

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREES OF MASTER OF SCIENCE (MSc) AND MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (MSc[Env Man])

For students admitted in 2014-2015 and thereafter

(See also General Regulations)

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

The degree of Master of Science is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study in one of the following four fields: Applied Geosciences, Food Industry: Management and Marketing, Food Safety and Toxicology, and Material Science.

The degree of Master of Science in Environmental Management is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study in Environmental Management.

Admission requirements

- (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University; or
 - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard of this University or another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.
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Sc21 A candidate who does not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if the candidate demonstrates adequate preparation for studies at this level and satisfies the examiners in a qualifying examination.

Qualifying examination

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A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidate's academic ability to follow the course of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or equivalent and may include a project proposal.

A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until he/she has satisfied the examiners in the examination.

Award of degree

Sc23

- (a) To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Science or Master of Science in Environmental Management, a candidate
 - (i) shall comply with the General Regulations; and
 - (ii) shall complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with these regulations and syllabuses.
- (b) A candidate (both full-time and part-time) who has not satisfied the examiners for the award of the Degree of Master of Science in the field of Applied Geosciences but has achieved

good grades in 30 credits including 18 credits of core courses in the PGDES and satisfied the requirements for award of PGDES may be allowed to exit with PGDES, subject to the approval of the Faculty Board. Those who are allowed to take this exit path will not be re-admitted to the Degree of Master of Science in the field of Applied Geosciences.

Transfer of candidature into the Master of Science in the field of Applied Geosciences

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- (a) Subject to the approval of the Faculty Board, a candidate who has registered for the PGDES may be allowed to transfer to read the Master of Science in the field of Applied Geosciences and advanced credits of up to 30 credits may be granted. Application for the transfer must be made prior to the BoE's recommendation for conferment of the PGDES, or before August 31 of the final year of PGDES, whichever is earlier.
 - (b) A candidate who has transferred his/her candidature to the Master of Science in the field of Applied Geosciences will not be awarded the PGDES. If a candidate after transferring to the Master of Science in the field of Applied Geosciences fails to complete the Master of Science, he/she may be awarded the PGDES provided that he/she has satisfied the requirements of the PGDES.
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Length of curriculum

Sc25 The part-time mode of the Master of Science and the Master of Science in Environmental Management shall extend over not less than two academic years of part-time study and the full-time mode of the Master of Science and the Master of Science in Environmental Management shall extend over not less than one academic year. Candidates in either degree shall not be permitted to complete the curriculum in more than 3 academic years, except with the approval of the Faculty Board.

Completion of curriculum

- Sc26** To complete the curriculum of the Master of Science or Master of Science in Environmental Management, a candidate
- (a) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written, practical and field work;
 - (b) shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation or project on an approved subject or complete courses with equivalent credits as a replacement; and
 - (c) shall satisfy the examiners in all courses prescribed in the respective syllabuses.
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Dissertation or Project

Sc27 The title of the dissertation or project shall

- (a) for the full-time mode of Master of Science (except MSc in Environmental Management), be submitted for approval by October 15 and the dissertation or project report shall be submitted not later than August 15 in the subsequent year;
- (b) for the full-time curriculum of MSc in Environmental Management, be submitted by October 15 and the dissertation shall be submitted by a date specified by the Board of Studies;
- (c) for the part-time curriculum (except MSc in Environmental Management), be submitted for approval by March 15 of the first year of study in which the teaching curriculum ends and the dissertation or project report shall be submitted not later than July 1 of the second year

- of study;
- (d) for the part-time curriculum of MSc in Environmental Management, be submitted by June 1 of the first academic year and the dissertation shall be submitted by a date specified by the Board of Studies.

Sc 28 A candidate shall submit a statement that the dissertation or project represents his/her own work (or in the case of co-joint work, a statement countersigned by his/her worker, which shows his/her share of the work) undertaken after registration as a candidate for either degree.

Assessments

Sc29 The assessment in any course shall consist of elements prescribed by the course teachers, and will normally comprise either written coursework alone, or coursework combined with formal examinations; in either case participation in field work or practical work may form part of the assessment.

Sc30 A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners

- (a) at his/her first attempt in any course in the examination held during any of the academic years of study may be permitted to present himself/herself for re-examination in the course or courses at a specified subsequent examination, with or without repeating any part of the curriculum;
- (b) at his/her first submission of dissertation or project report may be permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation or project report within a specified period;
- (c) in any prescribed fieldwork or practical work may be permitted to present himself/herself for re-examination in fieldwork or practical work within a specified period.

Sc31 Failure to take the examination as scheduled, normally results in automatic course failure. A candidate who is unable because of illness to be present at any examination of a course, may apply for permission to be present at some other time. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the examination.

Discontinuation

Sc32 A candidate who

- (a) has failed to satisfy the examiners in more than half the number of credits of courses during any of the academic years or in any course at a repeated attempt, or
 - (b) is not permitted or fails to submit a new or revised dissertation or project report, or
 - (c) has failed to satisfy the examiners in their dissertation or project report at a second attempt,
- may be recommended for discontinuation of studies.

Examination results

Sc33 At the conclusion of the examination, a pass list shall be published. A candidate who has shown exceptional merit at the whole examination may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidate's degree diploma.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN THE FIELD OF FOOD SAFETY AND TOXICOLOGY

All courses in this programme are compulsory. A candidate shall be examined shortly after the completion of each course.

A. Course Structure

Year 1 (39 credits)		
FSTX7001	Principles of toxicology I	(9 credits)
FSTX7002	Principles of toxicology II	(9 credits)
FSTX7003	Toxicity tests and hazards evaluation methods	(9 credits)
FSTX7004	Regulatory toxicology: risk assessment, risk management and communication	(12 credits)
Year 2 (30 credits)		
FSTX8005	Chemical and microbial hazards in food	(9 credits)
FSTX8006	Food safety management	(9 credits)
FSTX8007	Project	(12 credits)

B. Course Content

FSTX7001 Principles of toxicology I (9 credits)

This module introduces students to the general principles and practice of toxicology. The major focus of the course is on basic principles, mechanisms and common methods underpinning the science of toxicology. Selected target organ systems (e.g. respiratory, nervous and immune systems) are studied with respect to understanding how representative chemicals damage and impair their ability to function. Students will develop a fundamental understanding of how chemicals may exert toxic effects and gain insight into the importance of organ-specific toxicity.

FSTX7002 Principles of toxicology II (9 credits)

This module continues to introduce students to the general principles and practice of toxicology. The course continues to focus on basic principles, mechanisms and common methods underpinning the science of toxicology. Selected toxicants are studied with respect to their source of exposure and mechanisms of effects. Selected disease processes (e.g., mutagenesis, carcinogenesis, reproductive toxicity, teratogenesis and developmental toxicity) are studied with respect to understanding their basic pathways and common mechanisms. Selected fields are presented to give students insight into the applications of toxicology and its relationship with other fields.

FSTX7003 Toxicity tests and hazards evaluation methods (9 credits)

This module will provide students with the current state-of-the-art methodology employed to investigate the effect of chemical and microbial toxins and environmental pollutants on living systems. Topics include exposure estimate, animal tests for acute toxicity, short-term and long-term toxicity, for

mutagenicity, genotoxicity and carcinogenicity, for reproductive toxicity, teratogenicity, developmental toxicity and delayed neurotoxicity. Major focus is on the basic principles underpinning each test method including the test rationale, protocol design, limitations and data interpretation. Students will also be introduced to the basic concepts of toxicological evaluation and criteria for setting guidance values for dietary and non-dietary exposure to chemicals. The role of biochemical, metabolic and toxicokinetic studies in toxicological evaluation is also considered.

FSTX7004 Regulatory toxicology: risk assessment, risk management and communication (12 credits)

In order to fully appreciate risks that arise from human exposure to chemicals in our living environment, it is essential to quantify levels of chemical contamination in environmental media and foods, and estimate total chemical exposure from dietary and non-dietary sources. This module will provide students with intensive training to develop the necessary practical skills to measure and model the extent to which human populations come into contact with toxic agents in the environment and foods, to conduct qualitative and quantitative risk assessments, to set safe levels of chemical exposure in foods (based on local food consumption patterns), and to implement effective risk management in protecting human health and the environment. The roles of international food safety authorities such as WHO, FAO, Codex Alimentarius Commission, JECFA, IARC and OECD will be described. Introduction to local and international food laws will be provided.

FSTX8005 Chemical and microbial hazards in food (9 credits)

This module will introduce students to the chemical and microbial hazards in food and their effects on human health. Special reference is made to heavy metals, pesticides, food additives, persistent organic pollutants and natural food contaminants of current public concern. An emphasis will also be placed on developing the understanding of the actual impact of food and waterborne pathogens, their epidemiology and factors contributing to the increase in their incidence. Determination of exposure pathways and linking food hazards to human health is the primary focus. Topics include: contamination monitoring, quantification of exposure at the individual level, interactive effects of exposure to multiple risk factors, perceptions of risk and integration of laboratory science with population-based studies.

FSTX8006 Food safety management (9 credits)

Good manufacturing practice has a significant impact on the daily operation of a food processing facility. Quality products and a safe work place are important components of a good company. This course will focus on issues arising from GMP and aspects of the physical design of a food processing facility which impact the safety of workers and products. In food supply chain, traceability is the ability to follow the movement of a food product through the stages of production, processing, and distribution, and is an important component of the food safety management system. As a core quality management tool in the food industry, the relevance, impact and use of ISO 22000 and HACCP in manufacturing and catering will be discussed. Topics covered will include the international/national HACCP standards, and designing safety into food products and processes as well as the practical development and implementation of a HACCP Plan using local and Asian case studies.

FSTX8007 Project (12 credits)

All students are required to undertake to attend training (up to maximum 6 months) in one of the following areas:

- Academic institutions, to carry out basic research project using the most advanced techniques in molecular biology, analytical chemistry and biomedical sciences.
- Food, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, to overlook industry procedures on ensuring that the emerging/newly developed food and chemical products meet regulatory standards and requirements and are safe for consumers; their potential health implications, and
- Government agencies, to gain knowledge on the procedures implemented by the local/national authorities in formulating science-based policies, laws and regulations to ensure the safe production and use of food and chemicals.

The candidate shall make a formal presentation on the subject of his training during the final semester of the teaching programme.