

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF ARTS

Notes of Guidance on Course Selection (BA&LLB)

Course selection schedule and procedures

Please refer to the course selection schedule and procedures online at:
<http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/course-selection>

Regulations and guidelines

Before the course selection, students are advised to read carefully the Regulations and Syllabuses of the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (BA&LLB) programme, and other information listed on the [BA&LLB programme website](#).

(A) BA&LLB curriculum

The BA&LLB programme consists of **a total of 300 credits** over a normative period of five years of study. Please click [here](#) for the curriculum structure.

(B) Declaration of an optional minor

Students can declare an optional minor from Year 2 onwards. They can make the declaration on SIS and revise it during the course selection periods up to Semester 1 of their Year 5 studies. If any changes on the minor declaration are required afterwards, please approach the Faculty of Law for approval. Completion of a minor will not be shown on the transcript if students did not make the relevant declaration on SIS during their BA&LLB studies. Please note that a course cannot be double-counted to fulfil the requirement of more than a major (or a minor).

(C) Semester study load

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 you plan to only take 24 credits in Semester 1, you are advised to take 36 credits in Semester 2 or 1-2 courses in the Summer Semester to catch up on the progress. The maximum number of credits to be taken in one academic year (including the summer semester) is 72 credits. With the special permission of the Faculty, students may exceed the annual study load of 72 credits in a given academic year, provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 360 credits for the normative study period of five years, unless students are required to make up for failed credits.

Concerning the calculation of semester study load, the credits of "full-year" courses (e.g. 12 credits) will be divided equally between Semester 1 and Semester 2 (i.e. 6+6 credits).

(D) Late add/ drop of courses

Requests for changes of enrolled courses after the designated add/drop period of the relevant semester shall **not** normally be considered.

(E) Timetable clashes

Students' course selection in SIS **should not** result in any timetable clashes as this will affect students' class participation, and thus the final results, of the courses concerned.

(F) Special requests

If students wish to make any of the following special arrangements for course selection related to their BA&LLB studies, they have to comply with the application procedures:

- Leave of absence for Semester 1 and/or Semester 2, or a shorter period
- Undertaking special study load, i.e. more than 36 credits or less than 24 credits in one semester
- Exemption from compulsory/prerequisite courses for fulfilling the requirements of the University, BA&LLB curriculum, majors/minors or individual courses
- Credit transfer for exchange studies

Year 1 to Year 3 students: Students are required to submit an application to the Arts Faculty Office for approval. The relevant forms are available at <http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/forms>.

Year 4 and above students: Since the Faculty of Law handles BA&LLB Year 4 and above student matters, students are required to submit an application to the [Law Faculty Office](#) direct for approval.

(G) Failure in courses

Students are required to complete not fewer than 300 credits including all the compulsory courses/requirements in order to graduate. To make up for any failed credits, students may retake the failed course(s) or take (an)other course(s) in lieu, whichever is appropriate.

(H) 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 for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester); or
- exceeded the maximum period of registration (i.e. 8 years) without the approval of the Board of the Studies for the BA&LLB.

(I) Honours Classifications

Students will obtain a degree for BA and a degree for LLB simultaneously when they complete their BA&LLB studies. Among the 300 credits of curricula requirements, 240 credits are counted towards each degree. Please click [here](#) for details of the determination of honours classifications of these degrees.

Programme administration

Students are welcome to seek academic advice from the BA&LLB Programme Team:

- Programme Director (Arts): [Professor Anya Adair](#)
- Programme Director (Law): [Professor Marco Wan](#)

For procedural matters of the BA&LLB curricula (e.g. see Section F above), Year 1-3 students can contact the Faculty of Arts (arts.ba.llb@hku.hk), and Year 4 and above students can contact the Faculty of Law (lawzoom@hku.hk). For course arrangements, please contact the relevant teaching units direct.

August 2026