BSc Graduation Requirements and Honours Classification

(a) Award of a BSc degree

For students admitted to the first year in 2024-25 or before, students transferred to the second year in 2025-26 or before, students transferred to the third/fourth year in 2026-27 or before, and students admitted directly to the third year in 2024-25 or before:

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science, students must fulfil the following requirements:

i. Satisfied the requirements in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula[#];
ii. Passed not fewer than 240 credits, comprising 96 credits of the required courses as prescribed in the regular major programme, or 144 credits (or a higher credit requirement by the accredited bodies) of the prescribed courses in the intensive major programme, of the BSc degree curriculum.

[#] UG5 specifies that students have to successfully complete:
- (a) 12 credits in English language enhancement, including 6 credits in Core University English[1] (i.e. CAES1000) and 6 credits in an English in the Discipline course[2] [i.e. CAES9820 Academic English for Science Students OR CAES9821 Professional and Technical Communication for Statistical Sciences (previous title: Professional and Technical Communication for Mathematical Sciences)];
- (b) 6 credits in Chinese language enhancement[3] (i.e. CSCI9001 Practical Chinese for Science Students);
- (c) 36 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum, comprising at least one and not more than two courses from each Area of Inquiry with not more than 24 credits of courses being selected within one academic year except where candidates are required to make up for failed credits;
- (d) a capstone experience as specified in the syllabuses of the degree curriculum; and
- (e) any other non-credit bearing courses as required.

For students admitted to the first year in 2025-26 and thereafter, students transferred to the first/second year in 2026-27 and thereafter, and students admitted directly to the third year in 2025-26 and thereafter:

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science, students must fulfil the following requirements:

i. Satisfied the requirements in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula[#];
ii. Passed not fewer than 240 credits, comprising 96 credits of the required courses as prescribed in the regular major programme, or 144 credits (or a higher credit requirement by the accredited bodies) of the prescribed courses in the intensive major programme, of the BSc degree curriculum.

[#] UG5 specifies that students have to successfully complete:
- (a) a non-credit bearing Academic Communication in English course[4] (i.e. CAES1001), unless they are exempted through having achieved Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, or equivalent;
- (b) 6 credits in an English in the Discipline course[2] (i.e. CAES9820 Academic English for

Science Students OR CAES9821 Professional and Technical Communication for Statistical Sciences);

(c) 6 credits in a Chinese language enhancement course[5] (i.e. CSCI9001 Practical Chinese for Science Students);

(d) 36 credits in the Common Core Curriculum, comprising at least 6 credits and not more than 12 credits from each Area of Inquiry with not more than 24 credits being selected within one academic year except where candidates are required to make up for failed credits;

(e) 6 credits in artificial intelligence literacy (i.e. two 3-credit AILT-coded microcredential courses);

(f) a non-credit bearing course in national education and national security education, and any other non-credit bearing courses as may be required from time to time; and

(g) a capstone experience specified for their degree curriculum.

(b) Honours Classification

Classification of honours are calculated using the graduation grade point average GGPA* as below:

	GGPA range
First Class Honours	3.60 – 4.30
Second Class Honours Division I	3.00 – 3.59
Second Class Honours Division II	2.40 – 2.99
Third Class Honours	1.70 – 2.39
Pass[#]	1.00 – 1.69

* For students admitted between 2017-18 and 2024-25 who have successfully completed six Common Core courses, the calculation of Graduation GPA is subject to the proviso that either five Common Core courses with the highest grades (covering all four Areas of Inquiry), or all six courses will be counted towards Graduation GPA, depending on which generates the higher Graduation GPA. For students in the 2025-26 intake and thereafter who have successfully completed six 6-credit Common Core courses, the calculation of Graduation GPA is subject to the proviso that either five 6-credit Common Core courses with the highest grades (covering all five Areas of Inquiry), or all six 6-credit courses will be counted towards Graduation GPA, depending on which generates the higher Graduation GPA. For students who have successfully completed two 3-credit Common Core Microcredentials in place of one 6-credit Common Core course, the average grade point of the two 3-credit courses will be treated as the grade point of one 6-credit Common Core course[6].

[#] Students with fewer than half total credits letter-graded will be awarded a pass degree with no honours classification.

Credits granted for advanced standing in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the University and credits transfer in recognition of studies completed on exchange during candidature at HKU are not included in the calculation of GPA.

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[1] Candidates who have been admitted to Year 1 in 2024-25 (or before) and have achieved any one of the following qualifications are exempted from this requirement, and Core University English is optional. Those who do not take this course should take a 6-credit elective course in lieu, see *Regulation UG6*:

- Level 5 or above in English Language in the HKDSE
- holder of a Bachelor's degree from an English-medium university
- achieved Grade A or above in English Language **GCE Advanced Level (AL)** / **Advanced Subsidiary Level (ASL)**
- achieved an overall **IELTS** score of no less than 7 **AND** with all sub-scores no less than 6.5 on the Reading, Speaking, Listening and Writing Tests
- achieved an overall **TOEFL Internet-based test** score of no less than 94 **AND** no less than a 24 on the writing, a 20 on the speaking, a 20 on the listening, AND a 19 on the reading sections

- achieved in **International Baccalaureate (IB)** Grade 4 or above in English A1/ English Language A/ English A: Literature/ English A: Language and Literature (HL); or Grade 5 or above in English B/ English Language B (HL); or Grade 5 or above in English A1/ English Language A/ English A: Literature/ English A: Language and Literature (SL)
- achieved Grade 4 or above on the **Advanced Placement (AP) English Language/ English Language and Composition/ English Literature and Composition Test**
- achieved a **NEW Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)** score of 35 or above on both the Writing & Language Test and Reading Test (from 2016)
- achieved Grade B or above in H1 General Paper at the **Singapore GCE A-level**
- achieved Grade A or better in English language at **Malaysia SPM examination**
- achieved Grade A2 or better in **Malaysia UEC-Senior English Language**
- attained merit (3 points) or above in each set of credits in **New Zealand NCEA Literacy** (10 credits made up of 5 credits in reading and 5 credits in writing)
- achieved a score of 95% or better in English at **All India Senior School Certificate Examination / Higher School Certificate**
- achieved a final score of 90% or better in English at **Grade 12 Canadian high school curriculum**
- achieved Grade B or better in English Language at **Sri Lanka Ordinary examination**
- achieved a score of 90 or better in English in the **Russian Unified State Exam** (Единый государственный экзамен, ЕГЭ, Yediniy gosudarstvenniy ekzamen, EGE)
- **Academic Speaking and Writing test conducted by CAES** for students who have not taken any of the above tests
  - *When applying to take the Academic Speaking and Writing Test, students should provide evidence to their Faculties and the CAES1000 Course Coordinator that they were admitted to HKU using qualifications **other than** those included in the above list.*
  - *Applicants are required to show **the evidence of those other qualifications** to the assessor on the day of the Academic Speaking and Writing Test.*
  - *If any applicants fail to provide any evidence that they were admitted to HKU using qualifications other than those included in the above list provided by CAES, the CAES assessor has the rights not to allow the applicant to take the test.*
  - *The test takes place annually in August. If a student fails to meet the application deadline, they will not have another chance to take the test, as no alternative test dates will be provided.*
  - *The test is conducted face-to-face. There will be no alternative testing methods available for applicants.*

Please note that:

- **Optional students can only take the course during their first year of studies.**
- **JUPAS students with HKDSE English Language Level 3 or Level 4 are NOT allowed to use any of the above equivalent standards to get exempted from CAES1000.**
- **Non-JUPAS students* are NOT allowed to use HKDSE results to get exempted from CAES1000.**
- **Test results (i.e., the above list* and HKDSE) should be in the same year in which students are admitted to the University. Test results obtained after the admission to the University will NOT be considered.**

*** Non-JUPAS students are allowed to use IELTS/TOEFL which is achieved within 2 years before admission to fulfil the English language requirement for admission.**

- **Re-admitted students with combined HKDSE results with a level 5 or above in the HKDSE English Language examination, irrespective of the year they took the exam, will be eligible for exemption from CAES1000.**
- **Students admitted through the School Nominations Direct Admission Scheme (SNDAS) are allowed to use results of HKDSE English Language Level 5 or above to get CAES1000 exemption. However, these students are not allowed to use any other equivalent qualifications to get exemption.**

[2] (a) To satisfy the English in the Discipline (ED) requirement, candidates who have passed the ED course for a Major but subsequently change that Major are required to pass the ED course for the new Major, or either of the double Majors finally declared upon graduation irrespective of whether the second Major is offered within or outside of the candidates' home Faculty.

(b) Candidates declaring double Majors can, if they fail in the ED course for one of the Majors, either (i) re-take and successfully complete that failed ED course, or (ii) successfully complete the ED course for the other Major, irrespective of whether the Major is offered within or outside of the candidates' home Faculty.

(c) Candidates who undertake studies in double Majors or double degrees are not required to take a second ED course but may be advised by the Faculty to do so.

[3] Candidates who have not studied Chinese language during their secondary education may be exempted from this requirement and should take a 6-credit elective course in lieu, see *Regulation UG6*.

To satisfy the Chinese language enhancement requirement, students should take the 6-credit course CSCI9001 (Practical Chinese for science students), except for

(a) Putonghua-speaking students who should take CUND9002 (Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society) or CUND9003 (Cantonese for Non-Cantonese Speaking Students) or CUND9001 (Basic Spoken and Written Cantonese for Mandarin

Speakers) (only offered to 2024 cohort and thereafter) or CUND9004 (Practical Applied Chinese Writing & Effective Presentation Skills for Non-local Mandarin Speaking Students) (only offered to 2024 cohort and thereafter). They may take the course in Year 1 or 2 if they so wish; and

(b) students who have not studied Chinese language during their secondary education or who have not attained the requisite level of competence in the Chinese language to take the Chinese language enhancement course should write to the Board of the Faculty to apply to be exempted from the Chinese language requirement, and

(i) take a 6-credit Cantonese or Putonghua language course offered by the School of Chinese especially for international and exchange students; OR

(ii) take an elective course in lieu.

[4] Students who have been admitted to Year 1 in 2026-27 (and thereafter) and have achieved any one of the following qualifications are exempted from this requirement, and Academic Communication in English (ACE) is optional. Optional students may take this course as an elective on a non-credit bearing basis:

- Level 5 or above in English Language in the HKDSE
- holder of a Bachelor's degree from an English-medium university
- achieved Grade A or above in English Language at **GCSE/ GCEO** / English First Language at **IGCSE** / English Second Language at **IGCSE** / English Language or English Literature at **GCE AS/ AL**
- achieved an overall **IELTS** score of no less than 7 **AND** with all sub-scores no less than 6.5 on the Reading, Speaking, Listening, and Writing Tests
- achieved an overall **TOEFL Internet-based test** score of no less than 94 **AND** no less than a 24 on the writing, a 20 on the speaking, a 20 on the listening, **AND** a 19 on the reading sections
- achieved in **International Baccalaureate (IB)** Grade 4 or above in HL English Language A: Language and Literature / HL English Language A: Literature / HL English Language (B Syllabus) / HL English Language (A1 or A2 Syllabus); Grade 5 or above SL English Language A: Language and Literature / SL English Language A: Literature / SL English Language (B Syllabus) / SL English Language (A1 or A2 Syllabus)
- achieved Grade 4 or above on the **Advanced Placement (AP) English Language/ English Language and Composition/ English Literature and Composition Test**
- achieved section scores of 630 or better in Reading and Writing of the **NEW Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)** in the same attempt
- achieved Level C2 in **Cambridge Certificate** of Proficiency in English / Grade A in Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English
- achieved a score of 76 in the **Pearson Test of English Assessment (Academic)**
- achieved Grade B or above in H1 General Paper at the **Singapore GCE A-level**
- achieved Grade A or better in English language at **Malaysia SPM examination**
- achieved Grade A2 or better in **Malaysia UEC-Senior English Language**
- attained Level 4 in each set of credits in **New Zealand NCEA Literacy** (10 credits made up of 5 credits in reading and 5 credits in writing)
- achieved a score of 95% or better in English at **All India Senior School Certificate Examination / Higher School Certificate**
- achieved a final score of 90% or better in English at **Grade 12 Canadian high school curriculum**
- achieved Grade B or better in English Language at **Sri Lanka Ordinary examination**
- achieved a score of 90 or better in English in the **Russian Unified State Exam** (Единый государственный экзамен, ЕГЭ, Yediniy gosudarstvenniy ekzamen, EGE)
- passed **the Academic Speaking and Writing Test conducted by CAES**

➢ *The test is arranged for students who have not obtained the above qualifications.*
➢ *The test is conducted face-to-face once a year on a specific date in August. Students who miss the application deadline or the test date will not have another chance to take the test, as no alternative dates or testing methods will be offered. Students who miss the test must take CAES1001 as a required course.*
➢ *Students should apply for the test through their faculties.*
➢ *When applying to take the test, students should provide evidence to their Faculties and the CAES1001 Course Coordinator that they were admitted to HKU using qualifications **other than** those included in the list.*
➢ *Applicants are required to show **the evidence of those other qualifications** to the CAES assessor on the day of the test.*
➢ *If any applicants fail to provide any evidence that they were admitted to HKU using qualifications other than those included in the list provided by CAES, the assessor has the right not to allow the applicant to take the test.*

Please note that:
- **Optional students can only take CAES1001 during their first year of studies.**
- **JUPAS students with HKDSE English Language Level 4 or below are not allowed to use any of the above equivalent qualifications to obtain exemption from CAES1001.**
- **Re-admitted students with combined HKDSE English Language results with a level 5 or above, irrespective of the year they took the exam, will be eligible for exemption from CAES1001.**
- **Students admitted through the School Nominations Direct Admission Scheme (SNDAS) are allowed to use results of HKDSE English Language Level 5 or above to get CAES1001 exemption. However, these students are not allowed to use any other equivalent qualifications for this purpose.**

- **Non-JUPAS students are not allowed to use HKDSE English Language results to get exempted from CAES1001.**
- **Students who have taken the Mainland China National College Entrance Examination (NJCEE/Gaokao) must submit additional English proficiency test results (as listed above) to be eligible for exemption from CAES1001.**
- **Students who have not completed their associate degree must submit additional English proficiency test results (as listed above) to be eligible for exemption from CAES1001.**
- **Except for IELTS and TOEFL, all qualifications must be obtained in the same calendar year as the student's university admission.**
- **IELTS and TOEFL scores must be obtained within two years prior to August 1 of the year students are admitted to the University.**

[5] Candidates who have not studied Chinese language during their secondary education may be exempted from this requirement and should take a 6-credit elective course in lieu, see *Regulation UG6*.

To satisfy the Chinese language enhancement requirement, students are required to successfully complete the 6-credit Faculty-specific Chinese language enhancement course, except for:

(a) Putonghua-speaking students who should take CUND9002 (Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society) or CUND9003 (Cantonese for Non-Cantonese Speaking Students) or CUND9001 (Basic Spoken and Written Cantonese for Mandarin Speakers) (only offered to 2024 cohort and thereafter) or CUND9004 (Practical Applied Chinese Writing & Effective Presentation Skills for Non-local Mandarin Speaking Students) (only offered to 2024 cohort and thereafter). They may take the course in Year 1 or 2 if they so wish; and

(b) students who have not studied Chinese language during their secondary education or who have not attained the requisite level of competence in the Chinese language to take the Chinese language enhancement course should write to the Board of the Faculty to apply to be exempted from the Chinese language requirement, and take a 6-credit course in either Chinese language or Chinese culture offered by the Chinese Language Centre of the School of Chinese from the list below:

Chinese language

- CHIN9501: Chinese as a Foreign Language I
- CHIN9502: Chinese as a Foreign Language II
- CHIN9503: Chinese as a Foreign Language III
- CHIN9504: Chinese as a Foreign Language IV
- CHIN9505: Chinese as a Foreign Language V
- CHIN9506: Chinese as a Foreign Language VI
- CHIN9507: Chinese as a Foreign Language VII
- CHIN9508: Chinese as a foreign language VIII
- CHIN9511: Cantonese as a Foreign Language I
- CHIN9512: Cantonese as a Foreign Language II
- CHIN9513: Cantonese as a Foreign Language III

Chinese culture

- CHIN9521: The Fundamentals of Chinese Characters
- CHIN9522: Exploration of major cultural themes across Chinese history

[6] For the special Common Core Proviso in the Determination of the Graduation GPA, students may refer to the Common Core website (https://commoncore.hku.hk/special-proviso/) for details.