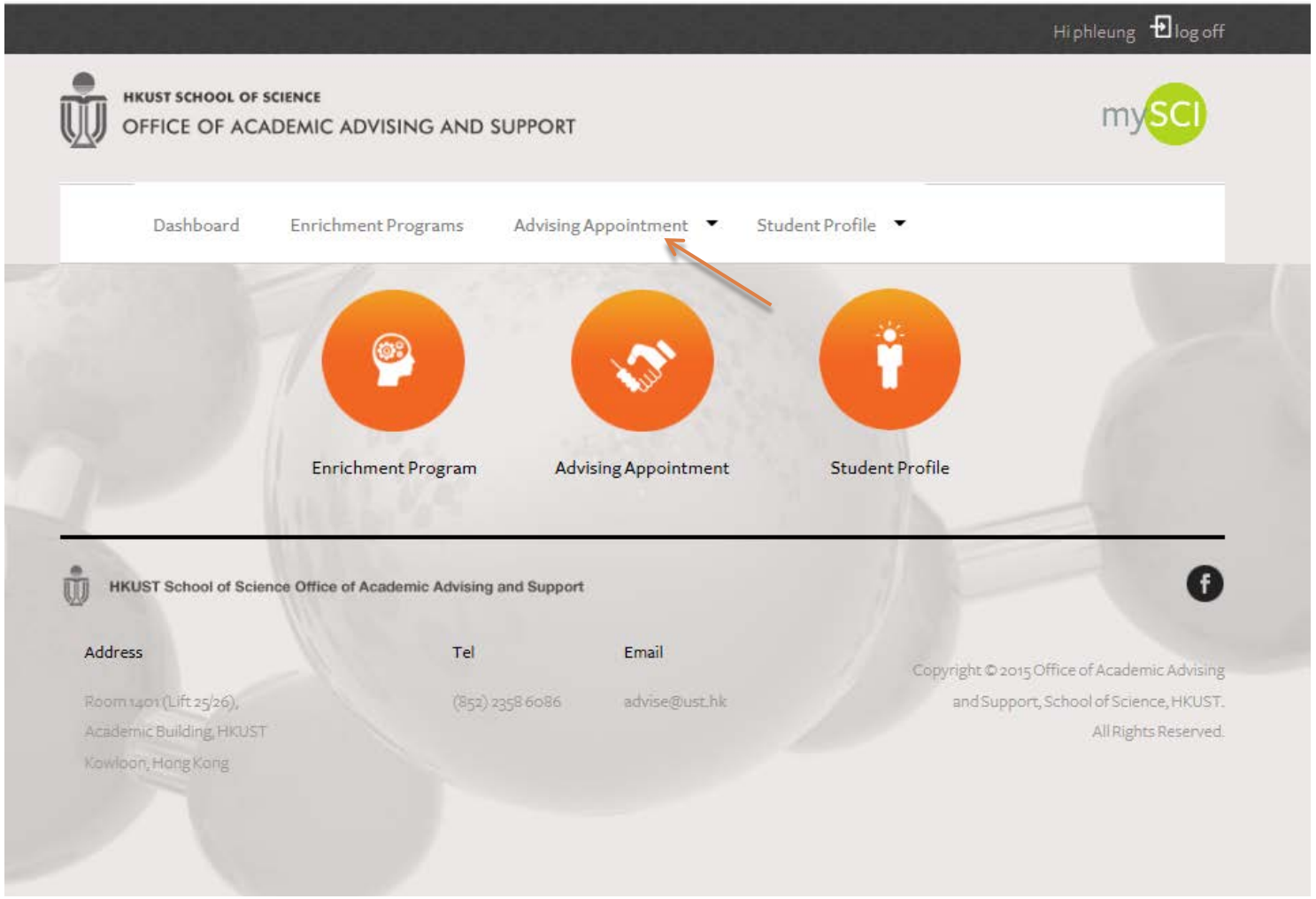
- Show that you care
- Discuss with your advisees their major choices and make sure that their decision is well thought through
- Ensure that your advisees are progressing towards their intended majors
- Endorse your advisees' major declaration
- Meeting should last for 20~30 minutes

During the advising session

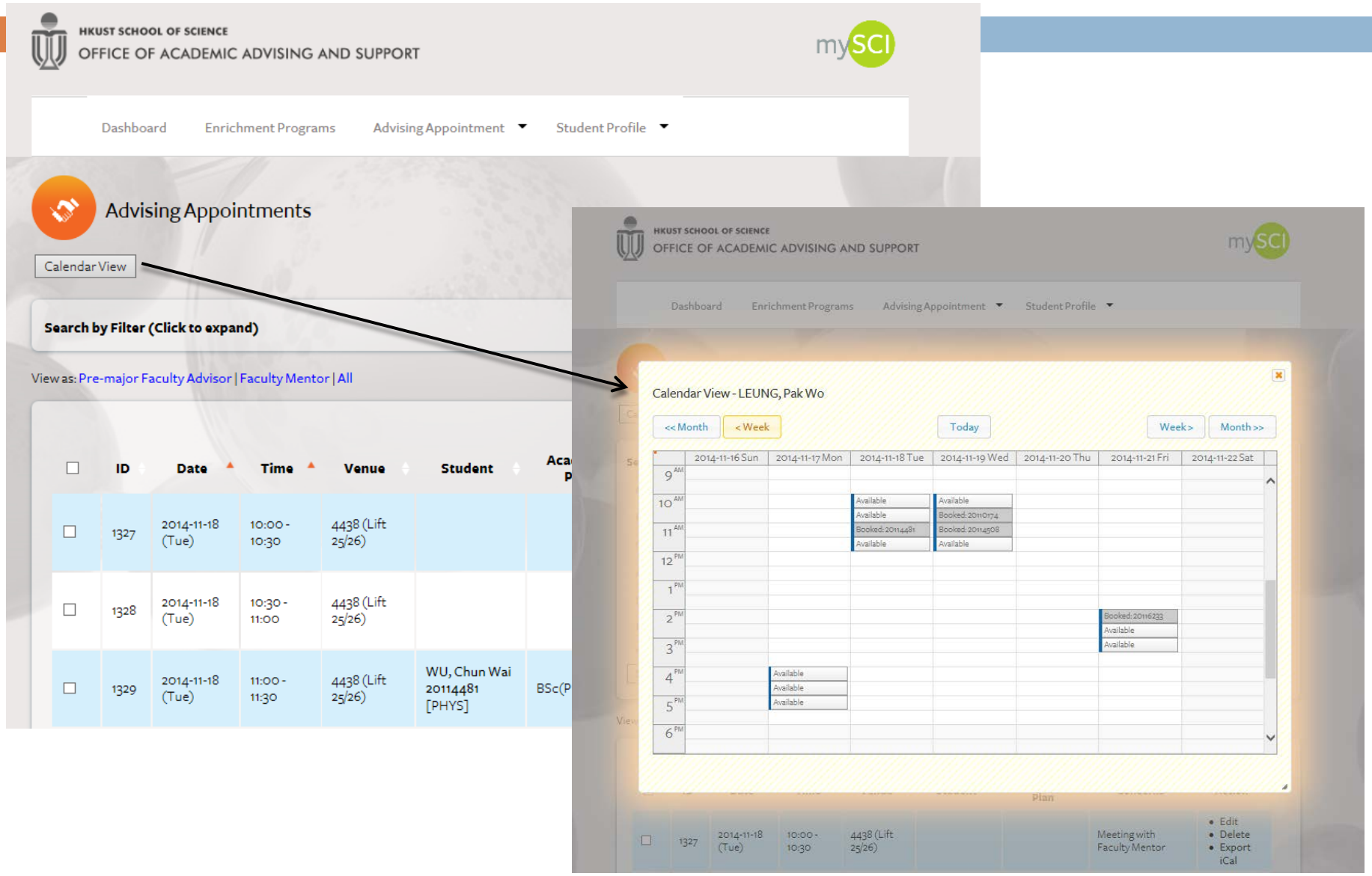
1. Check the student's profile before advising (https://sdb.science.ust.hk/mySCI/)
2. Find out how he/she is adapting to university life
3. Check if the pre-major requisites were fulfilled
4. Ask if the student has any concern or question
5. Sign on the application form
6. Ask the student to pass the application form back to the Office of Academic Advising and Support
7. Mark your record/comment in the student profile

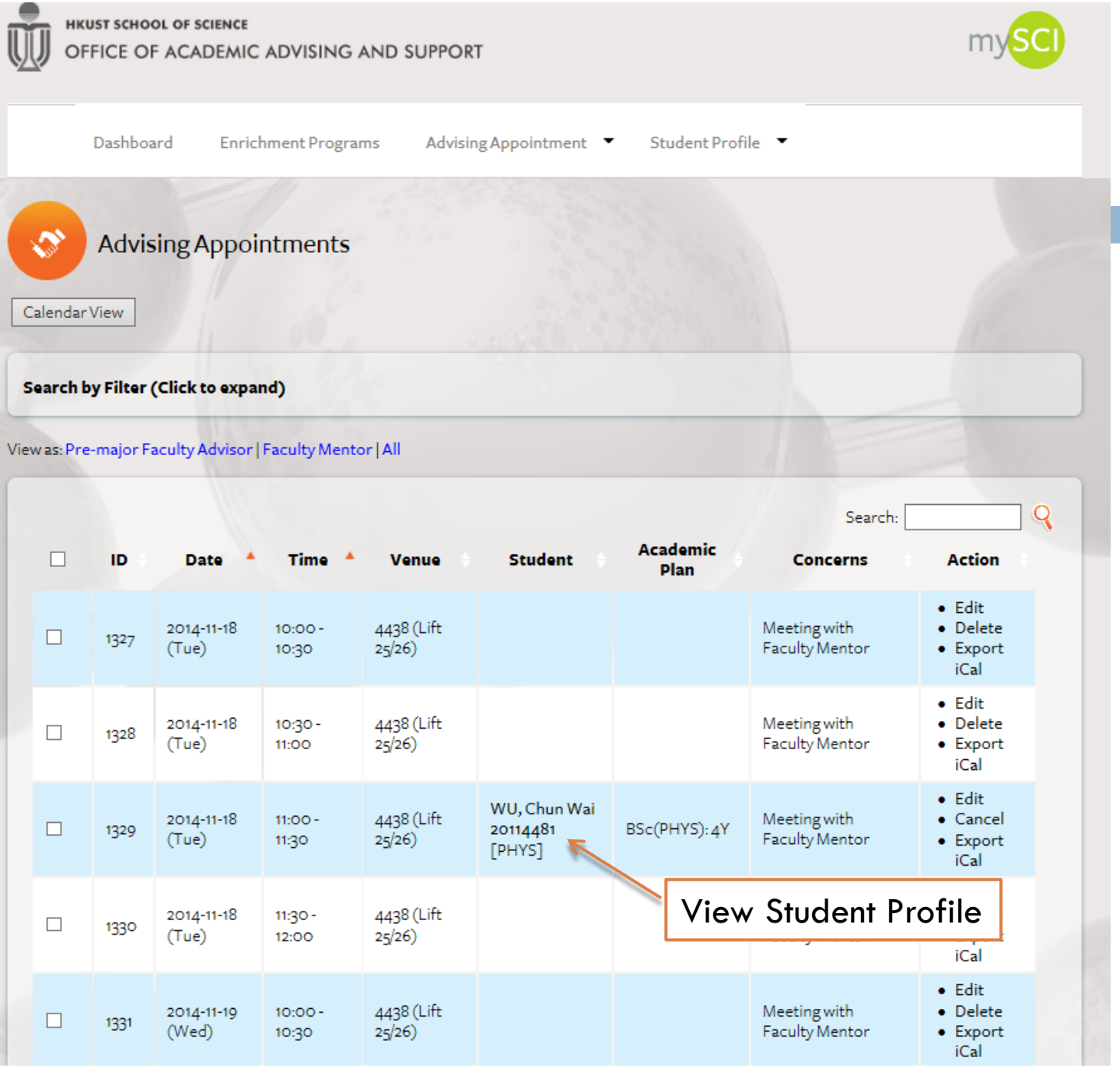
- Please remind the student to inform us if they change the choice of major after you have signed on the application form

Check your appointment (https://sdb.science.ust.hk/mySCI/)



View your schedule (Calendar View)




HKUST SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC ADVISING AND SUPPORT
mySCI
Dashboard
Enrichment Programs
Advising Appointment
Student Profile
Advising Appointments
Calendar View
Search by Filter (Click to expand)
View as: Pre-major Faculty Advisor | Faculty Mentor | All
Search:
ID
Date
Time
Venue
Student
Academic Plan
Concerns
Action
1327 2014-11-18 (Tue) 10:00 - 10:30 4438 (Lift 25/26) Meeting with Faculty Mentor Edit Delete Export iCal
1328 2014-11-18 (Tue) 10:30 - 11:00 4438 (Lift 25/26) Meeting with Faculty Mentor Edit Delete Export iCal
1329 2014-11-18 (Tue) 11:00 - 11:30 4438 (Lift 25/26) WU, Chun Wai 20114481 [PHYS] BSc(PHYS): 4Y Meeting with Faculty Mentor Edit Cancel Export iCal
1330 2014-11-18 (Tue) 11:30 - 12:00 4438 (Lift 25/26) iCal
1331 2014-11-19 (Wed) 10:00 - 10:30 4438 (Lift 25/26) Meeting with Faculty Mentor Edit Delete Export iCal
View Student Profile

Demonstration of Major Declaration Advising Session

- http://youtu.be/P_19wOx_izk

Case Study

Q1. What would you do if the student has NOT fulfilled all the major pre-requisites for the intended major?

Suggested answer:

- Explore the reasons why he/she has NOT fulfilled the major pre-requisites.
- He/she can consider choosing another major or declaring the same major in the second round.
- Please discuss what the best is for the student according to his/her interest.
- It is not necessary to declare major in the first round if the student does not want to choose another major.
- Please send an email to Tina if student decided NOT to declare major in the first round.

Q2. What would you do if the student has fulfilled all the major pre-requisites for the intended major BUT the CGA is relatively low?

Suggested answer:

- Advisors can refer to the CGA distribution of the science students in Fall term if they want to have some ideas about the academic performance of our students (Please handle the information with care)
- If the student's desired major is relatively competitive (MAEC is believed to be most popular due to the limited quota), you could discuss with the student whether he/she should continue choosing the certain major and explore with the student if he/she would have other interested major.
- If he/she doesn't have other interested major, he/she needs to declare the same major in the second round, but there is no guarantee that he/she can get into that major. Therefore he/she should seriously consider a second choice in the second round of major declaration

Q3. What would you do if the student is undecided and asks you to help him/her to make the decision?

Suggested answer:

- Advisor should give suggestion according to their interest and ability (their strength and weakness).
- Explore what kind of career path the student would like to take in the future.
- Advisor should NOT make any decision for the student

Q4. I have a CGA of 2.7, do you think I can get into MAEC?

Suggested answer:

- Explore the reasons why the student wants to get into MAEC.
- Explain to the student that we have no previous data because the ranking has changed to Best Four Science Foundation Courses.
- Explain to the student that the quota for MAEC is limited, like ~30, so if he/she has other interested major, he/she can consider to put a second choice in his/her application.

Q5. I want to major in Physics and I got an A in Physics course but I got really bad grade in common core, which made my CGA quite low. Do I have advantage for majoring in Physics?

Suggested answer:

- The CGA of the best 4 science foundation courses is the primary ranking in the first round of major declaration.
- Student's interest always come first.
- If his/her interest is in Physics, then he/she should try to choose Physics as the first choice regardless of the poor CGA.

Q6. I want to major in Physics and I got an A in Physics course but I got really bad grade in common core, which made my CGA quite low. Do I have advantage for majoring in Physics?

Suggested answer:

- The CGA of the best 4 science foundation courses is the primary ranking in the first round of major declaration.
- Student's interest always come first.
- If his/her interest is in Physics, then he/she should try to choose Physics as the first choice regardless of the poor CGA.

Q7. When can student apply an additional majors, minors, and options?

- Student must have their first major before they can apply for another major or minor.
- Student does not have to consider options/tracks until they get into their major programs
- All declarations for the minor program must be made NO LATER than the last day of the add/drop period in the first regular term of the final year of study.

Q8. When will major declaration results be released?

- Late June/ Early July through email