

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.

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 for 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.

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 the required number of courses, i.e.
 - 4 core courses + 6 elective courses (the non-dissertation option); or
 - 4 core courses + 4 elective courses + dissertation (the dissertation option); 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.

Title of dissertation

MCDS 6. Subject to the provisions of Regulation MCDS 5(b), this regulation is applicable only to the students who choose the “dissertation option”

- (a) for the full-time study, the title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than April 30 of that academic year;
 - (b) for the part-time study, the title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than April 30 in the candidates’ 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 either
 - (i) a total of 4 core courses and 6 elective courses (including the course entitled “GEOG7131 Directed Project in China Development Studies”) for the “non-dissertation option”; or
 - (ii) a total of 4 core courses, 4 elective courses and a dissertation (equivalent to 2 courses) for the “dissertation option”.
 - (b) For the 2-year part-time study:
 - (i) candidates who choose the non-dissertation option are permitted to take a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 6 courses (core and elective) in the first year of study, and the remaining 5 or 4 courses in the second year of study; or
 - (ii) candidates who choose the dissertation option are permitted to take a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 6 courses (core and elective) in the first year of study, and the remaining 3 or 2 courses, plus the dissertation in the second year of study.
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Examinations

MCDS 8.

- (a) Coursework or a dissertation shall constitute part or whole of the examination for one or more courses.
- (b) 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.
- (c) Examinations will be held at the end of the semester in which the courses are taken.

MCDS 9. Full-time candidates

For the non-dissertation option

- (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, may be permitted to (a) present themselves for re-examination in the failed course(s), or (b) repeat the failed course(s). The re-examination, if permitted, would be held within a specific period of not less than two months and not more than twelve months after the publication of the results; and
- (b) who have failed to satisfy the examiners in three or more courses may be required to repeat the failed courses or to discontinue their studies.

For the dissertation option

- (c) 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 of not less than two months and not more than twelve months after the publication of the results;

- (d) who have satisfied the examiners in all the courses but have presented an unsatisfactory dissertation may be permitted to revise and re-submit 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;
- (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, 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-submit the dissertation within a specified period of not less than two months nor more than twelve months after the publication of the results; and
- (f) who have failed to satisfy the examiners in three or more courses may be required to repeat all the courses taken in that particular year or to discontinue their studies.

MCDS 10. Part-time candidates

For the non-dissertation option

- (a) who have satisfied the examiners 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, may be permitted to (a) present themselves for re-examination in the failed course(s), or (b) repeat the failed course(s). The re-examination, if permitted, would be held within a specified period of not less than two months nor more than twelve months after the publication of results; and
- (c) who have failed to satisfy the examiners in three or more courses may be required to repeat all the courses taken in that particular year or to discontinue their studies.

For the dissertation option

- (d) who have satisfied the examiners in all courses taken in the first academic year could proceed to the next academic year;
- (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, may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in the failed course(s) within a specified period of not less than two months nor more than twelve months after the publication of results;
- (f) 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 of not less than two months nor more than twelve months after the publication of results;
- (g) 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-submit 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;
- (h) 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-submit the dissertation within a specified period of not less than two months nor more than twelve months after the publication of the results; and
- (i) who have failed to satisfy the examiners in three or more courses may be required to repeat the failed courses or to discontinue their studies.

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.

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 in the first attempt or to revise and re-submit 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 repeat or discontinue their studies; and
 - (c) have failed to satisfy the examiners in three or more courses may be required to discontinue their studies.
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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 (candidates who have enrolled in the “dissertation option” will have a priority in being considered for receiving the 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 either

- (a) a total of 4 core courses and 6 elective courses (including the course entitled “GEOG7131 Directed Project in China Development Studies”); or
- (b) a total of 4 core courses, 4 elective courses and a dissertation (equivalent to 2 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 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.

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.

GEOG7120. Urban China: cultural basis and contemporary issues

This course is taught as a reading seminar and aims to provide a forum for discussion of issues in China's urban development. Topics include major social and cultural processes, such as migration, gender, and identity politics; as well as issues in urban political economy, such as urban planning, urban growth politics, and land and real estate reform. This course will concern itself with the rich diversity of approaches and methods in urban geography.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

GEOG7128. Geography of international trade and FDI in China

This course introduces students with the changing paradigms in theorization of international trade and FDI (foreign direct investment) as well as its profound implications to this globalizing world and China. The impact of foreign trade and investment on China's regional economic development is also discussed.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

GEOG7129. Climate change, environmental resources and human carrying capacity in China

The course introduces the concept of human carrying capacity in China. The capacity symbolizes the balance between population size and environmental resources. In Chinese history, it is shown that the human carrying capacity was periodically shrunk by climate deterioration and human-induced environmental degradation, resulting in catastrophic social consequences such as wars, population collapses and even dynastic changes. Based upon the lessons of the past, together with recent trends in climate change and social development, the human carrying capacity in contemporary China will be systematically examined. Some controversial issues related to man-environment interaction will also be discussed.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

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: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

GEOG7116. China field trip

This programme-based field trip is designed to provide opportunities for students to examine first hand development issues and problems in China. Students are encouraged to incorporate what they have learned from the field trip into their dissertations or directed projects.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

GEOG7117. Public policies and regional development

This course is taught as a reading seminar and aims to provide a forum for discussion of the concepts, theories, and practices of regional development. Course contents include the changing interpretation

of the concept of regional development; key policy issues in the practice of regional development such as transport infrastructure development, transnational capital, environmental management, and metropolitan development; and different approaches to regional development in selected world regions including North America, the Asian NICs, and the socialist third world. The objective is to assist students to better understand the mechanism of regional development and to provide a framework necessary to planning and policy-making.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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.

GEOG7124. Globalization and spatial economic transformation in China

This course prepares students to analyze topics related to the current and future special economic transformation in China and provide professional recommendations to industry managers and planning bodies. The lectures will provide tools and frameworks and use case based teaching to practice application and deepen the understanding of methods and their limitations.

The course is specifically designed as a cross over between the work of strategic management consultants, geotechnical consulting services, funding institutions for industrial ventures and political planning and decision bodies.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

GEOG7126 Cultural tourism in Hong Kong, Macau and South China

This course introduces the underlying factors, characteristics and challenges on cultural heritage conservation, management and the related tourism development in Hong Kong, Macau and the South China region. Tourism industry is widely accepted as one of the key engines for Hong Kong, Macau and China's economic development. However, the conventional strand of tourism has reached its growth climax. Cultural tourism offers a promising alternative to sustain this growing industry, which also contributes to preserve the heritages and customs in the regions. Recently, three World Heritage sites (Macao Historic Centre, Fujian Tulou and Kaiping Diaolou and Villages) have been recognized by the UNESCO in Macau and South China. In Hong Kong, over 1,444 historic buildings and 86 monuments have been identified in the city for possible statutory conservation. Many of them have great potential to be revitalized as attractive tourist spots. This course focuses on the cultural tourism development in Hong Kong, Macau, and the South China region. The dynamic relationship among heritage conservation, sustainable management, stakeholders' interests, tourism development and government policies are assessed.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

GEOG7130. China's natural environment and resources

The course firstly provides an explanation of basic natural environmental elements of China. Based on understanding and distribution of these elements, Chinese physical environment is then regionalized and the individual environmental regions are discussed in detail. The course also covers the utilization and transformation of natural environment since civilization and the major environmental problems in different regions. This course involves a compulsory field trip to China.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

GEOG7131. Directed project in China development studies

This is an introductory course about the nature and methodology of research about social, economic, and spatial developments in China. Topics to be covered will include the identification of research problems, preparation of a research proposal, formulation of research questions and research hypotheses, collection of data from various sources, critical assessment of the data collected from China, different techniques of data analysis, and presentation of research findings. The purpose is to introduce to students a workable framework for independent research and to demonstrate how statistical techniques could be utilized to solve various research problems concerning China's economic growth and spatial transformation.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

GEOG7132. Principles of environmental management (offered in biennial even years)

The course will introduce a range of concepts and methods in environmental management. The major components, processes, and attributes to the environmental management process will be discussed. The market and government regulations associated with environmental management will also be presented. Considering the complex and dynamic nature of the environmental management process, applications of environmental, social, and economic methods in environmental management are discussed in detail and illustrated by real-life examples mainly from Hong Kong. Integrated approaches for identifying desirable policy options in environmental decision-making are also introduced.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

GEOG7133. Port and airport development (offered in biennial odd years)

Port and airport are regarded in transport geography as two nodal development forms in multi-modal transport systems. Through a series of seminar-like discussions, this course provides an understanding of port and airport operations, and how these two forms of nodal transport infrastructure interact with other transport components and with urban and regional development. Examples drawn from different parts of the world will be discussed in detail and students are required to examine the local cases through field trips.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

GEOG7134. Planning cities for sustainable development

There has been a rapidly increasing literature, since the latter half of the 1990s, on how cities and urban development in general could be made compatible with sustainable development goals. This course will examine key issues, both theoretical and practical, pertaining to this topic—such as the relationship between cities and environmental justice, health, transport, industry, agriculture, planning, designing with nature and waste management. Discussion will also extend to the problem of how best to measure, monitor and evaluate progress made towards the achievement of sustainable development goals at the city and national levels. Comparing and contrasting various policy and planning approaches exemplified by a range of urban projects introduced and implemented in both developed and developing countries, an overall emphasis will be placed on how the planning and management of cities for sustainable development goals need to be considered within a regional and Global context.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

C. Dissertation

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 issues. 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 date for submitting the dissertation would be announced at the start of the first year of study (for full-time candidates) or at the start of the final year of study (for part-time candidates).

Assessment: 100% coursework.

D.. Additional Pedagogic Requirements

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 may also be required to present findings from their independent dissertation research in the seminar series. Attendance in the seminars are required.

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.