

REGULATIONS FOR THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH STUDIES (PDipES)

(See also General Regulations)

PDES1 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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PDES2 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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PDES3 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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PDES4 Length of curriculum

The curriculum shall normally be completed within one academic year of study with a minimum of 240 hours of prescribed work.

PDES5 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.

PDES6 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 end of the academic year.
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PDES7 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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PDES8 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.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH STUDIES (PDipES)

The Postgraduate Diploma in English Studies, a programme that can be completed within 12 months, is primarily designed to enhance the subject knowledge of teachers who are currently teaching English or who intend to teach English; but it is also suitable for non-teachers who would like to acquire a broad and thorough understanding of English Studies, including different aspects of linguistics and literature. Participants in this programme will take eight courses and undertake an independent learning project.

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 discursive context. Students 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 students to the major literary genres, including fiction, poetry, drama, and film; and to some important works in adolescent literature written in English. Students will learn how to respond to, read, and write about literature. Class activities include lectures, discussion, and drama activities. Assessment is by coursework.

PDES6010 Topics in Applied English Studies

This course introduces students to new trends in English studies, and is composed of four topics.

Topic 1: Teaching Writing

This short module focuses on current theories of writing and teaching writing, and what they mean for teachers of second language students.

Topic 2: Introduction to Corpus Linguistics

This short module introduces students to Corpus Linguistics as a means to study language use. It examines authentic English language data through different English language corpora and concordance tools.

Topic 3: Introduction to Systemic Functional Grammar

This short module introduces students to Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar. The three meta-functions of language, namely, ideational, interpersonal, and textual, will be discussed.

Topic 4: Intercultural Communication

The two-fold purpose of the short module is first, to discuss the various aspects of the process in which persons from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds communicate with each other; and second, to examine the dynamics of communication in intercultural settings.

Assessment is by coursework.

PDES6030 Independent learning project

This course provides students with an opportunity: 1) to explore an area in English Studies in depth; 2) to study independently; and 3) to do basic research. At the end of the academic year, when students have taken all the compulsory modules, they will be required to pick a topic and read about 20 texts. The products are 1) a final paper that consists of an introduction, an annotated bibliography, and a conclusion; and 2) an oral presentation. Students are expected to spend at least 48 hours on this project, and will be supervised by a teacher.

Coursework Assessment

Students 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.
