

REGULATIONS FOR THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH STUDIES (PDipES)

(See also General Regulations)

PDES 1 Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the Postgraduate Diploma in English Studies, a candidate shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;¹
 - (b) hold
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree from 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) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.
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PDES 2 Qualifying examination

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidate's formal academic ability or his/her ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent.
 - (b) A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until he/she has satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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PDES 3 Award of postgraduate diploma

To be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in English Studies, a candidate 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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PDES 4 Length of curriculum

The curriculum shall normally be completed within two academic years of part-time study with a minimum of 240 hours of prescribed work.

PDES 5 Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum, a candidate shall

- (a) follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed work; and
- (b) satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of assessment.

¹ 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.

PDES 6 Assessment

- (a) A candidate's academic performance may be assessed through written assignments or other forms of prescribed work.
 - (b) A candidate failing to satisfy the examiners in not more than two courses in a year may be permitted to present himself/herself for re-assessment in the failed course(s) before the beginning of the second year.
 - (c) A candidate is required to satisfy the examiners in all the courses in the first year before proceeding to the second year.
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PDES 7 Discontinuation

- (a) A candidate who fails in more than two courses in a year may be required to discontinue his/her studies.
 - (b) A candidate who is not permitted to present himself/herself for re-assessment in any course(s) in which he/she has failed to satisfy the examiners shall be deemed to have failed and shall be recommended for discontinuation under the provisions of General Regulation G 12.
 - (c) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in re-assessment in any course may be required to discontinue his/her studies.
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PDES 8 Examination results

A pass list shall be published in alphabetical order after completion of the programme requirements. A candidate who has shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidate's diploma.

SYLLABUS FOR THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH STUDIES

The curriculum for the Postgraduate Diploma in English Studies takes two years of part-time work. Applicants will normally hold a first degree or its equivalent.

The programme is designed to enhance the subject knowledge of schoolteachers who are currently teaching English or who intend to teach English. It consists of 8 core courses and 4 electives. For each course, there will be two evening sessions of two-and-a-half contact hours each week over four weeks. The list of courses on offer may vary with each intake.

Assessment is by coursework.

A. Compulsory Courses**PDES6001. Phonetics and phonology for English Language Teaching**

This course will introduce students to the basics of speech sound production including the articulation of consonants and vowels as well as the features of connected speech. Topics to be covered include: the IPA, the phonological characteristics of authentic speech, analysis of suprasegmentals using the discourse intonation system as well as the relationship between phonetics and phonics. The differences between Cantonese and English phonemes and syllable structure will also be explored. Assessment is by coursework.

PDES6002. Lexis, morphology and semantics for English Language Teaching

This course examines a number of key concepts underlying current theories of and approaches to vocabulary teaching. These include: principles of morphology and word-formation and the history of English words; vocabulary usage and exceptions to rules; principles of semantics, especially those concerned with levels of meaning and sense relations; and issues of context and discourse. Assessment is by coursework.

PDES6003. Pedagogic grammar

This course focuses on the grammar structures of the English language. It covers the basic units and processes of sentence formation and combination in English, and the forms and meanings of grammatical constructions in their contexts of use in spoken and written discourse. The course applies a functional perspective to the teaching of tense, aspect, transitivity, voice and mood. It also covers the basic but complex systems in English for accounting for gender, number, person and case. Assessment is by coursework.

PDES6004. Written and spoken discourse for English Language Teaching

This course introduces students to the systems of English from a discursal context. Participants will be introduced to a wide range of contemporary spoken and written discourse types, and will explore the systematic relationships between linguistic systems and contexts of use. The topics to be covered include: discourse and phonology; discourse and vocabulary; discourse and grammar; coherence and cohesion; speech acts, information structure and genre analysis; spoken versus written language; the acquisition of discourse and classroom discourse analysis. Assessment is by coursework.

PDES6005. Sociolinguistics and English as an international language

This course looks at social aspects of language use, in particular, the social factors governing the choices speakers make in selecting from a repertoire of varieties. Choice of variety is examined with respect to language standards, norms of acceptability and social pressures of various kinds. The mutual influences operating on language and culture are examined, and the issue of bilingualism in education is reviewed, especially with reference to circumstances in Hong Kong. The rise of English to its position as the foremost international language, the emergence of nativised varieties, and the possibility of linguistic imperialism are also discussed. Assessment is by coursework.

PDES6006. Psycholinguistics and second language acquisition

This course examines the psychological aspects of language with an emphasis on second language acquisition. The topics to be covered include: language comprehension and language production, the relation between language and cognition and the implications for first and second language development, stages and processes of first and second language acquisition, individual and situational factors affecting second language acquisition and the development of bilingualism. Assessment is by coursework.

PDES6007. Introduction to literature in English

This course has a two-fold purpose: to introduce participants to the major literary genres, including fiction, poetry, drama, and film; and to some important works in adolescent literature written in English. Participants will learn how to respond to, read, and write about literature. Class activities include lectures, discussion, and drama activities. Assessment is by coursework.

PDES6008. Introduction to language arts

This course has two main purposes: to introduce participants to important basic features of literature, such as alliteration, metaphor, plot, setting, and theme; and to some important works in children's and young adolescent literature written in English. Participants will read and respond to the literature, both analytically and through creative expression. Class activities include lectures, discussion, and dramatic activities. Assessment is by coursework.

B. Elective Courses

Participants are also required to complete any 4 of the following elective courses:

PDES6011. Genres in professional discourse

This course is designed as a further extension to PDES6004 'Written and spoken discourse for English Language Teaching' and focuses on the range of genres in professional discourse. Participants are introduced to various spoken and written discourse types in professional contexts. Emphasis is placed on the analysis of spoken and written language as related to professional cultures, with a view towards enhancing participants' knowledge of various types of professional English. Assessment is by coursework.

PDES6012. Language and electronic communication

This course is designed as a further extension to PDES6004 'Written and spoken discourse for English Language Teaching' and focuses on the range of discourse types that have emerged in relation to Computer Mediated Communication (CMC). Emphasis is placed on the examination of the linguistic and stylistic characteristics of such language, both in synchronous and asynchronous modes and as related to variation in other parameters. Issues of how such electronic varieties of language relate to language change from the perspective of English as a global language are also explored. Assessment is by coursework.

PDES6013. Asian voices in English

This course is designed as a further extension to PDES6007 'Introduction to literature in English' and examines contemporary literary works produced by Asian writers writing in English. The course is divided into four parts, and each part will look at novels/short stories, poems, and plays from one of four Asian regions, namely, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, the Philippines, and India. Assessment is by coursework.

PDES6014. English and subject knowledge

This course is designed as a further extension to PDES6003 'Pedagogic grammar' and addresses the functional aspects of English in relation to the knowledge dimension of the English curriculum by looking at how students can be encouraged to study English through their other subjects in the curriculum. The course demonstrates how key communicative functions like describing, classifying, explaining, concluding, and notions like cause-effect, condition, and circumstance can be learned through subject-related themes and text-types, notably assignment types that feature in task- and project-based aspects of subjects such as Geography, Social Studies, Environmental Studies and History. Assessment is by coursework.

PDES6015. Varieties of English

This course is designed as a further extension of PDES6005 'Sociolinguistics and English as an international language'. It looks briefly at the history of the English language and variability in contemporary varieties. The development of English from early Indo-European origins is examined as the language evolved in contact with other varieties including Celtic, northern Germanic and Norman French as well as the scholastic incorporation of Latin and Greek elements. Some phonological, lexical and grammatical features of the main varieties of English as spoken by native speakers in Britain, the United States, Australia and New Zealand will be examined. Substrate influence in second language varieties such as Singapore English and Caribbean Creoles will also be discussed. Assessment is by coursework.

PDES6016. English as an international language in China

This course is designed to be a case illustration of sociolinguistic and language acquisition issues introduced in PDES6005 'Sociolinguistics and English as an international language' and PDES6006 'Psycholinguistics and second language acquisition'. It explores the various aspects of English in China. Topics include: the rise of English as the most important international language in China, the multilingual considerations of learning English in China, the language acquisition experience of Chinese learners and the dialectics of language, culture and ethnic identity. Assessment is by coursework.

PDES6017. Advanced phonological issues

This course is designed as a further extension to PDES6001 'Phonetics and phonology for English Language Teaching'. The main features of phonology will be reviewed with more in-depth coverage at syllable, word and discourse levels. Features of the major accents of English native-speakers in Britain, the United States and Australia will also be described and investigated. Assessment is by coursework. Students will be asked to complete short tasks in each area covered in the course.

PDES6018. Selected Readings in American Literature

This course is designed to be an extension of PDES6007, and has a two-fold purpose: 1) To familiarize participants with the development of 20th Century American literature; and 2) to provide participants with opportunities to study closely certain fictional and poetic works. Students will also be introduced to modern literary theory and encouraged to apply some of the theories to the analysis of literary texts.

Coursework Assessment

Participants must satisfy the examiners in coursework assessment for each of the courses which may take the form of written assignments, oral presentations, tests and/or other prescribed work.