

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN CHINA DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (MACHDS)

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Arts in China Development Studies in the academic year 2017-18 and thereafter.

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 and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall hold a Bachelor's degree of this University or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b); and
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

MCDS 2. An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

Qualifying examination

MCDS 3.

- (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 4. 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 the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
 - (b) shall complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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Period of study

MCDS 5. The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study. 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.

Completion of curriculum

MCDS 6. To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (b) shall complete the required number of courses, i.e.
4 compulsory courses + 6 elective courses (the non-dissertation option); or
4 compulsory courses + 4 elective courses + dissertation (the dissertation option);
 - (c) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work; and
 - (d) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of assessment (including coursework and oral examination).
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Dissertation

MCDS 7. Subject to the provisions of Regulation MCDS 6(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 8.

- (a) To complete the curriculum, candidates (either full-time or part-time) are required to complete not less than 60 credits, including:
 - (i) for the non-dissertation option, a total of 4 compulsory courses and 6 elective courses (one must be the capstone experience course entitled “Research methods and directed project in China development studies”); or
 - (ii) for the dissertation option, a total of 4 compulsory courses, 4 elective courses and a dissertation (i.e. the capstone experience course entitled “Dissertation in China development studies”).
 - (b) For candidates under the two-year part-time mode of study:
 - (i) those who follow the non-dissertation option are required to take at least 5 and not more than 6 courses (compulsory and elective) in the first year of study, and the remaining 5 or 4 courses in the second year of study; or
 - (ii) those who follow the dissertation option are required to take at least 5 and not more than 6 courses (compulsory and elective) in the first year of study, and the remaining 3 or 2 courses and the dissertation in the second year of study.
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Assessment

MCDS 9. Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.

MCDS 10. Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.

MCDS 11. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than two courses, not including the dissertation, in an academic year may be permitted to make up for the failed course(s) in the following manner:

- (a) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held on a specified date not less than two months and not more than twelve months after publication of the results; or
- (b) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
- (c) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
- (d) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

MCDS 12. Candidates who have presented an unsatisfactory dissertation in an academic year 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 publication of the results.

MCDS 13. Candidates who

- (a) have failed to satisfy the examiners at the first attempt in three or more courses, not including the dissertation, in an academic year; or
- (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any course(s) or the dissertation at the second attempt; or
- (c) are not permitted to present themselves for re-assessment/re-examination in any failed course(s) or to repeat the failed course(s) or take another course in lieu; or
- (d) are not permitted to revise and re-submit the dissertation which they have presented and failed to satisfy the examiners; or
- (e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration

may be required to discontinue their studies.

MCDS 14. Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves for a supplementary examination of the same course, which shall be held at a time to be determined by the Board of examiners. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in the supplementary examination shall be considered as failure at the first attempt.

MCDS 15. There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

Grading system

MCDS 16. Individual courses shall be graded according to the following grading system:

<i>Grade</i>		<i>Standard</i>	<i>Grade Point</i>
A+	}	Excellent	4.3
A			4.0
A-			3.7
B+	}	Good	3.3
B			3.0
B-			2.7
C+	}	Satisfactory	2.3
C			2.0
C-			1.7
D+	}	Pass	1.3
D			1.0
F		Fail	0

Classification of awards

MCDS 17. On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN CHINA DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

CURRICULUM

The curriculum provides an opportunity to local and international students for systematic training and independent research on development issues in contemporary China.

Candidates are required to complete a total of 60 credits either

- a total of 4 compulsory courses (6 credits each), 5 elective courses (6 credits each) and "GEOG7136 Research methods and directed project in China development studies" (6 credits) for the "non-dissertation" option; or
- a total of 4 compulsory courses (6 credits each), 4 elective courses (6 credits each) ("GEOG7136 Research methods and directed project in China development studies" can be counted as one elective) and "GEOG7122 Dissertation in China development studies" (12 credits) for the "dissertation" option.

An adequate number of elective courses will be offered to students in each academic year. Each course entails one session of two lecture hours per week over one semester.

Compulsory Courses

Candidates shall complete all of the following four courses:

- GEOG7101. The Chinese economies: location, transformation, and integration (6 credits)
- GEOG7120. Urban China: cultural basis and contemporary issues (6 credits)
- GEOG7128. Geography of international trade and FDI in China (6 credits)
- GEOG7129. Climate change, environmental resources and human carrying capacity in China (6 credits)

Elective Courses

Candidates shall complete either four (dissertation option) or six (non-dissertation option) of the following courses:

- GEOG7116. China field trip (6 credits)
- GEOG7117. Public policies and regional development (6 credits)
- GEOG3102. China: environment and sustainable development (6 credits)
- GEOG7124. Globalization and spatial economic transformation in China (6 credits)
- GEOG7126. Cultural tourism in Hong Kong, Macau and South China (6 credits)
- GEOG4101. Sustainable urban and transport planning (6 credits)
- GEOG7137. Land governance and development in China (6 credits)

Capstone Experience Courses

Candidates shall complete at least one of the following courses:

- GEOG7122. Dissertation in China development studies (12 credits)
- GEOG7136. Research methods and directed project in China development studies (6 credits)

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.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

GEOG7101. The Chinese economies: location, transformation, and integration (6 credits)

This course provides an overview of the location, transformation, and integration of regional economies in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macau. Major theoretical perspectives are introduced to explain the growth dynamics of the Chinese economies, the shifting spatial distribution of economic activities and their outward direct investment flows across the globe.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

GEOG7120. Urban China: cultural basis and contemporary issues (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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.

Elective Courses

GEOG7116. China field trip (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

This is a seminar-type course about the concepts, theories, and practices of regional development. Course contents include the changing interpretations of the meanings of regional development; key policy issues in the practice of regional development such as transport infrastructure development, transnational capital, environmental management, metropolitan development, industrial clusters, learning regions; and different approaches to regional development in selected world regions including North America, Western Europe, East Asia and China. The objective is to assist students to develop critical thinking in the evaluation of different perspectives and competing interpretations about the nature and dynamics of public policy and regional development in different historical and geographic contexts.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

GEOG3102. China: environment and sustainable development (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

This reading-intensive seminar-type course aims to help students develop perspectives for analyzing the interplay between China's spatial development and globalization. First, we will examine the extent to which China's post-Mao industrialization and urbanization are shaped by global process. Second, by investigating into important issues such as China's outward investments in Africa and Latin America, we ask how the rise of China as global economic power is reshaping the landscape of the world economy. Important globalization theories and theories of China's post-Mao development will be introduced and examined critically throughout the semester.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

GEOG7126 Cultural tourism in Hong Kong, Macau and South China (6 credits)

Cultural tourism offers a promising alternative to conventional tourism development, which also contributes to the preservation of the heritage and customs of the place. This course arouses students' interests in exploring the rapid development of cultural tourism in Hong Kong, Macau and the South China region. The course examines the dynamic relationship among conservation, sustainable management, social and cultural factors, stakeholders' interests, tourism marketing and development trends, with selected case studies.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

GEOG4101. Sustainable urban and transport planning (6 credits)

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.

GEOG7137. Land governance and development in China (6 credits)

The aim of this course is to explain the role of land, with special reference to its use and management, for China's overall development. It will firstly introduce the fundamental principles and best practices of land governance and land use that characterise market-based economies in Western countries and Hong Kong. It will then explain the importance of land governance in China's developmental process, as well as the resulting economic, social and environmental problems caused by past and present land policies and land administration institutions. Finally, the course will introduce recent changes in China's land and land-related policies, with a view to evaluating the extent to which modern Western land governance principles and practices can be applied to China's development in the context of the country's relatively unique political, economic and social paths of transition from a planned economy to a market-oriented model of development.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

Capstone Experience Courses

GEOG7122. Dissertation in China development studies (12 credits)

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 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.

GEOG7136. Research methods and directed project in China development studies (6 credits)

This is a course on the nature and methods of research in 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, through the writing of a directed project.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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.