THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Bachelor of Arts Programme in Translation

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The Translation Programme features a variety of courses that fall into six distinctive categories. All translation 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. All courses normally have 24-36 hours of contact. However, some may have different learning modes and, consequently, fewer contact hours. Exceptions include Research courses, where contact hours are minimal (6-12 hours) because students do independent research work under the guidance of a supervisor. The total student learning hours for the major and minor in Translation are not fewer than 1,440 hours and 720 hours respectively.

As a general guide, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be not more than 7,000 English words or 8,000 Chinese characters in total. All courses are assessed 100% by continuous assessment.. Output requirements for courses may include contributions to group projects, participation in tutorial discussions and oral presentations in addition to essays, reviews, journals and research papers. The following types of courses are offered in the Programme:

1. *Introductory courses* (6 credits)
One of the main purposes of these introductory courses is to introduce students to the skills essential to the discipline. These courses will normally be taught through lectures and tutorials. The main forms of assessment are student portfolios, short weekly assignments, and written outputs with a combined output requirement of not more than 7,000 English words or not more than 8,000 Chinese characters in total.

2. *Lecture courses* (6 credits)
These courses are intended primarily to familiarize students with the characteristic features of Chinese and English. The principal modes of teaching are lectures, workshops and tutorials. Students are normally required to submit written outputs of not more than 7,000 English words or not more than 8,000 Chinese characters in total for a 6-credit course.

3. *Seminar courses* (6 credits)
With a heavy emphasis on student involvement in discussions, exchanges and research activities, these courses consist of a combination of lectures and seminars that provide a platform for dialogue and debate. As a means of assessment, students are required to submit written outputs of not more than 7,000 English words or 8,000 Chinese characters in total and to take part in seminar presentations on topics of their own choice.

4. *Laboratory courses* (6 credits)
A language laboratory is now considered an integral part of an instructional programme in interpretation, and its importance to language learning in general and the teaching of oral translation in particular has been recognized. Students do interpretation exercises in the privacy of their own booths, and also receive individual guidance through their headphones from their instructor who monitors their performance at the teacher's console. Students sharpen their translation skills and benefit from oral practice. Assessment is by 100% coursework, including

class test recordings and projects.

5. *Fieldwork courses* (6 credits)

In these courses, collaborations will be made with overseas/mainland institutes with equal importance attached to lectures, which are mostly practical in nature, and site visits that provide students with first-hand knowledge and hands-on experience to complement the materials covered in lectures. The contact hour is roughly 20 hours of lecture plus more than 40 hours of field trip and other learning activities. Assessment is by 100% coursework, including tutorial discussions, oral presentations, and projects.

6. *Research course: capstone* (6 credits)

Students in their final year of study have to undertake long translation projects in which they will be required to translate portions of published works, both literary and non-literary, between English and Chinese. Students are assigned consultants who provide guidance in, and approval of, the choice of texts, and then supervisors who offer advice, vet drafts and give tutorials on a regular basis. In the process students will be given individual tuition in order to identify weaknesses and make improvements. Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to translate complex texts.

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