

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

MCDS1 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

MCDS2

- (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

MCDS3 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

MCDS4 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

MCDS5 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

MCDS6 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

MCDS7

- (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

MCDS8

- (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.

MCDS9 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.

MCDS10 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

MCDS11 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

MCDS12 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

MCDS13 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 (MACHDS)

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: 50% coursework, 50% 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 is based on lectures and seminars, and aims to help students develop perspectives for analyzing China's spatial development under globalization. China's recent industrialization is arguably the world's second great spatial transformation since the Industrial Revolution in England. The focus of the course is on the internal dynamics of China's spatial economy and its interaction with the world. The scholarly literature for this course draws from geography and other disciplines in social science. The seminar also takes up some main debates in China's current spatial development and examines different viewpoints.

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 101 monuments have been identified in the city for possible statutory conservation. Many of them have great potential to be preserved and revitalized as attractive tourist spots, while keeping their authenticity. 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: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

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.

GEOG7135 Sustainable urban and transport planning

There has been a rapidly increasing literature, since the 1990s, on how cities in general, and urban transport systems in particular, could be planned and managed to make them compatible, and aligned, with sustainable development goals. This course examines some key theoretical issues pertaining to this two-tiered topic—such as the relationships between cities, sustainability and environmental justice. It then explores the questions of how, and to what extent, the practices of sectoral policies—in transport, urban design, and planning—have contributed to, or have hindered, the attainment of sustainable development goals at the city level. Changes in the philosophy of urban transport planning, as evidenced by a shift from a mobility-focused perspective to an accessibility-centred mindset, as well as the paradigm shifts towards low-carbon low-impact modes of transport, are highlighted and the associated debates elucidated. Comparing and contrasting various policy and planning approaches exemplified by a range of urban planning and urban transport planning projects and programs introduced and implemented in both developed and developing countries, an overall emphasis is placed on how and why “sustainable cities” need to be considered at the broader 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 is 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.
