

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)

CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

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

The Master of Arts in the field of Creative Communications programme is offered full-time over one year. This unique academic programme opens the often mysterious door of creativity as nothing less now than a necessity for emerging leadership, professional promotion, and creative collaborations across every disciplinary and multilingual background. Top CEOs and industry leaders already recognize the key of creativity to their success stories.

With an emphasis on language and discourse, and rooted in prestigious research and practice at HKU, the MA welcomes all emerging professionals to expand their global footprint and creative impact. The MA opens out creative foundations and futures of professional leadership, whether in an individual project, for example, such as a film or memoir; or in a

professional context, such as app development or architecture. Participants in the programme will discover and expand their creative adaptability and competitive muscle in theory and practice, life-changing and transformative for expanding audience, clients, and professional impact. Unique courses in the programme feature macro and micro vision and creativity, experimental studio courses in creative collaboration, a capstone project in creativity and happiness, and a compulsory two-semester History of Practice course, developing each emerging and creative leader's own vision and lifelong path.

Semester 1

ENGL7507. Creative Foundations I: Macro Structure and History (9 credits)

This foundations course offers special focus on the intercultural histories and practices of creative discourse, structure and impact. Students will explore the macro fluid histories and structures of creativity and construction in genre and expectation. This macro course will include emphasis on the legacies of creative discourse and practice in English and monolingual contexts. Included will be the urgent history and contemporary architecture and structure for creativity in evolving and international frames and contexts.

Assessment: 100% Coursework, including group discussion seminars

ENGL7508. Creative Foundations II: Microscope on the Given and the Made (9 credits)

This course will offer a look into the micro scale of creativity, architectural sentences and discourse. Comparative creative practices and histories will be explored, whether working primarily in English, itself a daily and ever-changing amalgam of many languages and histories, or working as a multilingual writer through English language instruments at this moment in time. Students will also focus at a micro scale on what is called in creative studies the "given and the made," a look into the balance of safety and risk that the field of creativity depends upon deeply in any developing individual project or collective.

Assessment: 100% Coursework, including group discussion seminars

ENGL7512. Constructing and Staging Creative Perspective (12 credits)

Reading and observing widely is essential to framing the array of choices that a creative perspective demands. Creative perspectives may be said, more accurately, to be drawn from design: active "watching" and "directing" the construction of creative *staging*. Therefore, in this unique design studio, students will begin to articulate and study their own creative perspectives on an ongoing and selected project, brought forward from work or personal development. This course will also build toward each student's submission in the Happiness Project of Semester 2. The course will therefore explore advanced elements of creative craft and articulation in monolingual and multilingual contexts.

Assessment: 100% Coursework, including small group practice

ENGL7514. The History of Practice (9 credits)

This is a two-semester course. The History of Practice course, rooted in the history of and directed by the HKU Guild & HKU Black Box, foregrounds students' own creativity, hands-on practice and production in the environment of an ongoing and successful project or programme: offering intense studies of creativity, communications, discourse and expertise for top production to artists, directors, app designers, and many more, already at work on creative content but ready for next steps of development, publication, competition and presentation.

The History of Practice course thus responds to a 21st century growing demand for every individual to explore creativity and reinvent a first-rate profile for top competitive positions and collaborative leadership, locally and internationally.

The History of Practice course brings together a 21st century interdisciplinary vision and design from around the world, offering students a contemporary and fertile environment of knowledge acquisition, skill-based experiential learning, and networking with potential colleagues and employers in their chosen field of creative communications and writing.

Further, as proven through the longstanding experiences at the HKU Black Box & Guild: top designers, writers, CEOs and professional leaders, across the boards, recognize the 21st century key of Creativity, including flexibility and interdisciplinary imagination, to their own success stories.

Assessment: 100% coursework (graded on a distinction/pass/fail basis)

Semester 2

ENGL7509. Creative Life Stories: Narrating the Life Story of a Project, Person or Dream (9 credits)

In this course, students will study, and frame with increasing accuracy, their own creative signatures of history, practice, and voice within their chosen field. In particular, students will focus on the history and practice of creatively "telling" the life story of a project, person, or dream that pertains to exploring the life of their own projects. In this course of creative communications and "authorship," whether authoring a novel, a project, class materials, a film or presentation, students will learn how to cast creative light on what is otherwise left unseen and unfelt without their illumination. Students will study the discipline of creative impact in telling and constructing a life narrative, especially in relation to the creator's own decisions for "what is at stake" on creative perspective. The course therefore can also pave the way, for exploring, generation to generation, what constitutes an 'experimental' work, from both individual and intercultural perspectives.

Assessment: 100% Coursework, including group discussion seminars

ENGL7510. Workshopping Your Creative Vision (9 credits)

This studio course in the Black Box will open the frames of creative communications to wider and communal contexts of practice and reception. It will explore the many “built environments” of creative communications: forging new communities and building excitement around staging powerful new creative perspectives on a growing personal or professional project. In innovative and direct practice and study, students will be given opportunities communally to stage and share excerpts from their own new creative perspectives on a developing project, guided in workshop by creative professionals. No matter what the project or genre, students will receive mentorship *in-house* at the Black Box Studio with creative professionals to help understand the totality of a creative “environment.”

Assessment: 100% Coursework, including small group practice

ENGL7995. Capstone Experience: The Happiness Project (12 credits)

Maya Angelou writes, “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” Creative communications positions as foundational that any project, whether of writing, video, architecture, teaching materials or rhetorical presentation, needs a deep understanding and infusion of creative values, rooted in creative studies, to let it move its audience into an unforgettable and powerful emotional impact. Creative communications, after all, does not take for granted the beauty -- and thus, the urgent study and practice -- of connecting with those we do not know, across cultures and languages, ages and tastes, and even connecting better with those we do know well.

Drawing from ENGL7512, this course takes a special angle of connection, construction, and creative communications as an act of creative “happiness.” Happiness offers a 21st century field of inquiry; new interdisciplinary approaches are important for studying closely and at length how our creative projects become communicatively “memorable,” that is, of lasting and felt impact for our audiences.

This course will culminate in the production of a powerful and creative perspective in communications and narration for the life story of your own project or design, through small guided tutorial and workshop groups. Students will learn to build a higher register of “happiness” in audiences, across languages and cultures. This capstone course, therefore, will bring your own project new frames of creative communications and development, exploring questions of ideals, rituals, and play with regard to human relationships and societies. In the capstone process, students are invited to explore their personal vulnerability or resistance to certain “master plots” and conventions of their field, to challenge familiar and often unchallenged ideologies, and to become powerful players in their own acts of building and constructing creative communication that lasts through time.

Assessment: 100% Coursework, including small group workshop
