

**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.

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**Ed331 Admission requirements**

To be eligible for admission to the degree of Master of Science in Library and Information Management, candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) hold
    - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University; or
    - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
  - (c) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.
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**Ed332 Qualifying examination**

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the curriculum 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.
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**Ed333 Length of curriculum**

The curriculum shall extend over one academic year of full-time study, including a summer semester, or two consecutive academic years of part-time study, with a total curriculum load of at least 300 hours. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

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**Ed334 Curriculum requirements**

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall

- (a) follow instruction in the syllabuses prescribed and complete all specified work as required;
  - (b) satisfy the examiners in all assessment tasks as may be required;
  - (c) complete and present a satisfactory dissertation or project on an approved topic; and
  - (d) satisfy the examiners in an oral examination, if required.
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**Ed335 Advanced standing**

- (a) Advanced standing may be granted to candidates who have successfully completed one or more modules in the Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Educational Studies curriculum of this University or another qualification of equivalent standard accepted for this purpose.
  - (b) Candidates may be granted advanced standing up to a maximum of three modules subject to the following conditions:
    - (i) the module(s) is appropriate for the specialist strand applied for; and
    - (ii) the application for advanced standing 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 be made prior to the commencement of the curriculum, and should be accompanied by copies of academic transcripts to support the application.
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### **Ed336 Dissertation**

- (a) Candidates who select the dissertation option shall
    - (i) submit the title of their dissertation for approval no later than six months before the formal submission of the dissertation; and
    - (ii) submit a statement that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree.
  - (b) The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination on the dissertation.
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### **Ed337 Assessment and grades**

- (a) Candidates shall be assessed by diverse forms of assessment as prescribed by the examiners during the course of their studies.
  - (b) Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a module for which they have received a D grade or above for the purpose of upgrading.
  - (c) Modules in which candidates are given an F grade shall be recorded on the transcript of the candidate, together with the new grade if the candidate is re-assessed or repeats the failed module.
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### **Ed338 Re-assessment**

- (a) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in any part of the assessment at the first attempt may be permitted to present themselves again for re-assessment of the failed module(s) as determined by the Board of Examiners.
  - (b) Candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory dissertation at the first attempt may be permitted to re-present the dissertation for re-assessment within a period of not more than 12 months after it is deemed unsatisfactory.
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### **Ed339 Discontinuation**

Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty, candidates shall be required to discontinue their studies, if they have:

- (a) failed to satisfy the examiners upon re-assessment of a module, a project or a dissertation; or
  - (b) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in Regulation Ed333.
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### **Ed340 Award of degree**

- (a) To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Science in Library and Information Management, candidates shall
- (i) comply with the General Regulations; and
  - (ii) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with these regulations and the syllabuses.
- (b) Candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded on the transcript of candidates. A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the degree requirements shall be posted on Faculty notice boards.

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

The degree of Master of Science in Library Information Management (MSc[LIM])) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed programme in one of the following specialist strands:

1. Librarianship
2. Information management
3. Knowledge management

Candidates are required to complete a total of 8 modules which comprise:

- 4 core modules
- either
  - MLIM6322. Independent project (equivalent to 1 module), 2 modules from a specialist strand and 1 elective module; or
  - MLIM6810. Dissertation (equivalent to 3 modules) and 1 module from a specialist strand

The total curriculum load will be at least 300 hours, including self-study, conducting library and field research where appropriate, online work such as forum discussion, e-portfolio production, etc.

### **CORE MODULES**

All candidates are required to complete 4 core modules.

#### **MLIM6206. Leading and managing in the workplace**

This course uses a case method approach to explore a range of established and emerging management and leadership concepts. Adopting an organisational 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.

Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

#### **MLIM6314. Library and information science foundation**

This module introduces the history, development and potential of information professionals in libraries and other workplaces. The nature of information and the roles of library and information professionals are examined through the analysis of a range of information process and related models. Critical contemporary social, legal and ethical issues in the evolving information society are also explored. Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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### **MLIM6319. Information behaviour**

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

Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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### **MLIM6025. Methods of research and enquiry**

This module introduces students to research methods, emphasising 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 information technology in library and information management settings.

Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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## **SPECIALIST MODULES**

Candidates opted for the project mode are required to complete two modules whereas candidates opted for the dissertation mode are required to complete one module from the list of specialist modules for their chosen specialist strand:

### **A. Librarianship**

- MLIM6201. Information resources and services
- MLIM6202. Literature for young people in a digital age
- MLIM6203. Digital libraries: principles and applications
- MLIM6209. Teacher librarianship
- MLIM6210. Preservation of information
- MLIM6315. Collection management
- MLIM6316. Organising information
- MLIM6317. Information retrieval theory and practice

### **B. Information management**

- MLIM6201. Information resources and services
- MLIM6204. Records management
- MLIM6210. Preservation of information
- MLIM6316. Organising information
- MLIM6317. Information retrieval theory and practice

### **C. Knowledge management**

- MLIM6212. Knowledge management
- MLIM6311. E-learning strategies and management

MLIM6328. Organisational learning

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## **DISSERTATION AND PROJECT**

All candidates are required to complete either MLIM6810. Dissertation (equivalent to 3 modules) or MLIM6322. Independent project (equivalent to 1 module).

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### **MLIM6810. Dissertation** (equivalent to 3 modules)

The dissertation is of 15,000 to 18,000 words on an approved topic from a field of study. Candidates who opt to take the dissertation option may be required to participate in a series of dissertation seminars, and 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. 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.

Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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### **MLIM6322. Independent project**

The independent project of 4,000 to 5,000 words 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.

Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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## **ELECTIVE MODULES**

Candidates opted for the project mode are required to complete one elective module which has not yet been taken previously from the following list. Candidates may, as an alternative, take a module from another master degree curriculum offered by the Faculty of Education under the advice and approval of the Programme Director. Not all elective modules will necessarily be offered every year.

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### **MLIM6201. Information resources and services**

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

Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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### **MLIM6202. Literature for young people in a digital age**

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. Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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### **MLIM6203. Digital libraries: principles and applications**

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.

Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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### **MLIM6204. Records management**

This module explores the philosophy of records management and presents the basic techniques and standards for managing records in organizations. The emphasis is on activities and methods relevant to storage, filing, retrieval, retention, preservation, and disposition of physical and electronic records, with legal and ethical considerations. The module also examines techniques and strategies to establish organization-wide records management programs for building information and knowledge repositories. Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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### **MLIM6209. Teacher librarianship**

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. Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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### **MLIM6210. Preservation of information**

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 explored and valued. Preservation planning, disaster planning and recovery is addressed. Students are introduced to the conservation and preservation of archive materials in an online age, digitization program management and digitization technologies. Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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### **MLIM6212. Knowledge management**

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.

Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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### **MLIM6311. e-Learning strategies and management**

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.

Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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### **MLIM6315. Collection management**

This module examines the methods used to build and evaluate 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. Collection 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.

Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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### **MLIM6316. Organising information**

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.

Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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### **MLIM6317. Information retrieval theory and practice**

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, search strategies, evaluation of search results, information seeking behaviour and needs. The role of the information professional in information mediation is explored. Strategic searching, competitive intelligence and selected online systems are also explored.

Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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### **MLIM6328. Organisational learning**

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

Assessment will be by 100% coursework.

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