

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; and Literary and Cultural Studies. 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;¹
- (b) shall comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (c) shall hold
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University;
 - (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; or
 - (vi) a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; 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 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.

¹ 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.

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 and Chinese Language and Literature, 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 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 7 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.
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MA 8 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 9 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.

MA 10 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.