

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT**

**Master of Education (MEd)**

The major objectives of the MEd programme are to provide students with a general understanding of education as a field of study; to encourage focused mastery of a chosen area of specialisation; and to equip students with the skills to understand and conduct educational research. The MEd programme can be completed over one academic year of full-time study, or two but no more than four consecutive academic years of part-time study. The specialism of Content and Language Integrated Learning (blended learning mode) shall normally be completed in 14 months, or be extended to a maximum of 26 months. There are two parallel strands within the MEd programme:

- I. Generalist Strand
- II. Specialist Strand

Candidates are required to complete a total of 60 credits to be eligible for the award of the degree. We use 150 hours of student learning activity (including timetabled classes, online interaction, reading, studying, practical work, site visits, researching and writing assignments) as the norm for a 6-credit course and the contact hours is in a range of 24-36 hours. The total study load for the programme is 1440 hours.

The **Generalist Strand** consists of a compulsory core course (6 credits), 7 general elective courses (6 credits each) plus a research project or a professional portfolio (12 credits).

The **Specialist Strand** consists of a compulsory core course (6 credits), 4 specialist courses, 3 elective courses (6 credits each) plus a research project or a professional portfolio (12 credits).

***1. Educational issues and research (6 credits)***

This compulsory core course aims to equip students with an overview of education as a field of study and basic understanding of educational research. It introduces key educational concepts and issues and prompts students to critically examine these issues from different philosophical, sociological, psychological, and cultural perspectives in their own professional and/or educational contexts. Another theme of the core course is introduction to educational research, so that students will be equipped with basic knowledge of research to understand and critically examine research evidence and engage in research or evidence-informed practice. This course is a combination of mass lectures and tutorials, and the total word length of written output for various assessment tasks is between 3,000-4,000 words or equivalent, which may include a research proposal, discussion, quiz, and presentation.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

***2. Research project (12 credits)***

The research project is normally between 10,000 and 12,000 words in length on an approved topic in the specialist area. There shall be (a) 15 hours of capstone seminars for students to learn how to work on and write their research project, (b) continuous consultation with supervisor throughout 28 study weeks in semesters 1 and 2 (on average one hour per week); and (c) approximately 197 hours of independent work to be required for the completion. The total study load is 240 hours. Students doing a research project are required to choose one of the electives related to “Advanced Research Methods”. In addition to a written project report, students are required to give an 8-10 minute presentation (either oral or poster) as a hurdle requirement.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

### **3. Professional portfolio (12 credits)**

The professional portfolio is normally between 10,000 and 12,000 words in length. It provides students with an opportunity to apply what they have learned on the programme to practices, and then evaluate and reflect on such practices. There shall be (a) 15 hours of capstone seminars for students to learn how to work on and write their professional portfolio, (b) continuous consultation with supervisor throughout 28 study weeks in semesters 1 and 2 (on average one hour per week); and (c) approximately 197 hours of independent work to be required for the completion. The total study load is 240 hours. In addition to the written portfolio, students are required to give an 8-10 minute presentation (either oral or poster) as a hurdle requirement

Assessment: 100% coursework.

### **4. Specialist courses (6 credits each)**

These courses comprise the specialist knowledge areas for each specialism of the programme. Normally the total word length of assessment is 3,000-4,000 words or equivalent, which comprises various forms of assessment such as written essay, discussion, reflection, quiz and presentation.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

### **5. Specialist/ General electives (6 credits each)**

There are two types of elective courses. **Specialist electives** are additional courses closely related to particular specialisms, and they allow students to pursue more in-depth understanding of the specialisms. **General electives** provide students with the opportunity to study areas that they are interested in or that are relevant to their profession or research, so as to broaden their knowledge and general appreciation of education. Normally the total word length of assessment is 3,000-4,000 words or equivalent, which comprises various forms of assessment such as written essay, discussion, reflection, quiz and presentation.

Assessment: 100% coursework.