

Credit Unit Statement of the Curriculum of the Master of Science (MSc) in the field of Space Science

(applicable to students admitted in the academic year 2020-21 and thereafter)

1. General guideline for contact hour requirement in the MSc Degree Curriculum

- Total number of student learning hours for the curriculum is ~1300 hours
- A typical 6-credit course has around 120 total study hours, including contact hours, study time, assignment and assessment.
- ~30% of the total study hours are actual contact hours in the form of a class, e.g. lecture and tutorial/discussion hours.
- A 6-credit course has around 24 to a maximum of 36 lecture hours.
- For lecture-based courses, normally there will be tutorial/discussion sessions.
- Courses will be scheduled mostly in the evenings (after 6 PM) and week-ends, to make it viable for part-time students
- Courses will primarily be held at HKU, except for a brief (2–3 week) experiential visit to HKU-ZIRI and Zhejiang University
- For courses employing a non-lecture or lab-based approach (e.g. Small satellite design) students are expected to devote closer to 120-180 hours for the same 6 credits.

2. Credit Unit Statement of the MSc degree in the field of Space Science

The MSc degree in the field of Space Science consists of three major types of courses based on the learning activities. The majority of courses in the programmes are lecture-based, 6 credits. Examples of the contact hour requirements for the three categories of courses are described as follows.

Lecture-based courses (6 credits):

Contact hours for 6-credit course: 24-36 hours of lectures and/or tutorials These courses are taught predominantly by lectures and tutorials. Assessment is by a combination of examination (0–80%) and continuous assessment (20–100%). Continuous assessment tasks include written assignments (totalling no more than 8,000 words) such as essays and project reports, midterm exams, and oral presentations.

Lecture with laboratory component (6 credits):

Contact hours: 30-36 hours of lectures and/or tutorials These courses are taught by a combination of lectures and laboratory/practical sessions. Assessment is by a combination of examination (0–50%) and continuous assessment (50–100%). Continuous assessment tasks include coursework (totalling no more than 8,000 words) such as assignments, essays, laboratory reports, project reports, and oral presentations. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses. One of these courses (Small satellite design) will likely include an experiential component, taking place at HKU-ZIRI.

Final Project (6 credits):

This course aims to provide students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interest under the supervision of a teacher. The teacher normally meets with the student weekly to discuss project progress (total number of contact hours will vary but will be at least 10, over the course of the term). Assessment task is normally through research reports or a dissertation (totalling 10,000 to 15,000 words), typically worth ~75% of the grade. Oral presentation will form part of the assessment (~25% of the grade).