

FAQs on Course Selection

1. When and where can I get the updated major/minor/course information?

The most up-to-date Science programme/major/minor/course information can be obtained from the Faculty of Science website (<https://webapp.science.hku.hk/sr4/servlet/enquiry>). Regarding the Science course information for the next academic year, they will be available on Science web in late July / early August.

You may also find the full list of majors/minors of the University and the respective requirements from the website of Academic Advising and Scholarships Office at <https://aas.hku.hk/list-of-major/> and <https://aas.hku.hk/list-of-minor/>. Details of the non-Science courses and majors/minors should be provided by the offering Faculty/Department. You are advised to contact the relevant Faculty/Department for further information.

2. How can I get the updated course selection schedules?

All the important dates for the Course Selection Exercise throughout this academic year have been clearly stated in the document “Important Dates for Course Selection Exercise” (<https://www.scifac.hku.hk/current/ug/academic/requirement/dates>).

You are strongly advised to check from the Faculty website regularly.

3. Should I select courses for both the 1st and 2nd semesters during the course selection period in August?

You should select courses you will enroll in for both the 1st and 2nd semesters during the course selection period in August if you have met the course pre-requisites and there is no timetable clash with other selected courses.

You are allowed to change your selected courses during the course add/drop period, i.e. the first two weeks after the start of each semester. Please note that all the important dates for the Course Selection Exercise throughout the year have been clearly stated in the document “Important Dates for Course Selection Exercise” (<https://www.scifac.hku.hk/current/ug/academic/requirement/dates>). You are strongly advised to check from the Faculty website regularly.

4. If I have any queries about my course/major/minor selection and wish to obtain the special approval for taking Science courses, whom should I contact?

If you have query about course/major/minor selection and/or need to obtain any special approval for taking your intended Science course(s), please contact the Course Selection Adviser(s) of Science Programme/Major/Minor concerned for advice. Their contact details can be found at <https://www.scifac.hku.hk/current/ug/academic/aa/csa>.

For technical problems, you may contact the ITS Service Desk through one of the following channels for assistance:

In person: Room 204, K. K. Leung Building Phone: 3917 0123

Email: ithelp@hku.hk Chatbot: <https://its-chatbot.hku.hk/>

5. How can I enroll in courses that require special approval?

If you wish to select course(s) in the following scenarios:

- you have not met the pre-requisites of the course (scenario #1)
- there are timetable clashes with other selected course(s) (scenario #2)
- the course cannot be found in the optional course list for online selection (scenario #3)
- the course is full and closed (scenario #4)

you have to seek special endorsement [Science courses[^]: via Science Online Application Submission System (OASS) (<https://webapp.science.hku.hk/intranet/OnlineFormUG.html>); Non-Science courses: written / via email] from the designated Course Approver (like Course Selection Adviser or the Representative of the department/school offering the course) by completing the online “Course Approval Form” and uploading necessary supporting documents to the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS) (<https://webapp.science.hku.hk/intranet/OnlineFormUG.html>) by the application deadline. If your application is approved, our staff will add the course for you online and you will receive the email from the Faculty.

[^] Science courses are those with prefixes APAI, BIOC, BIOL, CHEM, EASC, ENTR, ENVS, INRE, MATH, PHYS, SCNC, and STAT.

You are also reminded that:

- (a) should you wish to select courses with timetable clash (scenario #2 refers), you need to submit separate application for each listed course in OASS. The course you are applying will be added only if the mutual endorsement are received from the Approvers of the listed courses with time conflict. You should note that only in very exceptional circumstances will such approval be given. You are, therefore, advised not to choose any courses with time conflict; and
- (b) granting of course approval in the above-mentioned scenarios #1 - #3 does not guarantee that you can successfully enroll in your intended course. When the number of students applying for the ‘quota’ course exceeds the quota, seats will be allocated by the computer ballot system. Remember to keep checking your enrollment status online during the course selection or add/drop period.

In order to let you well prepare for the application, the online “Course Approval Form” will be available a few days before the availability of online course selection system. For any applications submitted before the course selection or add/drop period, please note that our Faculty staff will only be able to add the approved course(s) for you after your designated start time for online course selection. You should also note that applications with incomplete information or insufficient documentation or unendorsed form will not be processed.

6. How can I drop the course during the course selection or add/drop period if an error is found in the SIS stating that ‘Consent is needed to drop from the class. The drop transaction was not processed.’?

Some courses are set with ‘Drop Consent’ on the system by the course offering Faculty/Department. If you wish to drop such kind of course online, you need to first seek the electronic/written approval

from the course offering Faculty/Department and then forward it (full set of email communication / approval letter) to the Faculty of Science Office during the course selection or add/drop period for assistance. Our staff will then drop the course for you.

7. Is it necessary to re-take a failed course?

If (a) the failed course is the disciplinary core (must take) course in your intended major/minor or (b) it is the pre-requisite course of the subsequent/advanced level course you wish to take, you should retake and pass it. Otherwise, you are not required to re-take the failed course.

8. When and how can I select course in the summer semester?

Non-final year students may select summer course(s) online during the 2nd semester and summer semester add/drop periods.

Final year students who will graduate in the coming June/July are not allowed to take any course (including internship) in the summer semester.

For final year students who are in short of a few credits for graduation after taking into account of their 2nd semester examination results, they may be specially allowed, on application, to take summer course(s) in order to fulfill the outstanding graduation requirements, subject to the resolution of the Board of Examiners.

9. Do I need to take any replacement course if the disciplinary core ('must take') courses in double majors or major-minor or double minors are mutually exclusive?

Yes, you need to take a replacement course. In this case, you are required to also complete and submit the online application form for course exemption and replacement to the Faculty Office via the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS) (<https://webapp.science.hku.hk/intranet/OnlineFormUG.html>) by the deadline of course selection or add/drop periods. The application will then be forwarded to the relevant Course Selection Adviser (CSA) for endorsement and comment (if any).

Please note that the replacement course should be the disciplinary elective in the 2nd major/minor concerned and have the same prefix and at the same or higher level as the course to be replaced.

10. Can I take another course to replace the course required in my major/minor due to timetable clashes / outgoing exchange study / my own interest?

You have to take and pass all the required courses as prescribed in the declared major/minor curriculum for graduation. You cannot take another course to replace the course required in your intended major/minor in order to suit your own study plan.

We may, however, consider any application for taking a replacement course only if:

- (a) the disciplinary course is a disciplinary core course (must take) in the Science Major/Minor and is obsolete in the current academic year; or
- (b) the same disciplinary core (must take) course appears in two or more Science majors/minors; or
- (c) the disciplinary core (must take) courses in double majors / major-minor / double minors are mutually exclusive.

11.If the exempted course (say Course A) is the prerequisite for the advanced level course I wish to take (say Course B), will the SIS recognize its approved replacement course so as to meet the pre-requisite of Course B for online course selection?

Even you have been approved to take another course as a replacement for Course A, the SIS would still bar you from selecting Course B online as you have not actually met its prerequisite. In this connection, you need to seek special endorsement [Science courses[^]: via Science Online Application Submission System (OASS) (<https://webapp.science.hku.hk/intranet/OnlineFormUG.html>); Non-Science courses: written / via email] from the designated Course Approver (like Course Selection Adviser or the Representative of the department/school offering the course) by completing the online “Course Approval Form” and uploading necessary supporting documents to the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS) (<https://webapp.science.hku.hk/intranet/OnlineFormUG.html>) by the application deadline. If your application is approved, our staff will then add the course for you online and you will receive the email from the Faculty.

[^] Science courses are those with prefixes APAI, BIOC, BIOL, CHEM, EASC, ENTR, ENVS, INRE, MATH, PHYS, SCNC, and STAT.

12.Can I double-count the credits of course required in double majors or major-minor or double minors? What can I do if there are overlapping course requirements in two majors / major-minor / two minors?

Double-counting of courses up to a maximum of 24 credits is permissible with (a) double majors or (b) professional core and major. The double-counted courses in both Science majors must include SCNC1111 and SCNC1112 (unless otherwise exempted). Additional credits to be double-counted must be for courses required (‘disciplinary core’) by both majors. For cases with 24 or less double-counted credits, the student must make up an equivalent number of credits by taking other courses offered by any Faculty.

(a) The following list shows the major-major combinations that have more than 24 credits of the same ‘disciplinary core’ courses that appear in both Science majors and is subject to the rule of double counting:

Major-Major combination	Admission year (Year 1)	No. of common ‘disciplinary core’ courses (credits) appear in both Science majors including SCNC1111 and SCNC1112	No. of replacement courses (credits) to be taken in the 2 nd major (‘Major 2’)
Major in Biochemistry Major in Chemistry	All years	5 (30 credits)	1 (6 credits)
Major in Biological Sciences Major in Ecology & Biodiversity	All years	7 (42 credits)	3 (18 credits)
Major in Biological Sciences Major in Food & Nutritional Science	2019, 2020	6 (36 credits)	2 (12 credits)
	2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026	5 (30 credits)	1 (6 credits)
Major in Biological Sciences Major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology	All years	6 (36 credits)	2 (12 credits)
Major in Ecology & Biodiversity	2019, 2020	5 (30 credits)	1 (6 credits)

Major-Major combination	Admission year (Year 1)	No. of common 'disciplinary core' courses (credits) appear in both Science majors including SCNC1111 and SCNC1112	No. of replacement courses (credits) to be taken in the 2 nd major ('Major 2')
Major in Food & Nutritional Science			
Major in Ecology & Biodiversity Major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology	All years	5 (30 credits)	1 (6 credits)
Major in Food & Nutritional Science Major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology	2019, 2020, 2025, 2026	6 (36 credits)	2 (12 credits)
	2021, 2022, 2023, 2024	5 (30 credits)	1 (6 credits)

If more than 24 credits (including SCNC1111 & SCNC1112, unless otherwise exempted) are listed as required courses ('disciplinary core') in both the first ('Major 1') and second ('Major 2') majors undertaken by a student, the student must make up the number of credits above the 24 permissible by taking replacement course(s) in the second major ('Major 2'). The replacement course(s) must be the disciplinary elective course(s) in the second major ('Major 2') and have the same prefix and at the same or higher level as the double-counted course(s). **The double counted credits should count the following courses in this order: (1) SCNC1111 and SCNC1112, (2) introductory level (levels 1 and 2) courses, and (3) advanced level (level 3 or above) courses.**

For example, if a student takes a first major in Ecology & Biodiversity ('Major 1') and a second major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology ('Major 2'), SCNC1111, SCNC1112, BIOL1110, BIOL2102 and BIOL2103 are the common 'disciplinary core' courses that appear in both majors. The first 3 courses SCNC1111, SCNC1112, and BIOL1110 would first be counted plus either BIOL2102 or BIOL2103 for the major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology. The student has to take a replacement 'disciplinary elective' course (with a prefix of BIOL at level 2 or above) in the 2nd major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology to make up for BIOL2102 or BIOL2103.

(b) Candidates who have been admitted to Year 1 in 2020-21 (and thereafter) and have achieved any one of the following qualifications are exempted from taking SCNC1111:

- Level 4 or above in Mathematics Extended Part Module 1 or 2 in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)
- Level 5 or above in Mathematics Higher Level in International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Grade B or above in Mathematics and Further Mathematics in General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (GCEAL)
- Mathematics qualification in Gao Kao will be considered on a case-by-case basis

It is optional for them to take the course SCNC1111. **Those who are eligible for exemption and do not take this course in their first year of study should take a 6-credit disciplinary elective course in the science major in lieu.**

Candidates who have been admitted to Year 1 in 2021-22 (and thereafter) and have achieved any one of the following qualifications are exempted from taking SCNC1112:

- Level 4 or above in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary

Education (HKDSE)

- Level 5 or above in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics Higher Level in International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Grade B or above in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics in General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (GCEAL)
- Biology, Chemistry, and Physics qualification in Gao Kao will be considered on a case-by-case basis

It is optional for them to take the course SCNC1112. Those who are eligible for exemption and do not take this course in their first year of study should take a 6-credit disciplinary elective course in the science major in lieu.

The eligible students will be informed by the Faculty, via email, of the granting of an exemption from taking SCNC1111 and/or SCNC1112 in late August (before the start of your first year of study). You (as an eligible student) can try out courses that suit your academic interest before you commit to a particular major and submit your application form for taking a replacement course(s) for SCNC1111 and/or SCNC1112 via the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS) (<https://webapp.science.hku.hk/intranet/OnlineFormUG.html>) during the courses add/drop periods in your second/third year of study. The replacement course must be the disciplinary elective in your declared Science major. If you wish to take double Science majors, you should take the disciplinary elective(s) in each of your declared Science majors to replace the exempted SCNC course(s).

Under these circumstances, the following list shows the major-major combinations that have 24 credits (or more) of the same ‘disciplinary core’ courses that appear in both Science majors and is subject to the rule of double counting:

Scenario #1

(a) Admission Year (Year 1): 2020 & thereafter

Exemption granted: SCNC1111

OR

(b) Admission Year (Year 1): 2021 & thereafter

Exemption granted: SCNC1112

Major-Major combination	Admission year (Year 1)	Exemption granted	No. of replacement courses (credits) to be taken in the 1st major (‘Major 1’)	No. of common ‘disciplinary core’ courses (credits) appear in both Science majors including SCNC1111 and SCNC1112	No. of replacement courses (credits) to be taken in the 2 nd major (‘Major 2’)
Major in Biochemistry Major in Chemistry	2020 & thereafter 2021 & thereafter	SCNC1111 or SCNC1112	1 (6 credits)	5 (30 credits)	1 (6 credits)
Major in Biochemistry Major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology	2020 - 2025 2021 - 2025	SCNC1111 or SCNC1112	1 (6 credits)	4 (24 credits)	1 (6 credits) - to replace SCNC1111 or SCNC1112

Major-Major combination	Admission year (Year 1)	Exemption granted	No. of replacement courses (credits) to be taken in the 1st major ('Major 1')	No. of common 'disciplinary core' courses (credits) appear in both Science majors including SCNC1111 and SCNC1112	No. of replacement courses (credits) to be taken in the 2 nd major ('Major 2')
Major in Biological Sciences Major in Ecology & Biodiversity	2020 & thereafter 2021 & thereafter	SCNC1111 or SCNC1112	1 (6 credits)	7 (42 credits)	3 (18 credits)
Major in Biological Sciences Major in Food & Nutritional Science	2020 2021 & thereafter	SCNC1111 SCNC1111 or SCNC1112	1 (6 credits) 1 (6 credits)	6 (36 credits) 5 (30 credits)	2 (12 credits) 1 (6 credits)
Major in Biological Sciences Major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology	2020 & thereafter 2021 & thereafter	SCNC1111 or SCNC1112	1 (6 credits)	6 (36 credits)	2 (12 credits)
Major in Earth System Science Major in Geology	2020 & thereafter 2021 & thereafter	SCNC1111 or SCNC1112	1 (6 credits)	4 (24 credits)	1 (6 credits) - to replace SCNC1111 or SCNC1112
Major in Ecology & Biodiversity Major in Food & Nutritional Science	2020 2021 & thereafter	SCNC1111 SCNC1111 or SCNC1112	1 (6 credits) 1 (6 credits)	5 (30 credits) 4 (24 credits)	1 (6 credits) - to replace SCNC1111 or SCNC1112
Major in Ecology & Biodiversity Major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology	2020 & thereafter 2021 & thereafter	SCNC1111 or SCNC1112	1 (6 credits)	5 (30 credits)	1 (6 credits)
Major in Food & Nutritional Science Major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology	2020, 2025, 2026 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024	SCNC1111 SCNC1111 or SCNC1112	1 (6 credits) 1 (6 credits)	6 (36 credits) 5 (30 credits)	2 (12 credits) 1 (6 credits)

If more than 24 credits (including SCNC1111 & SCNC1112) are listed as required courses ('disciplinary core') in both the first ('Major 1') and second ('Major 2') majors undertaken by a student, the student must make up the number of credits above the 24 permissible by taking replacement course(s) in the second major ('Major 2'). The replacement course(s) must be the disciplinary elective course(s) in the second major ('Major 2') and have the same prefix and at the same or higher level as the double-counted course(s). For example, if a student takes a first major in Ecology & Biodiversity ('Major 1') and a second major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology ('Major 2'), SCNC1111, SCNC1112, BIOL1110, BIOL2102 and BIOL2103 are the common 'disciplinary core' courses that appear in both majors.

(a) In light of the exempted course SCNC1111, the double counted credits should count the following courses in this order: (1) SCNC1112, (2) introductory level (levels 1 and 2) courses, and (3) advanced level (level 3 or above) courses. The 4 courses (SCNC1112, BIOL1110, BIOL2102, and BIOL2103) would be counted for the major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology. The student has to take a replacement 'disciplinary elective' course in the second major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology to make up for SCNC1111.

(b) In light of the exempted course SCNC1112, the double counted credits should count the following courses in this order: (1) SCNC1111, (2) introductory level (levels 1 and 2) courses, and (3) advanced level (level 3 or above) courses. The 4 courses (SCNC1111, BIOL1110, BIOL2102, and BIOL2103) would be counted for the major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology. The student has to take a replacement 'disciplinary elective' course in the second major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology to make up for SCNC1112.

Scenario #2

Admission Year (Year 1): 2021 & thereafter

Exemption granted: SCNC1111 & SCNC1112

Major-Major combination	Admission year (Year 1)	Exemption granted	No. of replacement courses (credits) to be taken in the 1st major ('Major 1')	No. of common 'disciplinary core' courses (credits) appear in both Science majors including SCNC1111 and SCNC1112	No. of replacement courses (credits) to be taken in the 2nd major ('Major 2')
Major in Biochemistry Major in Chemistry	2021 & thereafter	SCNC1111 & SCNC1112	2 (12 credits)	5 (30 credits)	2 (12 credits) - to replace SCNC1111 & SCNC1112
Major in Biochemistry Major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology	2021 - 2025	SCNC1111 & SCNC1112	2 (12 credits)	4 (24 credits)	2 (12 credits) - to replace SCNC1111 & SCNC1112
Major in Biological Sciences Major in Ecology & Biodiversity	2021 & thereafter	SCNC1111 & SCNC1112	2 (12 credits)	7 (42 credits)	3 (18 credits)
Major in Biological Sciences Major in Food & Nutritional Science	2021 & thereafter	SCNC1111 & SCNC1112	2 (12 credits)	5 (30 credits)	2 (12 credits) - to replace SCNC1111 & SCNC1112
Major in Biological Sciences Major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology	2021 & thereafter	SCNC1111 & SCNC1112	2 (12 credits)	6 (36 credits)	2 (12 credits)
Major in Earth System Science Major in Geology	2021 & thereafter	SCNC1111 & SCNC1112	2 (12 credits)	4 (24 credits)	2 (12 credits) - to replace SCNC1111 & SCNC1112
Major in Ecology & Biodiversity	2021 & thereafter	SCNC1111 & SCNC1112	2 (12 credits)	4 (24 credits)	2 (12 credits) - to replace SCNC1111 & SCNC1112

Major-Major combination	Admission year (Year 1)	Exemption granted	No. of replacement courses (credits) to be taken in the 1st major ('Major 1')	No. of common 'disciplinary core' courses (credits) appear in both Science majors including SCNC1111 and SCNC1112	No. of replacement courses (credits) to be taken in the 2 nd major ('Major 2')
Major in Food & Nutritional Science					SCNC1112
Major in Ecology & Biodiversity Major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology	2021 & thereafter	SCNC1111 & SCNC1112	2 (12 credits)	5 (30 credits)	2 (12 credits) - to replace SCNC1111 & SCNC1112
Major in Food & Nutritional Science	2025, 2026	SCNC1111 & SCNC1112	2 (12 credits)	6 (36 credits)	2 (12 credits)
Major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology	2021 - 2024		2 (12 credits)	5 (30 credits)	2 (12 credits) - to replace SCNC1111 & SCNC1112

If more than 24 credits (including SCNC1111 & SCNC1112) are listed as required courses ('disciplinary core') in both the first ('Major 1') and second ('Major 2') majors undertaken by a student, the student must make up the number of credits above the 24 permissible by taking replacement course(s) in the second major ('Major 2'). The replacement course(s) must be the disciplinary elective course(s) in the second major ('Major 2') and have the same prefix and at the same or higher level as the double-counted course(s). **In light of the exempted courses SCNC1111 & SCNC1112, the double counted credits should count the following courses in this order: (1) introductory level (levels 1 and 2) courses, and (2) advanced level (level 3 or above) courses.** For example, if a student takes a first major in Ecology & Biodiversity ('Major 1') and a second major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology ('Major 2'), SCNC1111, SCNC1112, BIOL1110, BIOL2102 and BIOL2103 are the common 'disciplinary core' courses that appear in both majors. The 3 courses (BIOL1110, BIOL2102, and BIOL2103) would be counted for the major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology. The student has to take 2 replacement 'disciplinary elective' courses in the second major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology to make up for SCNC1111 & SCNC1112.

- (c) Double counting of credits is not permissible for major-minor or double-minors combinations. When a course is required ('disciplinary core') both by the major and minor or by both minors, the student must take a replacement course for the minor. The replacement course must be the disciplinary elective in the minor and have the same prefix and at the same or higher level as the course to be replaced.
- (d) For students taking the Mathematics related majors/minors should note the following exemption and replacement arrangement:

Students who fall into the following exemption situation for the introductory level Disciplinary Core Mathematics courses in Science Majors/Minors are required to take the specified replacement course(s) as prescribed in the table below:

Exempted Course	Exemption granted under the following circumstances	Specified Replacement Course
MATH1013 University mathematics II	For students taking Minor with an overlap of Disciplinary Core Course : <u>MATH1013</u>	Select 6 credits from the following to replace MATH1013: Any 6-credit level 2 or above Mathematics Disciplinary Elective chosen from the Programme/Major/Minor structure in which MATH1013 is the disciplinary core course
	For students taking Programme/Major/Minor with Disciplinary Core Courses : <u>MATH1851 and MATH1853</u> <i>(which are together deemed equivalent to MATH1013)</i>	
	For students taking Programme with Disciplinary Core Course : <u>MATH1821</u> <i>(which is equivalent to MATH1013)</i>	
MATH2014 Multivariable calculus and linear algebra	For students taking Programme/Major with Disciplinary Core Courses : <u>MATH2101 and MATH2211</u> <i>(which are together deemed equivalent to MATH2014)</i>	Select 6 credits from the following to replace MATH2014: Any 6-credit level 2 or above Mathematics Disciplinary Elective chosen from the Programme/Major structure in which MATH2014 is the disciplinary core course
	For students taking Programme with Disciplinary Core Course : <u>MATH2822</u> <i>(which is equivalent to MATH2014)</i>	

(e) For the situations of (a), (b), (c) and (d) above, students have to complete and submit the online application form to the Faculty Office via the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS) (<https://webapp.science.hku.hk/OnlineFormUG.html>) by the deadline of course selection or add/drop periods. The application will then be forwarded to the relevant Course Selection Adviser (CSA) for endorsement and comment (if any).

- (f) You may also refer to the section ‘Students taking double Majors, Major-Minor or double Minors with overlapping course requirements’ at <https://www.scifac.hku.hk/current/ug/academic/overlapping-course-requirements>.

13. How will the credit load be counted for full-year course in each semester?

The credit load of a year-long (full semester) course is equally divided into two semesters in the system.

14. Can I take course load deviating from the normal load?

For BSc/BSc(ActuarSc)*/BAsc(AppliedAI)* students
(*applicable to students admitted in 2024-25 or before)

The normal course load is 60 credits a year for your normative period of study. You may take up to 72 credits of courses (including summer semester courses and internship courses) in a year, with no fewer than 24, nor more than 36 credits in the first or second semester (except in the last semester of study when the number of outstanding credits required to complete the curriculum requirement is fewer than 24 credits).

If you wish to take fewer than 24 or more than 36 credits of courses in the first/second semester or take fewer than 60 or more than 72 credits in a year (Summer courses are counted for the 72 credits course limit), you are required to submit the completed ‘Application form for Taking Course Load Deviating from Normal Load’ via the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS) (<https://webapp.science.hku.hk/intranet/OnlineFormUG.html>) by the specified deadline. Your online application, after submission, will be forwarded to the Chief Course Selection Adviser of your primary science major (for BSc students) or Chief Actuarial Science Course Selection Adviser (for BSc(ActuarSc) students) or Chief Applied Artificial Intelligence Course Selection Adviser (for BAsc(AppliedAI) students) and the Faculty Office for approval. You will be informed of your application result, by email, before the first semester course add/drop period (*first round of application in August*) or within 7 working days after your submission (*second round of application in semester 2*).

Student in the first year are, however, not allowed to take more than 72 credits of courses.

For BSc&MRes students

In your first 2 years of BSc&MRes study, the normal course load is 72 credits of undergraduate courses per year, with no less than 30 credits and no more than 36 credits in the first/second semester. You may, of your own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 84 credits in one academic year. You should, under normal circumstances, take and complete a 3-credit postgraduate course on research ethics (i.e. INRE6033) in year 2. The sample study plans can be found in the [Curriculum of BSc&MRes Degrees](#) for your reference.

In your senior years (i.e. 3rd and 4th years) of study, the normal course load is 78 credits of undergraduate and postgraduate courses per year, with no less than 30 credits and no more than 36 credits in the first/second semester. You may, of your own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 84 credits in one academic year.

If you wish to select fewer than 30 or more than 42 credits of courses in the first/second semester or take fewer than 60 or more than 84 credits in a year, you are required to submit the completed “Application form for Taking Course Load Deviating From Normal Load” via the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS) (<https://webapp.science.hku.hk/intranet/OnlineFormUG.html>) by the specified deadline. Your online application, after submission, will be forwarded to the Chief Course Selection Adviser of your declared Science intensive major and the Faculty Office for approval. You will be informed of your application result, by email, before the first semester course add/drop period (*first round of application in August*) or within 7 working days after your submission (*second round of application in semester 2*).

Student in the first year are, however, not allowed to take more than 84 credits of courses.

For BSc&LLB students

You are normally expected to take 60 credits of courses in a year and are not allowed to select more than 72 credits of courses in a year. You should select at least 60 credits, of which no fewer than 24, nor more than 36 credits of courses in the first/second semester (except in the last semester of study when the number of outstanding credits required to complete the curriculum requirements is fewer than 24 credits).

If you wish to take fewer than 24 or more than 36 credits of courses in the first/second semester or take fewer than 60 or more than 72 credits in a year, you (applicable to Years 1-3 only) are required to submit the completed ‘Application form for Taking Course Load Deviating from Normal Load’ via the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS) (<https://webapp.science.hku.hk/intranet/OnlineFormUG.html>) by the specified deadline. Your online application, after submission, will be forwarded to the Chief Course Selection Adviser of your primary Science regular major and the Faculty Office for approval. You will be informed of your application result, by email, before the first semester course add/drop period (*first round of application in August*) or within 7 working days after your submission (*second round of application in semester 2*).

Student in the first year are, however, not allowed to take more than 72 credits of courses.

15.Can I take courses more than the maximum curriculum study load for my normative period of study in order to fulfill the course requirements of the second major / minor / accredited path / VEE?

For BSc/BSc(ActuarSc)*/BAsc(AppliedAI)* students
(*applicable to students admitted in 2024-25 or before)

The normal course load is 60 credits a year for your normative period of study. You may take up to 72 credits of courses (including summer semester courses) in a year, with no fewer than 24, nor more than 36 credits in the first or second semester. With the special permission of the Board of the Faculty, you may exceed the annual study load of 72 credits in a given academic year provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 288 credits (with inclusive of those advanced standing credits and/or transferred credits granted, if any) for the normative period of study specified in the curriculum regulations, save as provided for under Sc5(f) (for BSc students) / AS5(e) (for BSc(ActuarSc) students) / AAI4(g) (for BAsc(AppliedAI) students).

In other words, you cannot take more than 288 credits for the normative period of study in order to fulfill the course requirements of your declared second major / minor / accredited path / VEE.

For BSc&MRes students

You are normally expected to take not fewer than 60 credits nor more than 84 credits of courses in a year. In your first 2 years of study, the normal course load is 72 credits a year, with no less than 30 credits nor more than 42 credits in the first/second semester. With the special permission of the Board of the Faculty, you may exceed the annual study load of 84 credits in a given academic year provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 288 credits (with inclusive of those advanced standing credits and/or transferred credits granted, if any) for the normative period of study specified in the curriculum regulations, save as provided for under BM6.

In other words, you cannot take more than 288 credits for the normative period of study in order to fulfill the course requirements of your declared minor / accredited path or suit your study plan.

For BSc&LLB students

The normal course load is 60 credits a year for your normative period of study. You may take up to 72 credits of courses (including summer semester courses) in a year, with no fewer than 24, nor more than 36 credits in the first or second semester. With the special permission of the Board of Studies, you may exceed the annual study load of 72 credits in a given academic year provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 360 credits (with inclusive of those advanced standing credits and/or transferred credits granted, if any) for the normative period of study specified in the curriculum regulations, save as provided for under ScL7(c).

In other words, you cannot take more than 360 credits for the normative period of study in order to suit your study plan.

16. How will my maximum credit limit be calculated beyond the normative study period?

For BSc / BSc(ActuarSc)* / BSc(AppliedAI)* students

(*applicable to students admitted in 2024-25 or before)

If you fail to fulfill the course requirement of the primary science major and/or other graduation requirements, you will not be eligible for graduation. The number of course credits you are allowed to take beyond your normative study period should not be greater than those required to pass for graduation, plus a maximum of 12 credits.

For BSc&LLB / BSc&MRes students

More details will be provided in your senior year of study.

17. How many Common Core (CC) courses can I take within one academic year and during the whole period of study?

For BSc students admitted to the University in 2025-26 and thereafter

You are required to complete 36 credits of courses in the Common Core (CC) Curriculum, comprising at least 6 credits and not more than 12 credits 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. Common Core courses should be completed normally within the first three years of study and cannot be extra taken as free electives.

For BSc students admitted to the University in 2024-25 or before

You are required to complete 36 credits of courses in the Common Core (CC) 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. Common Core courses should be completed normally within the first three years of study and cannot be extra taken as free electives.

To ensure that you are aware of the details regarding 3-credit microcredential courses (which will be counted as 0.5 course), please visit <https://commoncore.hku.hk/> for further information.

For BSc&MRes students admitted to the University in 2025-26 and thereafter

You are required to complete 24 credits of courses in the Common Core (CC) Curriculum, comprising courses from four of the five Areas of Inquiry with 6 credits from each selected 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. Common Core courses should be completed normally within the first three years of study and cannot be extra taken as free electives.

For BSc&MRes students admitted to the University in 2024-25 or before

You are required to complete 24 credits of courses in the Common Core (CC) Curriculum, comprising one course 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. Common Core courses should be completed normally within the first three years of study and cannot be extra taken as free electives.

For BSc&LLB students admitted to the University in 2025-26 and thereafter

You are required to complete 24 credits of courses in the Common Core (CC) Curriculum, comprising courses from four of the five Areas of Inquiry with 6 credits from each selected 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. Common Core courses should be completed within five years of study and cannot be extra taken as free electives.

For BSc&LLB students admitted to the University in 2024-25 or before

You are required to complete 24 credits of courses in the Common Core (CC) Curriculum, comprising one course 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. Common Core courses should be completed within five years of study and cannot be extra taken as free electives.

18. Can I be exempted from taking the Academic Communication in English (ACE) and/or English in the Discipline (ED) course? If not, can I apply for defer taking them in order to suit my own study plan?

BSc and BSc&MRes students are required to respectively take CAES1001 Academic Communication in English (ACE) and the specified English in the Discipline (ED) course in their first and second years of study, while BSc&LLB students are required to take CAES1001 Academic Communication in English (ACE) only in their first year of study, and BASc(AppliedAI) students admitted in 2024-25 or before are required to take the specified English in the Discipline (ED) course only in their second year of study. You are not permitted to defer taking these courses, unless under very special circumstances (such as granting of leave of absence for the whole academic year).

If you have been admitted to Year 1 in 2026-27 (and thereafter) and have achieved any one of the following qualifications, you are exempted from the ACE requirement, and Academic Communication in English 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.**

However, please note that students with whatsoever qualifications will not be granted an exemption from taking the English in the Discipline (ED) course. You may check from the following table which ED course should be taken to satisfy the English language enhancement requirement:

Curriculum	Students admitted to the first year in				
	2019-2020 and 2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023 and 2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026 and thereafter
BSc*	CAES9820 or CAES9821				
BSc(ActuarSc)	CAES9821				(1)
BASc(AppliedAI)	CAES9821				(1)
BSc&MRes*		CAES9820 or CAES9821			
BSc&LLB [#]			LLAW1013 and LLAW2017	LLAW1016	

* Note: Students who have been admitted to Year 1 in 2024-25 (or before) and intend to major in decision analytics, risk management, and statistics are strongly encouraged to take CAES9821. Knowledge of linear statistical modelling, covered in courses such as STAT3600 and STAT3907, is recommended but not assumed.

Students majoring in mathematics may take this CAES9821 if they are interested in broadening their computational and analytical skills acquired from their discipline to include effective communication in data analytics.

Students from other science disciplines should take CAES9820.

(1) For students admitted in 2025-26 and thereafter, please contact the School of Computing and Data Science (SCDS) for information.

[#] Note: For BSc&LLB students admitted to the first year in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024

A pass in both LLAW1013 Legal research and writing I and LLAW2017 Legal research and writing II shall be deemed to satisfy the “English in the Discipline” requirement under UG5(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

For BSc&LLB students admitted to the first year in 2024-2025

A pass in LLAW1016 Legal research and writing shall be deemed to satisfy the “English in the Discipline” requirement under UG5(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

For BSc&LLB students admitted to the first year in 2025-2026 and thereafter

A pass in LLAW1016 Legal research and writing shall be deemed to satisfy the “English in the Discipline” requirement under UG5(b) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

A student who opts out of the LLB programme before the end of the second semester of the second year will be required to complete CAES9820 or CAES9821 in the third year.

19. Can I be exempted from the Chinese language enhancement requirement?

If you have not studied Chinese language during your secondary education / have not attained the requisite level of competence in the Chinese language to take the Chinese language enhancement course, you should apply to the Faculty Office to be exempted from the Chinese language enhancement requirement by submitting the completed form ‘Application for Exemption from Taking Chinese Language Course’ to the Faculty Office via the Science Online Application

Submission System (OASS) (<https://webapp.science.hku.hk/intranet/OnlineFormUG.html>) by the specified application deadline.

For students admitted to the University in 2025-26 and thereafter

Students, who have been granted an exemption, are required to 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

For students admitted to the University in 2024-25 or before

Students, who have been granted an exemption, are required to take and pass (i) a 6-credit Cantonese or Putonghua language course offered by the School of Chinese especially for international and exchange students or (ii) at least 6 credits of elective course to replace the Chinese enhancement course.

20. Can I (as a Putonghua-speaking student) take a CUND course to satisfy the Chinese language enhancement requirement? If yes, can I take the course in my first or second year of study?

To satisfy the Chinese language enhancement requirement, students should take and pass the Chinese language enhancement course in their third year of study, except for 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).

Putonghua-speaking students may take CUND9002/CUND9003/CUND9001/CUND9004 in Year 1 or 2 if they so wish.

21. Can I enroll in any course during the approved leave period?

No, you are not permitted to enroll in any course (including internship) at HKU during your approved leave period.

22.Can I repeat a course for upgrading purpose?

No. You are not permitted to repeat a course for which you have received a D grade or above for the purpose of upgrading.

23.If I have difficulty in accessing the course information via Moodle, who should I contact?

You are advised to consult the Course Coordinator / course offering department for immediate advice.

24.Can I drop the course after the course add/drop period?

You are not allowed to drop any course after the course add/drop period, unless under very special circumstances (such as medical reasons).

In the event of a student requesting to add or drop a course after the course add/drop period, the Science Faculty has the final authority to consider if such request can be entertained.

25.How to select a course in SIS?

Before selecting any course in SIS, please view the “Quick Guide on Course Selection and Enrollment” posted on the SIS at http://intraweb.hku.hk/reserved_1/sis_student/sis/reference-materials/Quick_Guide_on_Course_Selection_and_Enrollment.pdf for information. Not all the courses listed in program guide can be used to fulfill the curriculum of your declared Science major(s) and/or minor(s). You are strongly advised to select the radio button for “**Show Requirement Details**” at the top of your program guide to view the information you should take note of before selecting your desired courses.

26.Can all the courses listed in the SIS - program guide (SIS – Enrollment – Enrollment Add Classes) for online course selection fulfill the requirement of my declared Science major(s) and/or minor(s)?

The program guide in SIS will list out all the courses you can take in the selected semester. Before selecting any course in SIS, please view the “Quick Guide on Course Selection and Enrollment” posted on the SIS at http://intraweb.hku.hk/reserved_1/sis_student/sis/reference-materials/Quick_Guide_on_Course_Selection_and_Enrollment.pdf for information.

Please note that NOT all the courses listed there can be used to fulfill the curriculum of your declared Science major(s) and/or minor(s). You are strongly advised to select the radio button for “**Show Requirement Details**” at the top of your program guide before selecting your desired courses. By choosing “Show Requirement Details”, you will then view the reminders that:

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Not all the courses listed below can be used to fulfill the curriculum of the <Science major/minor>. Select only those courses according to the curriculum structure of this <Science major/minor>. Please click here to view the [curriculum structure of this <Science major/minor>](#).

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The link provided in the program guide will then direct you to the curriculum of your declared Science major/minor according to your intake year. Please note that the curriculum checking for graduation will only base on the curriculum structures of Science majors and minors at <https://webapp.science.hku.hk/sr4/servlet/enquiry> to check whether you can fulfill the course requirement of your declared Science major(s) and/or minor(s).

Should you have any query about the fulfillment of course requirement of any Science major/minor, you are strongly advised to visit <https://webapp.science.hku.hk/sr4/servlet/enquiry> for the updated syllabuses. If you are still in doubt about the fulfillment of course requirement of your intended/declared Science major/minor, you should contact the relevant [Course Selection Adviser](#) and/or the Faculty of Science Office for timely advice.

27.If I cannot access the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS) outside HKU, what should I do?

You should login HKUVPN (HKU Virtual Private Network) to access our OASS. For details, please visit <https://its.hku.hk/kb/user-guide-on-making-hkuvpn-connection-with-mfa/>.

28.Am I still required to pay composition fees if I haven't selected any courses for the current semester or academic year?

Yes, you are still required to pay composition fees, regardless of the number of credit units you have registered for. This means that even if you do not enroll in any courses for the current semester or academic year, you are still liable to pay the composition fees unless you have applied for a leave of absence, along with valid supporting documents, via OASS before the start of the relevant semester or academic year.

29.Can I take a second AILT course (Faculty/Discipline-specific) course if I was admitted to the University before 2025-26?

No. The second AILT (Faculty/Discipline-specific) course should not be taken as a free elective by students admitted before 2025–26, as AI Literacy is not part of the UG5 graduation requirements for these cohorts.

30.Can I take more than one Faculty/Discipline-specific AI Literacy II course, for example, as a free elective, if I was admitted to the University in 2025-26 or thereafter?

No. The second AILT (Faculty/discipline-specific) course should not be taken as a free elective. Students admitted in 2025–26 or thereafter must pass one Faculty/discipline-specific AI Literacy II course to fulfil the UG5 graduation requirements. Students who fail the course may repeat the same AI Literacy II course or take a different AI Literacy II course to meet this requirement, but enrolling in more than one AI Literacy II course as a free elective is not permitted.