

Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Programs in Humanities

Curriculum for Master of Philosophy (MPhil) Program in Humanities

The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) program aims to provide training for students who intend to pursue a professional career in teaching and research. It can be an end in itself or serve as a preparation for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree.

Students enrolled in the program may opt for one of the following four areas of concentration: Linguistics, Literature, History and Anthropology, or Philosophy and Religion, though they are expected to go beyond conventional disciplinary boundaries and cultivate knowledge and expertise in interdisciplinary dialogue and interaction.

Program Requirements

Students are required to:

- a) Complete a minimum of 12 credits of postgraduate coursework in the Division of Humanities, preferably in their first year of study. The second year is normally devoted to the writing of the MPhil thesis;
- b) Complete and pass SHSS 6770 Professional Development in Humanities and Social Science which should be taken in the first year of study for full-time students, or the first two years of study for part-time students. The 1 credit earned from SHSS 6770 cannot be counted toward the credit requirements;
- c) Take and pass LANG 5071 Postgraduate English for Humanities. The 1 credit earned from LANG 5071 cannot be counted toward the credit requirements. Students can be exempted from taking LANG 5071 with the agreement of the Division Head and PG Committee;
- d) Register in HUMA 6990 MPhil Thesis Research; and
- e) Present and defend the MPhil thesis.

All new students must propose a course-taking plan for the first academic year in consultation with their advisors. The proposal, consisting of a list of courses to be taken in the first year and a study plan specifying the learning objectives and how these objectives can be achieved by the proposed list of courses, should be submitted to the Division's PG Committee for endorsement with prior approval of the advisor, no later than the end of the course add/drop period of the first regular term.

Areas of Concentration

For students who opt for an area of concentration, at least 6 credits of postgraduate coursework must be taken from the chosen concentration. Before the commencement of each academic year, the Division will provide students with a list of courses to be offered in each area of concentration.

The MPhil Thesis

The thesis is normally written in English. If a student wishes to use Chinese as the thesis language, prior approval must be obtained. Petition to write the thesis in Chinese must be made by the student before the end of the first year of study. For details, please refer to the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

The thesis must be based on original research; it should demonstrate an awareness of the conceptual and methodological problems related to the chosen topic and a solid command of bibliographical materials in the field of study. The format of the thesis should conform to the guidelines outlined in the *Handbook for Research Postgraduate Studies* and also to the requirements listed in the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

MPhil Thesis Examination

A student submitting a thesis will need to defend it before the Thesis Examination Committee. The thesis defense normally takes place in the second regular term of the student's second year of study. For details of thesis examinations, please refer to the *Handbook for Research Postgraduate Studies* and the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

Curriculum for Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Program in Humanities

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program is interdisciplinary in nature. It aims to provide training for students who intend to pursue a professional career in teaching and research.

Students enrolled in the program may specialize in Linguistics, Literature, History and Anthropology, or Philosophy and Religion, but are expected to go beyond conventional disciplinary boundaries and cultivate knowledge and expertise in interdisciplinary dialogue and interaction.

Program Requirements

Students are required to:

- a) Complete a minimum of 21 credits of postgraduate coursework, including HUMA 6200 Research Project in Humanities;
- b) Complete and pass SHSS 6770 Professional Development in Humanities and Social Science which should be taken in the first year of study for full-time students, or the first two years of study for part-time students. The 1 credit earned from SHSS 6770 cannot be counted toward the credit requirements. HKUST MPhil (HUMA) graduates who have taken and passed this course before may be exempted from this requirement, subject to prior approval from the Division Head and PG Coordinator;

- c) Complete and pass HUMA 6300 Postgraduate Seminar. The 1 credit earned from HUMA 6300 cannot be counted toward the credit requirements;
- d) Take and pass LANG 5071 Postgraduate English for Humanities. The 1 credit earned from LANG 5071 cannot be counted toward the credit requirements. Students can be exempted from taking LANG 5071 with the agreement of the Division Head and Postgraduate Committee, or if they have completed this course in MPhil (HUMA) program before;
- e) Pass the qualifying examination;
- f) Register in HUMA 7990 Doctoral Thesis Research; and
- g) Present and defend the PhD thesis.

All new students must propose a course-taking plan for the first academic year in consultation with their advisors. The proposal, consisting of a list of courses to be taken in the first year, and a study plan specifying the learning objectives and how these objectives can be achieved by the proposed list of courses, should be submitted to the Division's PG Committee for endorsement with prior approval of the advisor, no later than the end of the course add/drop period of the first regular term.

Subject to the approval of the Division's PG Committee, students may be granted credit transfer of up to 9 credits on a case-by-case basis.

Areas of Concentration

Students are required to focus their research thesis on one of the four areas of concentration, namely Linguistics, Literature, History and Anthropology, and Philosophy and Religion. For all areas of concentration, of the remaining 18 credits of the required coursework, at least 9 must be taken in the student's chosen concentration. Before the commencement of each academic year, the Division will provide students with a list of courses to be offered in each area of concentration.

Linguistics Concentration

Students will focus their research on Chinese linguistics, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and dialectology, or Sino-Tibetan linguistics from a historical perspective.

Literature Concentration

Students will focus primarily on Chinese literature from comparative, interdisciplinary, and theoretical perspectives.

History and Anthropology Concentration

Students will have the option of choosing one of the following two areas:

Area A – Chinese History and World History

This area focuses on the history of China with emphasis on the period from early China to the People's Republic, whereas World History focuses on European and/or American history. Approaches to the subject can be economic, social, political, cultural, intellectual, or comparative.

Area B – Cultural Anthropology and Social History

This area focuses primarily on South China. Research areas include not only Guangdong and Fujian, but also regions extending from Taiwan through Hong Kong and Macao to Hainan. Other possible subjects of study are overseas Chinese (in Southeast Asia, Japan, North America, and Europe) and the ethnic groups of southern and southwestern China (She, Yao, Dan, etc.).

Philosophy and Religion Concentration

Students will focus their research on at least one of the following areas: Chinese, Asian, Western, and comparative philosophy and/or religion.

Language Requirement

The study of a foreign language may be an important part of a student's preparation for research and teaching. A third language (normally Japanese, French or German) requirement, other than English and Chinese, is optional, but according to specific needs of the thesis research, the supervisor has the authority to require a student to take one and decide what level of proficiency should be achieved before graduation. The level of competence in a third language can be demonstrated either through satisfactory completion of a second-year language course taken within the last five years or through acceptable performance in a standardized examination. The third language, if required, must be fulfilled no later than the term in which the student completes the qualifying examination.

PhD Qualifying Examination

To become a doctoral candidate, a student must pass a written qualifying examination. The qualifying examination should be completed no later than the third regular term of study for full-time students, or the fifth regular term for part-time students. For details of the qualifying examination, please refer to the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

The PhD Thesis

A PhD thesis prospectus should be submitted to the Thesis Supervision Committee no later than three months for full-time students or six months for part-time students after successful completion of the qualifying examination.

The thesis is normally written in English. If a student wishes to use Chinese as the thesis language, prior approval must be obtained. Petition to write the thesis in Chinese must be made by the student before the end of the third term of study. For details, please refer to the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

A PhD thesis is a scholarly study on a subject based on original research. It must demonstrate an awareness of the conceptual and methodological problems related to the chosen topic and a solid command of bibliographical materials in the field of study. The format of the thesis should conform to the guidelines outlined in the *Handbook for Research Postgraduate Studies* and also to the requirements listed in the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

PhD Thesis Examination

A student submitting a thesis will need to defend it before the Thesis Examination Committee. For details of the thesis examination, please refer to the *Handbook for Research Postgraduate Studies* and the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.