

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF ARTS IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS  
(MA[AppliedLinguistics])**

*(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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**MAAL1 Admission requirements**

To be eligible for admission to the course leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics candidates shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;<sup>1</sup>
  - (b) hold either a Bachelor's degree of this University or of another University or comparable institution for this purpose; or another qualification of equivalent standard accepted for this purpose; and
  - (c) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.
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**MAAL2 Qualifying examination**

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the course 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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**MAAL3 Award of degree**

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics, candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations; and
  - (b) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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**MAAL4 Length of curriculum**

The curriculum shall extend over two academic years of part-time study, with a minimum of 300 hours of prescribed work.

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**MAAL5 Completion of curriculum**

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall

- (a) follow instruction on the syllabuses prescribed and complete all specified work as required;
  - (b) satisfy the examiners in all forms of assessment as may be required;
  - (c) complete and present a satisfactory dissertation on a subject; and
  - (d) satisfy the examiners in an oral examination if required.
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<sup>1</sup> In addition to the TOEFL requirement specified in General Regulation G 2, the Faculty also requires a Test of Written English (TWE) score of 4 or above or a Writing score of 25 or above in the internet-based TOEFL.

**MAAL6 Dissertation**

- (a) Candidates shall each submit a title by not later than March 1 of the second year of study and shall present a dissertation by not later than September 1 of the same year.
  - (b) Candidates shall each submit a statement that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree.
  - (c) The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation.
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**MAAL7 Re-examination**

Candidates who have

- (a) failed to satisfy the examiners in not more than two modules at the first attempt by June 30 of the first year of study may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in these modules by not later than September 1 of the same year;
  - (b) failed to satisfy the examiners in not more than two modules at the end of the second year of study, but have satisfied the examiners in the remaining modules at the first attempt and the dissertation may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in these modules within a period of not more than 12 months after it is deemed unsatisfactory; and
  - (c) failed to present a satisfactory dissertation but have satisfied the examiners at the first attempt in all the remaining modules in the second year of study may be permitted to re-present the dissertation within a period of not more than 12 months after it is deemed unsatisfactory.
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**MAAL8 Discontinuation of studies**

Candidates who have

- (a) failed to satisfy the examiners in more than the number of modules permitted for re-examination at the first attempt in any one year of study; or
- (b) failed to satisfy the examiners in both the dissertation and in one or more modules at the first attempt in any one year of study; or
- (c) failed to satisfy the examiners upon the re-examination of a module or re-presentation of their dissertation

may be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12.

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**MAAL9 Examination results**

At the conclusion of the examinations, and after presentation of the dissertations, a list of the successful candidates 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 diploma.

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## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS**

This programme will take the form of modules. Candidates are required to complete a total of twenty modules: eight core modules; three elective modules; two applied research modules; and seven dissertation modules.

**CORE MODULES** (8 modules)

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**MAAL6001. Language systems and contexts**

This course is concerned with the different levels at which systems operate in language and with the ways in which these systems serve communicative goals.

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**MAAL6002. Second language curricula**

This course examines the cycle of curriculum design and renewal in English programmes in tertiary education and professional settings.

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**MAAL6003. Research methods and research design**

This course introduces the fundamentals of research methods and design and provides for critical exploration of different research methods and conceptualizations in order to develop an informed understanding of their various strengths, limitations and potential contributions in applied linguistics research.

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**MAAL6004. Sociocultural and psychological dimensions of second language acquisition**

This course introduces students to the sociological, psychological and anthropological aspects of second language development in the individual learner and within bilingual/multilingual contexts of use.

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**ELECTIVE MODULES** (3 modules)

The following modules will be offered recurrently, with no prerequisites. Additional electives will be offered on a year-to-year basis, with the proviso that there will be at least one elective complementing or extending each core course.

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**MAAL6014. Language testing and evaluation**

This module introduces fundamental principles of language testing and provides hands-on experience in the design, trialling, moderation, validation and evaluation of testing instruments.

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**MAAL6015. Computers in language teaching and research**

This course aims to promote critical awareness of the major issues and technologies in computing for language teaching and research.

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**MAAL6017. Phonology**

This course aims to enhance understanding of current issues in phonology and to consider the teaching of pronunciation and intonation in the Hong Kong context.

**MAAL6018. Vocabulary teaching and learning**

The course focuses on the mental lexicon and the Chinese learner. Areas covered include word difficulty, vocabulary learning strategies, effective presentation of unfamiliar words and vocabulary testing.

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**MAAL6019. Autonomous approaches to language learning and teaching**

This course will explore the theory and practice of autonomy in language learning and teaching. Discussions will focus on differing interpretations of, and contexts for, learner autonomy, and how these interact with various methods of implementation.

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**MAAL6022. Literature and language teaching**

This course examines the role of literature in language teaching. It begins by looking at the differences between two related concepts - “teaching literature” and “teaching language through literature”; and goes on to explore the following topics: justifications for using literature in language classrooms; methods of selecting literary materials for language teaching; ways of writing lesson plans based on literary sources to support the teaching of the four language skills; different kinds of literature curricula and programs in the world; stylistics and the teaching of literature; the teaching of language arts in Hong Kong.

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**MAAL6023. Advances in writing pedagogy**

This course will bring participants up to date with developments in writing pedagogy. It reviews theoretical and practical developments that have influenced the teaching of writing over the past 40 years and looks in particular at process, genre and critical approaches to writing and discourse studies.

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**MAAL6024. Independent study project**

A project consisting of independent study and negotiated written work on an approved topic which builds on the student’s prior studies in applied linguistics.

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**MAAL6025. Contrastive Analysis of Chinese and English Grammar**

The module discusses the basic underpinnings of contrastive analysis and how they can be applied to the study of Chinese and English.

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**MAAL6026. Current issues in second language acquisition**

The course examines the development of syntax in a second language from a generative perspective, with particular attention to the acquisition of English as a second language by Chinese learners. Similarities and differences between English and Chinese and how these similarities and differences influence learners’ syntactic acquisition and development are discussed. By the end of the course, participants will gain a clear understanding of syntax from both qualitative and quantitative perspectives, as well as the methodology/techniques used in collecting second language data. Possible topics to be covered include word classes, noun phrases, language input, and corrective feedback.

**MAAL6009. APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECT** (2 modules)

In this course, students will be involved in formulating an investigative question, developing data collection instruments, collecting data, analysing the data and drawing conclusions.

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**MAAL8999. DISSERTATION** (7 modules)

Candidates are required to complete a dissertation on an approved topic.