

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF SCIENCE**

Credit Unit Statement

Master of Science in Integrative Marine Ecology and Conservation

[MSc(IMEC)]

(applicable to students admitted in the academic year 2024-25 and thereafter)

1. General guideline for contact hours requirement in the MSc(IMEC) Degree Curriculum

- (a) A 3-credit course has around 40-60 total study hours, including contact hours, study time, assignment and assessment.
- (b) A 9-credit course has around 120-180 total study hours, including contact hours, study time, assignment and assessment.
- (c) About 30% of the total study hours are actual contact hours in the form of a class, e.g. lecture and tutorial/discussion hours.
- (d) A 3-credit course has around 15-30 lecture hours.
- (e) A 9-credit course has around 32-48 lecture hours.
- (f) For lecture-based courses, normally there will be tutorial/discussion sessions and on-site visits to relevant academic and/or business locations.
- (g) For courses employing a non-lecture approach, e.g. the capstone dissertation/project and internship, students are expected to devote about 156-180 hours for a 6-credit course or 312-360 hours for a 12-credit course

2. Credit Unit Statement of the MSc(IMEC) Degree Curriculum

The MSc(IMEC) degree curriculum requires a total of 66 credits to complete, with a total study load of approximately 1,392 – 1,440 learning hours including around 214 – 398 contact hours. The programme consists of three major types of courses based on the learning activities. The majority of courses in the programmes are of 9 credits. Examples of the contact hour requirements for the three categories of courses are described as follows.

- (a) **Core Courses** (9 credits)
Contact hours: 32-48 hours of lectures and/or tutorials
These courses are taught predominantly by lectures and tutorials. Assessment is by a combination of examination (0-50%) and continuous assessment (50-100%). Continuous assessment tasks include written assignments (totalling no more than 8,000 words) such as essays and project/research reports, and oral presentations. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.
- (b) **Elective Courses** (3 credits)
Contact hours: 15-30 hours of lectures and/or tutorials
These courses are taught by a combination of lectures and/or practical sessions. Assessment is by coursework (100%) (totalling no more than 8,000 words) such as assignments, essays, laboratory reports, and project reports, and oral presentations. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.
- (c) **Internship** (6 credits)
Contact hours: 6 hours (at least 3 meetings with supervisor or course coordinator over the duration of the project)

The course aims at providing students with the opportunity to undertake an internship in marine ecology/policy/technology in NGOs or commercial companies under the supervision of an experienced practitioner. The student needs to work at least 160 hours for the internship employer on either the first, second or summer semester. Assessment is by continuous assessment (100%) and includes a written report and oral presentation. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of the course.

(d) **Project-based course** (6 credits)

Contact hours: Approximately 6 hours of discussion (at least 3 meetings with supervisor(s) over duration of the project).

This course aims at providing students with an opportunity to pursue their own interest in a group (2-4 students per group) under the supervision of a teacher. The teacher will meet with the student group regularly to discuss project progress. Assessment is by continuous assessment (100%). It includes a project report (totalling no more than 20,000 words) and an oral presentation. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of the course.

(e) **Dissertation** (12 credits)

Contact hours: Approximately 12 hours of discussion (at least 6 meetings with supervisor(s) over duration of the project).

This course aims at providing students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interest under the supervision of a teacher. The teacher will meet with the student regularly to discuss project progress. Assessment is by continuous assessment (100%). Assessment includes a research dissertation (totalling no more than 20,000 words) and an oral presentation. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of the course.