

**The University of Hong Kong**

**Faculty of Arts**

**Undergraduate  
Student Handbook**

**2025-26**

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## Welcome to the Faculty of Arts!

Our undergraduate (UG) curricula reflect the values of scholarship, creativity, cultural diversity and critical dialog that the Faculty of Arts cherishes. These curricula include:

- Bachelor of Arts (BA)
- Bachelor of Arts in Global Creative Industries [BA(GCIN)]
- Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and Digital Technologies [BA(HDT)]
- Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Engineering in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science [BA&BEng(AI&DataSc)], a double degree jointly offered by the Faculty of Arts and the School of Computing and Data Science
- Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (BA&LLB), a double degree jointly offered by the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Law
- Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education in Language Education (BA&BEd(LangEd), administered by the Faculty of Education

At course-level, the large and international learning community in the Faculty's four Schools (the School of Chinese, School of English, School of Humanities, and School of Modern Languages and Cultures) and two Centres (the Centre for Applied English Studies, and Centre of Buddhist Studies) offers a total of 18 major programmes and 25 minor programmes to all UG students.

If you are new to the Faculty, you may be overwhelmed by the broad spectrum of courses that you can choose from and the diverse learning opportunities that you can take advantage of.

Our teachers and the Faculty as a whole strive to make your learning experience challenging, rewarding and enjoyable and to assist you in the formation and pursuit of your academic, personal and career goals. You will find comprehensive information on the structure and content of the curriculum and the facilities and services of the Faculty on our [website](#). This advisory handbook is designed to assist you in making the most of your learning experience and choices. Above all, it is intended as a guide to the sources of information and advice that you can call on to meet the challenges of the BA curriculum.

It is hoped that you will find it useful and wish you a successful and fulfilling academic life at HKU.

Faculty of Arts

## **1. What is this Handbook for?**

This handbook is intended to introduce you to the advisory services offered by the Faculty of Arts to assist you in planning your studies and making the best choices as you proceed through the curriculum.

Academic advising provided by the Faculty of Arts aims to help students

- take responsibility for their studies and make the most of their educational opportunities
- set sound academic, career, and personal goals and develop strategies to achieve them
- graduate in a timely manner while complying with relevant regulations and requirements
- find ways to overcome difficulties, both academic and non-academic.

## **2. What is the Arts Curricula?**

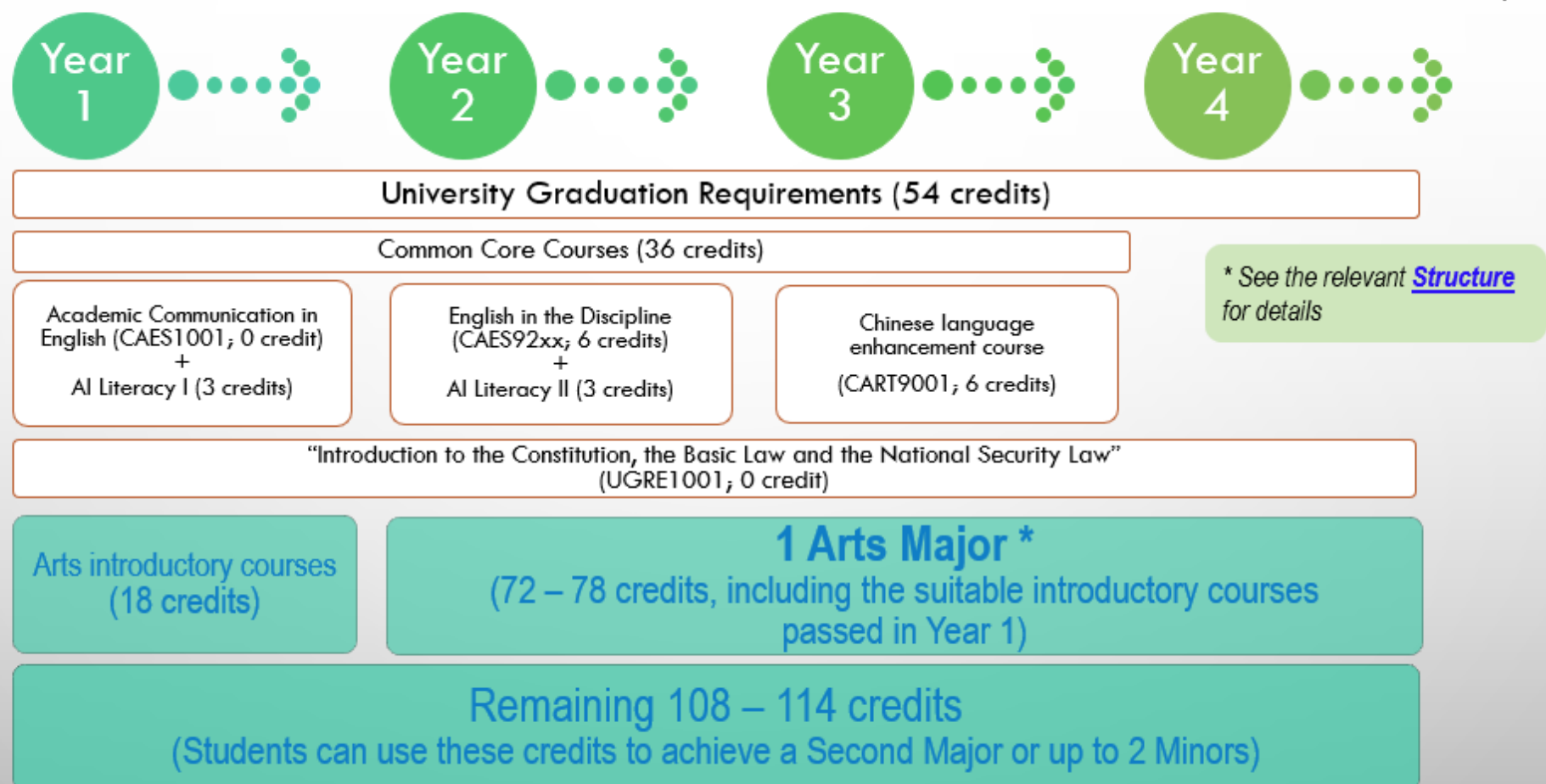
The Arts curricula consist of a flexible course of studies that is designed to offer you a maximum of choice in courses in the arts, humanities, and languages, while developing your abilities in

- critical intellectual enquiry and life-long learning
- tackling novel situations and ill-defined problems
- critical self-reflection and greater understanding of others
- intercultural understanding and global awareness
- communication and collaboration
- leadership and advocacy for the improvement of the human condition.

### 3. UG Studies at a Glance: Timeline for Degree Completion

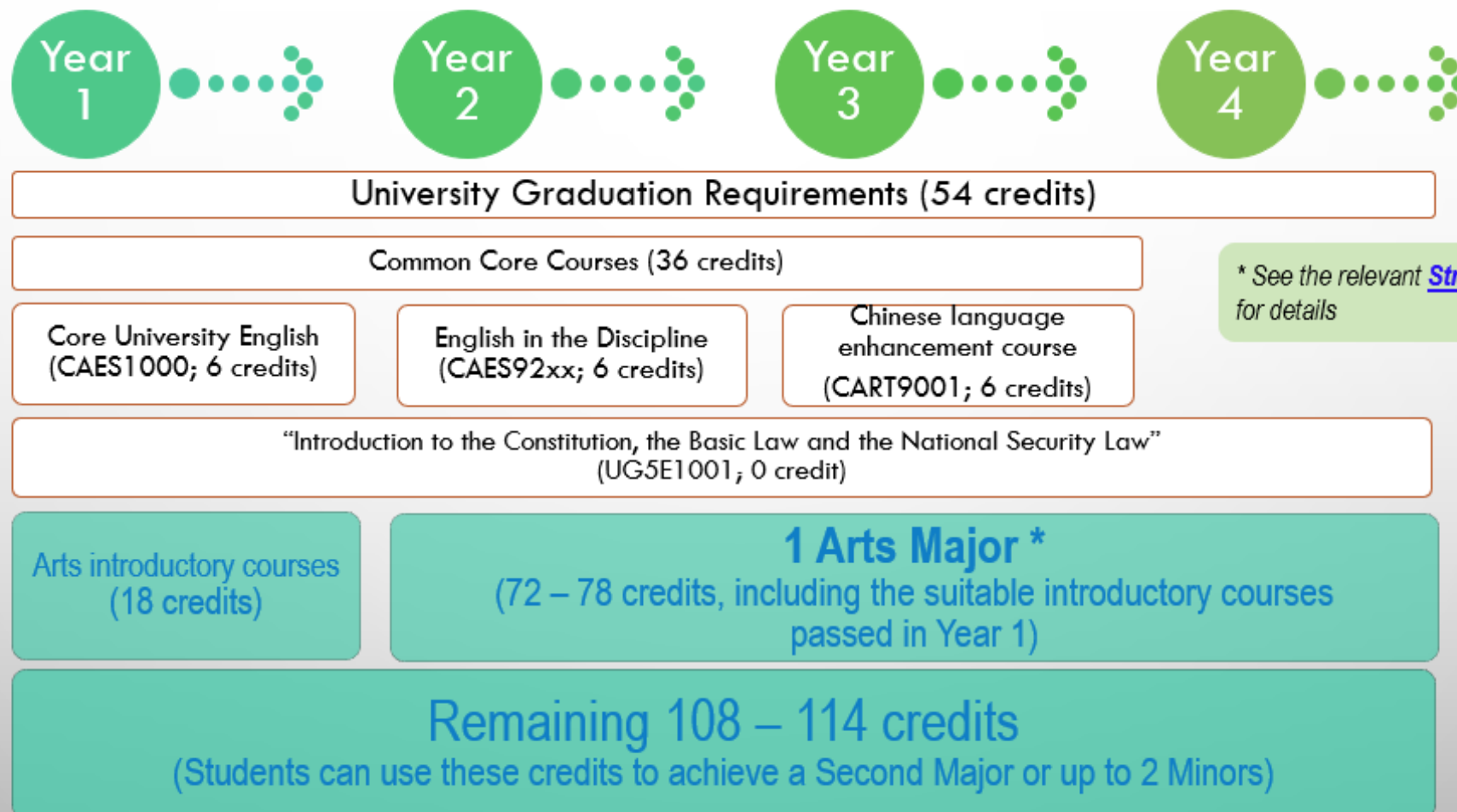
#### 3.1a) BA Degree Curriculum (For Students Admitted in 2025-26 and thereafter)

BA degree curriculum (240 credits;  
for students admitted in **2025-26 and thereafter**)

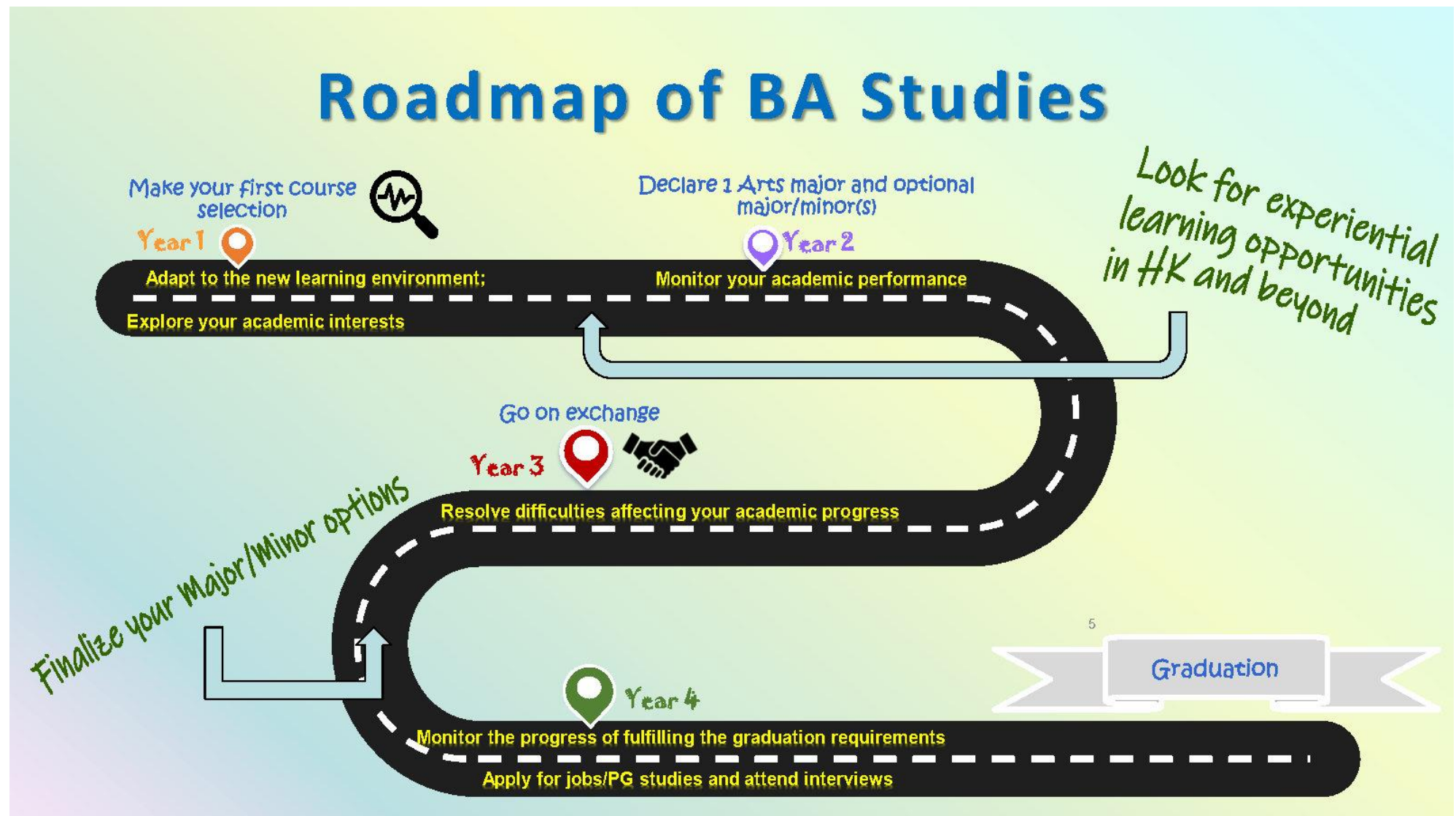


3.1b) BA Degree Curriculum (For Students Admitted in 2024-25 or before)

BA degree curriculum (240 credits;  
for students admitted in 2024-25 or before)



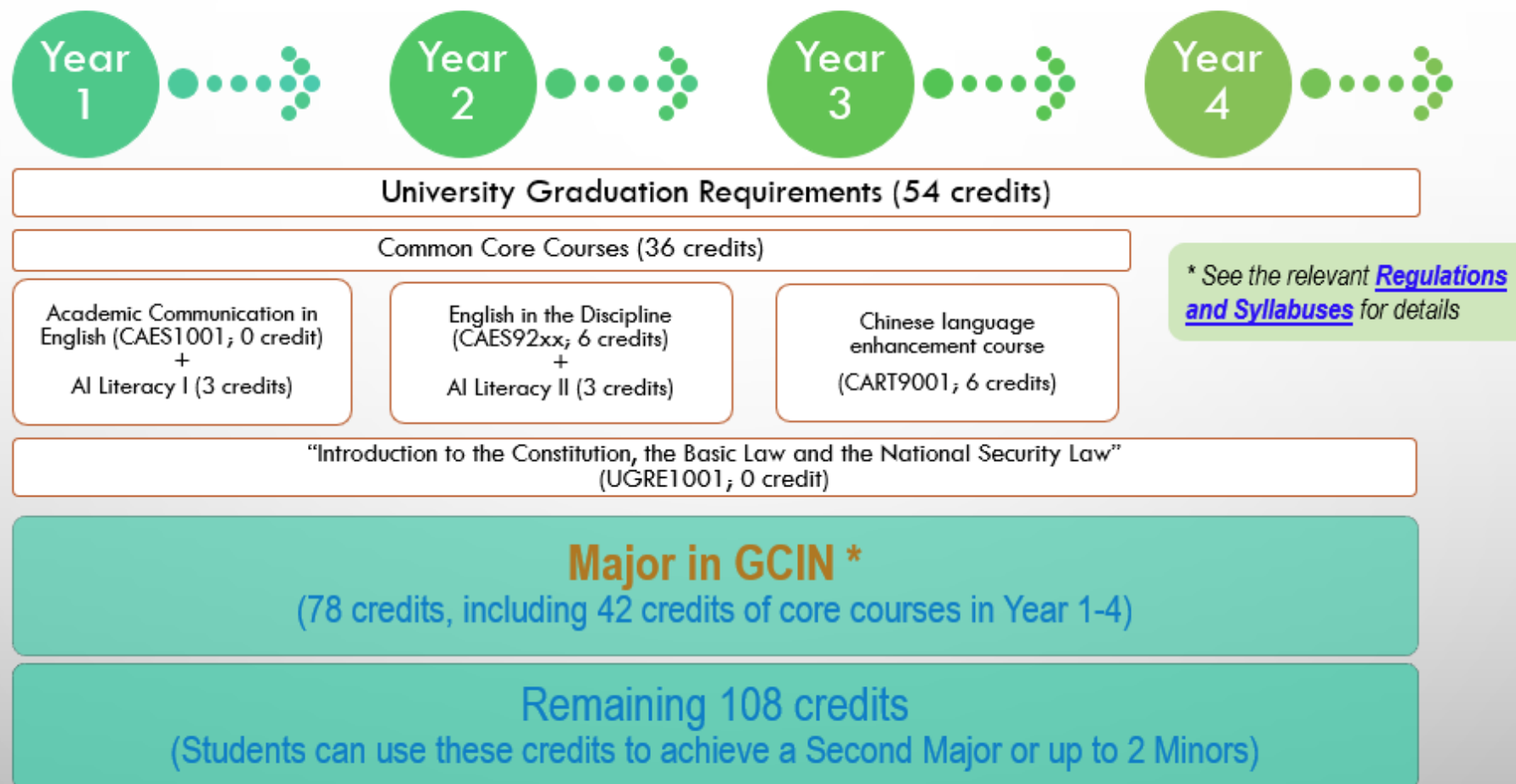
### 3.1c) Roadmap for all BA Students



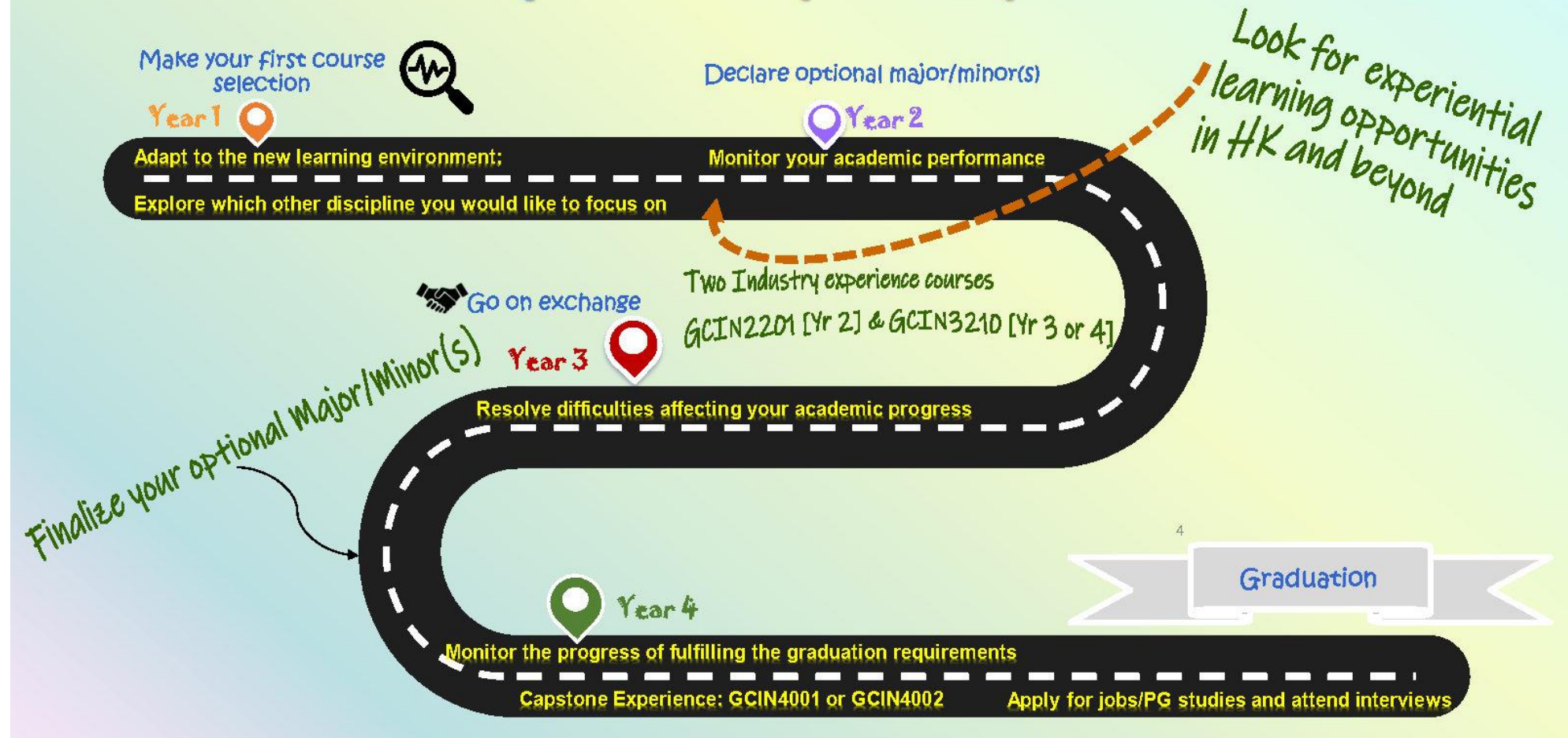


### 3.2a) BA(GCIN) Degree Curriculum

BA(GCIN) degree curriculum (240 credits;  
for students admitted in 2025-26 and thereafter)

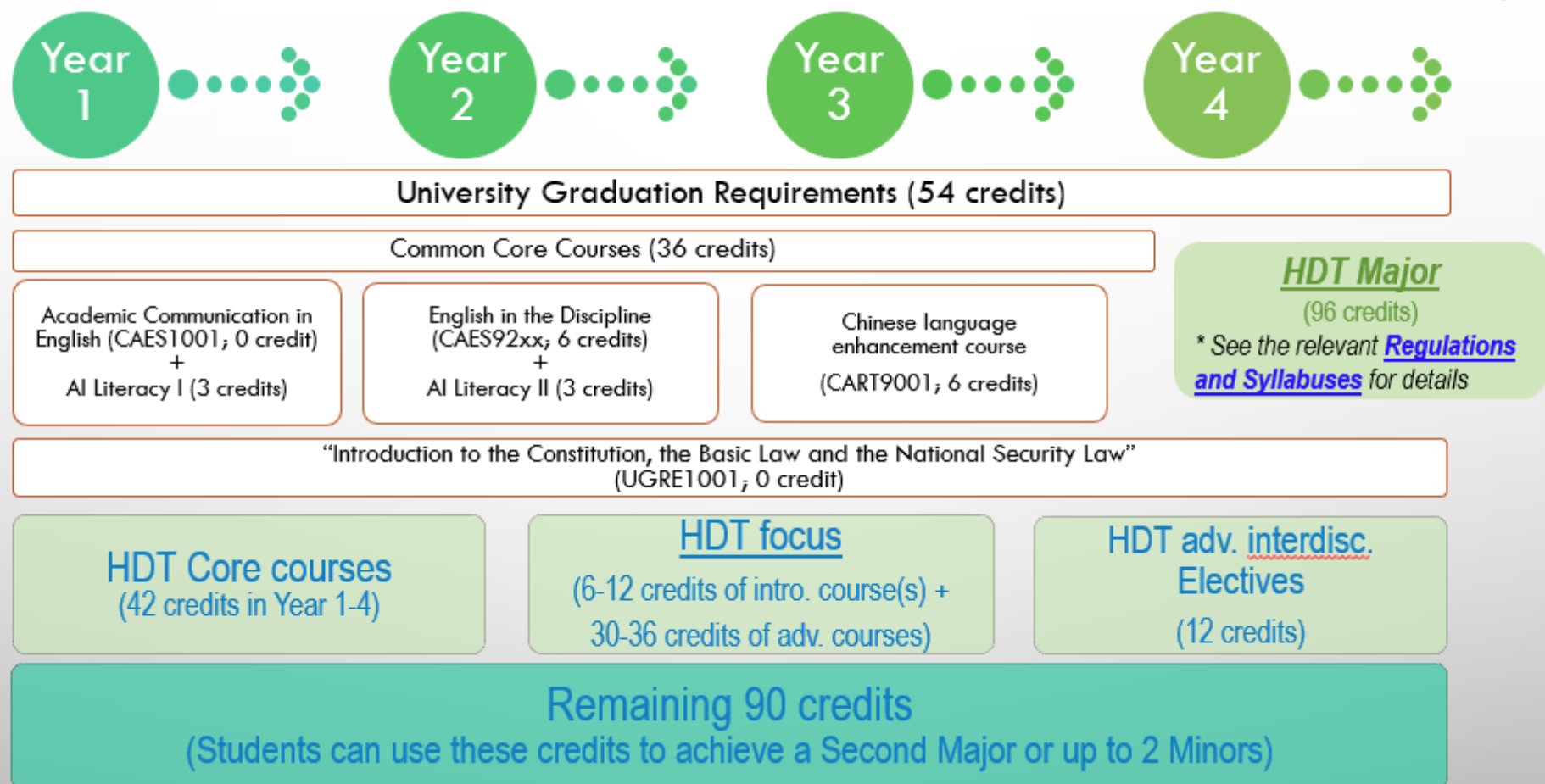


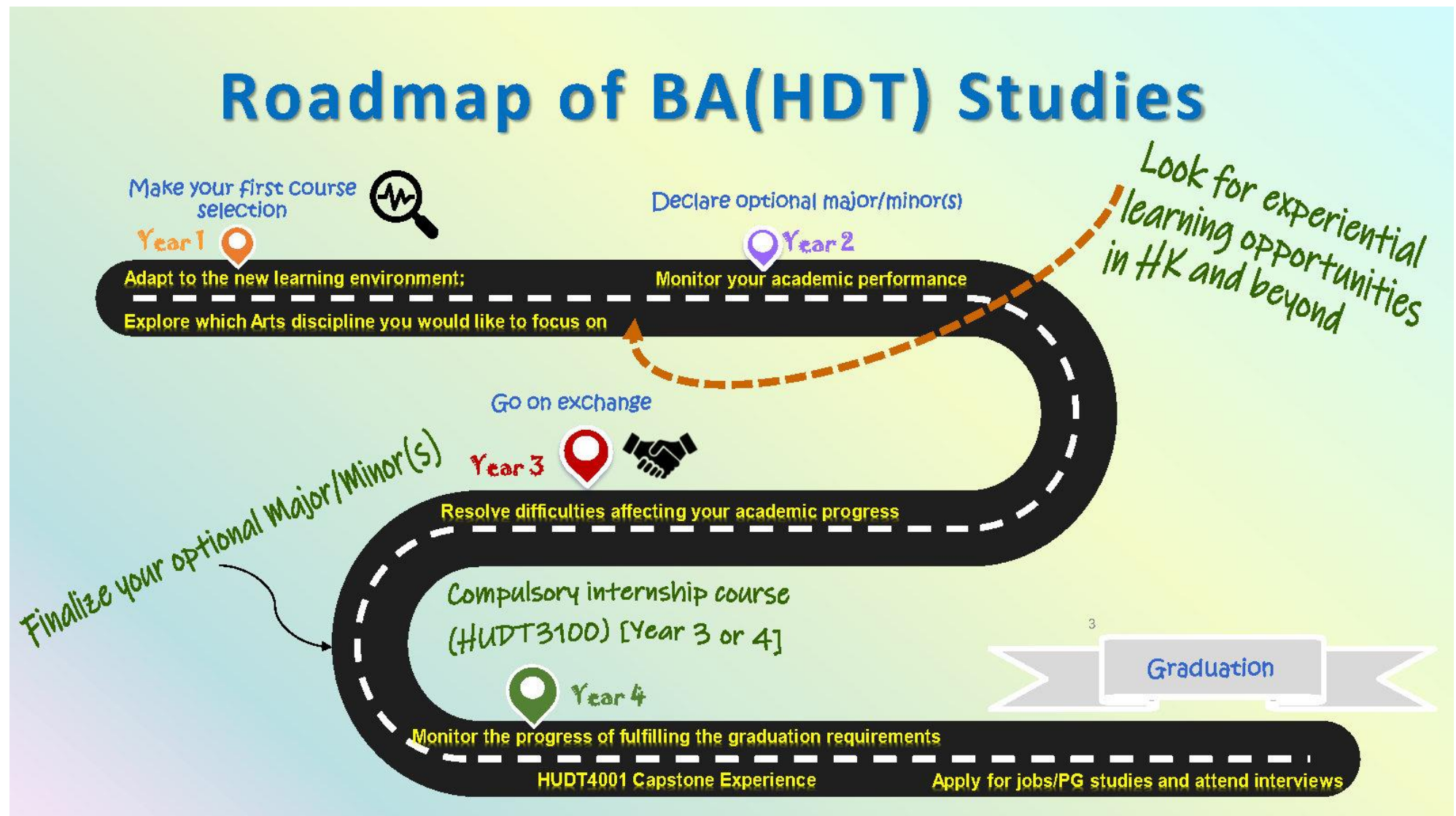
# Roadmap of BA(GCIN) Studies



### 3.3a) BA(HDT) Degree Curriculum

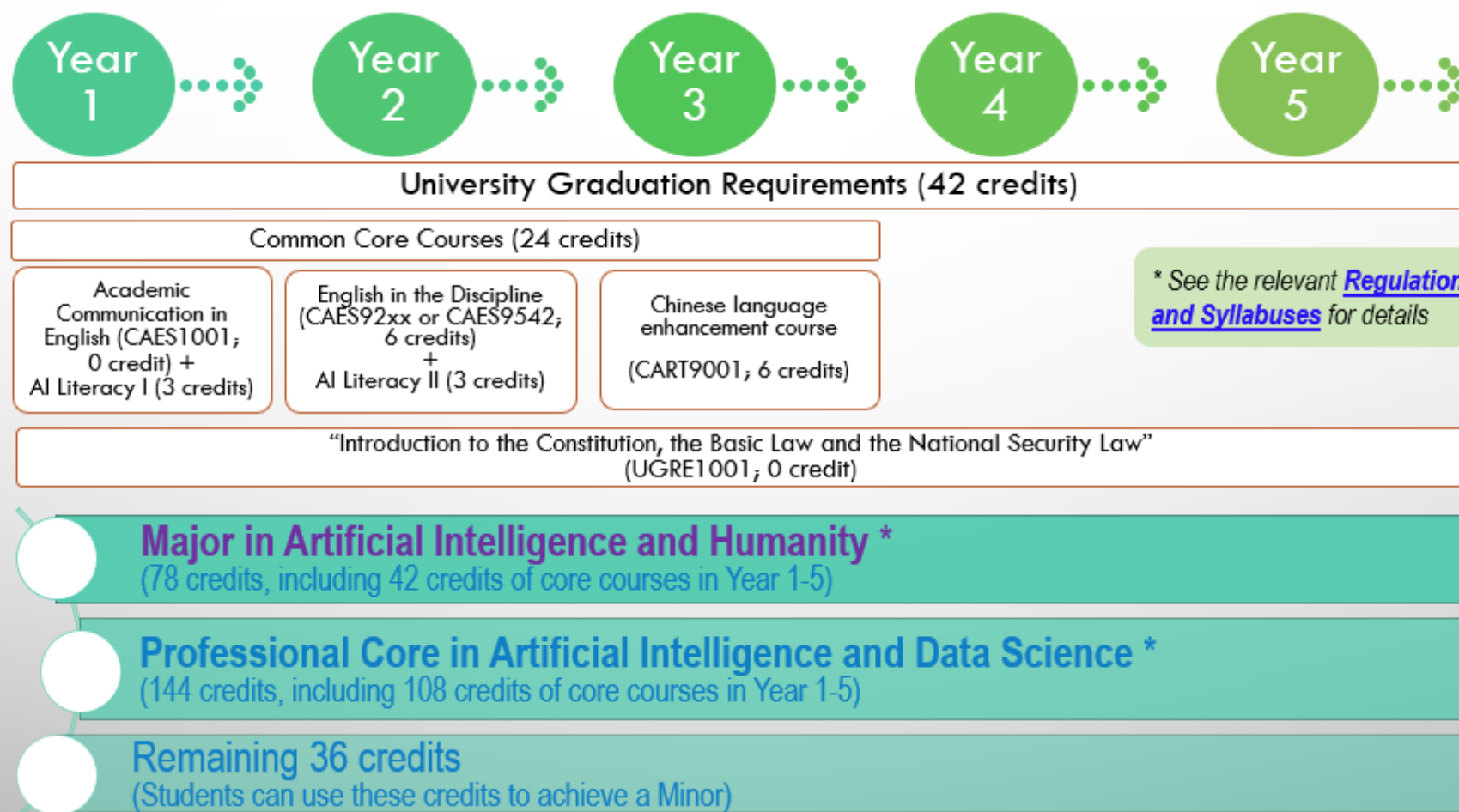
BA(HDT) degree curriculum (240 credits;  
for students admitted in 2025-26 and thereafter)



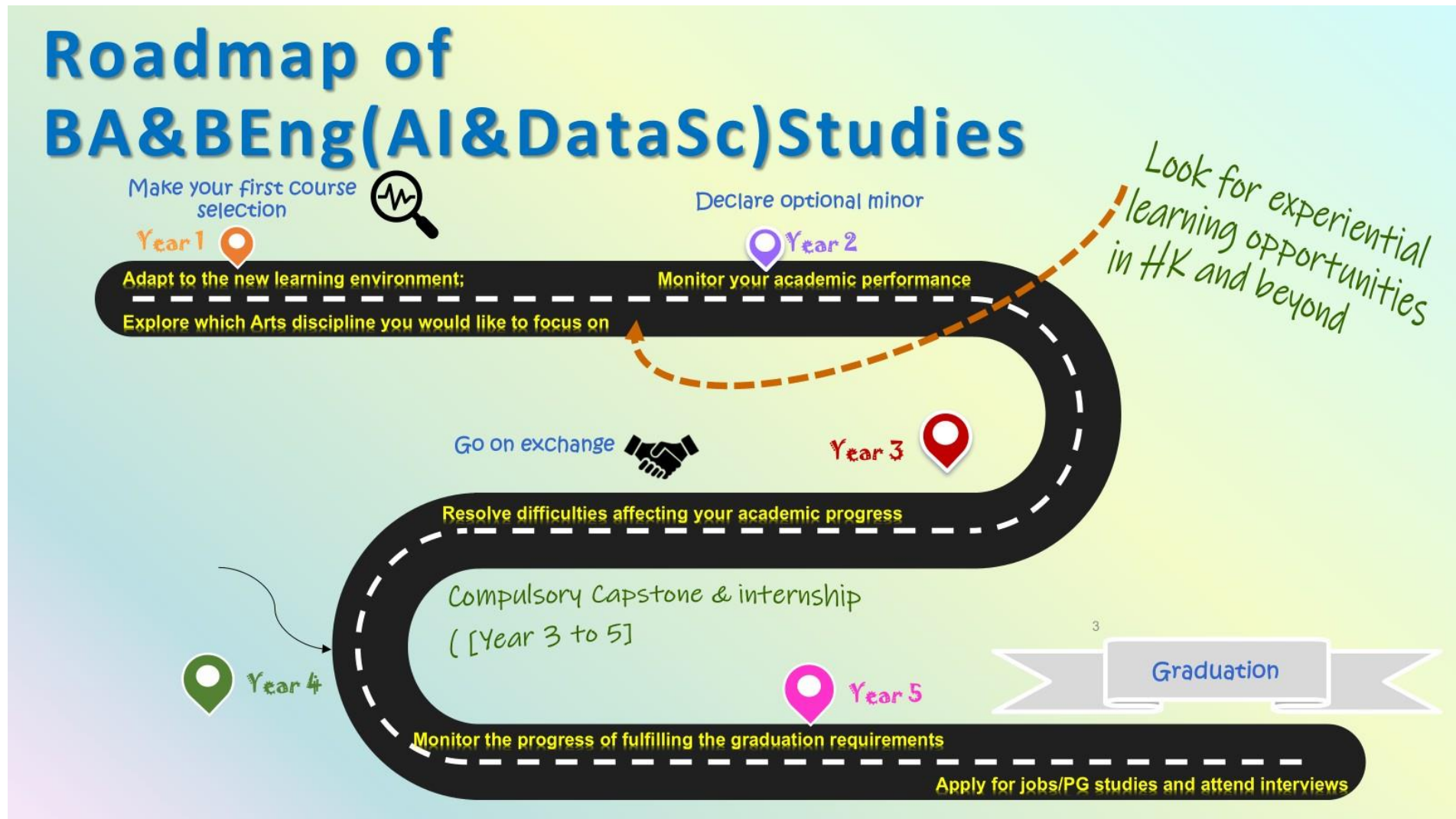


### 3.4a) BA&BEng (AI&DataSc) Degree Curriculum

BA&BEng(AI&DataSc) degree curriculum (300 credits;  
for students admitted in 2025-26 and thereafter)

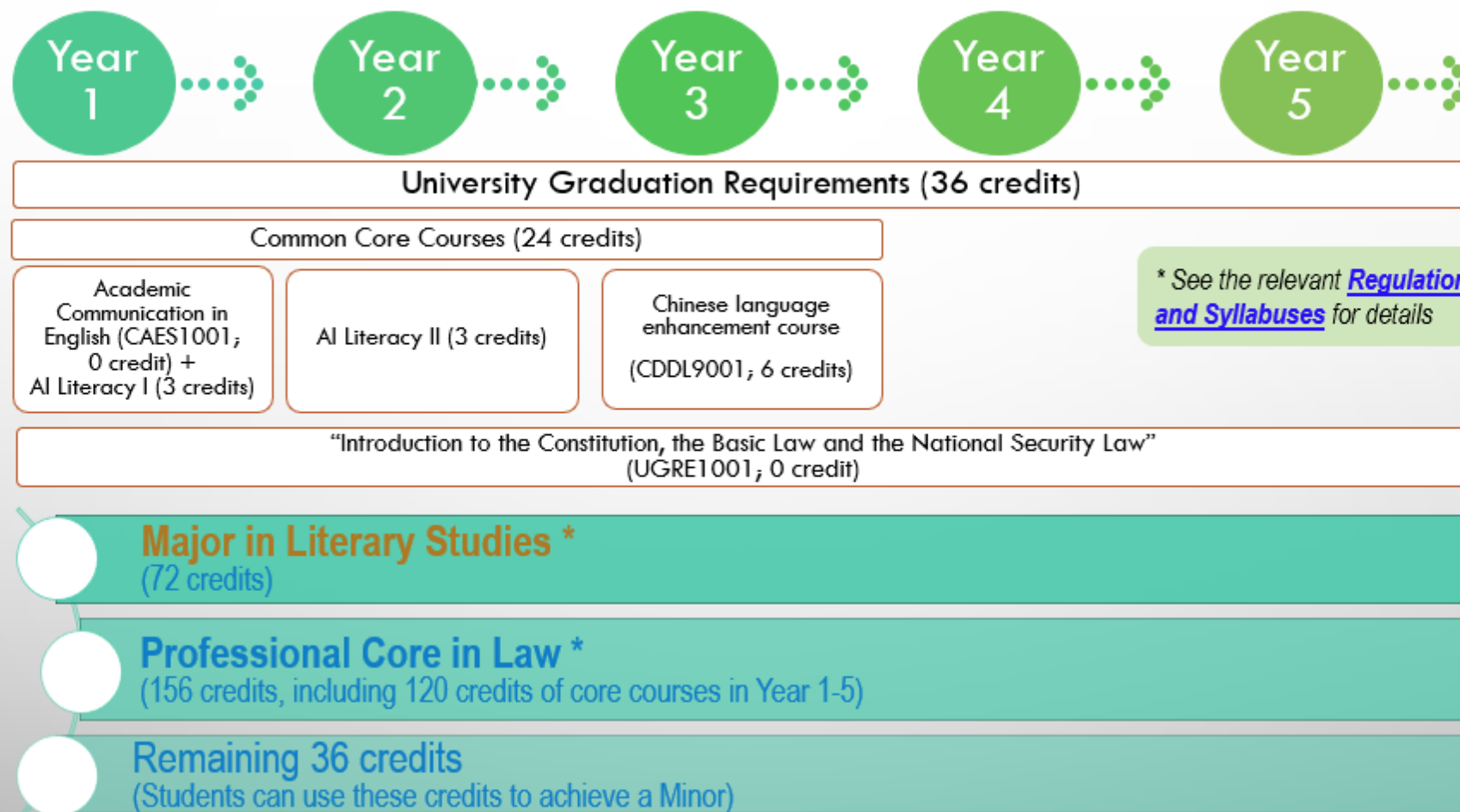




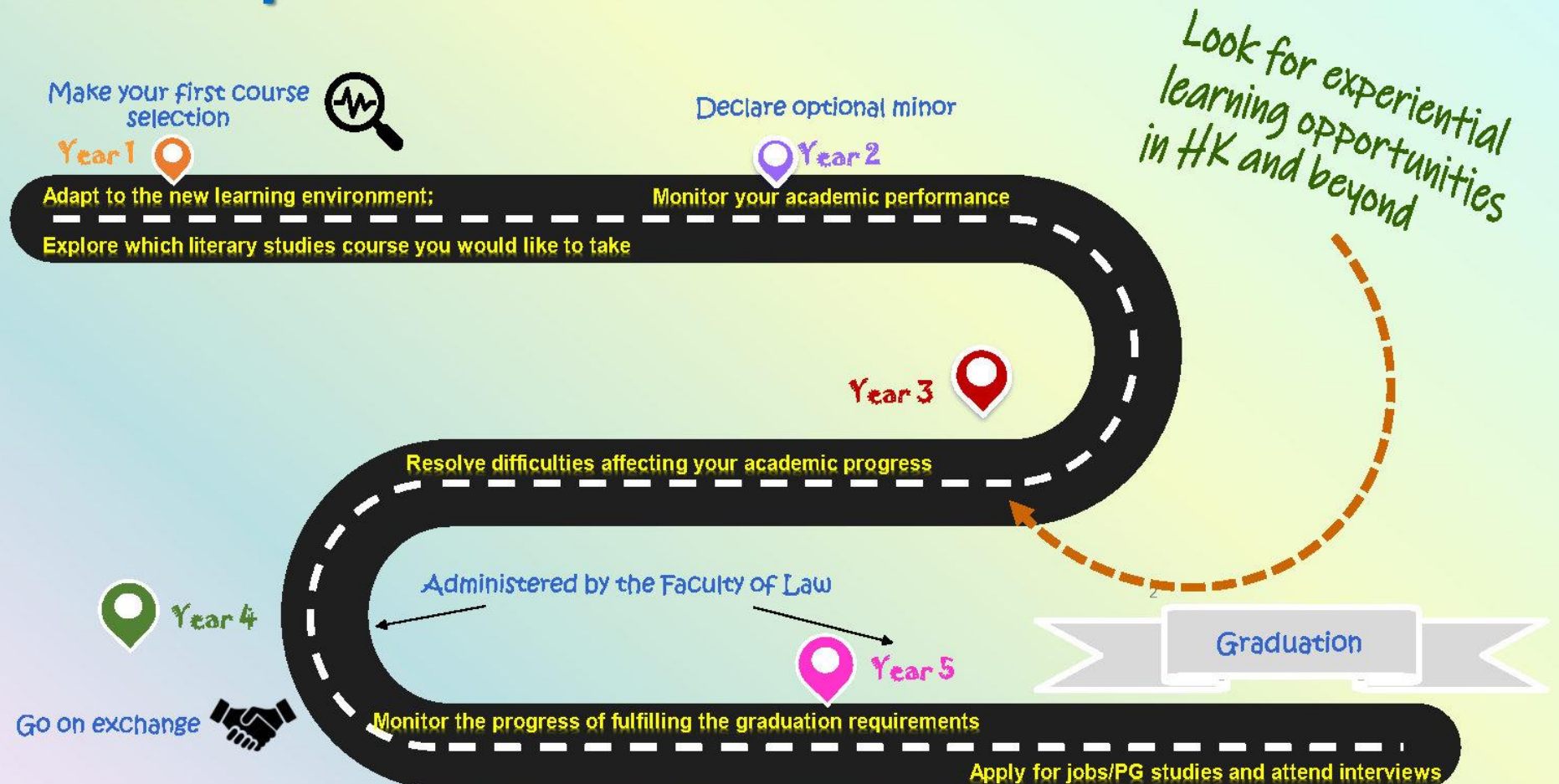


### 3.5a) BA&LLB Degree Curriculum

BA&LLB degree curriculum (300 credits;  
for students admitted in 2025-26 and thereafter)



# Roadmap of BA&LLB Studies





## 4. Why Academic Advising?

In order to successfully **develop these capabilities**, you have to do more than simply follow models or instructions but must take responsibility for your own learning, i.e. for the attitudes, choices and actions that to a large extent influence the outcome of your studies. For this, you need to recognize the importance of good advice to realistic planning and successful decision-making and learn to make judicious use of the various sources of advice at your disposal.

The Faculty of Arts offers printed and web-based information and personal consultations that you can rely on to answer your needs for information, orientation, guidance and support. To make the best use of the advisory system, you should draw on both of these components, beginning by consulting the information system and contacting teachers or office staff once you have gathered the information relevant to your situation.

### 4.1 Advisory Services

Academic advising provided by the Faculty of Arts consists of the following four categories:

- **Information** about curriculum content, requirements, and opportunities in order to assist your full integration and participation in the university learning environment
- **Orientation** to allow you to identify your academic interests and strengths and choose the subjects you want to focus on
- **Guidance** in your setting of academic, career and personal goals and adopting a suitable study plan to achieve them
- **Support** in overcoming difficulties and resolving problems that affect your academic progress.

### 4.2 Advising in Person

The consultation of available information will in most cases be sufficient for you to know **how** to do what you want or have to do. But in situations where you have to decide **what best** to do, this will only be the first step and you will also need to know **whom to talk to** in order to discuss your options. The following are the most important personal contacts in the Faculty who are available to answer various needs for advice.

- **Faculty Academic Advisers:** You will be assigned a Faculty Academic Adviser after registering with HKU. Your Faculty Academic Adviser can advise you in the development of your academic interests and study goals and plans (questions about helpful study behaviour, choice and combination of majors and minors, selection and combination of courses, further studies).

## Navigating via SIS:

You can view your advisers via the SIS by the following procedures:

1. Login to HKU Portal
2. On “My Page”, click “Student Center” (Navigation: SIS Menu -> Self Services -> Student Center) then “Find your adviser” on the right-hand side:s

The screenshot displays the HKU Portal's Student Center. The top navigation bar includes 'My Page', 'MyEmail', 'My eLearning', 'MyLibrary', 'Events', and 'MyFaculty'. A left sidebar lists various services under 'Self Services' and 'Enrollment'. The main content area is titled 'Student Center' and features sections for 'Academics', 'This Week's Schedule', and 'Student Enrollment'. On the right side, there are links for 'Search for Classes', 'Holds', 'Adviser' (with a 'Find your adviser' link highlighted in a red box), and 'Other Links'.

- **Teachers** can also advise you on how to deal with difficulties that you encounter while studying a particular course. It's best to make an appointment by email.
- **Undergraduate Coordinators** are teachers who oversee teaching and student matters in a subject you can study as a major or minor. Like all teachers, they can advise you on questions related to your academic interests and study goals and plans. In addition, they can advise you on the choices you have in fulfilling the requirements of a major or minor. And if you plan to go on exchange studies and transfer credits back to HKU, you should consult any of them of the relevant programme(s) about the courses you intend to take on exchange before you leave. See the list of Undergraduate Coordinators in Section 8 of this handbook.
- **Student Academic Advisers** can advise you on how to adapt to the university life and on matters about course selection, major/minor options, programme-related questions, ways to achieve excellent performance, experiential learning opportunities, time management, hall life, etc. Please refer to the [webpage](#) for details.
- **School and Centre Office staff** can advise you on questions relating to regulations and syllabuses, especially regarding the requirements of

specific majors and minors and exemption from compulsory courses. See the list of offices of the Faculty in Section 8 of this handbook.

- **Faculty Office staff** can advise you on all matters related to the degree regulations and course selection, especially questions regarding leave of absence, study load, changes to enrolments, credit transfer and graduation requirements. The Faculty Office will also be able to advise you when your studies are affected by unexpected circumstances such as ill health. The Faculty Office is located in Room 405, 4/F, Run Run Shaw Tower, Centennial Campus (tel. 3917 8977; email: [arts@hku.hk](mailto:arts@hku.hk)).

**Note:** You benefit most from the advice that teachers and office staff can give you if you meet them well-prepared. Therefore, make sure you consult the information available online and in print before making an appointment to discuss your plans or concerns.

#### 4.3 Senior Students and your classmates:

Senior students and classmates can be a valuable source of advice as they can share their experience and help you consider options from different perspectives. Senior students and classmates are a great resource for information such as work load, choice of residential halls and other aspects of campus life. But remember, your peers' advice may be based on a narrower interpretation of available information and you should not assume your peers' personal experience will be identical to yours. There have been several changes in the curriculum and their experience may not be up-to-date. Be cautious and double-check any inconsistent information by asking the staff at the Faculty Office.

## 5. Advising and Advice for Year 1:

### 5.1 Making Your First Course Selection

You have been waiting a long time for this: at last you are in charge of your own timetable; no one tells you what courses you have to take and when. Well, it is not quite 100% up to you – you do have to follow some rules. But still, the freedom you have in choosing the courses you want to take is likely to be a new experience when you enter the UG curriculum from secondary school. And with so many courses to choose from, you may almost find yourself wishing someone would tell you what to do...

#### **What to do?**

- *Understand the rules.* There are certain courses called “Pre-requisites” that you must take in your first year and certain requirements you must observe when you select your courses. Some of these rules are set by the University, some by the Faculty, and some by individual majors/minors. It is best to find out about these rules as soon as possible—for instance on the [Notes of guidance on Course Selection](#)—so that you can begin to focus on the choices that stimulate your interest.
- *Consider your options.* Browse the list of introductory courses on the Faculty website and check out the profiles of the different majors you can choose. Do you want to stick to what seems familiar or try out something new? When selecting your courses, think about what you may want to choose as a major/minor and find out which prerequisite courses you have to take in the first year in order to declare this major/minor later. But take the time to look around as well: there is a lot on offer that is worth discovering. [Note: There is a default major for BA(GCIN), BA(HDT), BA&BEng(AI&DataSc) and BA&LLB students. Also, double degree students can choose to declare a minor only.]
- *Don't let the system think for you.* You have to make your course selection online and the system, SIS, is designed to alert you to possible time clashes and prerequisite requirements you need to comply with, but it does not think for you. You are advised to read through the SIS [website](#) for guidelines on course selection. If you cannot enrol in your preferred courses, you may need to be adventurous and choose another course or set of courses. If you need advice, seek help from your advisor.
- *Add/drop period: You can change your mind* but have to follow the rules. You have to select courses for the whole year at the beginning of the academic year, but you can modify your course selection for any semester during the add/drop period in the first two weeks of teaching period. This means that you can change your selection for the second semester during the add/drop period of the second semester (but you cannot drop a full-year course after the first semester).

**ADD/DROP ADVICE:**

You are not guaranteed enrolment in the course you hope to add and teachers are not required to let you into their course if it is fully enrolled. Attend both the course you are dropping and the course you are adding to the best of your ability. Many teachers introduce the course, assign reading and other forms of assessment in the first 3 weeks of the term. If you miss 3 weeks of classes, you run the risk of failing the course.

**Whom to talk to?**

- *Academic Advisers* can help you identify your academic interests and refer you to other relevant people for other advice.
- *Teachers* can answer your questions about individual courses and may be able to help you resolve some time clashes in class groups.
- *Student Academic Advisers* can share with you their experience on how to adapt to the university life and complete the course selection smoothly.
- *Undergraduate Coordinators* can give you advice on the combination of courses and on planning ahead.
- *School/Centre Office staff* can advise you on prerequisites and major requirements and possible exemptions. They may also be able to help you resolve conflicts in your online course selection.
- *Faculty Office staff* can advise you on how to meet graduation requirements and how to prioritize various requirements.
- *Senior students* can share their experience and give you tips on what to do and what to avoid, but make sure that the advice you follow does not contradict information provided by the Faculty or Schools/Centres.

**Where to look?**

- The Faculty [website](#) offers detailed information on the UG curricula (including regulations and syllabuses) as well as links to Schools/Centre websites, where you will find up-to-date descriptions of courses offered.

**5.2 Adapting to the Academic Learning Environment**

Students often describe the transition from secondary school to university as more of a leap than a step—from relatively passive assimilation of knowledge to more active learning, from learning the right answers to recognizing diverse perspectives, from following instructions to identifying your own interests, from learning in class to developing independently. The difference of the university learning environment presents a challenge, but it does not mean that secondary

school did not prepare you well. The challenge relates more to your learning attitude than your abilities.

### **What to do?**

- *Read the syllabus for each course carefully.* A syllabus contains all the information that your teacher considers important to the class: contact information, teacher availability, a reading schedule, list of required texts, due dates etc. and the regulations, such as attendance and AI policies, that govern the class. The syllabus is a professional document defines the organization of the class and lays out the teacher's expectations and goals.
- *Make a study plan and follow it.* Compared to secondary school, your timetable at university may seem light. As a full-time student, you may be attending classes for only about 15 to 20 hours per week. However, this means that you are expected to spend at least the same amount of time and often twice that amount of time on independent reading and study. Your weekly planner should therefore not only include the hours of your classes but also the hours you have set aside to read and to work on each of your courses.
- *Set yourself goals.* In many of your courses, you will not have regular homework but will have to complete a small number of assignments that will be graded. Your grade will depend on what you are able to make of your assignments, so it is important that you plan ahead, begin to work on your assignments early and think about how to use and build on what you learn in class and self-study.
- *Take the first step.* It is important that you take an active interest in your studies and direct your own learning. Your teachers may not always tell you what to do but expect you to be proactive in responding to opportunities for learning and asking questions. Do not rely only on handouts, but keep files or notebooks for your weekly classes and reading notes to develop assignments and reflect on feedback from teachers.
- *Participate actively.* Make use of opportunities to learn with others. Prepare yourself for participation in class and tutorial discussions. Ask questions and share your ideas. Contribute to or initiate email or online discussions for your courses. Forming a reading group with others to plan and discuss your reading over a semester may help you manage your workload and profit more from it.
- *Integrate.* Look for opportunities to broaden your academic learning experience by participating in the university community, joining a student society, club or activity or participating in events. Balancing your academic studies with other aspects of your student life is a key to maintaining high motivation and allows you to make the most of your learning experience.

## Whom to talk to?

- Your *Faculty Academic Adviser* or any *Student Academic Adviser* will be willing to advise on how to adapt to the university life and perceive the BA curriculum as a whole.
- Your *teachers* will be happy to see your interest in learning. So do not hesitate to approach them to discuss your observations, readings, assignments, or how to learn more. You should not expect your teachers to simply tell you what to think and say, but you can expect them to assist and encourage you in your learning and to give you feedback on your progress.
- Your *classmates* can help you when you have missed a class and can also be your learning partners. Meeting regularly to discuss readings, class discussions and assignments can help you keep up with the workload and make the most of your assignments.
- *CEDARS* (the Centre of Development and Resources for Students) can advise you on how to manage your time, learn well, and cope with a heavy study load. Visit the Centre or its website for more tips on adjusting successfully to university life.

## Where to look?

- Course materials and websites not only include important information about assignments and deadlines but also serve as a guide to resources for further study.
- The [website](#) of CEDARS offers you a guide to campus life, services and activities, study skills, time management and adjustment to the academic environment.

HKU Arts Students' Association can be reached through their [social media platform](#) for updates on events, activities, and student support networks.

## 6. Advising and Advice for Year 2:

### Declaring Majors and Minors

\* optional for BA(GCIN), BA(HDT), BA&BEng(AI&DataSc) and BA&LLB students

Having explored the options in your first year, you will have to decide on the specialization you are interested in pursuing in your second to fourth years of study: you have to declare at least one Arts major, which requires at least 72 – 78 credits in total. For the remaining credits required by the BA degree, you are free to choose additional major(s) and/or minor(s) or simply a combination of courses according to your interests and goals. You are looking at dozens of Arts and non-Arts majors and minors to choose from. Obviously, your course selection in the first year will have narrowed down your choice a little, but you are likely to have taken the prerequisite courses for more majors than you can declare. Perhaps you have always known what you want, or perhaps you are tempted by various subjects and are not sure how to decide.

### What to do?

- *Learn about the subjects that interest you.* In addition to taking the relevant prerequisite courses in the first year, take the time to browse the curricula of the various majors in the syllabuses and on the web. Look at course descriptions and try to understand what the different majors require and what they offer.
- *Clarify your interests and plan ahead.* Think about what you want from your studies, academically, personally and professionally, and how different majors fit into your aspirations. Make a list of the courses you would want to take in your second to fourth years and consider whether and how they match the requirements of particular majors. Defining your interests in relation to the courses on offer one of the keys to success because it will allow you to set yourself goals and strengthen your motivation to study.
- *Assess your strengths and limitations.* Test your aptitude for the majors that interest you by taking the relevant introductory courses, some of which may be prerequisites. Find out whether you enjoy the study activities involved and how you respond to the learning challenges the courses pose and whether you are satisfied with the results you achieve. You may want to discuss your self-assessment and interests with teachers of your introductory courses. If at the end of the first year you find that you want to study a major for which you have not yet taken the necessary prerequisite, you need to apply to take the relevant course in your second year.
- *Know the rules and follow them.* Find out about prerequisites and other requirements of the majors that attract you from your first semester and plan your course selection accordingly. You can change your selection at the beginning of every semester during the designated add/drop period but not later. At the beginning of the second year of study you have to declare your



major(s) and any minor(s) on SIS. You can change your declared major(s)/minor(s) during the course selection period in subsequent semesters (up to Year 3 Semester 2) but will have to ensure that you have fulfilled the necessary prerequisites and can complete the required credits in the remaining period of study. You can check your progress on the declared major/minor with reference to the [Degree Audit](#) under SIS.

Navigation: My Page (tab) → SIS Menu → Academic Records → My Degree Audit.



- Yes, you can double major in a major outside of the Faculty of Arts.

### Whom to talk to?

- *Teachers of introductory courses* can advise you on the expectations of various majors and how best to prepare yourself for a certain major.
- *Academic Advisers, Student Academic Advisers and Undergraduate Coordinators* can give you advice in the development of your academic interests and goals and the formation of a study plan. But you may of course also discuss this with the teacher of any course that captures your interest.
- *School/Centre office staff* can advise you on prerequisites and the curricular requirements of different majors and minors and how to fulfil them.
- *Faculty Office staff* can advise you in situations that require special requests, for instance you may need to apply for taking an introductory course in a later year.

### Where to look?

- [Webpage](#) listing the Arts major/minor available to BA and other students, which includes information on the prerequisites of each major/minor as well as links to relevant School/Centre websites.
- [BA regulations and syllabuses](#) include detailed information on the curriculum requirements of every Arts major and minor you may choose.
- All Schools in the Arts Faculty maintain websites and some produce handbooks with information on the requirements of the majors and minors they offer, the opportunities for experiential learning (field trips, workshops, studying abroad, internships) and awards they present, and up-to-date lists of the courses offered every academic year.

## 7. Advising and Advice for Year 3:

### Studying Abroad

Many students opt to study abroad during year 3. If you are looking for ways to enrich your learning experience, to widen your horizon and to enhance your graduate profile, you should strongly consider taking advantage of one of the many opportunities to study abroad. HKU has over 330 partner institutions around the world. Exchange opportunities are available at University-level, Faculty-level and Programme-level for a semester, a year, during summer or winter. Please refer to the Faculty's [website](#) for details.

Studying abroad is an exciting and life-changing (ad)venture, but it is also a test of your capability to adapt to another culture and environment and therefore worth some preparation, especially if you intend to transfer credits back to HKU. Scholarships or subsidies are awarded to selected candidates.

### **What to do?**

- *Explore the opportunities available.* Visit the International Affairs Office (IAO) and its [website](#) for information on the countries and universities you may visit. Find out about course offerings, semester dates and other aspects of student life at different host universities. Ask your School about any study abroad opportunities that they may offer and their selection criteria. The Faculty Office will announce details of the Arts Faculty Exchange Programme around November each year.
- *Consider your priorities and preparedness.* What is your motivation to go abroad? Are you looking for an opportunity to improve your language skills, a cultural experience or an academic challenge? Assess your preparedness for a stay abroad and how long you want to go away and consider how the exchange stay will fit into your study plan. It is a good idea to discuss your plans and expectations with some of your teachers, most of whom have extensive international experience.
- *Know the rules and follow them.* You have to observe the application procedures and deadlines as specified by the IAO or the Faculty (including applying for a scholarship for exchange). Students are responsible for finding out if credits will transfer from their host institution back to HKU. Contact your department or School office to get started.
- *Apply for leave of absence:* After you have been formally admitted by the host institution, remember to apply for leave of absence (with the relevant supporting documents) via the [Faculty Office](#).
- *Apply for credit transfer:* Go through the Faculty's [policy](#) on credit transfer in details and note the Faculty's [guidelines](#) on application for credit transfer for exchange studies.

### Whom to talk to?

- *Office staff at the IAO and the Faculty* can advise you on the application procedures, fulfilment of requirements, and related arrangements (student visa, insurance, overseas accommodation, application for scholarship, etc.).
- *Undergraduate Coordinators* can give you advice on the transferability of courses offered by the host institution and on the compatibility of your study plan with the requirements for your declared major/minor. Talk to the relevant coordinators before you go on leave and contact them by email while you are abroad, if necessary.
- *Senior students* and *Student Academic Advisers* can share with you their study abroad experience and things to be aware of during your period of exchange.

### Where to look?

- Faculty's [website](#) on different types of exchange studies
- You should also consult the websites of potential host institutions to learn more about the learning environment and the courses you are interested in.
- Faculty's [policy](#) on credit transfer and [guidelines](#) on application for credit transfer

## **8. Advising and Advice for Year 4:**

### **8.1 Capstones**

In your final year of study, you will have the choice of a “capstone experience”. A “capstone ” refers to one or more courses within the major programme that allows students to demonstrate their expertise and culminative knowledge in the major. A “capstone” course varies from major to major but usually consists of a choice between a dissertation, a writing and research-intensive seminar, or an internship. The Faculty of Arts also invites students who have a cGPA of 3.5 or above to take part in the [Undergraduate Research Fellowship Programme \(URFP\)](#) which consists of a research project linked to an advanced course in the major. You may wish to seek advice about which kind of capstone experience will be useful in what you would like to do after you graduate. If you are a double majoring, you will need to take capstones in both your majors – this may also require advanced planning with your advisor.

### **8.2 Student Experiential Learning: Internships**

An internship will help you transition from being a professional student to a professional in the workplace. It is also an opportunity for you to explore and experience how your academic skills, theories and practices within your major work in the ‘real world’. Each department that offers internships for credit will have their own list of internship partners as well as an Undergraduate Internship Co-ordinator to guide you through the process and assess your performance.

The Faculty of Arts is committed to helping students find local and regional [internships](#) with an extensive list of internship partners ranging from schools to media to other creative industries.

### **8.3 Looking Beyond Your Studies**

The best preparation for your future career is a good degree. It is important that you give priority to your studies over other things. However, four years (or five years for double degree students) pass quickly and once you have adjusted to university life, you do well to consider how to make the most of the opportunities of student life and how your choices as a student can influence your options as a graduate. Apart from the necessary qualification for further studies or good employment prospects, your studies offer you opportunities to explore your fields of interest, to get to know your strengths and hone your skills, to learn about different career paths, and to become acquainted with the community of alumni to which you will soon belong.

## What to do?

- *Keep an open mind.* Get to know what motivates you—apart from your GPA. Make use of the opportunities to extend your knowledge and nourish your interests that your courses offer. Define your goals in relation to the courses you choose and ask yourself why they matter to you. Look for opportunities to engage with the relevance of what you study not only in the classroom (in discussions and assignments) but also outside the classroom in the community. Consider your learning and development in the context of your whole university life and think about how extracurricular activities and opportunities during the summer break fit into your longer-term plan.
- *Try to find out whether you are interested in postgraduate studies* by looking for opportunities to develop research questions and experience the kind of work involved in research. Choose courses with assignments that involve research tasks and projects and find out whether you enjoy analysing issues and texts and reading critical literature. Attend seminars organized in the areas of your interests and discuss your interests with your teachers.
- *Learn about job and career expectations* by making use of opportunities for career exposure, meetings with alumni, participation in mentorship schemes, internships, and summer programmes. Discuss your career goals and plans with your teachers and make use of the career advice provided by CEDARS.
- *Prepare in time.* Do not wait until the last semester but begin to look ahead early, so that you can make use of the summer months for your plans. If you are interested in postgraduate studies, inform yourself about options and requirements as early as the middle of your second year of study because preparing an application will take time and must be coordinated with your normal study load. Here too, the key to success is balance and you can best pursue your aspirations by managing your time well.

## Whom to talk to?

- Consult *your teachers* to discuss your interests when working on essays and term papers. Knowing your strengths, limitations and interests, they can advise you on how to hone your skills and prepare for postgraduate studies.
- Ask the *Undergraduate Coordinator(s)* of your major(s) or *Programme Director* about opportunities for internships, summer programmes, and opportunities for research training.
- The *Faculty and School/Centre Offices* can give you information on career talks, outreach events, and mentorship programmes. Consult the Development and Alumni Affairs Office (DAAO) of the University on the HKU Mentorship programme.
- Attend the *talks by alumni* organized by the Programmes or student societies of the Arts Faculty, which will broaden your vision of the value of your studies and what you can achieve after graduation.

- Contact the *Careers and Placement Centre* at CEDARS for advice on how to optimize your career options.
- Attend the Job Fair offered by the Faculty of Arts as well as the HKU Career Fair.
- The Faculty of Arts also offers One-on-One Career Consultation for Arts students as part of their Career Development Initiatives.

### **Where to look?**

- The Faculty's website includes a guide to the [research postgraduate programmes](#) and [taught postgraduate programmes](#) of the Faculty of Arts at HKU.
- The [website](#) of the Graduate School at HKU provides information about the MA, MPhil and PhD programmes at HKU, postgraduate studentships, and how to apply for admission.
- The [website](#) of the Careers and Placement Centre of CEDARS provides information about career planning and preparation.
- The [website](#) of the Development and Alumni Affairs Office provides information about alumni services and activities, mentorship and alumni groups.
- Information of the HKU Arts Alumni Association is available [here](#).
- For more information and tips about postgraduate studies and career options, see also this website, [Graduate Prospects](#).
- The website and booking form for the Faculty of Arts' Career Development Initiatives can be found [here](#).

## 9. Resolving Difficulties that Affect Your Academic Progress

Studying at university is naturally challenging because its main purpose is to stretch and sharpen your intellectual, critical and expressive capabilities. It is also challenging because you are responsible for your own learning and are given a lot of freedom and opportunities in your student life. The challenge is largely a matter of balance and problems tend to arise from overloading, poor time management or unrealistic study plans that fail to take into account non-academic activities. No student can avoid the pressure of deadlines that tend to come in clusters at certain periods of the semester, so this is something you must prepare for. However, occasionally you may face additional pressure, for instance from a family situation or poor health, that threatens to push you off-balance. No matter what difficulty you may encounter, it is not likely to go away if you ignore it or withdraw from it, so it is best to look for ways to deal with it and make use of the support that the university can offer you.

### **Academic standard and discontinuation of studies**

Students with poor academic results may face discontinuation. Students shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:

- ❖ failed to complete successfully 36 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters; or
- ❖ failed to achieve an average Semester GPA of 1.0 or higher [out of 4.3] for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester); or
- ❖ exceeded the maximum period of registration (i.e. 6 years) without the approval of the Board of the Faculty.

### **What to do?**

- *Be prepared and prioritize.* Prepare yourself for challenges ahead by identifying in advance the tasks you have to complete and planning your time accordingly. Make a realistic study plan, prioritizing your studies but taking into account other activities and commitments (in campus life, part-time job, time with family and friends) that you intend to undertake. Try to maintain a steady pace in your study activities rather than relying on night-shifts before deadlines. A proactive attitude and balanced working style can prevent occasional difficulties from snowballing into major problems and prepare you better to respond to unexpected situations.

- *Address difficulties as learning opportunities.* Recognize difficult tasks, questions and topics in your courses as the areas where you can learn most and set your personal study goals in relation to such challenges. Discuss questions and ways of addressing the difficulties of individual courses with your teachers.
- *Tackle problems as they arise.* Notice when you seem to lose motivation, are avoiding your studies, or feel you cannot concentrate, which are signs that you need to reassess your study plan. Try to focus your interest and adjust your working style, but if the difficulties persist, talk to your teachers and classmates about how to stay on track. When other commitments or emergencies begin to encroach on your studies, respond promptly and talk to your teachers to avoid falling behind.
- *Make use of available support.* Problems tend to get bigger if you withdraw from them, whereas if you address them, you may begin to see them as a set of distinct but manageable challenges. It is important to remember that as a student you belong to a community and that there are people in your School, in the Faculty, and in the university, who can help you make sense of difficulties and advise you on how to overcome them. Seeking advice is the most sensible thing to do when you do not know how to solve a problem.

### **Whom to talk to?**

- Your *Faculty Academic Adviser* or any *Student Academic Advisers* can advise you on how to cope with the changes in university and they can refer you to other relevant office(s) for assistance.
- Your *teachers* care about your progress and are concerned if you do not come to class or do not submit your coursework. They can advise you on how to catch up with a particular course or completing an assignment. Do not wait for them to contact you but consult them early if you find it difficult to keep up with the course or have trouble meeting deadlines.
- *Faculty Office staff* can advise you on how to deal with personal or medical problems that affect your studies. They can help you get in touch with support services in the university and make an application for temporary leave of absence if your difficulties prevent you from attending classes. Make sure to approach the Faculty Office early because you cannot expect your leave application to be approved retrospectively.
- *CEDARS* can advise you on applying for financial assistance, how to develop good time management skills and deal with study-related stress. Professional counsellors at CEDARS can help you handle personal and family difficulties.
- When you are feeling unwell or are unable to attend classes or an examination because of illness, consult the *University Health Service*.



- *Your peers and family members* can offer emotional support and encouragement during your difficult times.

**Where to look?**

- The counselling service of CEDARS can be found [here](#).
- You can make an appointment with the [University Health Service](#) via HKU Portal or by phone.

## 10. Student Responsibilities

Academic advising offered by the Faculty of Arts will help you meet the challenges of your studies, take advantage of opportunities and avoid mistakes, but it is your responsibility to seek advice and follow it. If you adopt the following good practices, you will benefit most from the Faculty's advisory services:

- Inform yourself about policies, procedures, important dates and requirements and follow them in your course selection and other academic activities.
- Make full use of available information (regulations and syllabuses, handbooks, websites).
- Contact your Academic Adviser, your teachers, the Faculty or School Office staff when you need advice, keep appointments and come well-prepared to meetings.
- Keep abreast of your academic progress and seek advice proactively when you encounter difficulties or are uncertain what to do.
- Keep your contact details in your student record up-to-date and maintain your university email account so you can receive important messages that require your attention.
- Check your university email box regularly, read and respond promptly to messages sent to you by your Academic Adviser, your teachers or by Faculty or School Offices.
- **Committees for communication between teachers and students:** The Faculty always treasures students' feedback through communication. There are various Committees which regularly meet student representatives each year.

### Faculty level

#### Staff-Student Consultative Committee

- (i) Associate Dean (Undergraduate) (Chair);
- (ii) 3 members of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Arts, appointed by the Board of the Faculty of Arts;
- (iii) Student members on the Board of the Faculty of Arts; and
- (iv) A member from each of the related student associations appointed by the associations, and the Arts Association.

### Programme level

#### Staff-Student Consultative Committees

- (i) Head of the School/Centre/Department/programme;
- (ii) Teaching staff of the School/Centre/Department/programme; and
- (iii) Members of the relevant student association.

## 11. Plagiarism—A Disciplinary Offence

Plagiarism is defined as the **unacknowledged** use, as one's own, of work of another person, or AI-generated content, whether or not such work has been published. Self-plagiarism is defined as the reuse of one's own work without acknowledging that such work has been submitted elsewhere.

Plagiarism is **strictly prohibited** in all assignments and examinations. Students are reminded to use proper citations and provide sources if necessary.

### Useful links

- ❑ [Purdue University Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#) provides excellent guidelines on research and citations.
- ❑ HKU, "[What is Plagiarism?](#)"
- ❑ Faculty of Arts of HKU, "[Plagiarism in Assessments](#)"
- ❑ GenAI
  - "[Policy on Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence for Teaching and Learning](#)"
  - "[Bulk message from the VP\(T&L\) on GenAI in August 2024](#)"

**The University takes plagiarism very seriously and any student who commits the offence is liable to DISCIPLINARY ACTION.**

## 12. Contact and Resources

### Faculty, School and Centre Offices

Office	Location (Centennial Campus)	Email and Phone No.
<a href="#">Faculty of Arts</a>	Room 4.05, Run Run Shaw Tower	<a href="mailto:arts@hku.hk">arts@hku.hk</a> tel: 3917 8977
<a href="#">School of Chinese</a>	Room 8.01, Run Run Shaw Tower	<a href="mailto:chinese@hku.hk">chinese@hku.hk</a> tel: 3917 1199
<a href="#">School of English</a>	Room 7.35, Run Run Shaw Tower	<a href="mailto:english@hku.hk">english@hku.hk</a> tel: 3917 2749
<a href="#">School of Humanities</a>	Room 9.01, Run Run Shaw Tower	<a href="mailto:scohug@hku.hk">scohug@hku.hk</a> tel: 3917 4183
<a href="#">School of Modern Languages and Cultures</a>	Room 5.01, Run Run Shaw Tower	<a href="mailto:smlc@hku.hk">smlc@hku.hk</a> tel: 3917 2000
<a href="#">Centre of Buddhist Studies</a>	Room 4.15, Jockey Club Tower	<a href="mailto:buddhism@hku.hk">buddhism@hku.hk</a> tel: 3917 5009
<a href="#">Centre for Applied English Studies</a>	Room 6.60, Run Run Shaw Tower	<a href="mailto:caes@hku.hk">caes@hku.hk</a> tel: 3917 2004

### Undergraduate Coordinators

The list of Undergraduate Coordinators of Arts majors/minors and the structure of majors/minors available to BA and other students are posted on the Faculty's [website](#).

School/ Centre/ Programme	Type	UG Coordinator(s)
<b>School of Chinese</b>		
Chinese History and Culture	Major & Minor	<a href="#">Prof. S.F. Tang</a>
Chinese Language and Literature	Major & Minor	<a href="#">Prof. Vivien Wei</a>
Hong Kong Studies	Major & Minor	<a href="#">Prof. S.M. Leung</a>
Translation	Major & Minor	<a href="#">Prof. Eva Ng</a>
Chinese Language and Culture ( <i>for international students and non-Chinese speaking local students</i> ) (for cohort 2024-25 onwards)	Minor	<a href="#">Dr. Lena Chan</a>

School/ Centre/ Programme	Type	UG Coordinator(s)
<b>School of English</b>		
English Studies	Major & Minor	<a href="#">Prof. Ricky Chan</a>
<b>School of Humanities</b>		
Art History	Major & Minor	<a href="#">Prof. Vivian Sheng</a>
Comparative Literature	Major & Minor	<a href="#">Prof. Dan Vukovich</a>
Gender Studies	Major & Minor	<a href="#">Prof. Elizabeth LaCouture</a>
General Linguistics	Major & Minor	Sem 1: <a href="#">Prof. Yoonsang Song</a> Sem 2: <a href="#">Prof. Jonathan Havenhill</a>
History	Major & Minor	<a href="#">Prof. Devika Shankar</a>
Music	Major & Minor	<a href="#">Prof. Youn Kim</a>
Philosophy	Major & Minor	<a href="#">Prof. Jennifer Nado</a>
<b>School of Modern Languages and Cultures</b>		
Global and Area Studies (for cohort 2023-24 onwards)	Major	<a href="#">Prof. James Fichter</a>
Japanese Studies Japanese Culture, Japanese Language	Major Minor, Minor	<a href="#">Mr. Takuro Hashimoto</a>
Korean Studies	Major & Minor	<a href="#">Ms. Kangsoon Lee</a>
Arabic	Minor	<a href="#">Mr. Amjad Refai</a>
French (Note: Major is for cohorts 2023-24 and before)	Minor	<a href="#">Mr. Sylvain Holtermann</a>
German (Note: Major is for cohorts 2023-24 and before)	Minor	<a href="#">Dr. CHONG Li</a>
Italian (Note: Major is for cohorts 2023-24 and before)	Minor	<a href="#">Dr. Nadia Camporese</a>
Portuguese	Minor	<a href="#">Ms. Dora Almeida</a>
Spanish (Note: Major is for cohorts 2023-24 and before)	Minor	<a href="#">Ms. Rocío Blasco-García</a>
Swedish	Minor	<a href="#">Mr. Lars Svensson</a>
Thai	Minor	<a href="#">Dr. TIRANANT Phornrat</a>
American Studies (for cohorts 2023-24 and before)	Major & Minor	<a href="#">Prof. Monica Steinberg</a>

<b>School/ Centre/ Programme</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>UG Coordinator(s)</b>
China Studies (Arts Stream) (for cohorts 2023-24 and before)	Major & Minor	<a href="#">Prof. James Fichter</a>
European Studies (for cohorts 2023-24 and before)	Major & Minor	<a href="#">Prof. James Fichter</a>
African Studies (for cohorts 2023-24 and before)	Minor	<a href="#">Prof. Samson Bezabeh</a>
<b>Centre of Buddhist Studies</b>		
Buddhist Studies	Minor	<a href="#">Prof. Klaus-Dieter Mathes</a>
<b>Faculty of Arts</b>		
Global Creative Industries (for cohorts 2024-25 and before)	Major & Minor	<a href="#">Dr. Isaac Gagne</a>
Global Creative Industries (as Major 2 for non-BA(GCIN) students of cohort 2025-26 onwards) [Note: the structure and requirements are different than the GCIN major listed under the BA(GCIN) degree]	Major	<a href="#">Prof. Tim Gruenewald</a>
<b>Centre for Applied English Studies</b>		
English language enhancement requirement courses	UG5	CAES1001: <a href="#">Dr. Alice Yau</a> CAES92xx: <a href="#">Mr. Sam Cole</a>

## 13. Important Dates for the Academic Year 2025-2026

You are advised to read through the Important Dates for 2025-2026 on the Faculty's [website](#). This will facilitate your overall planning in course selection.

### JUL/AUG 2025

Date	Course of Action
From Jul 28, 2025	Online course information available on the Student Information System ( <a href="#">SIS</a> ) for planning <u>only</u> . New students will be able to access the course information after performing master registration.  (Courses of Summer Semester will not be available before Jan 2026.)
Aug 5, 2025 (10:00) to Aug 11, 2025 (16:00)  Note: Students <u>cannot</u> make any course changes on SIS during the Suspension Period from 09:00 to 14:29 on Aug 6, 2025.	SIS open for course selection on Aug 5, 2025 to:  (a) Year 4 and above students: - Semester 1/Full-year courses starting from 10:00; - Semester 2 courses starting from 10:10;  (b) Year 3 students: - Semester 1/Full-year courses starting from 12:00; - Semester 2 courses starting from 12:10; and  (c) Year 2 students: - Semester 1/Full-year courses starting from 14:00; - Semester 2 courses starting from 14:10.
After Aug 11, 2025 (16:00)	Students are advised to check their course selections on SIS and report to the Faculty immediately if any discrepancies arise.
Aug 19, 2025 (10:00) to Aug 25, 2025 (16:00)  Note: Students <u>cannot</u> make any course changes on SIS during the Suspension Period from 12:00 on Aug 20 to 14:29 on Aug 21, 2025.	SIS open for course selection on Aug 19, 2025 to Year 1 students and Year 0 (incoming exchange/visiting) students:  (a) Semester 1/Full-year courses starting from 10:00; and (b) Semester 2 courses starting from 10:10.
After Aug 25, 2025 (16:00)	Year 1 and Year 0 students are advised to check their course selections on SIS and report to the Faculty immediately if any discrepancies arise.

**FIRST SEMESTER: SEP 1 – DEC 23, 2025**

Date	Course of Action
Sep 1, 2025	First Day of Teaching
Sep 1, 2025 (10:00) to Sep 15, 2025 (16:00)  Note: Students <u>cannot</u> make any course changes on SIS during the Suspension Period from 12:00 to 16:59 on Sep 2, 2025.	SIS open for revising courses, if deemed necessary, of Semester 1 and Semester 2 on Sep 1, 2025 to:  (a) Year 1 and Year 0 students starting from 10:00; (b) Year 2 students starting from 12:00; (c) Year 3 students starting from 14:00; and (d) Year 4 and above students starting from 16:00.  Note: Students have to finish reviewing the Semester 1/Full-year courses before revising the Semester 2 courses.
After Sep 15, 2025 (16:00)	Students are advised to check the course selection record on SIS and report to the Faculty immediately if any discrepancies arise.
Oct 13 to Oct 18, 2025	Reading/Field Trip Week
Nov 29, 2025	Last Day of Teaching
Dec 1 to Dec 5, 2025	Revision Period
Dec 6 to Dec 23, 2025	Assessment Period

**SECOND SEMESTER: JAN 19 – MAY 26, 2026**

Date	Course of Action
Jan 19, 2026	First Day of Teaching
Jan 19, 2026 (10:00) to Feb 2, 2026 (16:00)  Note: Students <u>cannot</u> make any course changes on SIS during the Suspension Period from 12:00 to 16:59 on Jan 20, 2026.	SIS open for revising courses, if deemed necessary, of Semester 2 and selecting courses of the Summer Semester (optional) on Jan 19, 2026 to:  (a) Year 1 and Year 0 students starting from 10:00; (b) Year 2 students starting from 12:00; (c) Year 3 students starting from 14:00; and (d) Year 4 and above students starting from 16:00.  Note: - Students have to finish reviewing the Semester 2 courses before selecting courses of the Summer Semester. - Final-year students are required to seek prior approval from the Faculty for taking courses in the Summer Semester.
After Feb 2, 2026 (16:00)	Students are advised to check their course selections on SIS and report to the Faculty immediately if any discrepancies arise.
Feb 17 to Feb 23, 2026	Class Suspension Period for the Lunar New Year
Mar 9 to Mar 14, 2026	Reading/Field Trip Week
May 2, 2026	Last Day of Teaching
May 4 to May 9, 2026	Revision Period
May 11 to May 26, 2026	Assessment Period



### OPTIONAL SUMMER SEMESTER: JUN 29 – AUG 22, 2026

Date	Course of Action
Jun 15, 2026 (10:00) to Jun 22, 2026 (16:00)  Note: Students <u>cannot</u> make any course changes on SIS during the Suspension Period from 12:00 to 16:59 on Jun 16, 2026.	SIS open for revising courses, if deemed necessary, of Summer Semester to all current students (except Final-year students).  Note: Final-year students are required to seek prior approval from the Faculty for taking course(s) in the Summer Semester.
After Jun 22, 2026 (16:00)	Students are advised to check their course selections on SIS and report to the Faculty immediately if any discrepancies arise.
Jun 29 to Aug 22, 2026	Teaching and Assessment Period

#### Notes:

- The normal study load is 30 credits in Semester 1 and Semester 2. Students may take 24 to 36 credits without seeking the Faculty's approval in these semesters.
- If students plan to only take 24 credits in Semester 1, they are advised to take 36 credits in Semester 2 or 1-2 courses in the Summer Semester in order to complete the degree requirements on time in 4 academic years (or 5 academic years for double degrees). They can also consider taking suitable courses abroad in the Summer Semester and apply for credit transfer.
- Students can enroll in up to 12 credits of courses in Summer Semester, provided that they have not enrolled in more than 60 credits in Semester 1 and Semester 2 of the same academic year.
- The maximum number of credits to be enrolled in an academic year (including the summer semester) is 72 credits.

Students are required to submit [a special application](#) to the Faculty if they plan to adjust their study load of a semester or an academic year outside the said ranges.

## 14. Selected Useful Websites

### Advisory Information

In addition to this handbook, your main source of information regarding all aspects of the Arts curricula is the Faculty's [website](#). It offers detailed information about the courses you can study and their requirements, the regulations you have to follow, the system of assessment, and opportunities to gain scholarships and study abroad. It also includes links to School/Centre websites as well as information and support services in the University.

The **Regulations and Syllabuses** of your degree are indispensable to your successful planning of your studies. They are available online at the above-mentioned website. In addition, the Faculty also publishes a set of [guidance notes on course selection](#) at the beginning of the academic year, which are accessible online and were sent in print to all first-year students.

The four Schools and two Centres of the Faculty of Arts maintain their own **websites with information** on majors/minors and detailed course descriptions and may also publish yearly **handbooks** with information about major/minor requirements and current course offerings.

<b>BA Programme</b>	<a href="https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/BA">https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/BA</a>
<b>BA(GCIN) Programme</b>	<a href="https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/gcin">https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/gcin</a>
<b>BA(HDT) Programme</b>	<a href="https://www.hdt.arts.hku.hk/">https://www.hdt.arts.hku.hk/</a>
<b>BA&amp;BEng(AI&amp;DataSc) Programme</b>	<a href="https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/aihum">https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/aihum</a>
<b>BA&amp;LLB Programme</b>	<a href="https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/BALLB">https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/BALLB</a>
<b>Notes of Guidance on Course Selection</b>	<a href="https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/course-selection">https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/course-selection</a>
<b>UG Coordinators and structure of Arts majors/minors</b>	<a href="https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/BA/majors-minors">https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/BA/majors-minors</a>
<b>Faculty Internship &amp; Career Development Initiatives</b>	<a href="https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/student-global-experience/HKU-arts-internship-career-preparation-activities">https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/student-global-experience/HKU-arts-internship-career-preparation-activities</a>

## Exchange Opportunities

HKU Worldwide Undergraduate Student Exchange Programme (HKUWW)	<a href="https://intlaffairs.hku.hk/why-study-abroad">https://intlaffairs.hku.hk/why-study-abroad</a>
Faculty of Arts Exchange Programme (FAEP)	<a href="https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/student-global-experience/study-abroad">https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/student-global-experience/study-abroad</a>
School of Modern Languages and Cultures: Exchange Programmes in Japan	<a href="https://www.web.smlc.hku.hk/japanese-exchange">https://www.web.smlc.hku.hk/japanese-exchange</a>

## Student Services and Facilities

Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS)	<a href="http://cedars.hku.hk/">http://cedars.hku.hk/</a>
HKU Portal ⇒ Login to the Student Information System, SIS	<a href="https://hkuportal.hku.hk/">https://hkuportal.hku.hk/</a>
Reference material of SIS	<a href="http://intraweb.hku.hk/reserved_1/sis_student/sis/SIS-reference-materials.html">http://intraweb.hku.hk/reserved_1/sis_student/sis/SIS-reference-materials.html</a>
Academic Advising and Scholarships Office	<a href="http://aas.hku.hk/">http://aas.hku.hk/</a>
Common Core Curriculum	<a href="http://commoncore.hku.hk/">http://commoncore.hku.hk/</a>
HKU Libraries	<a href="http://lib.hku.hk/">http://lib.hku.hk/</a>
Academic Support and Examinations Section ⇒ applications for testimonial, transcript, etc.	<a href="https://ase.hku.hk/asoffice/">https://ase.hku.hk/asoffice/</a>
Examinations Office	<a href="http://www.exam.hku.hk/">http://www.exam.hku.hk/</a>
University Health Service	<a href="http://www.uhs.hku.hk/">http://www.uhs.hku.hk/</a>
Centre For Sports and Exercise	<a href="https://www.cse.hku.hk/">https://www.cse.hku.hk/</a>
Information Technology Services	<a href="http://www.its.hku.hk/services/students">http://www.its.hku.hk/services/students</a>
General Education Unit	<a href="https://www.cedars.hku.hk/ge/programme">https://www.cedars.hku.hk/ge/programme</a>
Graduate School	<a href="https://gradsch.hku.hk/">https://gradsch.hku.hk/</a>
HKU Arts Students' Association	instagram ( <a href="https://www.instagram.com/hku_artsasso">@hku_artsasso</a> )

## Alumni Connections

Development and Alumni Affairs Office	<a href="http://www.alumni.hku.hk/">http://www.alumni.hku.hk/</a>
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HKU Arts Alumni Association

<http://www.alumni.hku.hk/hkuaaa/>

August 8, 2025