REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
(MSc[LIM])

(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.

Ed331   Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Science in Library and Information Management, candidates shall
- (a)   comply with the General Regulations;
- (b)   hold *either* a Bachelor's degree of this University or of another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; *or* another qualification of equivalent standard accepted for this purpose; and
- (c)   satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.

Ed332   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;
- (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.

Ed333   Award of degree

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Science in Library and Information Management, 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.

Ed334   Length of curriculum

The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study or two, but no more than four consecutive academic years of part-time study, with a minimum of 300 hours of prescribed work.

Ed335   Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall
- (a)   follow instructions 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 if required on an approved subject; and
- (d)   satisfy the examiners in an oral examination if required.

Candidates who have failed to complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with this set of regulations within the prescribed length of study may be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12.

Ed336   Dissertation

(a)   Candidates who select the dissertation option must submit the title of their dissertation for approval not later than six months before the formal submission of the dissertation.

(b)   Part-time candidates who have satisfied the examiners in at least four taught modules are eligible to register for the dissertation modules.

(c)   Candidates enrolled for the dissertation shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree.

(d)   The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination for candidates enrolled for the dissertation on the subject of the dissertation.

(e)   Candidates who select the dissertation option are not permitted to take the module "MLIM6322 Independent project (1 module)" and vice versa.

Ed337   Examinations

(a)   An assessment of the candidates' performance during the years of study may include written assignments, tests, laboratory and practical work as prescribed by the course;

(b)   Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in any part of the examinations at the first attempt may be permitted to present themselves again for examination as determined by the Board of Examiners;

(c)   Candidates who have presented a dissertation that fails to satisfy the examiners at the first attempt may be permitted to re-present the dissertation within a period of not more than 12 months after it is deemed unsatisfactory.

Ed338   Discontinuation

Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners upon the re-examination of a module or re-presentation of a dissertation may be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12.

Ed339   Examination results

Results will be published at the conclusion of the examinations. Candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree certificate.

Ed340   Advanced standing

(a)   Advanced standing shall normally be granted to candidates who have successfully completed one or more modules in a relevant Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Educational Studies (PCAdvEdStud) programme of this University *or* another qualification of equivalent standard accepted for this purpose.

(b)   Credit of up to the equivalent of three modules may be granted by the Board of the Faculty of Education subject to the following conditions:

(i)   the modules are appropriate and cover similar content to modules offered in the MSc(LIM); and

(ii)   the application for credit is received within five years of successful completion of the relevant modules or graduation from the Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Educational Studies or another qualification of equivalent standard accepted for this purpose, whichever is later.

(c)   Application for advanced standing shall normally be made at the same time of application for admissions to the MSc(LIM) programme, and should be accompanied by copies of academic transcripts to support the application.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The programme will take the form of modules. Candidates are required to choose a specialist strand upon enrollment in the programme.

All candidates are required to complete a total of 8 modules which comprise the following modules:

- 3 core modules
- 2 modules from a specialist strand plus either of the following:
    - MITE6322. Independent project (1 module) and 2 elective modules; or
    - MITE6810. Dissertation (3 modules)

CORE MODULES

Candidates are required to complete 3 core modules:

MLIM6314. Library and information science foundation (1 module)

This module introduces the history, the complex development and the potential of information sciences in libraries and other work places. The applications for information and the role of library and information professionals are examined with an emphasis on the information professional as an educator. Issues in newly emerging areas such as digital and web-based information sciences with their applications in libraries, education, and other organizational environments will also be explored.

MLIM6319. Information behaviour (1 module)

This module examines the theory associated with information-seeking behaviour. The information seeking process is analyzed and models explored that attempt to explain information behaviour. The concept of information literacy will be examined and analyzed with particular attention to cognitive and affective issues.

MLIM6025. Methods of research and enquiry (1 module)

This module introduces students to research methods, emphasizing critical appraisal and understanding multiple approaches to conducting research. The module also examines the conceptualization, planning and conduct of small-scale research in the integration of IT in library and information management settings.

SPECIALIST MODULES

Candidates are required to complete two modules from the list for their chosen specialist strand:

A. Librarianship
   1. Information resources and services
   2. Literature for young people in a digital age
   3. Digital libraries: principles and applications
   4. Teacher librarianship
   5. Preservation of information
   6. E-learning strategies and management
   7. Collection management
   8. Information retrieval theory and practice

B. Information management
   1. Information resources and services
   2. Digital libraries: principles and applications
   3. Records management
   4. Preservation of information
   5. Organizing information
   6. Information retrieval theory and practice

C. Knowledge management
   1. Leading and managing in the workplace
   2. Knowledge management
   3. E-learning strategies and management
   4. Information retrieval theory and practice
   5. Organizational learning

ELECTIVE MODULES

Candidates are required to complete elective modules from a list to be determined yearly. The list may contain relevant modules from other master programmes offered by the Faculty of Education under the advice and approval of the Programme Director. The list of elective modules offered by the programme includes:

MLIM6201. Information resources and services (1 module)

This module introduces the global information environment and examines how libraries and information agencies facilitate access to a range of information sources through identifying and locating information. Students will gain knowledge and expertise in analyzing the information needs of customers, formulating research strategies, and determining identifying principal resources. Reference materials in a variety of formats and the skills needed to proficiently accomplish this essential information service are discussed.

MLIM6202. Literature for young people in a digital age (1 module)

This module provides an overview of the history of children's literature with a discussion of major authors and contributors and an emphasis on contemporary literature for children and young adults. The impact of new technologies on the publication and use of children's fiction and non-fiction are discussed. Interactive multimedia, online reading and digital libraries for children are evaluated.

MLIM6203. Digital libraries: principles and applications (1 module)

This module introduces the motivation for digital library development and evolution of digital library collections and services. Various issues of digital library development like document types and formats, access strategies and interfaces, metadata and interoperability, economic and social policies, and collection management and system evaluation are examined.

MLIM6204. Records management (1 module)

This module explores the philosophy of records management and presents the basic techniques and standards for managing records in organizations. The application of these techniques both to existing situations and to the creation of new records management programs to support work processes and learning organizations are discussed. The module also investigates methods for improving records management through appropriate technologies and strategies to establish organization-wide records management programs.

MLIM6206. Leading and managing in the workplace (1 module)

This course uses a case method approach to explore a range of established and emerging management and leadership concepts. Adopting an organizational behaviour approach, participants will be challenged to compare the suitability of their own management styles in a range of different situations. Experiential learning exercises engage the participants in managerial activities such as team building and decision-making.

MLIM6209. Teacher librarianship (1 module)

This module analyses the curricular and information leadership roles of the teacher librarian. Attention will be given to discussion of the role the teacher librarian with respect to the development of a whole school approach to information literacy. Collaborative Planning and Teaching (CPT) will be evaluated as the bridge between the teacher librarian, information services, inquiry based learning, and the adoption of an information literacy culture. The importance of the principal-teacher librarian relationship as a force for information leadership will be considered in light of the research evidence.

MLIM6210. Preservation of information (1 module)

This module examines the physical nature of materials and the causes of deterioration. Techniques for promoting longevity; environmental control; storage and handling practices including data warehousing; and reformatting are major topics. Disaster planning and recovery is considered. The module also introduces students to the conservation and preservation of archive materials in an online age, digitization program management and digitization technologies.

MLIM6212. Knowledge management (1 module)

This module provides an overview of the concepts, theories, and practices of knowledge management (KM) in organizations and communities. Basic issues and approaches about knowledge creation, storage, sharing and application are examined. Techniques and tools for building a knowledge sharing culture and system are introduced. A special focus will be placed on KM programs development in practical situations.

MLIM6311. e-Learning strategies and management (1 module)

This module explores issues relevant to the design and delivery of e-learning in educational or corporate contexts. The module explores learning management systems and other virtual environments to support teaching and learning. The module also examines issues concerning e-learning infrastructure, delivery systems, content management, standards, proprietary versus open-source software, virtual worlds, and challenges to successful e-learning implementation.

MLIM6315. Collection management (1 module)

This module examines the methods used to build library collections in a variety of media in all types of libraries with an emphasis on the selection process and the relationship to stakeholders' information needs. Relationships between libraries and the publishing industry are discussed. Policy development is explored, linking collection policies to broader information policy issues such as designing digital and virtual libraries, building collaborative teaching resource databases of learning objects, and records management in electronic information environments.

MLIM6316. Organising information (1 module)

This module introduces the theory and applications of information organization. Approaches to describing and representing information in a variety of formats are covered as well as the evolution of standards to include electronic formats and Internet resources. The focus is placed on how to represent and organize information using appropriate standards and techniques for effective information retrieval and content management.

MLIM6317. Information retrieval theory and practice (1 module)

This module examines the information retrieval process from a theoretical and practical framework focusing on conceptual issues. The effective provision of access to information will be covered in the context of database structure and interface design, language issues, database selection, evaluation of search results, search strategies, information seeking behaviour and needs. Strategic searching, competitive intelligence and selected online systems are also explored.

MLIM6322. Independent project (1 module)

The independent project provides students with an opportunity to apply and extend their knowledge and skills developed through the programme and more specifically within their chosen area of specialism. The independent project enables students to extend what they have learnt in the programme to professional practices outside the University.

MLIM6328. Organizational learning (1 module)

This module explores the concept and processes of organizational learning. It examines the strategies and tools employed in creating and managing a learning organization. Topics include managing chaos and complexity, organizational culture and change management, scenario planning, training and learning (especially e-learning), unlearning, organisational memory, performance and evaluation of learning.

MLIM6810. DISSERTATION (3 modules)

The dissertation modules consist of a dissertation on an approved topic from a field of study, and participation in a series of dissertation seminars. Candidates who opt to take the dissertation option are required to present their work at a dissertation/project seminar.

The dissertation is an approved independent research/development project carried out under the supervision of one or more staff members. While the dissertation is not necessarily a piece of original research, in normal cases it should include an empirical element. The dissertation should provide a thorough and critical analysis of the topic undertaken by the student. Each candidate shall submit the title of the dissertation and present the completed dissertation by dates specified by the Board of Examiners.