

MPhil/PhD Programs in the School of Business and Management

The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree programs in the School of Business and Management are research-oriented and prepare students for a teaching and research career in universities, research institutes, governmental or business organizations. The programs have a global perspective with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region and cover Accounting (ACCT), Economics (ECON), Finance (FINA), Information Systems (IS), Marketing (MARK), Management (MGMT), and Operations Management (OM).

*Requirements for MPhil (ACCT/FINA/IS/MARK/MGMT/OM) Programs**

a) Introductory Quantitative Requirements

Unless students have clearly demonstrated sufficient knowledge, students entering MPhil programs are required to take the following two mathematics-oriented courses in the first regular term of studies:

ECON 5100 Mathematics for Business and Economics
ISOM 5540 Introduction to Probability

The credits earned from ECON 5100 and ISOM 5540 cannot be counted toward the degree requirements.

b) Common Core Requirements

Each student must take two common core courses:

ISOM 5550 Statistical Methods for Business and Economics I

AND one of the following:

ECON 5130 Microeconomic Analysis

ECON 5210 Microeconomic Theory I

ECON 5300 Econometrics

ISOM 5560 Statistical Methods for Business and Economics II

MGMT 7100 Behavioral Science

c) Minimum Course Requirements

Each student is required to take at least 18 credits, with at least 6 credits of MPhil/PhD level courses in the major field.

d) Thesis Requirement

- Each student must complete a thesis under the supervision of a Thesis Supervision Committee comprising at least two faculty members, one of whom is designated the thesis supervisor and committee chairperson.
- MPhil Thesis Research
- Presentation and oral defense of the MPhil thesis.

* Currently, these MPhil programs do not admit new students.

Requirements for MPhil (ECON) Program

The MPhil (ECON) program is intended to be taken as the first part of the PhD (ECON) program.

a) Introductory Quantitative Requirements

Unless students have clearly demonstrated sufficient knowledge in the area, students entering the MPhil program are required to take the following two mathematics-oriented courses in the first regular term of studies:

ECON 5100 Mathematics for Business and Economics
ISOM 5540 Introduction to Probability

The credits earned from ECON 5100 and ISOM 5540 cannot be counted toward the degree requirements.

b) Core Requirements

Students are required to take the following four core courses:

ECON 5210 Microeconomic Theory I
ECON 5220 Microeconomic Theory II
ECON 5300 Econometrics
ISOM 5550 Statistical Methods for Business and Economics I

c) Minimum Course Requirements

Students are required to take at least 23 credits, with at least 8 credits of MPhil/PhD level courses in the major field, which includes:

ECON 5250 Macroeconomic Theory I
ECON 5260 Macroeconomic Theory II

Students may need to complete additional courses related to their research topics, as requested by their thesis supervisors.

d) Thesis Requirement

- Each student must complete a thesis under the supervision of a Thesis Supervision Committee comprising at least two faculty members, one of whom is designated the thesis supervisor and committee chairperson.
- ECON 6990 MPhil Thesis Research
- Presentation and oral defense of the MPhil thesis.

e) Theory Examinations

Students who intend to proceed to the PhD (ECON) program are required to take and pass four theory examinations during their first year of MPhil studies. Students are allowed two attempts to pass the four theory examinations. The two attempts must be completed by the end of the first year of the MPhil studies.

Students who fail to pass the four theory examinations in two attempts may continue their MPhil studies, but are not allowed to proceed to the PhD (ECON) program. If a student does not pass all four theory examinations in the first attempt, in the second attempt, the student only needs to take those theory examinations he fails in the first attempt.

Requirements for PhD (ACCT/FINA/IS/MARK/MGMT/OM) Programs

a) Minimum Course Requirements

Each student is required to take at least 36 credits overall, with a minimum of 15 credits of PhD level courses excluding the common core requirements.

b) Introductory Quantitative Requirements

Unless students have clearly demonstrated sufficient knowledge, students entering PhD programs are required to take the following two mathematics-oriented courses in the first regular term of studies:

- i) ECON 5100 Mathematics for Business and Economics
- ii) ISOM 5540 Introduction to Probability

The credits earned from ECON 5100 and ISOM 5540 cannot be counted toward the degree requirements.

c) General Management Requirements

Students who do not have an MBA or equivalent are required to take at least three of the following MBA-level courses. Students with a BBA degree could seek course exemptions from the PhD Programs Director if they have demonstrated successful attainment on similar courses.

- i) ACCT 5100 Financial Accounting Foundations
- ii) FINA 5120 Corporate Finance; or
FINA 5210 Investment Analysis
- iii) ISOM 5700 Operations Management
- iv) MARK 5120 Marketing Strategy and Policy
- v) MGMT 5230 Management of Organizations

d) Common Core Requirements

Each student must take five common core courses regardless of his major field, including:

- i) ECON 5130 Microeconomic Analysis; or
ECON 5210 Microeconomic Theory I
- ii) ISOM 5550 Statistical Methods for Business and Economics I
- iii) LANG 5001 Postgraduate English for Academic Purposes
- iv) AND two of the following:
 - ECON 5220 Microeconomic Theory II
 - ECON 5300 Econometrics; or
ISOM 5560 Statistical Methods for Business and Economics II
 - ISOM 5530 Multivariate Data Analysis
 - MGMT 7140 Doctoral Seminar in Behavioral Research Methods

e) Major Field Requirements

Each student is required to take at least 9 credits of PhD level courses in the major field.

f) Major Field Examinations

Full-time students must make the first attempt by the end of the second year, and part-time students must make the first attempt by the end of the third year, unless a later date is approved by the Department.

g) Research Paper Requirement

Full-time (part-time) students have to submit research proposals to the PG Coordinator by the end of the second (third) year, and no later than their first attempt of major field examination, and prepare and present the paper by the end of the third year (fourth year). The paper must be approved by two faculty members of the student's major department.

h) Thesis Requirement

- A Thesis Supervision Committee should be formed to direct student's thesis research. A thesis proposal presentation will be scheduled only after the Thesis Supervision Committee concludes that a suitable topic has been chosen and a sufficient amount of preliminary work has been completed. Once the thesis proposal is approved, the student is then admitted to candidacy and can proceed to complete the thesis in accordance with the agreement;
- PhD Thesis Research; and
- Presentation and oral defense of the PhD thesis.

Requirements for PhD (ECON) Program

The PhD (ECON) program does not admit directly a student from a UG program or a student who has a taught master's degree. The program only accepts students with the following qualifications:

- Completed HKUST MPhil (ECON) program in two and no more than two-and-a-half years, or equivalent;
- Passed four theory examinations on macro and micro economics theories, or equivalent qualification; and
- Possess sufficient knowledge in three ECON fields demonstrated by obtaining B+ or above in three ECON field courses, or equivalent qualification.

Applicants with a master's degree considered equivalent to HKUST MPhil (ECON) may be directly admitted to the PhD program. However, they are required to pass the four theory examinations (or equivalent qualification) before admission to the PhD program.

a) Introductory Quantitative Requirements

Unless students have clearly demonstrated sufficient knowledge in the area, students entering the PhD program are required to take the following two mathematics-oriented courses in the first regular term of studies:

ECON 5100 Mathematics for Business and Economics; and
ISOM 5540 Introduction to Probability

The credits earned from ECON 5100 and ISOM 5540 cannot be counted toward the degree requirements.

b) Core Requirements

Students are required to take the following four core courses:

ECON 5210 Microeconomic Theory I
ECON 5220 Microeconomic Theory II
ECON 5300 Econometrics
ISOM 5550 Statistical Methods for Business and Economics I

In addition, students are required to take LANG 5001 Postgraduate English for Academic Purposes.

c) Major Field Requirements

Students are required to take at least 9 credits of PhD level courses in the major field including the following:

ECON 5250 Macroeconomic Theory I
ECON 5260 Macroeconomic Theory II

d) Minimum Course Requirements

Students are required to take at least 36 credits, with a minimum of 15 credits of PhD level courses excluding the core requirements listed above.

Note: Students who have taken the HKUST MPhil (ECON) program will be granted credits transfer to the PhD program. Students who have taken an MPhil or equivalent in other universities may be granted credits transfer on a case-by-case basis. In such a case, the maximum number of credits transferable is 36.

e) Thesis Requirement

- A Thesis Supervision Committee should be formed to direct student's thesis research. A thesis proposal presentation will be scheduled only after Thesis Supervision Committee concludes that a suitable topic has been chosen and a sufficient amount of preliminary work has been completed. Once the thesis proposal is approved, the student is then admitted to candidacy and can proceed to complete the thesis in accordance with the agreement.
- ECON 7990 Doctoral Thesis Research
- Presentation and oral defense of the PhD thesis.

Degree Awards

These programs lead to the following degree awards:

- MPhil in Accounting
- MPhil in Economics
- MPhil in Finance
- MPhil in Information Systems
- MPhil in Marketing
- MPhil in Management
- MPhil in Operations Management
- PhD in Accounting
- PhD in Economics
- PhD in Finance
- PhD in Information Systems
- PhD in Marketing
- PhD in Management
- PhD in Operations Management

Enquiries about admissions, financial assistance, course requirements and research specialty should be addressed to the department concerned.