Curriculum of BSc&LLB Degrees

All students admitted to the first year of the 6858 BSc&LLB programme in the academic year of 2025-26 and thereafter are required to complete one Science major out of the 11 regular* Science majors as your major for the award of the BSc degree. In addition to the Science major, you are required to take the required LLB professional/interdisciplinary core/elective courses for the award of the LLB degree.

*14 regular Science majors are available for students admitted in 2024-25 or before.

To complete the BSc&LLB curriculum, you have to pass not fewer than a total of 300 credits normally spread over five years of full-time study. You should take 60 credits of courses in each year.

Curriculum structure of the BSc&LLB Degrees (300 credits)

<u>For students admitted to the first year in 2022-23 and 2023-24</u>

The BSc and LLB curriculum comprises 300 credits of courses as follows:

(a) 96 credits for the Science major (Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Decision Analytics, Earth System Science, Ecology & Biodiversity, Environmental Science, Food & Nutritional Science, Geology, Mathematics, Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, Physics, Risk Management, Statistics) as follows:

Majors*	Introductory Disciplinary courses**	Advanced Disciplinary courses***
1. Biochemistry 2. Geology 3. Molecular Biology & Biotechnology 4. Risk Management 5. Statistics	42 credits	54 credits
1. Biological Sciences 2. Chemistry 3. Decision Analytics 4. Earth System Science 5. Ecology & Biodiversity 6. Environmental Science 7. Mathematics 8. Physics	48 credits	48 credits
1. Food & Nutritional Science	60 credits	36 credits

* As prescribed by the Faculty of Science in the syllabuses of the respective Science major.
** Including 2 Science Foundation courses[#].
*** Including the capstone course for the degree of BSc.

(b) 156 credits of the LLB Professional Core comprising 126 credits of compulsory courses including a capstone, 18 credits of disciplinary electives[1], and 12 credits of interdisciplinary core courses (LSCI1001 Law, science and innovation and LSCI3001 Patent law);

(c) 12 credits of Law and Science interdisciplinary electives as prescribed in the syllabus; and

[1] Law electives listed in the syllabus for the degree of LLB.

(d) 36 credits of University requirements, including 6 credits of CAES1000 Core University English*, 6 credits of CDDL9001 Practical Chinese for Double Degree Law Students^, and 24 credits of Common Core, and any non-credit bearing courses as required.

As a graduation requirement, students need to complete a capstone experience for the BSc as prescribed in the syllabus of the respective Science major, and another capstone experience for the LLB Professional Core, LLAW3187 Mooting and dispute resolution (6 credits), in the fourth or fifth year.

For students admitted to the first year in 2024-25

The BSc and LLB curriculum comprises 300 credits of courses as follows:

(a) 96 credits for the Science major (Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Decision Analytics, Earth System Science, Ecology & Biodiversity, Environmental Science, Food & Nutritional Science, Geology, Mathematics, Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, Physics, Risk Management, Statistics) as follows:

Majors*	Introductory Disciplinary courses**	Advanced Disciplinary courses***
1. Biochemistry 2. Geology 3. Molecular Biology & Biotechnology 4. Risk Management 5. Statistics	42 credits	54 credits
1. Biological Sciences 2. Chemistry 3. Decision Analytics 4. Earth System Science 5. Ecology & Biodiversity 6. Environmental Science 7. Mathematics 8. Physics	48 credits	48 credits
1. Food & Nutritional Science	60 credits	36 credits

* As prescribed by the Faculty of Science in the syllabuses of the respective Science major.
** Including 2 Science Foundation courses#.
*** Including the capstone course for the degree of BSc.

(b) 156 credits of the LLB Professional Core comprising 108 credits of compulsory courses, 30 credits of disciplinary electives[2], 6 credits of capstone experience, and 12 credits of interdisciplinary core courses (LSCI1001 Law, science and innovation and LSCI3001 Patent law);

(c) 12 credits of Law and Science interdisciplinary electives as prescribed in the syllabus; and

(d) 36 credits of University requirements, including 6 credits of CAES1000 Core University English*, 6 credits of CDDL9001 Practical Chinese for Double Degree Law Students^, and 24 credits of Common Core, and any non-credit bearing courses as required.

[2] Law electives listed in the syllabus for the degree of LLB.

As a graduation requirement, students need to complete a capstone experience for the BSc as prescribed in the syllabus of the respective Science major, and another capstone experience for the LLB Professional Core in the fourth or fifth year.

For students admitted to the first year in 2025-26 and thereafter

The BSc and LLB curriculum comprises 300 credits of courses as follows:

(a) 96 credits for the Science major (Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Earth System Science, Ecology & Biodiversity, Environmental Science, Food & Nutritional Science, Geology, Mathematics, Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, Physics) as follows:

Majors*	Introductory Disciplinary courses**	Advanced Disciplinary courses***
1. Biochemistry 2. Geology 3. Molecular Biology & Biotechnology	42 credits	54 credits
1. Biological Sciences 2. Chemistry 3. Earth System Science 4. Ecology & Biodiversity 5. Environmental Science 6. Food & Nutritional Science 7. Mathematics 8. Physics	48 credits	48 credits

* As prescribed by the Faculty of Science in the syllabuses of the respective Science major.
** Including 2 Science Foundation courses[#].
*** Including the capstone course for the degree of BSc.

(b) 156 credits of the LLB Professional Core comprising 108 credits of compulsory courses, 30 credits of disciplinary electives[3], 6 credits of capstone experience, and 12 credits of interdisciplinary core courses (LSCI1001 Law, science and innovation and LSCI3001 Patent law);

(c) 12 credits of Law and Science interdisciplinary electives as prescribed in the syllabus; and

(d) 36 credits of University requirements, including a non-credit bearing course CAES1001 Academic Communication in English[@], 6 credits of CDDL9001 Practical Chinese for Double Degree Law Students[+], 6 credits of Artificial Intelligence Literacy courses, and 24 credits of Common Core, and any non-credit bearing courses as required.

As a graduation requirement, students need to complete a capstone experience for the BSc as prescribed in the syllabus of the respective Science major, and another capstone experience for the LLB Professional Core in the fourth or fifth year.

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:

[3] Law electives listed in the syllabus for the degree of LLB.

- 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.

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

- 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.**

^ To satisfy the Chinese language enhancement requirement, students admitted to the first year in 2024-25 or before are required to successfully complete the 6-credit Faculty-specific Chinese language enhancement course, except for:

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

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

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

- Level 5 or above in English Language in the HKDSE
- holder of a Bachelor's degree from an English-medium university
- achieved Grade A or above in English Language at **GCSE/ GCEO** / English First Language at **IGCSE** / English Second Language at **IGCSE** / English Language or English Literature at **GCE AS/ AL**
- achieved an overall **IELTS** score of no less than 7 **AND** with all sub-scores no less than 6.5 on the Reading, Speaking, Listening, and Writing Tests
- achieved an overall **TOEFL Internet-based test** score of no less than 94 **AND** no less than a 24 on the writing, a 20 on the speaking, a 20 on the listening, **AND** a 19 on the reading sections
- achieved in **International Baccalaureate (IB)** Grade 4 or above in HL English Language A: Language and Literature / HL English Language A: Literature / HL English Language (B Syllabus) / HL English Language (A1 or A2 Syllabus); Grade 5 or above SL English Language A: Language and Literature / SL English Language A: Literature / SL English Language (B Syllabus) / SL English Language (A1 or A2 Syllabus)
- achieved Grade 4 or above on the **Advanced Placement (AP) English Language/ English Language and Composition/ English Literature and Composition Test**
- achieved section scores of 630 or better in Reading and Writing of the **NEW Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)** in the same attempt
- achieved Level C2 in **Cambridge Certificate** of Proficiency in English / Grade A in Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English
- achieved a score of 76 in the **Pearson Test of English Assessment (Academic)**
- achieved Grade B or above in H1 General Paper at the **Singapore GCE A-level**
- achieved Grade A or better in English language at **Malaysia SPM examination**
- achieved Grade A2 or better in **Malaysia UEC-Senior English Language**
- attained Level 4 in each set of credits in **New Zealand NCEA Literacy** (10 credits made up of 5 credits in reading and 5 credits in writing)
- achieved a score of 95% or better in English at **All India Senior School Certificate Examination / Higher School Certificate**
- achieved a final score of 90% or better in English at **Grade 12 Canadian high school curriculum**
- achieved Grade B or better in English Language at **Sri Lanka Ordinary examination**
- achieved a score of 90 or better in English in the **Russian Unified State Exam** (Единый государственный экзамен, ЕГЭ, Yediniy gosudarstvenniy ekzamen, EGE)
- passed **the Academic Speaking and Writing Test conducted by CAES**
  - *The test is arranged for students who have not obtained the above qualifications.*
  - *The test is conducted face-to-face once a year on a specific date in August. Students who miss the application deadline or the test date will not have another chance to take the test, as no alternative dates or testing methods will be offered. Students who miss the test must take CAES1001 as a required course.*
  - *Students should apply for the test through their faculties.*

- *When applying to take the test, students should provide evidence to their Faculties and the CAES1001 Course Coordinator that they were admitted to HKU using qualifications **other than** those included in the list.*
- *Applicants are required to show **the evidence of those other qualifications** to the CAES assessor on the day of the test.*
- *If any applicants fail to provide any evidence that they were admitted to HKU using qualifications other than those included in the list provided by CAES, the assessor has the right not to allow the applicant to take the test.*

Please note that:

- **Optional students can only take CAES1001 during their first year of studies.**
- **JUPAS students with HKDSE English Language Level 4 or below are not allowed to use any of the above equivalent qualifications to obtain exemption from CAES1001.**
- **Re-admitted students with combined HKDSE English Language results with a level 5 or above, irrespective of the year they took the exam, will be eligible for exemption from CAES1001.**
- **Students admitted through the School Nominations Direct Admission Scheme (SNDAS) are allowed to use results of HKDSE English Language Level 5 or above to get CAES1001 exemption. However, these students are not allowed to use any other equivalent qualifications for this purpose.**
- **Non-JUPAS students are not allowed to use HKDSE English Language results to get exempted from CAES1001.**
- **Students who have taken the Mainland China National College Entrance Examination (NJCEE/Gaokao) must submit additional English proficiency test results (as listed above) to be eligible for exemption from CAES1001.**
- **Students who have not completed their associate degree must submit additional English proficiency test results (as listed above) to be eligible for exemption from CAES1001.**
- **Except for IELTS and TOEFL, all qualifications must be obtained in the same calendar year as the student's university admission.**
- **IELTS and TOEFL scores must be obtained within two years prior to August 1 of the year students are admitted to the University.**

[+] To satisfy the Chinese language enhancement requirement, students admitted to the first year in 2025-26 and thereafter are required to successfully complete the 6-credit Faculty-specific Chinese language enhancement course, except for:

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

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

Chinese language

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

Chinese culture

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