

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**Bachelor of Arts Programme in Arabic****CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT**

The Arabic language and culture programme offered as a minor by the School of Modern Languages and Cultures comprises six different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. The courses are 6-credit courses. A range of 120-180 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) is the norm for a 6-credit course. 6-credit courses normally have 24-72 hours of contact. All courses are assessed by 100% continuous assessment. As a general guide, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be not more than 5,000 words in Arabic and/or English. for a 6-credit course. The categories of Arabic courses are as follows:

1. *Introductory language courses* (6 credits)

These first-year courses emphasize the learning of a second foreign language. Students acquire a basic knowledge in the four areas of competence (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) with a particular emphasis on communicative skills. Classes are conducted in small groups in order to ensure a high degree of interactivity between students and teachers. Conversation groups and laboratory groups are usually also arranged separately on a regular basis. Students acquire a vocabulary of 1,000 to 1,500 words and are expected to demonstrate that they are able to use this vocabulary within the four areas of competence mentioned above. Assessment is based upon 100% coursework, which includes in-class tests, regular assignments, and online reading and listening, with a total written output of no more than 2,000 words in Arabic. Assessable output is not only in written form, but also includes student performance in terms of spoken, listening, and reading proficiency in the Arabic language.

2. *Advanced language courses* (6 credits)

These advanced language courses build on the first-year, introductory language courses. They emphasize the learning of the Arabic language at an intermediate and advanced level, grammatically as well as in culture-specific issues which are gradually introduced into the curriculum. Students develop further their proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in the Arabic language. As in the first-year language courses, classes are conducted in small groups in order to ensure a high degree of interactivity between students and teachers. Conversation groups and laboratory groups are also arranged separately on a regular basis. Assessment is based upon 100% coursework, including regular assignments, essays, small research projects, portfolios, and/or short oral presentations, with a total written output of no more than 4,000 words in Arabic. It must be emphasized that assessable output is not only in written form, but also includes a student's performance in terms of spoken, listening, and reading proficiency in the Arabic language.

3. *Survey courses* (6 credits)

These courses focus on the Arabic culture and language through the exploration of specific topics, such as society, literature, media, films, history, politics, linguistics, history of the language, etc. They are taught predominantly by lectures and tutorials/seminars, or by lectures only. Assessment methods are left up to individual teachers who are encouraged to introduce assessment tasks which are appropriate to the stated learning outcomes of the courses. Assessment is 100% coursework. Assessment tasks will normally include in-class tests, oral presentations, as well as the writing of essays, reports, and projects totalling no more than 4,000 words in Arabic and/or English.

4. *Study Abroad courses* (6 credits)

Usually offered during the summer and/or winter between the second and third year or the third and fourth year, and organized by several universities and teaching institutions from one of the countries where the Arabic language is spoken. These courses are designed to build on and to reinforce the language competence acquired during the first two or three years of studying Arabic. These courses are of 3-4 weeks in duration and comprise a minimum of 60 contact hours in a linguistic immersion context. They prepare students for more advanced work upon their return to Hong Kong. Assessments will be based on student portfolios, students' performances and transcripts provided by the host institution.

5. *Internship* (6 credits)

This course offers students an internship learning experience by allowing them to take their classroom knowledge into the community. Students will have an opportunity for experiential learning, earn credits and engage in a rich experience while working in an organization that demonstrates a real impact on society. The internship experience draws on the Arabic Programme coursework to encourage students to apply their classroom knowledge to work in organizations that demonstrate the use of Arabic in the community. Internships may be conducted at any point between the summer before a student enters Year 2 and the second semester of Year 4. The duration of the internship will depend on the arrangement made between the student and the organization but should involve approx. 120 contact hours of committed service for the host organization. Internships can be conducted during the semester or at full-time equivalent during the lecture-free period. Staffing resources and operations mechanisms allowed, students will be assessed by the organization contact throughout the duration of the internship and will also, if possible, receive a letter of reference from the organization at the end of the internship. A written report (800-1000 words in Arabic or English) with a description, critical assessment of and reflection on the internship experience will be assessed by the course coordinator at HKU. Students are asked to make their own internship arrangements with an organization of their choice in liaison with the course coordinator at the Arabic Programme of HKU.

6. *Field trip* (6 credits)

This course aims at providing students with opportunities to develop their abilities in intercultural communication as well as for their sensitivity to Arabic culture to be enhanced, thus providing them with the capability to solve problems in a manner appropriate to the cultural context in which they are operating. Assessment is based on 100% coursework, which includes pre-trip class discussions, a reflective report (about 5,000 words in English) and a presentation based on their experiences.

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