THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF ARTS

Master of Arts in the field of Linguistics

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

(Applicable to students admitted in the academic year 2021-22 and thereafter)

The Master of Arts in the field of Linguistics curriculum offers postgraduate level education to those who wish to engage as professionals in the study of languages, bilingualism and multilingualism, and train postgraduate students to conduct research on human language, its theories, empirical methods and applications. The curriculum consists of two core courses, five elective courses, and a capstone experience. All courses are 6 credits except the capstone experience. A range of 120-180 hours of student learning activities (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activities) is the norm for a 6-credit course. Contact hours are in a range of 24-36 hours for a 6-credit course, and 12-24 hours (individual supervision) for the capstone experience. The curriculum has a minimum study load of 1,200 hours, of which a minimum of 168 are contact hours. 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.

1.   Core courses (6 credits)
Core courses cover core topics such as syntax, phonetics and phonology. They are designed to provide solid foundations to students for a thorough understand of the theories and methods of linguistic research and teaching. Assessment is by 100% coursework which may take the form of written assignments, oral presentations, tests and/or other prescribed work laid out by individual teachers. Written output should amount to approximately 3,000 words.

2.   Elective courses (6 credits)
Elective courses cover advanced topics such as semantics, language and reading acquisition, and multilingualism, etc. They are designed to develop students' ability to apply linguistic theories to new problems, especially in the context of linguistic diversity in its social, educational and political dimensions. A guided-reading course is also available to students who are interested in reading classical work and up-to-date research papers relevant to their research interests. They are required to submit written reports and give oral presentations on the readings. Assessment is by 100% coursework which may take the form of written assignments, oral presentations, tests and/or other prescribed work laid out by individual teachers. Written output should amount to approximately 3,000 words.

3.   Capstone Experience (18 credits)

The capstone experience allows students to pursue their research interest under the supervision of a teacher. Students are required to submit a research proposal by the end of Semester 1 which will be used to assign a supervisor based on their respective area of specialisation. Students may choose to submit 1) a dissertation of 10,000 – 15,000 words, or 2) a poster, a brief oral presentation of the research project, and a written summary of the poster of approximately 3000 – 5000 words, to be presented at the annual postgraduate research forum. The capstone experience must be completed by the deadline prescribed by the programme.