

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF ARTS

Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

(Applicable to students admitted in the academic year 2022-23 and thereafter)

The MA in Applied Linguistics programme offers candidates the opportunity to acquire a critical understanding of theory in the field of applied linguistics and be able to conduct research into its practical applications. The programme consists of five core courses, three elective courses and a capstone experience of which two options are available: (a) taking MAAL6037 Advanced research methods and submission of a dissertation; OR (b) taking an additional elective course and submission of a portfolio. Full-time and part-time students are allowed to take up to a total of two elective courses online (i.e., up to 12 out of 69 credits, equivalent to 17.4% of the total curriculum load) throughout their studies. Up to two elective courses may be offered online in an academic year.

A total of 120 hours of student learning activities (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activities) is the norm of a 6-credit course. Contact hours are in a range of 12.5-20 hours for a 6-credit course, except for capstone experience (10 hours) because students do independent research work under the guidance of a supervisor. The programme has a total study load of 1,380 hours, of which 176.5 to 182 are contact hours.

1. Core courses (6 credits)

The core courses focus on the key approaches and current trends of second language learning and acquisition, curriculum design, discourse analysis, and research methods. Assessment is by 100% coursework which may take the form of written assignments, oral presentations, tests and/or other prescribed work with a total output of approximately 2,500 words (plus or minus 10%).

2. Elective courses (6 credits)

The elective courses emphasize some themes and topics related to language teaching, learning and testing in the discipline. Assessment is by 100% coursework which may take the form of written assignments, oral presentations, tests and/or other prescribed work with a total output of approximately 2,500 words (plus or minus 10%).

3. Advanced research methods (6 credits)

This course consists of a series of interactive workshops which will focus on the skills needed to enter into the research phase leading to the production of a dissertation. Assessment is by 100% coursework.

4. Capstone Experience: Dissertation (15 credits)

The dissertation, to be completed during the second semester (for full-time students) or the fourth semester (for part-time students), provides students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interests under the supervision of an assigned supervisor who helps them to formulate a topic, scope the research, suggest reading and review plans and draft chapters. Students are expected to spend much of their time on independent research and writing. Assessment is by a dissertation of no more than 15,000 words.

5. Capstone Experience: Portfolio (15 credits)

The portfolio, to be completed during the second semester (for full-time students) or the fourth semester (for part-time students), provides students with an opportunity to synthesize, evaluate and reflect on the ways in which the core and elective courses contribute to their understanding of a specific issue/topic in Applied Linguistics or the profession or development of English learning materials. Students are required to revise at least two assignments from different courses, write a mission statement and a personal reflection under the guidance of an assigned supervisor who provides advice on the process of producing the portfolio. They are expected to spend much of their time on independent writing and write a portfolio of no more than 12,500 words.