

Master of Arts (MA) Program in International Language Education

Academic Directors:

Claudia WONG, Senior Lecturer of Center for Language Education

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The Master of Arts (MA) program in International Language Education offers an advanced English-taught postgraduate education in two specialized concentrations: Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) and Teaching Chinese as a Second Language (TCSL), for qualified candidates to teach English or Chinese as a second language. Taught by experts with an integrated combination of extensive teaching and research experience in bilingual contexts, the program aims to prepare language professionals for a dynamic global career, with a solid foundation in applied linguistics and research-informed language teaching approaches.

Program Learning Outcomes

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

- Explain applied linguistics theories;
- Design effective teaching plans and devise appropriate testing methods for second-language teaching based on language pedagogy;
- Effectively teach English or Chinese as a second language in English to non-native speakers;
- Design and implement research-embedded teaching approaches; and
- Lead teaching teams in the development of language curricula and teaching materials.

Admission Requirements

- a) A bachelor's degree from a recognized university or equivalent;
- b) English requirements for applicants whose first language is not English and whose degree or equivalent qualification was awarded by an institution where the medium of instruction was not English:
 - For Chinese (TCSL) Concentration applicants: IELTS \geq 6.5 (all sub-scores \geq 5.5), or TOEFL iBT \geq 85
 - For English (TESL) Concentration applicants: IELTS \geq 7.0 (Writing \geq 7.0, and other sub-scores \geq 5.5), or TOEFL iBT \geq 100 (Writing \geq 27/30)

c) Chinese requirements for TCSL Concentration applicants:

- Applicants whose first language is not Chinese and whose degree or equivalent qualification was awarded by an institution where the medium of instruction was not Chinese are required to fulfill the Chinese requirement of Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK by Hanban or the “New HSK”) level 5 or above.
- Applicants whose first language is Chinese or whose degree or equivalent qualification was awarded by an institution where the medium of instruction was Chinese must demonstrate their Chinese proficiency by obtaining the National Putonghua Proficiency Test (PSC) grade 2B or above.

Applicants must declare the concentration they apply for at the time of application. Any transfer between the two concentrations must be approved by the Academic Directors, and is contingent on whether students can meet the language proficiency requirement of the concentration they would like to transfer to. Double-concentration is not allowed.

Program Duration

The program can normally be completed in one year in full-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\$85,000 for local students, HK\$100,000 for non-local students, and HK\$3,500 for each additional credit. 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). Of the eight courses, students are required to take two compulsory foundation courses (6 credits), and six elective courses (18 credits), including at least one course (3 credits) from general electives, and at least three courses (9 credits) from either the TESL or the TCSL Concentration. Credit transfer is not allowed.

a) Foundation courses (6 credits)

- MALE 5001 Second Language Acquisition
- MALE 5002 Language Teaching Methodology and Curriculum Design

b) Elective courses (18 credits)

General electives

- MALE 5101 Discourse Analysis
- MALE 5102 Information Technology in Language Teaching
- MALE 5103 Testing and Assessment
- MALE 5104 Linguistics for Second Language Teachers

- MALE 5105 Cross-Cultural Pragmatics
- MALE 5106 Contrastive Analysis between Chinese and English

TESL Concentration electives

- MALE 5201 World Englishes
- MALE 5202 Teaching Second Language Vocabulary
- MALE 5203 Phonetics and Phonology for English Teachers
- MALE 5204 English Yesterday and Today
- MALE 5205 Grammar for English Teachers
- MALE 5206 Teaching English for Academic Purposes
- MALE 5207 Teaching English for Specific Purposes

TCSL Concentration electives

- MALE 5301 Chinese Writing System
- MALE 5302 Mandarin Chinese Grammar for L2 Chinese Teachers
- MALE 5303 Phonetics and Phonology of the Chinese Language
- MALE 5304 Chinese Lexicology
- MALE 5305 Word Structure of Chinese: A Comparative Perspective
- MALE 5306 Understanding Chinese Language in Global Context
- MALE 5307 Methodology for Linguistics Comparison

Teaching Practicum / Research Project

Selected students may obtain 3 credits through participating in a supervised teaching practicum or a research project.

- MALE 6000 Supervised Teaching Practicum; or
- MALE 6980 Research Project in International Language Education

Students cannot take both MALE 6000 and MALE 6980.

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.