

# Master of Arts Programme in Linguistics

語言學文學碩士課程

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香港中文大學語言學及現代語言系  
Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

## Introduction

The Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) is committed to the scientific study of language as an integral part of mind. We emphasize interdisciplinary research and training that draws on knowledge and methods from a wide range of related disciplines such as philosophy, psychology, cognitive neuroscience, engineering, and education, with the goal of nurturing scholarship and advancing knowledge of language, its structure, use and acquisition.

The Master of Arts Programme in Linguistics features an interdisciplinary approach to language study. It is designed to introduce students to current theories in linguistics and their various applications to language typology, language acquisition, language and modality, language teaching as well as culture and society, which are presented in a comparative framework. The programme consists of three streams, namely, (i) the General Linguistics Stream, (ii) the Language Acquisition and Bilingualism Stream, and (iii) the Sign Linguistics Stream.



## Objectives

The programme aims to:

- help students develop sensitivity towards the complexities of language structure and use;
- develop students' understanding of the characteristic properties of languages that use the vocal-auditory channel (i.e. typical human language) and languages that use the manual-visual channel (i.e. sign language);
- enhance students' linguistic awareness of the factors underlying language development, language acquisition, and bilingualism; and
- equip students with methodological tools for the analysis of language structure, and for the empirical study of the dynamics of the teaching and learning process.

## Programme Mode

The programme is offered in both full-time and part-time study modes. The full-time mode covers a normal period of one academic year while the part-time mode covers a normal period of two academic years. Students are required to complete a total of 27 units of courses. The numbers of required courses and elective courses differ from stream to stream.

## Entry Requirements

Applicants should have graduated from a recognized university and obtained a Bachelor's degree, normally with honours not lower than Second Class, and have fulfilled the English Language Proficiency Requirement.

Please refer to the homepage of the Graduate School of CUHK:  
<https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/>

## Application Procedures

Applicants should submit their applications via the website of the Graduate School of CUHK. The application period is from September to end of February of the following year. All required supporting documents should reach the Division of Linguistics two weeks after the submission of the online application.



# Course List

## I. General Linguistics Stream

### Required Courses

- Foundations I: Phonetics and Phonology
- Foundations II: Syntax and Semantics

### Elective Courses

- Foundations in Language Acquisition
- Foundations in Sign Language Research
- Topics in Second Language Acquisition
- Topics in Bilingualism
- Linguistics and Language Teaching
- Approaches to English Grammar
- Special Topics in Linguistics
- Topics in Sociolinguistics
- Special Topics in Applied Linguistics



- Topics in Psycholinguistics
- Language Disorders
- Linguistic Research
- Research Project
- Research Practicum

## II. Language Acquisition and Bilingualism Stream

### Required Courses

- Foundations I: Phonetics and Phonology
- Foundations II: Syntax and Semantics
- Foundations in Language Acquisition

*(Take at least 2 out of the following 3 courses)*

- Topics in Second Language Acquisition
- Topics in Bilingualism
- Topics in Chinese Language Acquisition

### Elective Courses

- Foundations in Sign Language Research
- Linguistics and Language Teaching
- Approaches to English Grammar
- Topics in Language Acquisition of Deaf Children
- Sign Linguistics
- Special Topics in Linguistics
- Topics in Sociolinguistics
- Special Topics in Applied Linguistics
- Topics in Psycholinguistics
- Language Disorders
- Linguistic Research
- Research Project
- Research Practicum

## III. Sign Linguistics Stream

### Required Courses

- Foundations I: Phonetics and Phonology
- Foundations II: Syntax and Semantics
- Foundations in Sign Language Research
- Topics in Language Acquisition of Deaf Children
- Sign Linguistics

### Elective Courses

- Foundations in Language Acquisition
- Topics in Second Language Acquisition
- Topics in Bilingualism
- Linguistics and Language Teaching
- Approaches to English Grammar
- Special Topics in Linguistics
- Topics in Sociolinguistics
- Special Topics in Applied Linguistics
- Topics in Psycholinguistics
- Language Disorders
- Linguistic Research
- Research Project
- Research Practicum



## Entrance Examination

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview and take a written test.

## Application Fee

HK\$300 (non-refundable).

## Tuition Fee

Please refer to the homepage of the Graduate School of CUHK .

## Words from Graduates



" With CUHK LING you get what you came for. No matter what you seek, you find it quickly and receive systematic trainings on it with rapid progress.

The courses offered cover almost all stems in Modern Linguistics, and the contents emphasize range as well as depth. The build is practical and acquired fast. The faculty members all demonstrate sheer expertise and great passion; Some of them are among the world's leading researchers. Working with these people is very much inspiring.

It is also worth noting that except for the MA-level trainings, outside course lectures abundant resources for advanced and highly specialized knowledge are openly available in forms of supervised practicum chances, seminars by invited speakers and other non-regular activities.

Do expect challenges, however, as the standards could be high. Yet it is always challenges that push one towards accomplishment, and one harvests a more capable character through the process."

- Du Yuqiao (2019), awardee of CUHK Strategic Area (China Studies) PhD Fellowship Scheme 2020-21



" After several years as an English teacher with an extracurricular interest in the cognitive science of language, I joined the MA in Linguistics programme at CUHK, as it presented an opportunity both for professional development and to conduct research. The foundation courses improved my ability to understand and explain the rules underlying grammar and pronunciation, while the research project and practicum allowed me to go through the process of designing, carrying out, and reporting a series of psycholinguistics experiments. I also took a variety of elective courses, which are not only academically stimulating but can open the door to fields like speech therapy and natural language processing. Upon graduating, I spent the summer teaching English to university students in Tokyo before returning to CUHK as a teaching assistant, and I'm now pursuing a PhD in the Department's newly established Language Processing Lab. Members of that lab conduct experiments that address current theoretical issues, such as how the identity of a conversational partner changes the comprehension and production of language, or how prediction helps people understand language efficiently and accurately. The MA programme introduced me to interesting topics like these while providing the knowledge and skills needed to engage with and contribute to them. "

- David Haslett (2019), awardee of HKPhD Fellowship Scheme 2020-21

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