

## Postgraduate Programs and Research

The postgraduate programs in the Division are all interdisciplinary in nature. A significant focus of interest is on studies related to China, Hong Kong and the wider Asia-Pacific region.

The Division offers both research and taught programs. The taught program leads to the degree of MA in Humanities. Two other taught programs, MA in China Studies and MA in Liberal Studies, are, however, offered jointly with the Division of Social Science. Research programs lead to the degrees of MPhil and PhD in all four areas of linguistics, literature, history and anthropology, and philosophy and religion.

Candidates for all postgraduate degrees should normally be honors graduates in relevant disciplines, and those seeking admission to the PhD program will generally have an MA or MPhil degree. They are all expected to be proficient in Chinese and English at the postgraduate level and required to attend courses. The greater part of the training for those in the MPhil and PhD programs is, however, devoted to research and the preparation of a thesis. These students should refer to the section on regulations governing postgraduate studies for course and residency requirements.

### Admission Requirements

All applicants must meet the general requirements for admission set by the University as stated in this Calendar. For admission to the PhD program, a master's degree thesis or a substantial essay in either English or Chinese must be submitted by the applicant.

## Graduate Diploma (GD) and Master of Arts (MA) Programs in Humanities

### Program Director:

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(Associate Professor of Humanities)

The GD and MA programs in Humanities are non-government funded coursework degree programs that emphasize interdisciplinary training in Humanities. It can be pursued either as an end in itself or in preparation for further study.

### Admission Requirements

Applicants should have obtained a bachelor's degree from this University or a recognized institution, or obtained an approved equivalent qualification; and satisfied the Division's requirement as to their fitness as well as their English ability to pursue postgraduate study. In addition, students are normally expected to be proficient in Chinese at the postgraduate level.

### Tuition Fees

The total tuition fees for the GD and MA programs are \$45,000 for 18 credits and \$67,500 for 27 credits respectively. There is no reduction in tuition fees for students who transfer credits into the GD/MA program. Students who wish to take extra credits and who need to retake or substitute for withdrawn or failed course(s) are required to pay the pro-rata fee for the course(s) involved.

### Program Requirements

Students enrolled in the GD program are required to complete a minimum of 18 credits of coursework. Of the 18 credits taken, 9 must be in one of the following fields of concentration: Chinese Language and Literature, History and Anthropology, and Philosophy and Religion; the rest may be in the other two fields.

Students enrolled in the MA program are required to complete a minimum of 27 credits of coursework. Of the 27 credits taken, 15 must be in one of the following fields of concentration: Language and Literature, History and Anthropology, and Philosophy and Religion; the rest may be in the other two fields.

A list of courses to be offered under each of the above-mentioned fields of concentration will be provided to students before the beginning of each semester. Students are required to select their courses in consultation with their academic advisors.

Under special circumstances and with the endorsement of the students' advisors and the approval of the Taught Postgraduate Committee (TPGC), students may also take a maximum of 6 credits of independent study courses to fulfill their course requirements.

Students' fields of concentration for both the GD and MA programs will be indicated on their transcripts.

### Credit Transfer

Credit transfer may be granted for appropriate Humanities courses completed elsewhere with satisfactory grades. Application must be made to the TPGC during the first semester after admission. Subject to the approval of the TPGC, a maximum of 9 credits can be transferred from other institutions to the MA program, whereas a maximum of 6 credits can be transferred to the GD program.

Subject to the approval of the TPGC, graduates from the GD program in Humanities may transfer up to 18 credits of coursework to the MA program in Humanities. In other words, these students can complete the MA degree by completing 9 more credits of coursework or three courses. Of the three courses, two must be in their field of concentration and one in another field.

### **Program Duration**

#### GD Program

There will be both part-time and full-time modes of study. The normative period for completing the program is one year for full-time students and two years for part-time students. The maximum time allowed for both full-time and part-time study in the GD program is three years, which will be in effect whether or not the student is in continuous registration.

#### MA Program

There will be both part-time and full-time modes of study. The normative period for completing the program is one to one and a half years for full-time students and three years for part-time students. The maximum time allowed for both full-time and part-time study in the MA program is five years, which will be in effect whether or not the student is in continuous registration.

For both programs, a full-time student is required to take at least three courses per semester, whereas a part-time student one or two courses per semester.

### **Master of Arts (MA) Program in China Studies**

This is an interdisciplinary program jointly offered with the Division of Social Science. For details, please [click here](#).

### **Master of Arts (MA) Program in Liberal Studies**

This is an interdisciplinary program jointly offered with the Division of Social Science. For details, please [click here](#).

### **Master of Philosophy (MPhil) Program in Humanities**

This is a master's degree program satisfied by coursework and completion of a thesis. The primary aim of this MPhil program is to provide training for students who intend to pursue professional careers as teachers and researchers. It can be an end in itself or serve as preparation for the research degree of PhD.

Students enrolled in the program may specialize in Linguistics, Literature, History and Anthropology, or Philosophy and Religion, but are expected to go beyond conventional disciplinary boundaries and cultivate knowledge and expertise in interdisciplinary dialogue and interaction.

### **Program Requirements**

1. minimum of 12 credits of coursework;
2. MPhil thesis; and
3. oral defense of the thesis.

Students are also encouraged to take a non-credit third language, normally Japanese, French or German, for one year.

### **Credits**

Students in the MPhil program are required to take a minimum of 12 credits of coursework at the postgraduate level in the Division of Humanities, excluding HUMA 610 Independent Study, preferably in their first year of study. The second year is normally devoted to the writing of the MPhil thesis. If students wish to further broaden their interests and training in a special area, they may choose to take more coursework and/or enroll in an independent study course in addition to the regular 12-credit requirement.

Of the 12 credits, 3 must be taken in one of the following core courses in the area of concentration and 3 credits must be taken in another discipline.

#### a) Linguistics:

- (i) HUMA 516 Chinese Historical Phonology
- (ii) HUMA 524 Chinese Dialectology
- (iii) HUMA 527 Cantonese Linguistics

#### b) Literature:

- (i) HUMA 530 Chinese Literary History
- (ii) HUMA 533 Traditional Chinese Literary Theory and Criticism
- (iii) HUMA 538 Modern Literary Theory I, or  
HUMA 539 Modern Literary Theory II

- c) History and Anthropology:
  - (i) HUMA 555 Field Research: Theory and Practice
  - (ii) HUMA 556 Methods in the Study of Source Materials
  - (iii) HUMA 558 Theories and Methods in East Asian History
- d) Philosophy and Religion:
  - (i) HUMA 580 Fundamentals of Chinese Philosophy
  - (ii) HUMA 590 Fundamentals of Comparative Philosophy

### **The MPhil Thesis**

The thesis is normally written in English. If a student wishes to use Chinese as the thesis language, prior approval must be obtained. Petition to write the thesis in Chinese must be made by the student before the end of the first year of study. For details, please refer to the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

The thesis must be based on original research; it should demonstrate an awareness of the conceptual and methodological problems related to the chosen topic and a solid command of bibliographical materials in the field of study. The format of the thesis should conform to the general university guidelines outlined in Section 35 of the Postgraduate Regulations in this *Calendar* and also to the requirements listed in the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

### **MPhil Thesis Examination**

Student submitting a thesis will need to defend it before the Thesis Committee. The thesis defense normally takes place in the second semester of the student's second year of study. For details of thesis examinations, please refer to Section 36 of the Postgraduate Regulations in this *Calendar* and also to the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

## **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Program in Humanities**

The PhD degree program is interdisciplinary in nature. Its aim is to provide training for students who intend to pursue professional careers as teachers and researchers.

Students enrolled in the program may specialize in Linguistics, Literature, History and Anthropology, or Philosophy and Religion, but are expected to go beyond conventional disciplinary boundaries and cultivate knowledge and expertise in interdisciplinary dialogue and interaction.

### **Program Requirements**

1. minimum of 24 credits of coursework;
2. language requirements;
3. qualifying examination;
4. PhD thesis; and
5. oral defense of the thesis.

### **Credits**

Students enrolled in the program are required to fulfill a minimum of 24 credits of coursework at the postgraduate level in the Division of Humanities. Up to 6 postgraduate degree credits from another institution or another program can be applied towards the PhD degree in the Division of Humanities. The Division's Research Postgraduate Committee (RPGC) will determine the appropriateness of the transfer of the course credits.

- a) For students whose concentration is in Linguistics:  
Students will focus their research on Chinese linguistics, including phonology, dialectology, morphology, and historical grammar, or on Sino-Tibetan linguistics from a historical perspective.
  - (i) Of the 24 credits of required coursework, 9 must be from:
    - 1) HUMA 516 Chinese Historical Phonology
    - 2) HUMA 524 Chinese Dialectology
    - 3) HUMA 527 Cantonese Linguistics
  - (ii) 3 credits must be taken in a discipline other than Linguistics.
  - (iii) The remaining 12 credits can be taken in the student's chosen field, to be decided in consultation with the academic advisor.
- b) For students whose concentration is in Literature:  
Students will focus primarily on Chinese literature from comparative, interdisciplinary, and theoretical perspectives.
  - (i) Of the 24 credits of required coursework, 9 must be from:
    - 1) HUMA 530 Chinese Literary History
    - 2) HUMA 533 Traditional Chinese Literary Theory and Criticism
    - 3) HUMA 538 Modern Literary Theory I, or  
HUMA 539 Modern Literary Theory II

- (ii) 3 credits must be taken in a discipline other than Literature.
  - (iii) The remaining 12 credits can be taken in the student's chosen field, to be decided in consultation with the academic advisor.
- c) For students whose concentration is in History and Anthropology:
- Students will have the option of choosing one of the following two plans: Plan A, Chinese History; Plan B, Cultural Anthropology and Social History.

*Plan A - Chinese History*

This plan focuses on the history of China with emphasis on the period from the Ming Dynasty to the founding of the People's Republic. Approaches to the subject can be economic, social, political, cultural, intellectual, or comparative.

- (i) Of the 24 credits of required coursework, 9 must be from:
  - 1) HUMA 555 Field Research: Theory and Practice
  - 2) HUMA 556 Methods in the Study of Source Materials
  - 3) HUMA 558 Theories and Methods in East Asian History
- (ii) 3 credits must be taken in a discipline other than History and Anthropology.
- (iii) The remaining 12 credits can be taken in the student's chosen field, to be decided in consultation with the academic advisor.

*Plan B - Cultural Anthropology and Social History*

This plan focuses primarily on South China. Research areas include not only Guangdong and Fujian, but also the regions extending from Taiwan through Hong Kong and Macau to Hainan. Other possible subjects of study are overseas Chinese (in Southeast Asia, Japan, North America, and Europe) and the ethnic groups of southern and southwestern China (She, Yao, Dan, etc.).

- (i) Of the 24 credits of required coursework, 9 must be from:
  - 1) HUMA 555 Field Research: Theory and Practice
  - 2) HUMA 556 Methods in the Study of Source Materials
  - 3) HUMA 558 Theories and Methods in East Asian History
- (ii) 3 credits must be taken in a discipline other than History and Anthropology.
- (iii) The remaining 12 credits can be taken in the student's chosen field, to be decided in consultation with the academic advisor.

- d) For students whose concentration is in Philosophy and Religion:
- Students will focus their research on at least one of the following areas: Chinese, Asian, Western, and comparative philosophy and/or religion.
- (i) Of the 24 credits of required coursework, 3 must be from one of the following core courses:
    - 1) HUMA 580 Fundamentals of Chinese Philosophy
    - 2) HUMA 590 Fundamentals of Comparative Philosophy
  - (ii) 3 credits must be taken in a discipline other than Philosophy and Religion.
  - (iii) The remaining 18 credits can be taken in the student's chosen field, to be decided in consultation with the academic advisor.

***Independent Study***

In the PhD program, the 24-credit requirement is to be met through taking postgraduate courses in the Division. If students wish to further broaden their interests and training in a special area, they may choose to take more coursework and/or enroll in an independent study course in addition to the regular 24-credit requirement. Under special circumstances, students may petition to substitute a regular course with an independent study course. The petition requires the endorsement of the student's thesis supervisor and the approval of the RPGC. However, no more than two independent study courses may be used for this purpose.

***Language Requirements***

The study of a foreign language is an essential part of a student's preparation for research and teaching. In addition to English and Chinese, the PhD degree program requires students to acquire a level of competence in a third language (normally Japanese, French or German), as demonstrated either through satisfactory completion of a second-year language course taken within the last five years or through acceptable performance in a standardized examination. The third language requirement must be fulfilled no later than the semester in which the student completes the qualifying examination.

***The Qualifying Examination (Advancement to Candidacy)***

To become a doctoral candidate, a student must pass a written qualifying examination. The qualifying examination should be completed no later than the sixth semester of study (eighth semester for part-time students). For details of the examinations, please refer to the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

### ***The PhD Thesis***

A PhD thesis prospectus should be submitted to the PhD Thesis Committee no later than six months (nine months for part-time students) after successful completion of the qualifying examination.

The thesis is normally written in English. If a student wishes to use Chinese as the thesis language, prior approval must be obtained. Petition to write the thesis in Chinese must be made by the student before the end of the second year of study. For details, please refer to the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

A PhD thesis is a scholarly study on a subject based on original research. It must demonstrate an awareness of the conceptual and methodological problems related to the chosen topic and a solid command of bibliographical materials in the field of study. The format of the thesis should conform to the general university guidelines outlined in Section 35 of the Postgraduate Regulations in this *Calendar* and also to the requirements listed in the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

### ***PhD Thesis Examination***

Student submitting a thesis will need to defend it before the Thesis Examination Committee. For details of thesis examinations, please refer to Section 36 of the Postgraduate Regulations in this *Calendar* and also the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.