

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF ARTS

Master of Arts in the field of Art History

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

(Applicable to students admitted in the academic year 2026-27 and thereafter)

The Master of Arts (MA) Programme in the field of Art History consists of four types of courses which are taught using various learning modes. The guideline for normal time requirement for 3-credit workshops is 60 hours of student learning activity, including both contact hours and all other forms of learning activity. The normal time requirement for 6-credit courses is 120 hours of student learning activity. The normal time requirement for 9-credit courses is 180 hours of student learning activity. And the normal time requirement for 12-credit courses is 240 hours of student learning activity. Our 3-credit workshop normally includes 18 contact hours. Our 6-credit courses normally include 24-32 contact hours, while 9-credit courses normally include 30 contact hours. The 12-credit course is an MA dissertation requiring extensive independent research and writing, so the number of one-on-one contact hours with the dissertation supervisor is 3-6. All courses have 100% coursework assessment. The curriculum has a total study load of approximately 1,200 hours, of which 183 to 210 are contact hours. The four categories of courses may be summarized as follows:

1. Undergraduate elective courses (6 credits)

These courses are cross-listed with undergraduate classes open to undergraduate students. 2000-level courses are mostly lecture based, 3000-level courses combine lecture and seminar discussion, while 4000-level courses are based on seminar discussion and/or independent learning. All these courses require assessment in the form of a research essay and class discussion, with other possible assessment including class presentations, short essays, and tests. MA students are expected to write a longer research essay than undergraduate students, with a total output of not more than 6,000 words. The total number of student learning hours is 120.

2. MA courses (9 credits or 6 credits)

These are MA courses taught in lecture and seminar mode, with some including workshop elements or experiential learning elements. Assessment for the MA courses includes class discussion, short essays, tests, an in-depth research essay, and presentations. The total output is not more than 8,000 words and the total number of student learning hours is 180 for 9 credit courses, and 6,000 words and 120 learning hours for 6 credit courses.

3. Academic writing workshop (3 credits)

This course is a prerequisite for the programme's capstone experience (ARTH7999) and focuses on training students in the fundamentals of academic writing, as well as its standards and ethics. Students will engage in writing and editing exercises, and develop and revise research proposals and bibliographies, in order to thoroughly prepare for the task of writing the MA dissertation, a substantial research essay (10,000 words) that analyzes a specific topic in depth and which must be produced in accordance with professional standards in art history. Assessment for this course includes research and writing exercises. The total output is not more than 5,000 words and the total number of student learning hours is 60.

4. Research course: capstone experience (12 credits)

This is an MA dissertation produced under the supervision of a supervisor, based on original research and argumentation. The length of the dissertation is 10,000 words, presented in accordance with standards of professional art historical writing. Completion of this course will fulfill a student's capstone requirement. The total number of student learning hours is 240.