

Master of Science (MSc) Program in Global China Studies

Academic Director:

Xiaogang WU, Professor of Social Science

The Master of Science (MSc) program in Global China Studies is an interdisciplinary program designed to equip students with necessary analytic and communication skills for further study as well as to make a successful transition for future employment. It focuses on four broad subject areas – Economic and Social History, Comparative Humanities, Contemporary China, and Quantitative Social Analysis – with an emphasis on providing students global and local perspectives on China's past and present. In addition, the program provides a pathway for advanced undergraduates, both from HKUST and other non-local universities, to take on the challenge of postgraduate study in Global China Studies before their formal undergraduate graduation.

Program Learning Outcomes

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

- Critically analyze significant social and cultural phenomena related to China and regarding China's relations with the world;
- Interpret events and developments in China's past and present from both global and local perspectives;
- Effectively and appropriately communicate in written papers and reports in English to both non-expert and expert readers;
- Persuasively and appropriately communicate when presenting and discussing with both non-expert and expert audiences and discussants; and
- Carry out advanced research both independently and as part of a research team.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree, or an equivalent qualification, from a recognized university, with a grade average of 3.0 or above out of 4.0 or equivalent. Applicants whose first language is not English and whose medium of instruction of the degree program completed previously was not English are required to possess an IELTS score not lower than 7 (all sub-scores should be 6.5 or above), or a TOEFL score not lower than 600 (PBT) or 100 (iBT).

All HKUST undergraduate students, including BSc in Global China Studies majors, may take up to four MGCS courses, subject to the approval of the course instructor and the Program Office, as surplus to their undergraduate degree. They may apply for the MSc program upon completion of their undergraduate degree, and can transfer up to 12 surplus credits to the MSc program.

Non-local applicants who have completed all their undergraduate coursework requirements with a cumulative grade average (CGA) of 3.0 or above out of 4.0 or equivalent, and have fulfilled the English language requirement of the MSc program specified above, but have not yet received the formal undergraduate degree can be recommended by strategic partner universities and apply for early admission into the program with proper documentation from their home universities, while remaining registered as undergraduates in their home universities. Upon completion of the MSc degree requirements, these students are required to submit an official copy of their bachelor's degree certificate to the Program Office no later than 31 August each year in order to be conferred the MSc degree in Global China Studies at HKUST.

Program Duration

The program can normally be completed in one year in full-time mode and two years in part-time mode. Full-time students are required to take a minimum of 9 credits of coursework each regular term.

Program Fee

The program fee is HK\$120,000 for 24 credits, and HK\$5,000 for each additional credit.

Curriculum

Students are required to complete 24 credits of coursework, including three core courses (3 credits each), one course devoted to academic writing (3 credits), and four elective courses (3 credits each) which cover no less than two of four subject areas. Selected students are provided with an option to take an extra project course of 3 to 6 credits.

a) Academic Writing Course (3 credits)

LANG 5070
or Advanced Critical Writing for Academic Purposes
LANG 5070H

b) Core Courses (9 credits)

Students are required to take the following three GCS core courses:

MGCS 5001 Understanding China, 1700-2000: A Data-Analytic
 Approach
MGCS 5010 Quantitative Methods in Social Science
MGCS 5024 China in Comparative Perspective

c) Elective Courses (12 credits)

The chosen elective courses should cover at least two of the following areas, and include at least two China-related courses:

Economic and Social History

MGCS 5002	The Economy and Society in Imperial China
MGCS 5003	The Political Economy of State-formation
MGCS 5004	Economic History of East Asia-From Tributary Trade to Maritime Customs Networks
MGCS 5005	Narratives on China's Legal Past and Present

Quantitative Social Analysis

MGCS 5011	Quantitative Studies of China
MGCS 5012	Quantitative Data Analysis

Contemporary China

MGCS 5020	Chinese Social Stratification in Comparative Perspective
MGCS 5021	Reform and Social Conflicts in Contemporary China
MGCS 5022	Political Economy of China
MGCS 5023	China's Innovation System: Domestic and International Dimensions

Comparative Humanities

MGCS 5030	Social Theory and World History
MGCS 5031	An Introduction to Socio-cultural History of China
MGCS 5032	Ethnicity in Chinese Context

Subject to the approval of the Academic Director, students may take MGCS 6000 Special Topics under the above subject areas to fulfill the elective requirement.

In exceptional circumstances, students may substitute no more than six elective credits (two courses) from other courses (and a maximum of one undergraduate course at 4000-level) offered by the School of Humanities and Social Science to fulfill the program requirements with prior approval of the Academic Director. The approved substituting courses should be either China-related or global-related.

d) Optional Project (3-6 credits)

Selected students can take an extra project course:

MGCS 6980	Research Project in Global China Studies
-----------	--

Credits earned from MGCS 6980 cannot be counted toward the credit requirements.

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.