

Master of Arts (MA) Program in Chinese Culture

Academic Director:

Jianmei LIU, Professor of Humanities

Associate Director:

May-yi SHAW, Assistant Professor of Humanities Education

The Master of Arts (MA) program in Chinese Culture equips students with a multidisciplinary range of knowledge about Chinese culture from the humanities perspective. These disciplines include history, literature, religion, philosophy, anthropology and linguistics. This knowledge of China is imperative to students who aspire to know more about the culture of the country. It is also an important asset to those whose careers have a close relationship with China in fields like education, government, business, industry, media, non-profit, foreign relations, academic and so on. A better understanding of the Chinese culture from a multidisciplinary perspective will greatly enhance competitiveness in the career path.

Program Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the program, graduates will be able to:

- Identify, explain, and use cultural concepts, theories, and models;
- Analyze significant cultural phenomena related to Chinese past and present based on these cultural concepts, theories and models;
- Analyze Chinese culture in a global and cross-cultural comparative perspective based on the knowledge and skills of the Humanities from the program;
- Articulate Chinese culture critically and analytically in a range of Humanities disciplines, including History, Philosophy, Literature, Linguistics, or Anthropology, in both English and Chinese; and
- Conduct original cultural research and participate effectively in project teams using an enhanced knowledge of Chinese culture gained from the program.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree from a university or a recognized institution, or have obtained qualifications approved by the University to be equivalent to a first degree. Priority will be given to applicants with humanities or social science background.

Proficiency in both English and Chinese is important for successful completion of the program. For applicants whose first language is not Chinese and who do not complete their first degree in a Chinese-medium university or Chinese-medium academic program, they are required to fulfill the Chinese requirement of Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK by Hanban or the "New HSK") level 4 or above, or equivalent.

Program Duration

The MA program can normally be completed in 12 months in full-time mode, or 24 months in part-time mode. Full-time students are required to take a minimum of 9 credits of coursework each regular term, whereas part-time students are required to take a minimum of 3 credits each regular term. With the approval of the Academic Director, a student may take study leave for no more than one regular term.

Program Fee

The total program fee for 2016-17 is HK\$100,000. New students admitted with credit transfer are also required to pay the full program fee. Students who need to retake failed course(s) must pay the pro-rated fee for the necessary course(s).

Curriculum

Students must take eight courses (24 credits), including two compulsory foundation courses (6 credits), two required courses (6 credits), and four elective courses (12 credits).

a) Foundation courses (6 credits)

- HMMA 5001 Fundamentals of Chinese Culture
- LANG 5072⁽¹⁾ English Academic Writing on Chinese Culture

b) Required courses (6 credits)

- HMMA 5002⁽²⁾ Chinese Historical Phonology
- HMMA 5003⁽³⁾ Chinese Literary History
- HMMA 5004⁽⁴⁾ Pre-Modern Chinese History; or
HMMA 5005 Modern Chinese History
- HMMA 5006⁽⁵⁾ Anthropological Studies of China
- HMMA 5007⁽⁶⁾ Fundamentals of Chinese Philosophy

Not all required courses are offered every year. Students are advised to take the two required courses in Fall Term.

Notes:

- (1) *Exemption may be granted with prior approval of the Academic Director (normally with IELTS score of 8.0 or above, or equivalent, and successfully passed an English written test on Chinese culture). Students given exemption should take one more elective course to fulfill the graduation requirement of 24 credits.*
- (2) *HMMA 5002 can be substituted by HUMA 5160.*
- (3) *HMMA 5003 can be substituted by HUMA 5300.*
- (4) *HMMA 5004 can be substituted by HUMA 5510.*
- (5) *HMMA 5006 can be substituted by HUMA 5700.*
- (6) *HMMA 5007 can be substituted by HUMA 5800.*

c) Elective courses (12 credits)

Students can choose from a list of China-related elective courses offered each year by the Division of Humanities. Surplus required course credits can be counted toward the elective requirement.

Out of the six required and elective courses (18 credits):

- One must be taught in English, but Chinese reading materials may be used. Subject to the approval of the Academic Director, students can take a non-HUMA course to fulfill this requirement.
- One may be a non-China-related course, subject to the approval of the Academic Director.

Language Requirement

Many courses are taught in English but assign readings in Chinese. Some courses are taught in Chinese (Putonghua) due to academic reasons. Students must be able to demonstrate proficiency in both English and Chinese.

Academic Advising

Upon entering the program, students' progress will be monitored by the Academic Director of the Program.

Graduation Requirements

Students must complete the program with a graduation grade average (GGA) of 2.850 or above as required of all postgraduate students at the University.