

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

**Master of Arts in Linguistics**

**CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT**

The Master of Arts in Linguistics curriculum offers postgraduate level education to those who wish to engage as professionals in the study of languages, bilingualism and multilingualism, and train postgraduate students to conduct research on human language, its theories, empirical methods and applications. The curriculum consists of two core courses, five elective courses, and a dissertation as the capstone experience. All courses are 6 credits except the dissertation. A range of 120-180 hours of student learning activities (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activities) is the norm for a 6-credit course. Contact hours are in a range of 24-36 hours for a 6-credit course, except for the dissertation. The curriculum has a minimum study load of 1,200 hours, of which a minimum of 168 are contact hours. Assessment methods are left up to individual teachers who are encouraged to use assessment tasks appropriate to the stated learning outcomes of the courses. Assessment tasks include problem sets, essays, and in-class tests. Assessment is by 100% coursework. Written output should amount to not more than 3,000 words in total.

1. Core courses (6 credits)

Core courses cover core topics such as syntax, phonetics and phonology. They are designed to provide solid foundations to students for a thorough understanding of the theories and methods of linguistic research. Assessment is by 100% coursework which may take the form of written assignments, oral presentations, tests and/or other prescribed work laid out by individual teachers. Written output should amount to approximately 3,000 words.

2. Elective courses (6 credits)

Elective courses cover advanced topics such as semantics, language and reading acquisition, and multilingualism, etc. They are designed to develop students' ability to apply linguistic theories to new problems, especially in the context of linguistic diversity in its social, educational and political dimensions. A guided-reading course is also available to students who are interested in reading classical work and up-to-date research papers relevant to their research interests. They are required to submit written reports and give oral presentations on the readings. Assessment is by 100% coursework which may take the form of written assignments, oral presentations, tests and/or other prescribed work laid out by individual teachers. Written output should amount to approximately 3,000 words.

3. Capstone Experience: Dissertation (18 credits)

The dissertation component offers students an opportunity to pursue their own research interests under the supervision of our teachers. Students are expected to carry out their own research project independently, from formulating a research question, writing a proposal, collecting and analyzing data, to the final write-up. Assessment is through a dissertation between 12,000 and 15,000 words.