

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN CHINA DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (MACHDS)**

*(See also General Regulations)*

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.

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### **Admission requirements**

MCDS 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Arts in China Development Studies, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) shall hold
    - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University; or
    - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
  - (c) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.
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### **Qualifying examination**

MCDS 2.

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test candidates' formal academic ability or the candidates' 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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### **Award of degree**

MCDS 3. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in China Development Studies, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations; and
  - (b) shall complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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### **Length of curriculum**

MCDS 4. The curriculum shall extend over not less than one academic year of full-time study or over not less than two academic years for part-time study, with a minimum of 300 hours of prescribed work, which shall include examinations and coursework assessment in the manner as prescribed in the syllabuses.

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### **Completion of curriculum**

MCDS 5. To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work;
- (b) shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation on a subject within their approved field of study; and

- (c) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.

The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination.

Coursework may be taken into account as prescribed in the syllabuses.

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### **Title of dissertation**

MCDS 6. Subject to the provisions of Regulation MCDS 5(b)

- (a) for the full-time study, the title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than December 1 of that academic year and the dissertation shall be completed and presented by the end of August in that academic year of study;
  - (b) for the part-time study, the title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than November 1 in the candidates' final year of study and the dissertation shall be completed and presented by the end of August in the final year of study; and
  - (c) both full-time and part-time candidates shall submit a statement declaring that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.
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### **Course Selection**

MCDS 7.

- (a) To complete the curriculum, candidates (either full-time or part-time) are required to complete a total of 4 core courses, 2 elective courses, a dissertation (equivalent to 2 courses) and a field trip to China.
  - (b) For the 2-year part-time study, candidates are required to take 4 courses (core + elective) in the first year of study and the remaining 2 (core + elective) in the second year of study. Candidates are permitted to choose which 4 courses to be taken in their first year of study.
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### **Examinations**

MCDS 8.

- (a) The assessment for each course shall be as prescribed in the syllabuses.
- (b) Where so prescribed in the syllabuses, coursework or a dissertation shall constitute part or whole of the examination for one or more courses.
- (c) Where a project has been accepted in lieu of the written examination, candidates shall follow the normal courses of instruction but shall be examined by means of assessment of the project instead of a written examination. The project shall be treated for all purposes as the equivalent of one course.
- (d) Examinations will be held at the end of the semester in which the courses are taken.

MCDS 9. Full-time candidates

- (a) who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than two courses, whether by means of written examinations or coursework assessment, but have presented a satisfactory dissertation may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in the failed course(s) within a specific period not less than two months and not more than twelve months after the publication of the results;
- (b) who have satisfied the examiners in all the courses but have presented an unsatisfactory dissertation may be permitted to revise and re-present the dissertation within a specified period of not less than two months nor more than twelve months after receipt of a notice that it is unsatisfactory;

- (c) who have failed to satisfy the examiners at the first attempt in not more than two courses, whether by means of written examinations or coursework assessment, and have presented an unsatisfactory dissertation may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in the failed course(s) and to revise and re-present the dissertation within a specified period of not less than two months nor more than twelve months after the publication of the results;
- (d) who have failed to satisfy the examiners in three or more courses may be required to repeat the curriculum and re-present themselves for the examinations of the year or to discontinue their studies.

**MCDS 10. Part-time candidates**

- (a) who have satisfied the examiners in the examinations in all courses taken in the first academic year could proceed to the next academic year;
- (b) who have failed to satisfy the examiners at the first attempt in not more than two courses, whether by means of written examinations or coursework assessment, in the first academic year may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in the failed course(s) within a specified period not less than two months nor more than twelve months after the publication of results;
- (c) who have failed to satisfy the examiners at the first attempt in not more than two courses, whether by means of written examinations or coursework assessment, in the final year but have presented a satisfactory dissertation may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in the failed course(s) within a specified period not less than two months nor more than twelve months after the publication of results;
- (d) who have satisfied the examiners in all the courses in the final year but have presented an unsatisfactory dissertation may be permitted to revise and re-present the dissertation within a specified period of not less than two months and not more than twelve months after receipt of a notice that it is unsatisfactory;
- (e) who have failed to satisfy the examiners at the first attempt in not more than two courses, whether by means of written examinations or coursework assessment, in the final year and have presented an unsatisfactory dissertation may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in the failed course(s) and to revise and re-present the dissertation within a specified period of not less than two months nor more than twelve months after the publication of the results;
- (f) who have failed to satisfy the examiners in three or more courses may be required to repeat the curriculum and re-present themselves for the examinations of the year or to discontinue their studies.

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**Supplementary examination**

MCDS 11. Candidates who are unable because of illness to be present for any written examination may apply for permission to present themselves for a supplementary examination, which shall be held at a time to be determined by the MACHDS Board of Examiners of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of absence from any examination. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in the supplementary examination shall be considered as failure at the first attempt.

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**Discontinuation**

**MCDS 12. Candidates who**

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination in course(s) in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners or to revise and re-present their failed dissertation shall be deemed to have failed and shall be recommended for discontinuation under the provisions of General Regulation G12;

- (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners at a second attempt in any course(s) or in their dissertation may be required to discontinue their studies;
- (c) have failed to satisfy the examiners in three or more courses may be required to discontinue their studies.

### **Examination results**

MCDS 13. A pass list of candidates who have successfully completed all the degree requirements and are to be awarded the Master of Arts in China Development Studies shall be published. Candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree certificate.

## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN CHINA DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

The programme provides an opportunity to local and international students for systematic training and independent research on development issues in contemporary China.

Candidates are expected to complete six courses and a dissertation (i.e. 'GEOG7122 Dissertation in China development studies'), which is deemed equivalent to two courses. Candidates are also required to participate in the field trip (i.e. 'GEOG7116 China field trip'), which is a partial requirement for the fulfillment of the degree. The six courses comprise four core courses and two elective courses. An adequate number of elective courses will be offered to students in each academic year. Each course entails one session of two contact hours per week over one semester.

The dissertation shall be completed and submitted by end of August in the final year of study. The schedule for the teaching of courses conforms to the dates of semesters of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Courses will be examined by a combination of coursework assessment and a written examination, normally held at the end of the semester, or by coursework assessment alone.

In addition to the normal requirements of completing the six courses, a dissertation, and the China field trip, candidates will have the opportunity to take the optional course 'GEOG7119 Internship' as an extra effort to further enhance their learning horizon in this programme. The provision of internship placements is subject to availability and selection via interview. Candidates' successful participation in the Internship will be recorded in the transcript.

### *A. Core Courses*

#### **GEOG7101. The Chinese economies: location, transformation, and integration**

This course provides an overview of the location, transformation, and integration of regional economies in China's mainland, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macau. Major theoretical perspectives are introduced to explain the growth dynamics of the Chinese economies and the shifting spatial distribution of economic activities.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

#### **GEOG7102. Geography of foreign investment and trade in China**

This course analyzes the growth and locational characteristics of foreign investment and trade since the implementation of the open door policy. The impact of foreign investment and international trade on China's regional economic development is also discussed.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

**GEOG7117. Public policies and regional development**

This is a seminar-type course about the concept, theory, and practice of regional development. Course contents include the changing interpretation of the concept of regional development; key policy issues in the practice of regional development and different approaches to regional development in selected world regions.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

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**GEOG7120. Urban China: cultural basis and contemporary issues**

This course focuses on China's urban history and the Chinese urbanization patterns and policies since the founding of the PRC. The course will first introduce the emergence of the city and the development of China's specific urbanism in its history. It will then address the contemporary urban issues of the PRC. Between 1949 and 1978, urban fabric, urban landscapes and activities developed within a narrowly restricted range related to the socialist state and the shortage economy. The economic reforms have weakened those forces, and an increasingly complex and diverse urban life arose. The processes and consequences of these forces will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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*B. Elective Courses***GEOG7108. China's tourism resources and management**

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to China's tourism resources and management. Students are encouraged to trace the evolution of China's tourism industry, particularly regarding the resources and management, so as to appreciate the achievements made, remaining problems, and prospects of future development.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**GEOG7114. China's WTO accession and spatial economic transformation**

The course emphasizes the combination of theory and practical knowledge and skill. The main purpose of the course is to enhance students' comprehensive ability of critical thinking and problem solving, as well as their actual ability of observing, identifying and judging business opportunity in the commercial sector in the face of rapid global economic transformation. In order to increase students' practical skill and knowledge of how an investment bank or a stock exchange market operates, the course will invite practitioners from the field to give guest lectures and seminars. More importantly, the course will try to establish an internship or in-house field studies in mainland investment banks and stock exchange markets. This intake, though being tentative depending on opportunities, could be integrated with the field trip requirement of the programme, and it will be conducted on a voluntary and self-financed basis.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

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**GEOG7118. China: environment and sustainable development**

This course comprises three main sections. Section I provides an overview of the state of China's natural environment. This is followed by a discussion of the institutional, legislative and administrative systems for environmental protection and nature conservation. Finally, Section III assesses government policies for sustainable development as stipulated in recent Five-Year Plans and in China's Agenda 21.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

**GEOG7121. The Pearl River Delta: development and interaction with Hong Kong**

With the cross-boundary relocation of Hong Kong manufacturing activities, the PRD has experienced rapid economic growth, industrialization and urbanization since China's Opening and Reform initiated in the late 1970s. The PRD and Hong Kong have become inextricably linked together through the increasing cross-boundary movements of capital, people, goods, information and other activities especially since the 1990s. The objective of this course is to shed light on the significant changes in the PRD and economic restructuring in Hong Kong over the past two decades, as well as the socio-economic interaction between them. It examines the evolution and changing patterns of the regional integration under the unique framework of the "One Country Two Systems" (OCTS) and the institution-based endeavor marked by the "Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement" (CEPA) between the Mainland and Hong Kong. Emphasis is placed on the social, economic and political factors that account for the promising development and intensive interplay in the region.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**GEOG7123. Directed project in China development studies**

The objective of this course is to give students an opportunity to propose, plan, implement, and then finish a small-scale project on topics relating to China development. Staff may specify topics considered suitable for small-scale investigation. Students are required to submit a written report to document the research process and results. The written report should be typed with double-line spacing on A4 sheets and not exceed 5,000 words in length (excluding figures and tables). Moreover, students are required to give an oral presentation of their work.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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*C. Additional Pedagogic Requirements***GEOG7116. China field trip**

A field trip will be organized to provide students with the opportunity to examine first hand development issues and problems in China. The field trip is a required component of the programme. Candidates are encouraged to incorporate what they have learned from the field trip into their dissertations or directed projects.

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**GEOG7119. Internship**

This is an optional course to provide students with internship placement to learn by involvement in the basic practical knowledge and operational process of a trading firm, a business company, a multi-national enterprise, or a manufacturing factory. The students can become familiar with the company's development strategies and management procedures, as well as possible problems in doing business in Mainland China. In order to be mutually beneficial, students are requested to conduct research project(s) for their internship sponsor, with a view to participating in the company's attempts to solve practical problems. This research project will be treated as the students' assignment of the internship, and be assessed by both the company's officials and teachers. The period of the internship placement lasts normally one to two weeks. Internships are subject to availability of places and selection via interview by prospective sponsors. Where appropriate, participants of the internship are encouraged to incorporate what they have learned from their placements into their dissertations or directed projects.

**GEOG7122. Dissertation in China development studies (equivalent to two courses)**

The dissertation shall be a structured presentation of findings of guided independent research on a topic which addresses a topic of China's development. The topic shall be chosen by the candidate and the dissertation shall be 10,000-20,000 words. Candidates are expected to present the dissertation orally in the Contemporary China Seminars series and in written form as well. The dissertation carries a weighting equivalent to two courses. Successful dissertations to be lodged in the Library shall be subject to the correction of typographical, grammatical and other errors as determined by the examiners. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than December 1 in the first semester (applicable to full-time students only) or not later than November 1 in the second year of study (applicable to part-time students only). The completed dissertation shall be submitted to the Faculty of Social Sciences by August 31 of each academic year for examination.

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**Contemporary China Seminars**

Candidates will be required to attend a series of seminars to be offered by scholars, Government officers, and business elites from Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas on the development issues in contemporary China. They will also be required to present findings from their independent dissertation research in the seminar series.

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**Coursework**

Candidates must satisfy the examiners in coursework assessment for each of the courses taken. The assessment of coursework will include written assignments, candidates' seminar presentations, their role as discussants in other candidates' seminars, their general contribution to seminars, and other relevant activities, including field trips.

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**Examinations**

The examinations will be held at the end of the semester when the course is taken. Candidates failing to satisfy the examiners in the first attempt may be re-examined in the supplementary examinations. Candidates who are not permitted to sit supplementary examinations and/or to re-present their unsatisfactory dissertations may be recommended to repeat their studies. Candidates, who fail to satisfy the examiners in more than four courses, with the dissertation being deemed equivalent to two courses, may be recommended to discontinue their studies.