

**The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
Interdisciplinary Programs Office  
MPhil / PhD in Individualized Interdisciplinary Program (Research Area)**

**Application Requirements for Prospective Candidates**

The following supporting documents are required to be submitted to the Online Application System.

1. A research proposal which includes the following:
  - a. Your research area (The research area should be interdisciplinary and concrete. If your research area is Computer Science or Robotics, please apply to the corresponding RPg program at HKUST.)
  - b. Your research question
  - c. The scope and objectives of your proposed program of study and research
  - d. The relevant theoretical/conceptual frameworks, and the preparatory work already completed and in progress
  - e. The methodologies to be used in your proposed research
  - f. The theoretical significance and/or practical importance of your proposed research

2. A proposed program of study that lists the courses to be taken. The program structure are as follows:

Minimum Credit Requirement

MPhil: 12 credits

PhD: 21 credits

Please use the following template for the program of study:

- [MPhil applicants](#)
- [PhD applicants](#)

In addition to the above credit requirement, students are also required to:

- a. complete the Professional Development Course (PDEV 6770). The 1 credit earned cannot be counted toward the credit requirements. PhD students who are HKUST MPhil graduates and have completed PDEV 6770 or other professional development courses offered by the University before may be exempted from this requirement, subject to prior approval of the Primary Supervisor, Co-supervisor(s) and the Program Director. In addition to PDEV 6770, students are required to complete one discipline-specific Professional Development Course relevant to their research area, upon approval by the Primary Supervisor, Co-supervisor(s) and the Program Director. PhD students who are HKUST MPhil graduates and have completed other professional development courses offered by the University before may be exempted from this requirement, subject to prior approval of the Primary Supervisor, Co-supervisor(s) and the Program Director.
- b. fulfill the English Language requirement, participate in the research seminar course(s) and complete the thesis before they graduate. The credits earned cannot be counted toward the credit requirements.

PhD students are required to submit a thesis proposal to the Qualifying Examination Committee who will examine the students' general background knowledge and knowledge related to the topic of the research. Students must pass the qualifying examination no later than the fourth regular term of study for full-time students, or the sixth regular term of study for part-time students.

3. Copies of your transcripts and graduation certificates from universities attended.
4. The Statement of Purpose (Please use the [template](#).)
5. At least two reference reports.