

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.

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)

MUSIC STUDIES

These Syllabuses apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Arts in the field of Music Studies in the academic year 2024-25 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)
- 5 elective MA courses (9 credits each)

1 MA capstone (12 credits)

All instruction is in English. 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 five 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

MUSI7104. 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

MUSI7105. 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

MUSI7106. 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

MUSI7107. 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

MUSI7108. 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

MUSI7110. Music Performance as Practice-Based Research (9 credits)

In this course, students will conduct practice-based research through music performance. Practice-based research refers to a methodological approach wherein the creative process forms the basis of one's research methods and goals. Students will be required to participate in ensemble work over the course of the fall and spring semesters, for which students will develop individual research projects based on this methodology. This course will be limited to students with advanced music performance experience.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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

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

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

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 three 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
