School of Materials Science and Engineering (hereinafter called SMSE), with a history dating back to the 1950s, is developed from the traditional advantage majors in South China Institute of Technology (predecessor of SCUT). After decades of development, SMSE is now composed of several parts: 5 Departments, 5 Institutes, 1 State Key Laboratory (State Key Laboratory of Luminescent Materials and Devices), 1 National Engineering Research Center (National Engineering Research Center for Tissue Restoration and Reconstruction), 20 Ministerial- and Provincial-Level International Collaborated Laboratories/Key Laboratories/Engineering Laboratories/Technical Research Centers, one National Demonstration Center for Experiment Teaching (Experiment Teaching Center for Materials Science and Engineering), 1 National Virtual Simulation Experiment Teaching Center for Luminescent Materials and Devices, and 1 International School of Advanced Materials.

We have two doctoral programs of first-level disciplines: Materials Science and Engineering (national key discipline) and Biomedical Engineering. In 2017, Materials Science and Engineering was selected in the list of first-class disciplines in China’s “Double First-Class” university project. According to Clarivate Analytics’ Essential Science Indicators (ESI), the subject area of materials science of SCUT, mainly supported by SMSE, is ranked in the global top thousandth. The newest record was 0.532‰ in July 2019.

SMSE has a current enrollment of 3219 students, including 1642 undergraduate students, 1095 graduate students and 482 Ph.D candidates. The School currently boasts 220 full-time teachers, among whom 108 are professors, including 7 academicians of CAS and CAE, 9 members of Chang Jiang Scholars Program, 15 winners of the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars, 7 winners of the Recruitment Program for Young Professionals, 10 winners of the Foundation Committee Fund for Excellent Young Scholars, and 13 members of Pearl River Scholars Program. Moreover, SMSE is armed with 2 Innovation Groups of the National Natural Science Foundation Committee, 4 Innovation Groups of the Ministry of Education, 5 Chief Scientists from the 973 Program of the Ministry of Science and Technology and 5 global highly-cited scientists selected in 2019. In addition, nearly 50 renowned experts and scholars at home and abroad have been invited as consulting/part-time professors. With a stable and long-term collaboration with relevant universities and scientific research institutes in the USA, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong and other countries and regions, nearly 100 students go abroad for further study or cooperative research every year.

The School boasts excellent teaching and education conditions that have facilitated our 4 Guangdong Higher Education Teaching Achievement awards over the past 5 years. In order to ensure students of all levels can receive systematic and comprehensive training, we have developed International School of Advanced Materials and a teaching and experiment area of 34,000 m² with 28,000 sets of advanced equipments for teaching and scientific research with a total value of about 630 million yuan.

SMSE is known for its outstanding scientific research strength and achievements, which can be reflected by its more than 30 scientific awards, including 2 Second Prizes of the National Natural Science Award, 2 Second Prizes of the National Technological Innovation Award, 1 First Prize of Natural Science in Colleges and Universities of the Ministry of Education, 1 First Prize for Technical Invention in Colleges and Universities of the Ministry of Education and 7 First prizes in Science and Technology of Guangdong. In 2018, the School obtained a fund for scientific research of 218 million yuan, published 744 SCI, EI or ISTP papers, leading the number of ESI highly cited papers to 186 by last November, applied for 358 patents (284 authorized; 9 converted), and held more than 100 academic conferences and seminars.

SMSE has been adhering to fine academic traditions by creating a good working environment for teachers and an aspiring learning atmosphere for students. Progress has been made in talent training, scientific research, social service and cultural inheritance. We have cultivated tens of thousands of materials professionals for our country and made every effort to build ourselves an education and research body with international influence in the field of materials science, which is bound to make constant contributions to the progress and development of materials science and engineering in China.