

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

**Bachelor of Arts (BA) and  
Bachelor of Education in Language Education (BEd[LangEd])**

This professional double degree curriculum for initial language teacher education covers 5 years of full-time study. Students are required to complete 300 credits during the regular 10 semesters.

Components of this degree curriculum, viz. Major in Chinese Language, Literature and Culture and Major in English Language and Linguistics, their corresponding Professional Core courses comprising Educational Studies and Pedagogy courses, Professional Practicum and External Experience, are integrated and together fulfill the Education Bureau's (EDB) and Standing Committee on Language Education and Research's (SCOLAR) requirements as a Recognised Chinese / English Language Major Degree programme and relevant teacher training for professional recognition of language teachers.

A majority of the courses in the two programmes are 6-credit courses but there are a few 12-credit courses. Students are required to fulfill the capstone requirements, which are two blocks of professional practicum in years 4 and 5 (24 credits). These two blocks of professional practicum require the integration and application of knowledge from both the language major and professional core programmes.

**BA Degree Curriculum**

**Major in Chinese Language, Literature and Culture (90 credits)**

The Chinese Language, Literature and Culture programme features a variety of courses that fall into three distinctive categories. 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. Contact hours are in a range of 24-36 hours for a 6-credit course. As a general guide, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be 6,000-8,000 characters for a 6-credit course. Most courses are assessed 100% by continuous assessment, though examinations may comprise up to 60% of assessment in some courses. Output requirements for courses where the performance of students is evaluated with 100% continuous assessment may include contributions to group projects 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 first-year courses is to introduce students to the skills essential to the discipline. These courses are taught using a combination of lectures and

tutorials. The main forms of assessment are student portfolios and short weekly assignments, usually with a combined output requirement of 6,000 – 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 language and literature. The principal modes of teaching are lectures, workshops and tutorials. Students are normally required to submit written outputs of not more than 8,000 Chinese characters in total.

### *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 8,000 Chinese characters in total and to take part in seminar presentations on topics of their own choice.

## **Major in English Language and Linguistics (78 credits)**

The programme in English Language and Linguistics consists of three different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. All 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.

The teaching/learning mode of the majority of courses is lecture and seminar/tutorial, supplemented by directed activities and private study. 6-credit courses normally have 24-36 hours of contact. However, some may have different learning modes and, consequently, fewer contact hours. Most courses are assessed 100% by continuous assessment.

The three categories of courses in the English Language and Linguistics programme may be summarised as follows:

### *1. Introductory courses (6 credits)*

These first- and second-year English Studies courses emphasise the practice of critical reading, analysis and writing, as well as the development of historical and theoretical foundations. Contact hours are normally three per week, consisting of a combination of lectures and tutorials or workshops. Assessment is by a variety of coursework, with a total output of approx. 5,000 words.

These first-year Linguistics courses introduce students to each sub-field of the discipline. Teaching consists of lectures and tutorials. Assessment is by coursework assignments (50%) and a final examination (50%). Written output should amount to not more than 3,000 words.

### *2. Advanced courses (6 credits)*

These advanced English Studies courses deepen certain themes and topics in the discipline and are taught in a combination of lectures and seminars. Assessment is by 100% coursework , with a total output of approx. 5,000 words.

### *3. Lecture courses (6 credits)*

These Linguistics courses focus on sub-fields of General Linguistics and are taught predominantly through lectures and tutorials or laboratory sessions. Assessment methods are left up to individual teachers who are encouraged to use assessment tasks appropriate to the stated learning outcomes of the courses. Assessment tasks include problem sets, essays, and in-class tests. Assessment is by 100% coursework. Written output should amount to not more than 3,000 words in total.

## **BEd(LangEd) Degree Curriculum**

The BEd(LangEd) degree curriculum comprises a 120-credit, language-specific Professional Core programme with integrated, pedagogy, pedagogical content knowledge and educational studies courses and professional practicum. These courses and practicum are integrated and together fulfill the Education Bureau's (EDB) requirements as a relevant teacher training for professional recognition of language teachers and the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research's (SCOLAR) requirements as a Recognised Language Major Degree programme and relevant teacher training for professional recognition of language teachers. This component will not be offered separately to students of other curricula.

All courses are 6-credit courses whereas two blocks of the professional practicum in years 4 and 5 are 12 credits each. Courses normally involve classroom contact hours, online interaction, reading, studying, researching & writing assignments or preparing for examinations / tests. Timetabled classroom contact time and study load for various courses are as follows:

- A 6-credit course: 24 contact hours, 120 to 150 hours of study load
- A 6-credit practicum course: 120 to 150 hours of study load
- A 6-credit external experience course: 120 to 150 hours of study load
- A 12-credit practicum course: 240 to 300 hours of study load

### **Assessment**

Where assessment is done by written assignment, a 6-credit course may have one to three assessment tasks, totaling 3,000-4,000 words, or equivalent for non-essay tasks. All courses adopt 100% continuous assessment by diverse forms of coursework.

#### *1. Integrated courses (6 credits)*

These courses focus on a set of concrete local educational, classroom and school issues/problems to contextualize the theoretical topics in the courses and to help students to make connection between theories and issues. Joint assignments require students to make connections between pedagogical, psychological and sociological theories and some of the concrete issues/problems both inside and outside the classroom. All courses are 6-credit courses with 24 contact hours. A range of assessment tasks will be used which include issue-based problem-solving work, Individual Education Plan (IEP), reflective essay paper, interactive workshop, field study, NGO/school visit, online forum discussion, self-study, oral presentation and essay.

#### *2. Educational studies courses (6 credits)*

These courses focus on the philosophical, sociological and psychological foundations of education. All courses are 6-credit courses with 24 contact hours. These courses will employ a range of teaching and learning activities, and assessment tasks. They include analysis of selected issues, student presentation, and/or discussion in class and e-forum.

#### *3. Pedagogy and Pedagogical Content Knowledge courses (6 credits)*

These courses focus on the methods and practices of teaching, encouraging students to become critically reflective education professionals. Individual lecturers decide the mode of assessment which is often related to the school-based professional practicum. All courses are 6-credit courses with 24 contact hours. A range of assessment tasks will be used which may include the following: in-class presentations, participation in online discussion tasks and a reflective assignment which requires students to examine their own pedagogic content

#### *4. Professional Practicum courses (12 credits)*

These are professional practicum blocks which enable students to develop professional teaching competencies within the school environment. The Years 4 to 5 courses are blocks of supervised teaching practice of 10 weeks each in Years 4 and 5 (240 – 300 hours of learning each) with proportional numbers of credits allocated. The Years 4 and 5 courses are capstone requirements. Learning activities may include observing and assisting the mentor, supervised teaching practice, lesson planning, self-study, critical self-reflections and conducting education-related inquiry study. The overall performance of students will be continuously assessed through various tasks such as post-supervision reflective reports, classroom teaching appraisals and lesson observation reports, with a total written output of 6,000 to 8,000 words.

#### *5. External experience courses (6 credits)*

Students travel outside Hong Kong to an overseas learning context where Putonghua / English is the mother tongue, and where they take a mixture of university-based courses, experience language immersion through homestay or equivalent, engage in cultural orientation, experiential learning projects and enjoy local school placements / visits. The overall performance of students will be continuously assessed through various courses, and also through a combination of formal and informal assessment modes including individual and group presentations, micro-teaching, mini-research projects, reflective tasks and proficiency tests.

#### *6. Community-based Professional Practicum courses (6 credits)*

Students from 2019-20 are required to successfully fulfill the requirements of at least one Experiential Learning activity through a Community-based Professional Practicum (CPP) project before the start of their fourth year. CPP is based on the premise that teaching and learning cannot only be restricted to classroom settings and teachers-to-be need to critically engage with social and global issues that impact on education including inequality, culture, history, and civic mindedness. The settings for our CPP projects may be local (Hong Kong), overseas and on the Mainland. Learning activities may include observing and assisting the community partner, designing and planning activities for the community partner, self-study, critical self-reflections and conducting education-related inquiry study. The overall performance of students will be continuously assessed through reflective tasks, group sharings/dissemination sessions as well as the making of videos to share with other students and community partners. The study load for this type of courses is between 120 to 150 hours.

August 2012

Amended December 2012

March 2015  
December 2019