

Curriculum of BSc&MRes Degrees (*Science Master Class*)

All students admitted to the first year of the 6688 BSc&MRes programme in the academic year of 2021-22 and thereafter are required to complete one Science major out of the 7 intensive Science majors as your major for the award of the BSc degree. In addition to the Science major, you may optionally take a minor offered by any Faculty, provided that you fully satisfy the course requirements within the maximum curriculum study load (i.e. 288 credits) of undergraduate courses for the normative period of study. Students should note that some non-Science minors may require students to have achieved a minimum academic result before they are allowed to enrol in them.

To complete the BSc&MRes curriculum, you have to pass not fewer than a total of 303 credits, consisting of not fewer than 240 credits for the Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree and 63 credits for the Master of Research (MRes) degree, normally spread over four years of full-time study for the Bachelor of Science Programme, with the Master of Research integrated into the BSc curriculum from Year 2 onwards.

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 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, however, note that the total number of credits of undergraduate courses taken cannot 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.

(a) The BSc Degree (240 credits):

To complete the BSc degree curriculum, you have to pass at least 240 credits, equivalent to 40 6-credit courses, which comprises:

(i) UG5:

- 2 English courses and 1 Chinese course for university language requirements (18 credits)
- 4 common core courses, including one course from each Area of Inquiry (24 credits)

(ii) Intensive Science major:

- 24 - 25 courses for the intensive Science major including 2 Science Foundation courses[#], Disciplinary courses and capstone course(s) (144 - 150 credits)
- A choice of 8 - 9 courses as elective courses, or to fulfil the requirements of a minor (36-48 credits)

The intensive science majors available include the followings:

- Biological Sciences (Intensive)
- Chemistry (Intensive)
- Ecology & Biodiversity (Intensive)
- Geology (Intensive)
- Mathematics (Intensive)
- Molecular Biology & Biotechnology (Intensive)
- Physics (Intensive)

The syllabuses of the intensive science majors can be found at

<https://webapp.science.hku.hk/sr4/servlet/enquiry>

You are expected to have 1-year abroad experience in a university for exchange/visiting study and/or conducting research project (e.g. Summer Research Fellowship, Overseas Research Fellowship) in either Year 2 or 3.

Students have to achieve a CGPA of 3.6 or above at the end of Year 2 to remain enrolled in this dual degree programme, or else they have to switch to the 6901 BSc programme.

Notes:

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 do not take this course should take a 6-credit disciplinary elective course of 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:

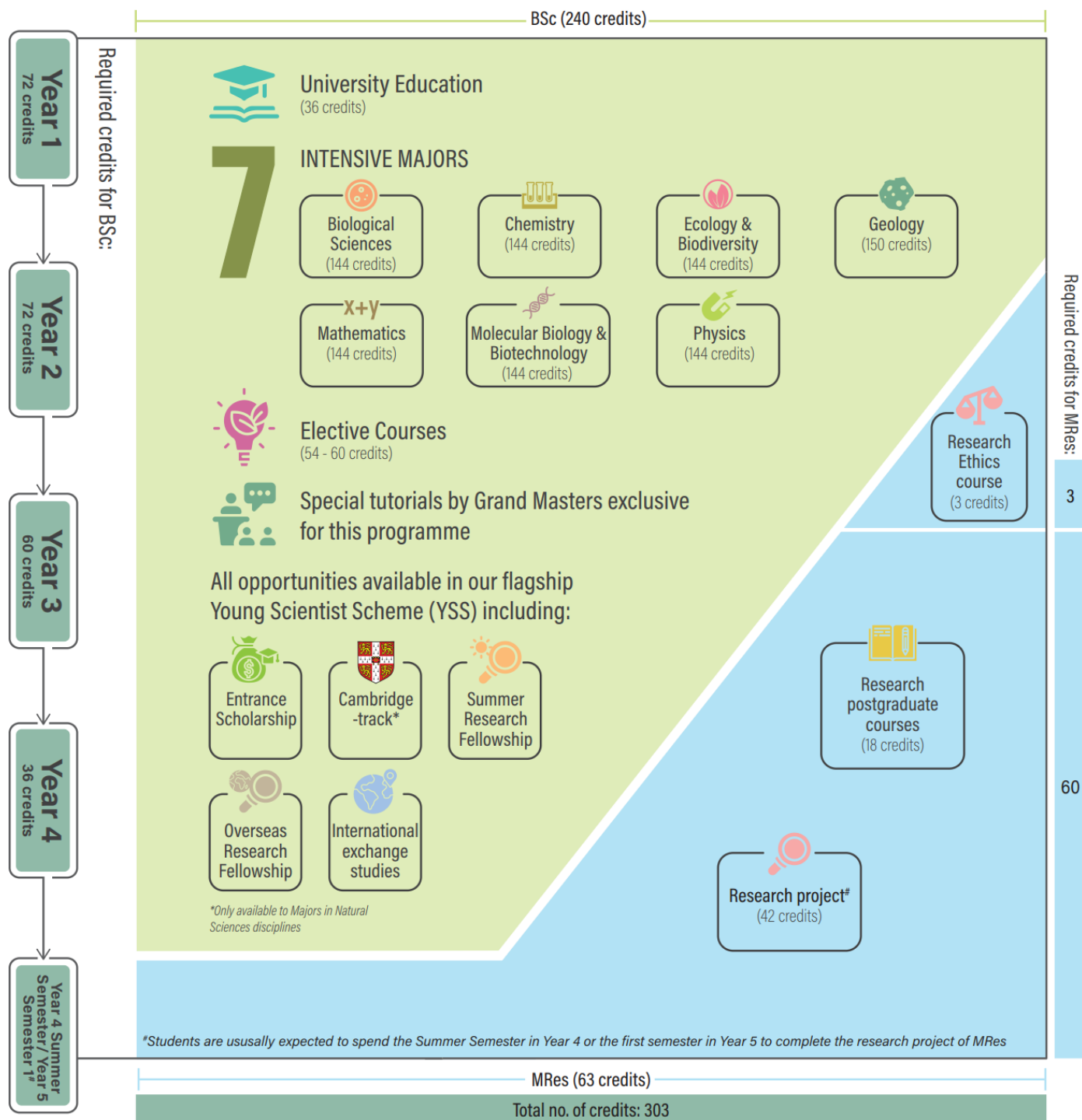
- Level 4 or above in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)
- Level 5 or above in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics Higher Level in International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Grade B or above in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics in General Certificate of Education 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 do not take this course should take a 6-credit disciplinary elective course of the science major in lieu.

(b) The MRes Degree (63 credits):

The MRes of the programme consists of course work and research project. Each student must complete at least 63 credits, including one compulsory course on research ethics (3 credits), 18 credits of Faculty-offered Research Postgraduate courses, and 42 credits of a research project. The project report of the research project will be in the form of a literature review paper and an original research paper in the relevant field. You are expected to take the research ethics course (3 credits) in year 2 and the other postgraduate courses of the MRes component starting from the semester 1 of year 3.

(c) Sample study path for BSc&MRes students



(d) Sample study plans of BSc&MRes Degrees

The typical study plan is illustrated in table (A), with examples of study plans under different scenarios/durations illustrated in table (B) to (E). The sample study plans are for reference only. You can take different number of credits in each semester as long as they can fulfil the minimum total number of credits required upon their graduation.

A. Sample study plan for studying within the normative study period*								
	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3		YEAR 4	
	BSc	MRes	BSc	MRes	BSc	MRes	BSc	MRes
Semester 1	36	0	36	3	18	18	18	42 (research project)
Semester 2	36	0	36 (optional exchange study^)	0	30 (optional visiting study^)	0	18	
Summer Semester	0 (optional SRF^)	0	0 (optional ORF^)	0	12 (optional overseas summer study^)	0	0	
Total	72	0	72	3	60	18	36	42
	72		75		78		78	

B. Sample study plan for top performing BSc students who opt for the BSc&MRes programme in Year 3*						
	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
	BSc		BSc		BSc	MRes
Semester 1	36		36		12	21
Semester 2	36		36 (optional exchange study^)		36 (optional visiting study^)	0
Summer Semester	0		0 (optional SRF/ORF^)		12 (optional overseas summer study^)	0
Total	72		72		60	21
					81	
					78	

Note: A small number of top-performing BSc students in the 6901 BSc programme will have the opportunity to join this integrated programme under stringent criteria. Eligible BSc students can apply for opt in at the end of their Year 2 study. Eligibility includes having completed 144 credits, and achieved CGPA of 4.0 or above at the end of Year 2.

C. Sample study plan for students who study beyond the normative study period (completion of study in 4.5 years)*										
	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3		YEAR 4		YEAR 5	
	BSc	MRes	BSc	MRes	BSc	MRes	BSc	MRes	BSc	MRes
Semester 1	36	0	30	3	24	12	12	42 (research project)	30	6
Semester 2	30	0	36 (optional exchange study^)	0	30 (optional visiting study^)	0	12		-	-
Summer Semester	0 (optional SRF^)	0	0	0	0 (optional ORF^)	0	0		-	-
Total	66	0	66	3	54	12	24	42	30	6
	66		69		66		66		36	

D. Sample study plan for students who study beyond the normative study period (completion of study in 5 years)										
	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3		YEAR 4		YEAR 5	
	BSc	MRes	BSc	MRes	BSc	MRes	BSc	MRes	BSc	MRes
Semester 1	30	0	30	3	24	6	24	6	12	42 (research project)
Semester 2	30	0	30 (optional exchange study^)	0	30 (optional visiting study^)	0	24	6	6	
Summer Semester	0 (optional SRF^)	0	0	0	0 (optional ORF^)	0	0	0	0	
Total	60	0	60	3	54	6	48	12	18	42
	60		63		60		66		60	

E. Sample study plan for students who switch back to BSc programme only in Year 3, and graduate in 3.5 years *						
	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	YEAR 4
	BSc	MRes	BSc	MRes	BSc	BSc
Semester 1	36	0	36	3	36	30
Semester 2	36	0	36 (optional exchange study^)	0	30 (optional visiting study^)	-
Summer Semester	0 (optional SRF^)	0	0 (optional ORF^)	0	0	-
Total	72	0	72	3	66	30

^Summer Research Fellowship (SRF), Overseas Research Fellowship (ORF), exchange study and visiting study are optional overseas opportunities that you can participate. The semester and the number of credits shown are for reference only.

(e) Grand Masters and Masters

Students will have the chance to learn from “Grand Masters” and “Masters” of the Faculty of Science. List of Grand Masters and Masters can be found at: <https://www.scifac.hku.hk/prospective/ug/6688-science-master-class/experts>.