

## THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

**Credit Unit Statement (CUS) of Taught Programmes**

Faculty / Offering Unit: Faculty of Business and Economics

Programme title: Master of Economics (MEcon)

Applicable student cohort(s): 2025-26 and thereafter

The Master of Economics (MEcon) curriculum consists of different types of courses which are taught using mixed learning modes. All courses, except the 12-credit research course, are 6 credits. Students should take 60 credits, consisting of either ten 6-credit courses, or eight 6-credit courses and one 12-credit course with 252 to 300 contact hours in total. The total number of student learning hours ranges from 1,200 to 1,500.

There are 5 categories of courses in this programme, as outlined below:

**1. Survey Courses (6 credits per course)**

These courses are taught predominantly by lectures (30 hours), supplemented by class discussion. The contact hours, student learning activities, and output requirements for each course will vary by instructor and learning models employed.

Each 6-credit course uses 120-150 hours of student learning activity as the norm (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning). Learning activities include the following: lectures, individual consultations, case studies, class discussion, individual assignments and group projects.

Assessment is by a combination of continuous assessment (40-60%) and examination (40-60%). Methods of assessment differ between courses but consist of class participation, individual assignments, group projects, individual and group presentations, quizzes, and examinations, depending on the nature of the course. Course instructors select the appropriate mix of delivery and assessments for students to achieve the learning outcomes. The number of words for written output is normally no more than 5,000 words.

**2. Capstone Courses (6 or 12 credits per course)**

**I. Survey Courses for Data Analysis, Policy Analysis and Theory Streams (6 credits)**

These courses focus on content and are taught mainly by lectures (30 hours), aiming at enriching students' research and problem-solving skills and encouraging group work. Each capstone course uses 120-150 hours of student learning activity as the norm (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning). Students are encouraged to integrate knowledge learned through the programme on solving real problems. Assessment is by a combination of continuous assessment (40-60%) and/or examination (40-60%), and requires research and group work both

inside and outside the classroom. Methods of assessment differ between courses but consist of class participation, individual assignments, group projects, individual and group presentations, quizzes, and examinations, depending on the nature of the course. Course instructors select the appropriate mix of delivery and assessments for students to achieve the learning outcomes. The number of words for written output is normally no more than 5,000 words.

## **II. Research Course for Advanced Research Stream (12 credits)**

This course aims at providing students with an opportunity to conduct research individually under the guidance/supervision of faculty members. Contact hours are minimal (12-24 hours) because students spend much of their time on individual research and writing. Assessment is through a single piece of work, normally a research thesis (no more than 30,000 words). Learning hours (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activities) range from 240 to 300 hours.

### **3. International Study Field Trip (6 credits per course)**

This 6-credit course aims to provide students with an opportunity to acquire first-hand practical knowledge of the international business environment and develop an understanding of international business strategies in the destination country. Students have to attend lectures, workshops and various field visits, ranging from 30-40 hours. It uses 120-150 hours of student learning activities as the norm (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning). The field trip activities are predominantly firm visits, cultural related activities and networking events. Assessment is completely by continuous assessment, generally through group presentations, group reports and an individual reflection paper. The number of words for written output is normally no more than 5,000 words.

### **4. Professional Development Programme (6 credits per course)**

This 6-credit course aims to provide students with an opportunity to gain practical knowledge and workplace skillsets from industry practitioners through lectures and participating in various activities such as case studies, consultations, coaching, small-group discussions and company visits. Contact hours are approximately 15 hours while students spend part of their time on other course activities. The contact hours, student learning activities, and output requirements will vary by instructor and learning models employed. The course uses 120-150 hours of student learning activity as the norm (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning). Assessment of this course is completely by continuous assessment. Methods of assessment differ between course instructors and examples of assessment tasks include individual/group assignments, written report (totaling no more than 8,000 words), individual/group project and oral presentation.

### **5. Independent Study Project (6 credits per course)**

This 6-credit course aims to provide students with an opportunity to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills that they have learned in previous courses through a self-directed study project. Contact hours are minimal (9-15 hours) because students spend much of their time on the project, including meetings with advisors, doing research and writing papers. They use 120-150 hours of student learning activity as the norm (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning). Assessment of this course is completely by continuous assessment, through submission of the project proposal, a final project presentation and submission of the final paper (totaling no more than 10,000 words).