Who is the major for?
Undergrad students interested in studying the brain and mind from a biological perspective.

Why does HKU offer this major now?
Throughout the world, neuroscience research is on the rise. Tech companies invested in artificial intelligence are developing research programs on how the brain works. Some are led by neuroscientists (Google DeepMind CEO Demis Hassabis has his PhD in Neuroscience). Capitalizing on the research strengths of HKU, which hosts the prestigious State Key Laboratory for Brain and Cognitive Sciences, it is timely for us to start to offer this exciting new major.

Why would one want to do this major?
As in most degree programmes, academic interests should be your primary consideration. This is also a major that is particularly suited for people who are interested in something new and happening, where the most exciting scientific discoveries may not only happen in traditionally conceived disciplines, but may also at the interfaces between multiple disciplines (e.g. biology, computer science, psychology, etc).

What are the career opportunities open to Neuroscience majors?
As in other science degrees or in the Psychology or Cognitive Science majors offered by the Department of Psychology, our graduates go on to take a wide variety of careers paths, from further education (for e.g. professional training in clinical psychology), government, and the private section. For this new Neuroscience major, we anticipate there may be particularly attractive opportunities for further research training (e.g. PhD Programmes overseas), because the area is currently rapidly expanding in most countries, with ample scientific funding support.

Should I consider a Minor?
Short answer is Yes - you should consider both. Because the Major is not tied to specific professional training (in first instance), doing a Minor instead is often an attractive and flexible alternative. However, for the full experience and to thoroughly explore your academic interests on the topic, the Major is the way to go.

Will I succeed in this programme if I do not have a science background?
Although some elective courses do require a traditional science background in e.g. chemistry and biology, many don’t. As such we impose a relatively minimal set of requirements for choosing the major (for details please see the programme overview). For those with a strong background in the sciences, you may find some courses to be easier to adapt to at the beginning. But we note that many successful researchers including some of us on the faculty do not come from strictly from a traditional science background (!). Neuroscience really is a topic that takes critical thinking, and ability to learn new things, in order to succeed.