

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

Curriculum for Master of Philosophy (MPhil) Program in Accounting

The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) program is a research oriented degree that aims to prepare students for a research and teaching career in universities and research institutes. Students intending to do a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Accounting at HKUST should consider entering the MPhil program to acquire the training necessary for a PhD degree.

Program Requirements

a) Introductory Quantitative Requirement

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 study. The credits earned from these two courses cannot be counted toward the degree requirements.

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

b) RPg Professional Development Requirement

Students are required to complete and pass SBMT 6770 Professional Development in Academia for Business in their first 1.5 years of study. Part-time students may be given extension to complete the course, subject to prior approval of the Department Head and PG Coordinator. The 1 credit earned from this course cannot be counted toward the credit requirements.

c) English Language Requirement

Full-time RPg students are required to take an English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) Speaking Test administered by the Center for Language Education before the start of their first term of study. Students whose ELPA Speaking Test score is below Level 4, or who failed to take the test in their first term of study, are required to take LANG 5000 Foundation in Listening & Speaking for Postgraduate Students until they pass the course by attaining at least Level 4 in the ELPA Speaking Test before graduation.

d) Course Requirement

Students are required to take at least 36 credits in the sequence suggested below. Students may be required to take additional courses related to their research topics, as requested by their thesis supervisors.

Fall Term, Year One

- ACCT 5150 Accounting Foundations

- ECON 5210 Microeconomic Theory I
- FINA 5120 Corporate Finance
- LANG 5002 Postgraduate English for Business and Social Science Studies

Spring Term, Year One

- ACCT 7720 Doctoral Seminar – Research in Managerial Accounting, Auditing and Governance
- ECON 5220 Microeconomic Theory II
- FINA 5210 Investment Analysis

Fall Term, Year Two

- FINA 7900C Doctoral Seminar - Empirical Corporate Finance; or
FINA 7900D Doctoral Seminar - Empirical Asset Pricing
- ISOM 5550 Statistical Methods for Business and Economics I
- MGMT 7100 Behavioral Science

Spring Term, Year Two

- ACCT 7730 Doctoral Seminar – Research in Financial Accounting
- ECON 5300 Econometrics

e) Thesis Requirement

Students are required to register in ACCT 6990 MPhil Thesis Research, and present and orally defend the MPhil thesis.

Curriculum for Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Program in Accounting

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program is a research-oriented degree that aims to prepare students for a research and teaching career in universities and research institutes.

Program Requirements

a) Introductory Quantitative Requirement

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 study. The credits earned from these two courses cannot be counted toward the degree requirements.

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

b) RPq Professional Development Requirement

Students are required to complete and pass SBMT 6770 Professional Development in Academia for Business in their first 1.5 years of study. Subject to prior approval of the Department Head and PG Coordinator, part-time

students may be given extension to complete this course, and HKUST MPhil graduates in Accounting who have taken and passed this course before may be exempted from this requirement. The 1 credit earned from this course cannot be counted toward the credit requirements.

c) English Language Requirement

Full-time RPg students are required to take an English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) Speaking Test administered by the Center for Language Education before the start of their first term of study. Students whose ELPA Speaking Test score is below Level 4, or who failed to take the test in their first term of study, are required to take LANG 5000 Foundation in Listening & Speaking for Postgraduate Students until they pass the course by attaining at least Level 4 in the ELPA Speaking Test before graduation.

d) Course Requirement

Students are required to take at least 38 credits. Students may be required to take additional courses related to their research topics, as requested by their thesis supervisors.

Students who have taken the HKUST MPhil program in Accounting will be granted credit transfer to the PhD program. Students who have taken an MPhil or equivalent in other universities may be granted credit transfer on a case-by-case basis. In such a case, the maximum number of credits transferable is 32.

i) Required Courses

ACCT	5150	Accounting Foundations
ACCT	7720	Doctoral Seminar – Research in Managerial Accounting, Auditing and Governance
ACCT	7730	Doctoral Seminar – Research in Financial Accounting
ECON	5210	Microeconomic Theory I
ECON	5220	Microeconomic Theory II
ECON	5300	Econometrics
FINA	5120	Corporate Finance
FINA	5210	Investments Analysis
LANG	5002	Postgraduate English for Business and Social Science Studies

ii) General Management Courses

ISOM	5700	Operations Management; or
MARK	5120	Marketing Strategy and Policy; or
MGMT	5230	Management of Organizations

iii) Cross-discipline Research Courses

FINA	7900C	Doctoral Seminar - Empirical Corporate Finance; or
FINA	7900D	Doctoral Seminar - Empirical Asset Pricing

e) PhD Qualifying Examination

All PhD students must pass a qualifying examination.

Students admitted via the HKUST MPhil program in Accounting will take the qualifying examination in the Summer of the second year of MPhil study. Students who fail the qualifying examination in the first attempt can retake the examination once and must pass the examination no later than December of the first year of PhD study.

Students admitted with an equivalent research master's degree should take the qualifying examination in the Summer of the first year of PhD study. Students who fail the qualifying examination in the first attempt can retake the examination once and must pass the examination no later than December of the second year of PhD study.

Students admitted without an equivalent research master's degree should take the qualifying examination in the Summer of the second year of PhD study. Students who fail the qualifying examination in the first attempt can retake the examination once and must pass the examination no later than December of the third year of PhD study.

f) Research Paper Requirement

Students admitted without an equivalent research master's degree are required to write a research paper by the Fall Term of the third year of study. Students admitted with an HKUST MPhil degree in Accounting or equivalent will be exempted from this requirement.

g) Thesis Requirement

Students are required to register in ACCT 7990 Doctoral Thesis Research, and present and orally defend the PhD thesis.