

BSc Graduation Requirements and Honours Classification

(a) Award of a BSc degree

For students admitted to the first year in 2017-18:

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 English¹ (i.e. CAES1000) and 6 credits in an English in the Discipline course² (i.e. CAES9820 Academic English for Science Students);
- (b) 6 credits in Chinese language enhancement³ (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 2018-19 and thereafter, students admitted directly to the second year in 2019-20 and thereafter, and students admitted directly to the third year in 2020-21 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) 12 credits in English language enhancement, including 6 credits in Core University English¹ (i.e. CAES1000) and 6 credits in an English in the Discipline course² [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 enhancement³ (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.

(b) Honours Classification

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

	<u>GGPA range</u>
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 in the 2017-18 intake and thereafter 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 GPA⁴.

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.

¹ Candidates who have been admitted to Year 1 in 2018-19 (and thereafter) 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) ~ or CUND9004 (Practical Applied Chinese Writing & Effective Presentation Skills for Non-local Mandarin Speaking Students) ~. 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.

~ Offered to the 2024 cohort and thereafter

- ⁴ 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.