

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (MA)**

*(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: Art History; Chinese Historical Studies; Chinese Language and Literature; English Studies; Linguistics; Literary and Cultural Studies; 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;<sup>1</sup>
- (b) shall comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (c) shall hold
  - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours 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 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;
  - (iii) 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 honours with a major in Chinese or a closely related subject;
  - (iv) 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 honours with a major in English 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 Linguistics, a Bachelor's degree with honours with a major in Linguistics 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 Translation, a professional qualification deemed to be equivalent to a Bachelor's degree with honours; and
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

### **MA 2 Qualifying examination**

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or

<sup>1</sup> 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 Chinese Historical Studies and the MA in Chinese Language and Literature); and
- (b) IELTS: a minimum overall Band of 7 with no subtest lower than 5.5.

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 shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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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.
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### **MA 4 Period of study**

- (a) The curriculum shall normally extend
    - (i) in the field of Art History, 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 two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of four academic years;
    - (iii) in the field of English Studies, 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;
    - (iv) in the field of Linguistics, over one academic year of full-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years; and
    - (v) in the field of Literary and Cultural Studies, 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.
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### **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.
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### **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 amount 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.

### **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) 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 MA Board of Examiners, 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 MA Board of Examiners.
- (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 MA Board of Examiners, 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.

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### **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.

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### **MA 11 Supplementary examination**

Candidates who are unable because of illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves for a supplementary examination of the same course. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of absence from any examination. The supplementary examination shall be held at a time to be determined by the MA Board of Examiners. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in the supplementary examination shall be considered as failure on the first attempt.

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## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS**

### **CHINESE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

#### PURPOSE

The curriculum aims to explore topics of interest in the field of Chinese Studies, to familiarize students with the latest trends in and the methodological approaches to the study of Chinese Language and Chinese Literature and to prepare them to engage in independent scholarly activities by honing their research and presentation skills.

#### CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

Students in this curriculum are required to complete 8 elective courses and a capstone experience (dissertation), i.e. to complete 60 credits in 4 consecutive semesters. Teaching and assessment are held from September of the first academic year until August of the second academic year. There is one session of two contact hours per week for each elective course.

16 elective courses will be selected from the following 4 categories and be offered in each cycle.

#### A Chinese Language

**CHIN6101. Special Topics in Chinese Etymology (6 credits)**

The course is composed of three parts. The first part focuses on Chinese paleographic sources and their application. On the basis of fundamental etymological theories, an in-depth introduction to the recently excavated paleographic sources will be provided, with emphasis on the synthesis between excavated sources and transmitted texts so as to examine the methods and theories relating to the utilization of paleographic sources in the historical and cultural studies of early China. The second part will introduce to students the essential features of the Chinese characters, the principles underlying their constructions, and the process of their evolution. The third part aims to examine the characteristics of the modern Chinese writing system and its functions in connection with the rapid changing modern world. In ancient Chinese, most words were monosyllabic and there was a close correspondence between characters and words. In modern Chinese, characters do not necessarily correspond to words, and a character almost always corresponds to a single syllable that is also a morpheme. As the Chinese scripts underwent many changes over the course of time, the present-day standard script (kaishu) is written in strokes and has lost most of its pictorial quality which can be founded in the earliest writing.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CHIN6102. Special Topics in Chinese Phonology (6 credits)**

This course gives a thorough investigation into the distinctive characteristics of the history of Chinese phonology. Apart from rhyme books and rhyme tables which have large significance on the reconstruction of Middle Chinese, recently excavated phonological resources do provide researchers with valuable materials for the study of both Old and Middle Chinese. Key issues including the nature of *Qieyun*, the principles of rhyme tables as well as sound changes from Middle Chinese to Modern Standard Chinese and Cantonese will be examined with emphasis on the application of excavated phonological resources. Traditional and recent scholarly research on Chinese phonology will also be introduced.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CHIN6104. Special Topics in Ancient Chinese (6 credits)**

Ancient Chinese is a written form of the classical language used by the Han nationality. This course will provide students with a comprehensive introduction to a broad range of significant topics and issues in the research of ancient Chinese. Research areas highlighted in the course will include Chinese lexicology, semantics, grammar, exegetics, and etymology. Aside from synchronic discussions on the language, this course places particular focus on a diachronic analysis of the language characteristics as revealed by sources from different historical periods, aiming to explore and examine the internal principles and rules governing the language development and changes. After completing this course, students are expected to have profound understanding on the language system of ancient Chinese, enabling them to enhance their capability in reading classical Chinese texts and lay a solid foundation for further research in Chinese philology and linguistics.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CHIN6105. Special Topics in Modern Chinese (6 credits)**

This course introduces and examines a number of special topics in modern Chinese. The selected topics, including the characteristics of Chinese language, ambiguity in modern Chinese, and Chinese language, society and culture, will be comprehensively discussed from various perspectives including etymology, grammar, lexicology, pragmatics and rhetoric. Issues like the special features and common features of modern Chinese, the overlapping of linguistic form and meaning, the mutual relationship

and interaction between Chinese language and society/culture, and the development and usage of modern Chinese are explored and analyzed with relevant examples. After completion of this course, students will have a concrete and in-depth understanding of the characteristics, usage, and social and cultural embodiment of modern Chinese.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **CHIN7102. Studies in Cantonese (6 credits)**

Cantonese, being a language with a long history, has close relationship with ancient Chinese language and a few minority languages. Modern Cantonese is thus different from Modern Standard Chinese and other Chinese dialects in phonological, lexical and syntactic aspects. Based on a fundamental understanding of the history of Yue dialects, a number of issues in Cantonese concerning its pronunciation, written forms, cultural elements as well as its application in modern society will be discussed in this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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## **B Chinese Literature**

### **CHIN6201. Special Topics in Classical Poetry (6 credits)**

The course mainly introduces classical poetry which is based on the study of the prominent Chinese poet Du Fu, 712-770. In the introduction, students will learn to distinguish the definition of poetry (shi) and song (ge). The forms and prosody of ancient-style poetry (gu-ti shi) and modern-style poetry (jin-ti shi) are also introduced. In the monograph, the course discusses about Du Fu's Confucianism and explains the three respects of Du Fu: Sage of Poetry/Poet-sage (shi sheng), History of Verse/Poet-historian (shi shi), and Sage of Love (qing sheng). The course will also analyse the themes, styles, forms and subject-matter of Du Fu's poetry based on Du Fu's master pieces. The last section of the course is about the reception of Du Fu and his poetry from mid-Tang to Qing and the reinvention of the poet in modern times.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **CHIN6202. Special Topics in *ci* and *qu* Verse (6 credits)**

This course comprises two parts. The first part provides a general survey of *ci* poetry from its beginning in the Tang period to the Qing period, with special emphasis on origin, generic features, stylistic schools, principal exponents, and historical development. The diverse forms and styles are examined through discussion of selected works taken from the most representative as well as best known authors. As a postgraduate level course, students will be introduced to key contributions to the academic study of *ci* and be expected to become familiar with scholarly debates in *ci* research during class discussion and be able to refer to them in the completion of assessment exercises. The second part of this course focuses on the rich theatrical traditions flourishing during the Yuan, Ming, and Qing periods and the methods used to approach these traditions. It helps students use the major collections of the Yuan variety plays and Southern plays, the Ming and Qing *chuanqi* plays, theories of theatrics, and records of the Qing regional popular theater. It also helps students develop skills of interpreting the best-known works and engage in current scholarly discussions, with an aim of helping them develop their own research interests that can enrich these discussions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **CHIN6203. Special Topics in Ancient Prose (6 credits)**

The course consists of two parts. The first part traces the development of prose in ancient China and selects famous pieces from *Zuo Zhuan*, *Guo Yu*, *Zhanguo Ce*, *Shiji*, etc. for detailed analysis and discussion. The second part focuses on a critical appreciation and thorough discussion of representative pieces of prose by Han Yu, one of the most famous and important prose writers in the Tang dynasty.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **CHIN6208. Special Topics in Modern and Contemporary Literature (6 credits)**

This course will introduce and examine special topics in modern and contemporary literature in Chinese with emphasis on historical and cultural context, artistic achievement, as well as the influence of western thoughts. Selected works will be analyzed and commented with reference to literary theories and background contexts. A series of topics including the complicated relationship between Chinese literature and politics in the twentieth century, the evolution of realism and development of modernism, Romanticism, New Historicism etc., will be discussed. The objectives of this course are to initiate critical discussion of writers, works and literature phenomena of modern and contemporary literature that arouse students' attention to the particularities and development of Chinese literature, and to develop students' analyzing ability.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **CHIN6209. Studies in Literary Creation (6 credits)**

This course aims to cultivate students to produce original works of modern poem and prose. The mechanics of literary creation will be explored in the light of modern literary theories. This course consists of two parts: (1) Introduction to the development of Chinese contemporary poems, the language and rhythm of modern poem, the writing skill of modern poem including metaphor, image, symbol, irony and dramatization. (2) Introduction to the development of Chinese contemporary prose, the artistic features of prose, the writing skill of narrative prose, lyric prose and argumentative prose. Selected works of representative contemporary poets and prose writers will be closely examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **CHIN7101. Literature from Hong Kong and Taiwan (6 credits)**

This course will introduce and examine the 20<sup>th</sup> century Hong Kong and Taiwanese literature through representative writers and their works in various forms like novels, poetry and critical texts, with particular discussions on the social, cultural and historical issues arising from modern Hong Kong and Taiwan contexts, e.g. the quest for a Hong Kong identity, the urban imagination of Hong Kong, the handover of 1997, the major intellectual currents and literary movements/debates including realism, modernism, nativism, the debates surrounding Taiwanese identity and the periodization of Taiwanese history, and the notions of postcolonialism and postmodernism. Selected works will be analyzed and commented with reference to literary theories and background contexts, and investigated through the critical engagement of recent academic scholarship. The issues from literary communication, sinophone studies, minor literature in relation to the context of Hong Kong and Taiwanese literature will also be explored.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **CHIN7103. Classical Chinese Fiction (6 credits)**

This course offers an in-depth survey of classical Chinese fiction. Through an overview of its origin and evolution, the characteristics, content and artistic merit of classical Chinese fiction in various

historical periods will be analyzed. Selected topics in and representative pieces of traditional Chinese fictional narratives, including Wei-Jin biji novels (literary sketches), Tang chuanqi (short tales), Song and Yuan huaben (script for storytelling), Ming and Qing nihuben (short novels written in the style of scripts for storytelling), zhanghai novels (novels in chapter format) and short novels, will be deeply examined with attention to traditional and recent scholarship so as to familiarize students with the development, defining characteristics as well as the current status of research of classical Chinese fiction.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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## C Chinese Culture

### **CHIN6301. Special Topics in Confucian Classics (6 credits)**

The course is composed of three parts. The first part focuses on the *Book of Documents, Shujing*, a collection of rhetorical prose attributed to figures of ancient China and served as the foundation of Chinese political philosophy for over 2,000 years. The political philosophy originated in the Zhou period, which had formulated the key belief that became fundamental to Chinese thought until nowadays, will be examined. The second part thoroughly examines the intense debates over the authenticity of *Zuo Zhuan* with comparison of *Guo Yu*, another ancient book of the Spring and Autumn period. The authorship, style and nature of *Zuo Zhuan* will also be discussed. The third part focuses on *Lun Yu* or the *Analects*, widely considered as the most reliable record of the Confucius' conversations with his contemporaries in the past. The authenticity and documentation issues of the *Analects* will be examined in depth. The image of Confucius as well as his ideas will also be discussed through analysis of selected passages from the *Analects*.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **CHIN6304. Special Topics in Chinese Culture (6 credits)**

This course comprises two parts. The first part will examine and analyze traditional Chinese culture in different dimensions, including political, religious, ethnic, social, etc. With regard to politics, the reasons why autocracy appeared to become a long-term political policy after unity of dynastic China in 221 BC will be explored. In the field of religion, the Chinese folk beliefs and personification of folk gods and goddess will be discussed. China's continuous communication with ethnic minorities such as the Hun, Turk, Tubo, Uyghur, Jurchen, Mongolian, etc. and the interchange of material civilization as well as cultural is also an interesting topic to investigate. In addition, the influences of orthodox theories and Confucianism on gender equality, female status and power, chastity concept, and homosexuality will be reviewed. The second part of this course is an in-depth study in Chinese culture by looking into humble and tangible topics such as practices in cuisine, imagery, hunting, inheritance and various other customs. Observing the customary practices by common people yields more perspectives. The discussed topics can map the transformation of traditional and mainstream Chinese culture in face of challenges from Chinese regional, foreign and modern cultures.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **CHIN7006. An Introduction to Documentary Sources in Chinese (6 credits)**

This course will appeal not only to students majoring in Chinese history but to students looking to incorporate Chinese sources into their research. Both academic knowledge and practical skills are emphasized across the course curriculum. The academic knowledge imparted ranges from explanations of the classification and circulation of traditional Chinese documents to an introduction to the ideas of noted bibliographers, the special features of major overseas Chinese collections and the latest research output on documentary sources in Chinese published by foreign scholars. In addition to demonstrating how to search different kinds of documentary resources, including Internet resources,

the practical skills delivered include the ability to read primary historical documents. Students are also presented with case studies elaborating the use of documentary sources in pursuit of historical research.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CHIN7008. Intellectual History of Pre-Qin China (6 credits)**

This course investigates the origin and development of the pre-Qin Chinese thought. With an understanding of the contents and development of the pre-Qin Chinese thought, students can acquire a solid background in Chinese intellectual history and thereby can decipher the intellectual and cultural foundation behind the historical developments of China thereafter. The bulk of the course will be about the various schools of thought of the Eastern Zhou period. The course will center upon the four major pre-Qin schools of thought: Confucianism, Mohism, Daoism and Legalism. As a supplement, other minor schools of thought will also be covered.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CHIN7009. Traditional Chinese Thought and Its Modern Transformation (6 credits)**

This course attempts to explore the characteristics of traditional Chinese thought, and investigate how it underwent a modern transformation in a period of rapid change in the nineteenth century. The course will analyze how the pre-modern Chinese mode of thinking in the political, economic, and social aspects was dominated by Confucianism and later Neo-Confucianism, and how it eventually transformed itself into the modern times under the challenges of Western learning in the late Qing. In addition, the contemporary meanings of those traditional ideas nowadays shared by the Chinese will also be discussed in the lectures.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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D Seminar

**CHIN7104. Seminar: Studies in Chinese Language and Literature (6 credits)**

This seminar course comprises two parts. The first part introduces the methodology and skills of raising an academic issue or setting a topic for discussion in the field of Chinese language and literature as well as the organization and presentation of findings or personal viewpoints. Examples will be provided for elaboration and students' reference. In the second part, students will think about and raise an issue individually, and present their findings respectively in both oral and written form for comment, discussion as well as interchange of ideas and information with their peers and teachers at scheduled sessions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**Capstone Experience**

**CHIN7995. Capstone Experience: Dissertation in Chinese Language and Literature (12 credits)**

In addition to the elective courses, students are required to complete a dissertation as a capstone experience. In their second academic year of study, each of them will be assigned a dissertation adviser in October and has to submit a dissertation topic for approval in April of the following year. They meet with their advisers and write their dissertations under one-to-one supervision. The dissertation, which should be a minimum of 10,000 characters in Chinese or 8,000 words in English,

should be submitted by August 1 of the second academic year of study.  
Assessment: 100% coursework

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**Medium of Instruction**

Courses will be conducted in Cantonese or Putonghua.