

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Bachelor of Arts Programme in Language and Communication

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The Language and Communication programme in the School of English consists of six different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. All courses are 6-credit courses. A range of 120-180 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) is the norm for a 6-credit course.

Contact hours are in a range of 24-36 hours for a 6-credit course. The teaching/ learning mode of the majority of courses is lecture and seminar/ tutorial, supplemented by directed activities and self-study. However, some may have different learning modes and, consequently, fewer contact hours, such as the Internship, Research and Field Trip courses, where traditional contact hours are minimal (6-12 hours for a 6-credit course) because students mainly do independent field or research work under the guidance of a supervisor. As a general guide, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be approx. 4,000-6,000 words for a 6-credit course. Courses are assessed by 100% continuous assessment.

The six categories of courses in the Language and Communication programme may be summarised as follows:

1. *Introductory courses* (6 credits)

These introductory-level courses, to be taken in the first and second years, introduce students to the disciplinary area, providing them with basic or foundational knowledge, and developing subject-related skills of analysis, research, communication, and critical inquiry in the discipline. Courses are taught using a combination of lectures and small group seminars or tutorials, though they are mainly lecture-based. Assessment is by a variety of coursework (including writing assignments, tests, and oral contributions), with a total output of approx. 5,000 words.

2. *Advanced courses* (6 credits)

These advanced-level courses, to be taken in the third and fourth years, deepen certain themes and topics in the discipline, focusing on specialist subject matter relating to core debates, theories or methodologies, and are taught in a combination of lectures and tutorials/ seminars, with contact hours being no more than three hours per week. Assessment is by a variety of coursework (including writing assignments, tests, and oral contributions), with a total output of approx. 5,000 words.

3. *Field Trip course* (6 credits)

This course provides students with valuable international experience, as well as an opportunity for experiential learning, where they can experience other cultures and language situations first-hand. The course involves (i) pre-trip lectures/ seminars, which include introductions to the language and cultural situations of the destination as well as the relevant linguistic issues, and preparation for the projects students will work on while on the trip; and (ii) the one- to two-week field trip itself, which may encompass visits to educational and research institutions and cultural sites, seminars and regular group discussions, and data collection. A final project is submitted upon return from the field trip. Assessment is by 100% coursework, including work

during the pre-trip sessions, participation during the field trip, and the final research output (of approx. 4,000-6,000 words).

4. *Research course: capstone* (6 credits)

This course aims at providing students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interests under the supervision of a teacher. Contact hours are minimal (6-12 hours) because students spend much of their time on individual research and writing. Assessment is through a single piece of work, which is either a single essay or a portfolio of essays, with a total output of approx. 5,000 words.

5. *Internship: capstone* (6 credits)

The internship aims at providing senior students with an experiential learning opportunity to work in environments where they will be able to apply their disciplinary knowledge and skills, and acquire work experience through on-the-job training. Internship positions are arranged by students, under the guidance of the course coordinator, in host organisations which provide relevant experiences. The duration of the internship will depend on the arrangement between the student and the organization, but should involve at least 120 contact hours of service for the organization. The student learning activities include preparation, on-site internship work under the guidance and supervision of an internship supervisor, meetings with the course coordinator, self-study (e.g. all associated readings) and assessment-related work. Assessment (pass/ fail) is based on written reports with a total output of approx. 4,000 words, and feedback from the internship supervisor.

6. *Fieldwork course: capstone* (6 credits)

While all LCOM courses aim to involve students in some fieldwork experience, this fieldwork capstone course aims to have students (a) bring together the theoretical knowledge and methodological skills acquired in this and previous courses in this (and other) programmes, (b) with a focus on the local and contemporary in multilingual, globalised contexts, and (c) with an emphasis on issues of linguistic and cultural diversity and the responsibility that each individual has to make informed and significant contributions to society, for sustainability and the advancement of the human condition. While the course includes a number of lectures, it is predominantly practical in nature, with students having to conduct a project, involving fieldwork in local contexts, including data collection and analysis. Assessment is by a variety of coursework, including presentation and the final project write-up, with a total output of approx. 5,000 words.

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