

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

Curriculum for Master of Philosophy (MPhil) Program in Economics

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. It is intended to be taken as the first part of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program.

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 this 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 23 credits, with at least 8 credits of MPhil/PhD level courses in the major field. Students may need to take additional courses related to their research topics, as requested by their thesis supervisors.

i) Required Courses

ECON 5250 Macroeconomic Theory I

ECON 5260 Macroeconomic Theory II

ii) Core Courses

ECON 5210 Microeconomic Theory I

ECON 5220 Microeconomic Theory II

ECON 5300 Econometrics

ISOM 5550 Statistical Methods for Business and Economics I

e) Thesis Requirement

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

f) Theory Examinations

Students who intend to proceed to the PhD program in Economics are required to take and pass four theory examinations during their first year of MPhil study. 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 study. 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 failed in the first attempt.

Students who fail to pass the four theory examinations in two attempts may continue their MPhil study, but are not allowed to proceed to the PhD program.

Curriculum for Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Program in Economics

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) 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. 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 Economics 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 36 credits. Students may need to take additional courses related to their research topics, as requested by their thesis supervisors.

Students who have taken the HKUST MPhil program in Economics 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.

ECON 5210	Microeconomic Theory I
ECON 5220	Microeconomic Theory II
ECON 5250	Macroeconomic Theory I
ECON 5260	Macroeconomic Theory II
ECON 5300	Econometrics
ISOM 5550	Statistical Methods for Business and Economics I
LANG 5002	Postgraduate English for Business and Social Science Studies

e) PhD Qualifying Examination

All PhD students must pass a qualifying examination.

There are only two attempts for the qualifying examination, which take place in June and August of the same year.

Students admitted via the HKUST MPhil program in Economics will take the qualifying examination during the Summer of the first year of MPhil study. Students who fail the qualifying examination in the two attempts may continue their MPhil study, but are not allowed to proceed to the PhD program.

Students admitted without an HKUST MPhil degree in Economics will take the qualifying examination in the Summer of their first year of PhD studies. They will take the same qualifying examination as the HKUST MPhil students. Students who fail the qualifying examination after two attempts in the first year of their PhD study are required to withdraw from the PhD program.

f) Research Paper Requirement

Students are required to submit a research paper by the Summer of their second year of PhD study. Students admitted with an HKUST MPhil degree in Economics or equivalent will be exempted from this requirement.

g) Thesis Requirement

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