

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**FACULTY OF ARTS**

**Master of Buddhist Counselling Programme (2025/2026)**

*(Please also visit the University Taught Postgraduate Admissions website at <https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg> before submitting your application.)*

1. Applications are invited for admission in September 2025 to read for the degree of Master of Buddhist Counselling. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. The application deadline is:

Full Time & Part Time: **12:00 noon (GMT +8), February 28, 2025.**

Please be reminded that the **scholarship application form is submitted separately via this [link](#).**

The application deadline of scholarship offered by the Centre of Buddhist Studies:

Full Time & Part Time: **12:00 noon (GMT +8), February 28, 2025**

Please visit [HERE](#) for more information about scholarships.

2. The Master of Buddhist Counselling programme offers quality training on Buddhist teaching-based counselling knowledge and skills by means of interdisciplinary learning and contemplative practice. Buddhist counselling students are held to high standards of knowledge of Buddhist teachings, counselling skills, ethics, self-introspection, and awareness. In particular, a significant portion of courses will focus on guiding students to apply Buddhist teachings in counselling. Using this training model, students will participate in group discussions, conduct role playing of counselling sessions, develop mindfulness practices, apply Buddhist counselling techniques in daily lives, and become involved in other experiential activities.

The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study. Classes are mainly conducted on weekday evenings and weekends. This course has been included in the list of reimbursable courses under the “Continuing Education Fund” and scholarships are available for application. Detailed information on the curriculum is available from the website of the Centre of Buddhist Studies at [Admission - HKU Centre of Buddhist Studies](#).

### **Admission Requirements**

3. To be eligible for admission to the programme, a candidate shall satisfy the University Admission Requirements as listed below:
  - (a) shall comply with the [General Regulations](#);
  - (b) shall hold a good Bachelor’s degree of this University; or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
  - (c) satisfactorily completed “BSTC6079 Early Buddhism” and “BSTC6002 Mahayana Buddhism” in the HKU Master of Buddhist Studies programme, or courses of Buddhist studies offered by another comparable institution accepted for this purpose.
  - (d) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination

is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under [General Regulation G2\(b\)](#).

The programme has its specific requirements with regard to TOEFL and IELTS:

| <u>Test</u>                      | <u>Minimum requirement</u>                    |
|----------------------------------|---|
| TOEFL: Paper-based test (PBT)    | Overall score of 550 or above; or             |
| TOEFL: Internet-based test (iBT) | Overall score of 80 or above; or              |
| IELTS                            | Overall band 6 with no subtest lower than 5.5 |

Note: Only TOEFL/IELTS scores recorded in the two years before the date of application are considered. IELTS Indicator and TOEFL Special Home Edition are not accepted.

- (e) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required. (ONLY for candidates who do not possess qualifications listed in 3(b) and/or 3(c) above.)
4. An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **Referees Requirements**

5. Applicants are required to nominate TWO referees. After the online application is submitted, referees will be separately invited by an automated email to complete an online referee survey normally within 4 weeks. Please note the following requirements:
- (a) We shall accept E-reference from official institutional/company email addresses only. Referees with personal email addresses (e.g. gmail, 163.com, etc.) will not be considered.
  - (b) For current students and recent graduates from **any** academic programmes in the last 5 years (i.e. any degree conferred to the applicant on or after January 1, 2020, including any 2<sup>nd</sup> degree or postgraduate degree), at least one of the two referees have to come from the corresponding academic institute, with the use of the referee's institutional email address.
  - (c) Please make sure that the referees' information is accurately inputted into the University's online application system. Any inaccurate information may cause email delivery failure and unavailable access to Faculty's submission system.
  - (d) For those who have difficulty providing referees in institutional/company capacity, please write to the Centre and provide an explanation on why you are unable to provide valid referees' survey reports as soon as possible via email at [hkumbc@hku.hk](mailto:hkumbc@hku.hk).

### **Application**

6. Applications for this programme and payment of application fee (HK\$300 per application) should be submitted online at <https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg>.
7. After submitting the online application, applicants are required to upload the supporting documents within one month starting from the date of receipt of the email. A checklist of the required supporting documents is available at <https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/programme-list>.

8. At the application stage, documents uploaded to the system should NOT be delivered to the University by post in duplicate for supporting the University's environmentally friendly initiatives, unless you receive notification to submit your documents.
9. Applicants who do not hear from the Faculty of Arts by August 31, 2025 may assume their applications unsuccessful.

### **Regulations and Syllabuses**

10. The regulations and syllabuses for the programme can be viewed at <https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/programme-list>.

### **Concurrent Studies**

11. General Regulation G6(b)(i) prohibits concurrent registration by a student of this University for any other post-secondary qualification either at this University or at any educational institution, unless approval of the Senate has been obtained in advance. Students in breach of this regulation may be required to discontinue their studies at this University.

### **Visa for Studies**

12. All applicants without the right of abode/right to land in Hong Kong must apply for a student visa for the purpose of education from the Hong Kong Immigration Department (ImmD) before registration in our programmes. Normally the student visa is only granted to those admitted to full-time studies. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have a valid visa and register in the programmes before the study begins. If any student fails to register in time, the offer of admission may be withdrawn and all fees already paid will not be refunded.

October 2024