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 2022-23 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: Art History; Chinese Historical Studies; Chinese Language and Literature; Creative Communications; English Studies; Hong Kong History; Linguistics; Literary and Cultural Studies; Music Studies 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;

(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 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;

(iii) 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;

(iv) 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;

(v) 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;

(vi) 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;

(vii) 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;

(viii) 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

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 Chinese Historical Studies and the MA in Chinese Language and Literature); and

(b) IELTS: a minimum overall Band of 7 with no subtest lower than 5.5.
degree; and
(d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

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.

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, 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 and Translation, over two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of four academic years;
   (iii) in the field of Chinese Language and Literature, 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
   (iv) in the fields of English Studies, Hong Kong History, and Literary and Cultural Studies, 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
(c) 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 amount 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.

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) 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.

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**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.

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**MA 11 Supplementary examination**

Candidates who are unable because of illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves for a supplementary examination of the same course. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of absence from any examination. The supplementary examination shall be held at a time to be determined by the Board of Examiners for Taught Postgraduate Curricula. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in the supplementary examination shall be considered as failure on the first attempt.

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**SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (MA)**

**MUSIC STUDIES**

*These Syllabuses apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Arts in the field of Music Studies in the academic year 2022-23 and thereafter.*

The MA in the field of Music Studies is taught by the Department of Music and provides advanced training in the scholarly study of music. One required course introduces core skills and methods in
research and writing, while the elective courses provide students the opportunity to explore a range of issues, topics, and approaches in music scholarship. The programme requires students to complete a capstone project, which would be either an MA dissertation, an individual project, or a portfolio project under the supervision of an expert.

The MA curriculum comprises six semester-long courses as well as the capstone project:

- 1 required core course (9 credits)
- 3 elective MA courses (9 credits each)
- 2 elective courses cross-listed with undergraduate courses (6 credits each)
- 1 MA capstone (12 credits)

All instruction is in English with the exception of HKGS2008, which will be taught in Chinese. The assessment is 100% coursework.

Not all of the elective courses listed below will be offered each year.

COURSES

(1) All MA students are required to take the following core course.

MUSI7101.  Music Research: Skills and Methodologies (9 credits)

This core course provides an overview of the theories and methods of musicological research, including historical, ethnographic, analytical and critical approaches. Students will learn about current debates and issues in music scholarship and practice, as well as the different disciplinary tendencies and fields within music studies today. The course will also emphasize professional development. Some of the topics covered include research design, conference preparation, bibliographic skills, as well as learning how to write according to academic standards.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

(2) Students choose three MA electives from the following list.

MUSI7102.  Topics in Western Art Music (9 credits)

This course will focus on key topics and issues in the study of Western art music. Topics may include historiography, performance, aesthetics, sociocultural approaches, among others issues. The focus of the course may change from year to year, and students will have the opportunity to explore their own research interests in relation to the issues and topics discussed in weekly meetings.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

MUSI7103.  Composition and Sound Art Workshop (9 credits)

This course will introduce practical and theoretical issues in music composition, sound art, and other experimental forms. A goal of the course will be to familiarise students with key trends in music composition, for which students will learn about the history, theory, and practice of compositional technique and sound-based experimentalism from the postwar to the present. Students will also undertake compositional exercises, which will be tailored to suit student’s interests and skill level.

Assessment: 100% coursework.
MUSI704. **Global Perspectives in Music: Ethnographic Approaches (9 credits)**

This course explores the theories and methods of ethnomusicology. Students will learn about the history of the discipline, as well as current debates and issues within the field. A key thematic focus will be on the idea of music as a “global” phenomenon, for which we will discuss such topics as world music, cultural appropriation, musical regionalisms, and the transnational movement of music in the 20th and 21st centuries, among other related subjects.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

MUSI705. **Topics in Asian Music (9 credits)**

Asia is home to an immense variety of musical practices and traditions. This course does not endeavour to survey Asia’s many music cultures, but rather will focus on a set of issues and topics that are relevant to studying music within the Asia-Pacific region. Topics may include the long history of musical and cultural exchange in East Asia, European imperialism and the rise of musical modernities in China and Japan, the transnational flow of popular culture in Asia, as well as the role that music plays in national, regional, and local imaginaries of belonging and identity. The focus of the course may vary from year to year in terms of its geographic and musical areas of emphases, but a central goal will be to critically rethink the epistemological and methodological stakes of studying music within regional and national frameworks of analysis and interpretation.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

MUSI706. **Playing with Theory: Perspectives on Music Analysis (9 credits)**

This course offers a broad survey of the different methods and approaches to analysing music. Students will be introduced to key readings in music theory, which will enable students to hone their skills at analysing a variety of music styles, genres, and forms. The course will also introduce students to key problems and debates in the field of music theory.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

MUSI707. **Mastering Sound Technologies (9 credits)**

The aim of the course is to develop student’s fluency in basic audio technologies, including recording, remixing, live coding, and other new media tools and methods. Students will have hands-on experience working with sound media, for which they will be encouraged to develop projects related to their individual research interests or their creative and artistic pursuits. The course is open to all students regardless of background and experience.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

MUSI708. **Perspectives in Music Performance (9 credits)**

All music is fundamentally performative, and yet ideas about performance can range widely across cultures and contexts. The act of performing music variously concerns knowledge of the body, the sociocultural context, ideals and values about music, as well as myriad other aspects of musical life that come together in the performance event. This course explores a range of topics, issues, and concepts in music performance, drawing broadly from the literature with the goal of leading us to a more holistic understanding of performance as practice. One goal of the course will be to bridge the theoretical and conceptual aspects of performance with the more practical questions and concerns that are relevant to performers in the 21st century. The course will aim to introduce students to non-
traditional forms of performance, including site-specific performances, sound installations, online platforms, and community-based projects. There will also be opportunities to explore course materials through performance workshops and ensembles. All students regardless of background and experience are welcome to join.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

MUSI7109. Time and Temporality in Music (9 credits)

Rhythm is foundational to all music in so far as music is a temporal medium. This course understands rhythm in the broadest sense to include all aspects of how musical time is organised, especially at the micro and meso levels of temporality. This includes such concepts as repetition, timing, pulse, groove, and other related terms that help us make sense of how music is patterned in time. Some topics this course may explore include psychological and cognitive aspects of rhythm, the role of the body in movement, methods of rhythmic analysis, as well as other issues and topics drawn broadly from a wide diversity of musical genres and practices. Students will also have the opportunity to engage in hands-on practical learning through workshops and ensemble playing.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

CLIT7014. Film and Popular Culture (9 credits)

This course aims to examine the intricate relation between cinema and popular culture. Through the analysis of examples from the cinema of the Euro American and Asian traditions, issues in connection with the interfusion of high and low culture, class structure and the popular arts, authorship, stars, and film genre, cultural myth and ideology, the global circulation of film, and audience and the cinematic public sphere will be discussed. With the specific emphasis on the multifaceted relation between cinema and popular culture, the course will explore how in some instances popular cinema is always in a dialectical relationship with what we might call “counter/art/independent” cinema while in other occasions, the popular and the independent cannot be easily separated.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

(3) Students choose two undergraduate electives from the following list. Students will not be permitted to re-enrol in the undergraduate elective if they previously enrolled in it whilst studying for any undergraduate degree at HKU.

MUSI3029. Music and scientific thoughts: past and present (6 credits)

This course investigates the link between music and science in Western history. Music has been frequently associated with science, but the way the two realms have been interconnected with each other varies throughout history. In exploring each case of scientific thoughts on music in history, students are expected to obtain a contextual understanding of music and science as socio-cultural products and to gain insight into the interdisciplinary nature of the study of music.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

MUSI3034. The qin (6 credits)

Redolent of the scholar, aristocrat, and literatus, the qin has a deep and distinguished lineage within the pantheon of Chinese musical traditions. This course is a survey of qin music from the late Bronze Age to the present times. Several themes are examined in detail: basic playing skills, semiotics of notation and the earliest known qin score, different styles and pivotal figures, representative works from the repertoire, typological analysis of historical instruments, and transmission and appropriation
of the *qin* in East Asia. Readings from musicology, anthropology, archaeology, and art history introduce a variety of approaches to the interpretation of *qin* music.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**MUSI3037. Opera (6 credits)**

This course will chart the history of opera in the Western world in both its relationship to social and political history and that of other major musical and theatrical genres. Through the close reading of the genre, students will learn about opera as the art of singing, poetry, and stagecraft, and make their acquaintance with some of the remarkable protagonists of its history, be they singers or composers, poets or designers, impresarios or monarchs. Attention will also be placed on the strength and resilience of local, as opposed to national or continental, traditions, such as the ones that flourished in Rome and London in the 17th century, Naples in the 18th, or St. Petersburg in the 19th, to name a few. The course will also provide students with an appealing and vivid demonstration of the diversity of musical and literary traditions in Europe during the period between ca. 1600 and 1900. The course will end with a reflection on the current state of Western opera as performed and consumed in East Asia, with particular reference to China.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**MUSI3039. Methodological perspectives in music II (6 credits)**

This course aims to equip students with critical research methods by focusing on specific musical works (in any media), artifacts, or issues. It approaches an object of investigation from various methodological perspectives (e.g., historical, theoretical, philosophical, and anthropological), and will provide an overview of the reception history of the scholarship around the object as well as the latest research. The course promotes students’ critical reflection on such methods and scholarly traditions. The object for investigation may vary from year to year. During the course, students will be required to formulate a research proposal and to give a written presentation in the form of a conference paper. The course is designed to give undergraduates insights into the ethos of post-graduate research and form a bridge between the two “realms.”

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**MUSI3041. Music and the environment (6 credits)**

This course concerns the relationship between music and the environment, broadly construed. The key question this course asks is, how can we understand music as an ecological phenomenon? The course aspires to answer this question in several ways: firstly, the course will introduce ecological models of musical and cultural analysis; secondly, we will discuss the concept of nature in various music traditions, including Western art music and Japanese traditional music, among others; and thirdly, the course will attend to the role of music in the ongoing global environmental crisis. Components of the course will cover soundscape studies, ecocriticism, as well as the more recent field of ecomusicology.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**HKGS2008. Introduction to Hong Kong cantopop lyrics (6 credits)**

Since the mid-1970s, Hong Kong popular music has been very much identified with Cantopop, a distinctive genre with lyrics written in standard modern Chinese as well as Cantonese. Cantopop lyrics have exerted a profound impact on Hong Kong people over the past forty years. The course will be divided into two parts. The first half will introduce renowned Hong Kong Cantopop lyricists and examine their typical styles. The second half will discuss Cantopop lyrics from cultural
perspectives. The course will enhance students’ understanding of Cantopop through close textual readings. The medium of instruction will be Chinese. Assessment: 100% coursework.

(4) All MA students are required to complete a Capstone Experience under the supervision of an advisor. Students will complete one of the following:

MUSI7999. Capstone Experience: MA Dissertation in Music (12 credits)

Students will produce a written dissertation of approximately 10,000 words on an original topic. The dissertation will demonstrate the ability to conduct individual research at an advanced level, as well as mastery of the conventions of academic writing and form. Only students who have maintained a grade average of an "A-" or higher in four or more courses in the MA programme are eligible, and students are required to submit a formal proposal by the middle of the second semester, for which final approval is subject to the discretion of the MA Programme Coordinator. Assessment: 100% coursework.

MUSI7998. Capstone Experience: Portfolio (12 credits)

Students are required to revise at least two previous MA papers into a final paper of approximately 10,000 words. The portfolio piece will allow students to develop their skills of argumentation, writing, evaluating data, and to develop fluency in the conventions of academic form. Assessment: 100% coursework.

MUSI7997. Capstone Experience: Individual Project (12 credits)

Students will pursue an individual project, which may be a supervised creative work or a performance lecture-demonstration. Students will submit a written report of around 5,000 words. Students who opt for this capstone are required to submit a formal proposal by the middle of the second semester, for which final approval is subject to the discretion of the MA Programme Coordinator. Assessment: 100% coursework.