

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

These Regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Arts curriculum in the academic year 2024-25 and thereafter.

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

The degree of Master of Arts (MA) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study in one of the following fields: AI, Ethics and Society; Art History; Chinese Historical Studies; Chinese Language and Literature; Creative Communications; English Studies; Hong Kong History; Linguistics; Literary and Cultural Studies; Museum Studies; Music Studies; Philosophy, Politics and Economics; and Translation. These fields of study will not necessarily be offered every year.

MA 1 Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Arts, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;¹
- (b) shall comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (c) shall hold
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree of this University; or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
 - (ii) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of AI, Ethics and Society, a Bachelor's degree with a major in philosophy; or a Bachelor's degree with a major in another subject with experience of studying issues relevant to AI, Ethics and Society;
 - (iii) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Art History, either a Bachelor's degree with a major in art history; or a Bachelor's degree in another subject and substantial art-related experience;

¹ In addition to the admission requirement specified in General Regulation G 2, the Faculty also requires:

- (a) TOEFL : a Test of Written English (TWE) score of 4 or above or a Writing score of 25 or above in the internet-based TOEFL (not applicable to the MA in the field of Chinese Historical Studies); or
- (b) IELTS : (i) a minimum overall Band of 7 with no subtest lower than 5.5 (not applicable to the MA in the fields of Chinese Historical Studies and Translation);
(ii) a minimum overall Band of 7 with no subtest lower than 6 (applicable to the MA in the field of Translation).

- (iv) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Chinese Language and Literature, a Bachelor's degree with a major in Chinese or a closely related subject;
 - (v) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of English Studies, a Bachelor's degree with a major in English or a closely related subject;
 - (vi) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Hong Kong History, a Bachelor's degree with a major in history; or a Bachelor's degree with a major in another subject with experience of studying history;
 - (vii) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Linguistics, a Bachelor's degree with a major in Linguistics or a closely related subject;
 - (viii) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Museum Studies, a Bachelor's degree with a major in museum studies or art history; or a closely related subject;
 - (ix) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Music Studies, a Bachelor's degree with a major in music; or a Bachelor's degree with a major in another subject with experience studying music;
 - (x) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Philosophy, Politics and Economics, a Bachelor's degree with major in Philosophy, Politics and Economics; or a Bachelor's degree with a major in another subject with experience studying either subject;
 - (xi) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Translation, a professional qualification deemed to be equivalent to a Bachelor's degree; and
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.
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MA 2 Qualifying examination

- (a) A qualifying examination and/or interview may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
 - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination and/or interview shall not be permitted to register unless they have satisfied the examiners in the examination and/or interview.
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MA 3 Award of degree

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Arts, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) shall comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
- (c) shall complete the curriculum as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.

MA 4 Period of study

- (a) The curriculum shall normally extend
 - (i) in the fields of Art History, Creative Communications, Linguistics, Museum Studies, and Music Studies, over one academic year of full-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years;
 - (ii) in the fields of Chinese Historical Studies, Chinese Language and Literature and Translation, over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study; and
 - (iii) in the fields of AI, Ethics and Society, English Studies, Hong Kong History, Literary and Cultural Studies, and Philosophy, Politics and Economics over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study.
- (b) Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration specified in MA 4(a), unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

MA 5 Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work;
- (c) shall complete and present a satisfactory capstone experience on a subject within their fields of study;
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of assessment as prescribed in the syllabuses; and
- (e) shall satisfy the examiners in an oral examination if required.

MA 6 Advanced standing

Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in the field of Translation in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the curriculum. Candidates who are awarded Advanced Standing will not be granted any further credit transfer for those studies for which Advanced Standing has been granted. The number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty, in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) a candidate may be granted a total of not more than 20% of the total credits normally required under a curriculum for Advanced Standing unless otherwise approved by the Senate;

- (b) application for Advanced Standing will only be considered if the previous studies were done within 5 years before admission to the curriculum;
 - (c) Advanced Standing will not be granted for elective course and capstone experience; and
 - (d) credits granted for Advanced Standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.
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MA 7 Capstone experience

Subject to the provisions of Regulation MA 5(c), the title of the capstone experience (dissertation, portfolio or individual project) shall be submitted for approval by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study. Similarly, the capstone experience shall be presented by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study. Candidates shall submit a statement that the capstone experience represents their own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by their co-worker(s), which shows their share of the work) undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

MA 8 Assessment

- (a) The assessment for each course shall be as specified in the syllabuses. Only passed courses will earn credits. Grades in all fields of study shall be awarded in accordance with TPG 9(a) or TPG 9(b) of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula.
- (b) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners on the first attempt in not more than two courses, excluding the capstone experience, in an academic year may be permitted to
 - (i) present themselves for re-examination in the failed course(s) on a specified date or re-submit their work for the failed course(s) for re-assessment within a specified period determined by the Board of Examiners for Taught Postgraduate Curricula, but no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
 - (ii) repeat the failed course(s) by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessment requirements; or
 - (iii) for elective courses, take another course in lieu and satisfy the assessment requirements.
- (c) Subject to the provisions of Regulation MA 5(c), candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory capstone experience may be permitted to revise and re-present the capstone experience within a specified period determined by the Board of Examiners for Taught Postgraduate Curricula.
- (d) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in the final review in the field of English Studies may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination on a specified date determined by the Board of Examiners for Taught Postgraduate Curricula, but no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester).

- (e) There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.
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MA 9 Discontinuation

Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination/re-submission in any written examination or coursework assessment in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners or to repeat the failed course(s); or
- (b) are not permitted to revise and re-present the capstone experience; or
- (c) have failed to satisfy the examiners on second attempt in any coursework assessment, examination, or the capstone experience; or
- (d) have failed more than two courses, excluding the capstone experience, on the first attempt in an academic year; or
- (e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration as specified in MA 4

may be required to discontinue their studies under the provisions of General Regulation G 12.

MA 10 Assessment results

On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

TRANSLATION

These Syllabuses apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Arts in the field of Translation curriculum in the academic year 2024-25 and thereafter.

PURPOSE

The MA in the field of Translation programme aims at providing students with intensive training in translation and interpreting practice in different domains. It also broadens students' theoretical perspectives and equips them with essential research skills for Translation and Interpreting Studies. This programme places an emphasis on professional translation and interpreting and promotes interdisciplinarity by involving the teachers from different Schools and Departments in the supervision of capstone projects.

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

The curriculum consists of three modules, with seventeen courses in Modules 1 to 2 and a capstone experience in Module 3. Modules 1 to 2 comprise three and fourteen courses respectively.

Students are required to take all the core courses in Module 1. Module 2 offers elective courses divided into two categories: Translation and Interpreting. The arrangement that students are required to take all courses in Module 1 guarantees that they receive training in both Translation and Interpreting and will become more competitive in the workplace after graduation.

The fourteen Translation courses are conducted in the form of lectures, while the three Interpreting courses are taught in the form of workshops, seminars or practical sessions. All the courses are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills for the pursuit of a career in Translation or Interpreting in various domains, especially the legal, commercial, government and media sectors.

Module 3 is a capstone experience in the form of a translation/interpreting project. The translation project requires students to render an English text into Chinese or vice versa, and to write a critical introduction in the target language to their own translations, under the supervision of a teacher. If students choose to undertake an interpreting project, they must analyse a video or audio recording of an interpreted meeting conducted from English to Chinese or vice versa, under the supervision of a teacher. For part-time students, this is a whole-year project which they start in the third semester and complete by the end of the fourth semester. For full-time students, they start their project in the second semester, and are expected to complete it by mid-July in the same year of study.

Students in this curriculum are required to complete nine courses (three cores and six electives) and a capstone translation/interpreting project as a culminating academic experience. Each Translation course will be conducted weekly for two hours in a semester, while Interpreting workshops will normally be divided into two groups with two time slots for students' choice, depending on the size of individual classes. The capstone course requires part-time students to meet with their supervisors individually for discussions for four hours in total during the last two semesters of the programme, and the period of supervision may continue after the end of the last semester till early July in the same year. This regulation applies also to full-time students, except that their period of supervision starts in the second semester of the programme, and continues after the end of the semester till mid-July in the same year.

Students need to take a total of 66 credits to graduate: 18 credits for Module 1, 36 credits for Module 2, and 12 credits for Module 3.

Module One: Core Courses

CHIN7201. Advanced Translation Studies (6 credits)

This course aims at training learners to critically engage with the idea of equivalence in practical translation. Learners will acquire a range of strategies and techniques for achieving equivalence between English and Chinese across different units of language from the level of the word through the level of discourse. The course will also familiarize learners with the

important idea of formal equivalence vs. dynamic equivalence, which learners will apply through in-class practice. Topics discussed include translation shifts, direct/oblique translation procedures, dynamic equivalence, and hypotaxis vs. parataxis.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7202. Approaches to Translation (6 credits)

This course equips students with fundamental knowledge of translation and basic skills required to be a translator of written materials. It explores how as a communicative activity translation is essentially cross-cultural in its concern. Students will be introduced to a variety of strategies in translating between Chinese and English, through appreciation of example passages and guided exercises. To introduce students to current trends in translation, the course will examine major theoretical and cultural issues of translation in Hong Kong. Coursework assessment will be based on classwork assignments.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7203. Introduction to Interpreting (6 credits)

This course provides students with the fundamental knowledge of interpreting and the basic skills required, combining three introductory lectures and nine workshops. The lectures introduce students to various interpretation settings, interpretation assessment criteria, interpreters' code of ethics and discuss potential dilemmas and challenges in real-time interlingual communication. The lectures also inform students of the trends in interpreting studies. The workshops conducted in small groups allow students to have hands-on practice in interpreting in different modes and on a variety of topics. Students also learn to take notes for consecutive interpreting and acquire crisis management skills for different interpreting settings.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Module Two: Elective Courses

CHIN7204. Language Contrast for Translators (6 credits)

This course examines fundamental differences between English and Chinese from the perspective of contrastive linguistics, with an emphasis on grammar, syntax and discourse pragmatics. It introduces students to an array of techniques that can be used to negotiate these structural differences in translation. Throughout the course, students will be trained to reflect critically on the notion that language is an inherent constituent of culture (and, conversely, that culture is embedded within the innate fabric of language), and to appreciate how knowledge of contrastive linguistics contributes to our understanding of different cognitive systems and discourse orientations across cultures. The implications of all of this for intercultural communication will also be explored.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(Open to both full-time and part-time students)

CHIN7205. Culture and Translation (6 credits)

The course addresses the dynamic relationship between culture and translation in both conceptual and practical terms and thus seeks to deepen students' understanding of translation as a cross-cultural dialogue. The course serves two purposes. First, it introduces theories and notions on the role played by culture in production and reception of translation and aims to cultivate among the students the cultural sensitivity that is needed for a professional translator. Second, it focuses on the cultural dimension of various types of translation and aims to enhance students' ability in dealing with culture-bound texts of different genres in both English to Chinese and Chinese to English translation practices.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(Open to both full-time and part-time students)

CHIN7206. Translation of Government and Commercial Texts (6 credits)

This course facilitates a better understanding of the provision of professional translation service in Hong Kong, especially in the public sector. Texts commonly requiring translation will be covered and their translations examined critically for effectiveness. Students will be able to hone their language and translation skills and to sharpen their translation acumen through various translation assignments and evaluative discussions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(Open to both full-time and part-time students)

CHIN7207. Legal Translation (6 credits)

This course is designed for students interested in a career in legal translation. It develops and strengthens their analytical and linguistic skills required for translating legal texts between English and Chinese. Students will be introduced to some basic legal concepts, terminology and discourse characteristics of bilingual legal documents. A special focus is placed on legal research skills, translation strategies, and pragmatic decision-making of legal translators. Students will embark on a journey towards professional competence as they learn through translation practice and critical analysis of translated legal texts.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(Open to both full-time and part-time students)

CHIN7208. Mass Media Translation (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the nature and practice of mass media translation, discussing a variety of texts including news and magazine articles, press releases, political speeches, gazette notices, and advertisements. It also covers the translation of subtitles of films and TV programmes. The uniqueness of the nature of mass media translation as well as the commonalities it shares with other kinds of translation will be addressed. The translation techniques of mass media texts are discussed under different themes, mainly concerning the skills to deal with genre-specific stylistic features. In addition to learning the approaches of translating mass media texts, students should be able to discern how mass media translation aligns with the traditional conception of translation as a matter of faithful transference of meaning; at the same time, they should also notice how mass media translation deviates from such traditional conception with elements of rewriting and manipulation on the part of the translator, reflecting perspectives and ideologies different from those of the source culture.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(Open to both full-time and part-time students)

CHIN7209. English-Chinese Conference Interpreting (SI) (6 credits)

This workshop-based course exposes students to the wide-ranging settings and topics for which simultaneous interpretation is required. It prepares students for handling myriad tasks by broadening their knowledge base, enhancing their language skills and providing feedback for their in-class performance. Students may choose Cantonese or Putonghua as one of the working languages, to interpret from and to English.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(Open to both full-time and part-time students)

CHIN7210. English-Cantonese Legal Interpreting (6 credits)

This workshop-based course provides students with intensive training in consecutive and simultaneous interpreting as well as sight translation. Students will learn courtroom protocols, characteristics of legal language and skills of interpreting in a legal setting. Training will focus on witness examination, counsel speeches, jury instructions and court judgments. Authentic recordings of court proceedings and video-recorded simulated court trials will be utilized as the course material to enhance students' learning experience.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(Open to part-time students only; enrolment of full-time students subject to approval)

CHIN7212. Translation of Music Writings and Lyrics (6 credits)

Translators of books, academic papers and journalistic articles that deal with musical subjects must tackle the complicated meanings and connotations of musical terms. This course, designed for students who do not have any music background, will demonstrate the basic concepts of music via audio-visual materials provided by YouTube. Part I of this course examines the English/Chinese translation of music writings on Western classical music and traditional Chinese music, focusing on the meanings and connotations of technical terms in the practical and theoretic context. Part II deals with the English/Chinese translation of song lyrics of selected English and Chinese vocal works, taking into consideration the poetic, musical and creative features of these two music traditions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(Open to both full-time and part-time students)

CHIN7213. Financial Translation (6 credits)

This course introduces the fundamental issues, techniques and professional practices relating to Chinese to English/English to Chinese financial translation for specific readers and purposes, with particular focus on the discursal and stylistic features of a variety of financial genres, including news and commentaries, annual reports, prospectuses, corporate announcements, fund reports, and credit agreements. It also examines advanced bilingual writing and post-editing skills, in addition to pragmatic translation theories and principles, pertinent to the production of sophisticated financial texts. Critical textual analysis and practical translation exercises are designed to sharpen students' bilingual and bicultural sensitivity, mastery of key financial concepts and terminology, understanding of basic market operations, and overall translation competence and knowledge base. There will also be a brief introduction to background research references and skills, as well as state-of-the-art computer-aided translation (CAT) tools, including electronic dictionaries, concordancers, translation memory, and terminology databases, that are useful for modern-day translation professionals.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(Open to both full-time and part-time students)

CHIN7214. Subtitling in Film, Television and Beyond (6 credits)

Subtitling fulfils linguistic and textual mediation in audiovisual content for the comprehension of diverse audiences. Translators who are working in this convergent mediasphere not only engage with the interlingual, intralingual and intersemiotic domains of translation but also collaborate with a wide variety of talents and professionals to complete designated subtitling projects. This course consists of two parts, aiming to provide the students with essential skills for subtitling project management and cutting-edge theories and methodologies advanced in Audiovisual Translation (AVT) Studies. Part I introduces industrial ecosystems where professional subtitlers are essential workers in the accelerating

media globalisation. Part II maps the informal and less-regulated domains of non-professional subtitling where everyday audiences and media fans disrupt the industrial apparatus and bring forward new agendas of translation and distribution. Ultimately, this course deals with subtitling at advanced levels of practice and research, equipping the students with new and vital knowledge to the new media translatorship and research expertise in facing the omnipresence of screens.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(Open to both full-time and part-time students)

CHIN7215. Translation of Social Science Writing (6 credits)

Social science texts cover a wide range of topics on socio-cultural issues. This course concerns the translation skills of texts in the social sciences from Chinese to English and vice versa. Social science texts are known to be quite distinct from natural science/technical texts and literary works, while sharing with them some linguistic and stylistic features. This course will introduce students to some of the basic concepts in social science studies, the stylistic features of different kinds of social science texts, and the translation strategies taking into account such features and the need of the target readership. Various examples of social science writing from the media and academia will be discussed in-class. The specific topics covered include human rights, discrimination, poverty, globalisation, gender issues, and popular culture. While the discussion of translation skills at the tertiary level is bound to be theory-based one way or another, and subject-matter knowledge is considered essential for offering the right perspective in translation, this course also puts its focus on the discussion of practical translation skills based on the linguistic differences between Chinese and English and the rules of rhetoric.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(Open to full-time students only; enrolment of part-time students subject to approval)

CHIN7216. Literary Translation: Chinese to English (6 credits)

Designed for students who are interested in translating Chinese literature into English for a variety of professional settings and publication venues, this course will develop students' expertise in conveying in English ideas first expressed in Chinese. Through close study, students will not only be further taught to analyze the linguistic, stylistic, and cultural features of the source text, but also challenged to present innovative solutions for a variety of translation problems. The texts chosen to be analyzed for this course include classical and contemporary Chinese poems, as well as contemporary Hong Kong/Chinese prose and novels.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(Open to full-time students only; enrolment of part-time students subject to approval)

CHIN7217. Literary Translation: English to Chinese (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the practice and theory of literary translation, with a focus on the core knowledge and skills required of a professional translator in the field. It equips students with the practical and intellectual capacity for translating literary texts and critically assessing translation choice and strategy. Students will be familiarised with the principles of literary translation, the main ideas and debates surrounding the discipline, and the essential techniques of “reading for translation” through linguistic, stylistic, and textual analysis. This course will appeal to students seeking enhanced skills for analysing advanced texts of literary merits and interested in pursuing a career in the literary and creative industries.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(Open to full-time students only; enrolment of part-time students subject to approval)

CHIN7218. Translation Criticism (E-C & C-E) (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the principles and methods in the critique of translated texts in both Chinese and English. A wide variety of published translations from different literary, linguistic and pragmatic categories will be sampled. Through extensive practice in text analysis, the relationship between translation theory and translation practice will be explored. Special attention will be paid to the way in which social and cultural background affects translation practice.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(Open to full-time students only; enrolment of part-time students subject to approval)

Module Three: Capstone Experience**CHIN7996. Capstone Experience: Translation / Interpreting Project (12 credits)**

This capstone project serves as a culminating academic experience for students and enables them to put into practice what they have learned in the various theoretical and practical translation and interpreting courses of the MA programme. Students can choose to undertake either a Translation or an Interpreting project to fulfil this capstone requirement.

The Translation project requires students to render a text selected from a list of Chinese and English books recommended by teachers of the Programme as early as the beginning of the third semester (for part-time students), or the beginning of the second semester (for full-time students). All students work under the supervision of a teacher assigned by the Programme Coordinator. Students can choose to work on a text from Chinese to English or vice versa, and the length of the text should be about 7,000 characters for Chinese or 4,500 words for English. Students are required to submit their translations by three instalments and to meet with their supervisors individually for follow-up discussions. The final version of their work should be submitted with an introduction of 3,200-4,000 characters in Chinese or 2,000-2,500 words in English written in the target language of their project. In the introduction, students

are expected to describe and explain the distinctive features of the source text, their translation goals, strategies and target readers, and to critically evaluate their own work by citing examples from it and relevant theories as appropriate.

Students undertaking an Interpreting project have to analyse a video or audio recording of an interpreted meeting. The interpretation should be conducted from English to Chinese or vice versa, and the length of the meeting should be about 20 minutes. The recording, both the original and the interpretation, has to be transcribed, if no transcripts are available. Students are required to produce an essay in either Chinese or English (5,000 words in English; 8,000 characters in Chinese), excluding the transcripts. Students can focus their analysis on omissions or additions in interpretation, semantic or pragmatic equivalence, as well as the overall quality of the interpretation. Students are expected to cite Translation or Interpreting theories in their analysis where appropriate. In the process of writing, students are required to meet with their supervisors individually on a regular basis to discuss their work and progress.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Assessment

Students' performance is assessed by coursework as specified in the descriptions of individual courses. Coursework assessment is based on essays, term papers, projects, tests, or other kinds of oral or written work as prescribed by the course teachers.

Medium of Instruction

Courses will be conducted in English, Cantonese or Putonghua as the teacher sees fit.
