

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF ARTS

Master of Buddhist Studies

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The Master of Buddhist Studies curriculum is offered by the Centre of Buddhist Studies in affiliation with the Faculty of Arts. It is an interdisciplinary curriculum that focuses on the study of different Asian Buddhist traditions from philological, doctrinal and historical perspectives and provides opportunities of student training in the application of Buddhist theories and teachings in contemporary society.

There are three types of courses offered in the curriculum: (1) foundation courses, (2) elective courses, and (3) capstone experience. The foundation courses and the capstone experience carry 9 credits each, while elective courses carry 6-12 credits. The number of hours of student learning activities (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activities) range from 120-180 hours for a 6-credit course to 180-270 hours for a 9-credit course. Contact hours are in a range of 36-48 hours for both 6-credit and 9-credit courses, except for the capstone experience which will be specified below.

The elective courses are grouped into three categories: (1) Canonical Languages and Literature, (2) History, Doctrines and Art, and (3) Interdisciplinary Studies. Students are assessed through a variety of methods as described below.

1. Foundation Courses (9 credits)

The aim of the two compulsory foundation courses is to provide students with survey knowledge of fundamental Buddhist theories and doctrines in early Buddhism and Indian Mahāyāna (mainly Madhymaka and Yogācāra). Each course normally takes the form of lectures, tutorials, self-study and occasional seminars. Assessment is usually by 50% examination and 50% coursework which may take the form of essays (with no more than 3,000 words each), quizzes, presentations, in-class performance and examinations.

2. Elective Courses (6 credits)

There is a wide range of elective courses including canonical languages (Pāli, Sanskrit and Tibetan), Buddhist literature (Indian, Chinese, Japanese and Tibetan), art (Chinese and Central Asian), Buddhist philosophy (Abhidharma), and interdisciplinary studies such as, Buddhism and psychology, science, mediation and contemporary society. Elective courses

with an interdisciplinary perspective emphasize the application of Buddhist theories across disciplines and encourage innovative and boundary-crossing modes in inquiry. Each course normally takes the form of lectures, research and self-study. All elective courses are assessed 100% by continuous assessment, though examinations may comprise with a range of 40% to 75% of the assessment in a small number of elective courses. Assessment can take the form of essays (ranging from 1,500 to 3,500 words each), group presentations, quizzes, reports, in-class performance and/or examinations.

3. Capstone Experience (9 credits)

The capstone experience is designed to integrate what students have learnt in the curriculum and allows for further research in Buddhist Studies and the development of analytical and critical skills. Students will meet regularly with the supervisor to complete the capstone experience and select their research topics. Students have two options:

Option A: *Capstone Experience: Dissertation*

Students should present a dissertation of 10,000 to 15,000 words based on a selected topic that has to be approved by the supervisor and the Faculty. The course involves 10 to 25 contact hours and includes supervision in person and by email, and personal feedback on draft materials as needed. Students are assessed by 100% coursework.

Option B: *Capstone Experience: An additional elective course and a portfolio*

Students must take an additional elective course from the course list and complete the related coursework/examination. Students will also need to submit a portfolio of 10,000–12,000 words. The supervision for portfolio writing involves 10 to 24 contact hours. Students should treat the extra elective course as a major component in preparing the portfolio. They should compile the portfolio by revising, integrating and consolidating three or four individual papers (of 2,500 to 3,000 words each) from a total of two to four different courses with a mission statement (of 1,000 words) explaining how these essays contributed to their understanding of a specific theme in the area of Buddhist Studies within the context of the curriculum. The extra elective course will contribute 6 credits while the portfolio will contribute 3 credits in the capstone experience. Students are assessed by 100% coursework for the portfolio. Assessment of the elective course will follow the coursework and examination ratio of the elective course concerned.

Full-time students should submit their dissertations and portfolios by **July 31** in the final academic year of their studies and submit the dissertation/portfolio titles for approval by **January 15** of that year.

Part-time students should submit their dissertations and portfolios by **July 31** in the final academic year of their studies and submit the dissertation/portfolio titles for approval by **January 15** of that year.