REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

These Regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Arts curriculum in the academic year 2024-25 and thereafter.

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

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 Arts (MA) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study in one of the following fields: AI, Ethics and Society; Art History; Chinese Historical Studies; Chinese Language and Literature; Creative Communications; English Studies; Hong Kong History; Linguistics; Literary and Cultural Studies; Museum Studies; Music Studies; Philosophy, Politics and Economics; and Translation. These fields of study will not necessarily be offered every year.

MA 1 Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Arts, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;¹
- (b) shall comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (c) shall hold
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree of this University; or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
 - (ii) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of AI, Ethics and Society, a Bachelor's degree with a major in philosophy; or a Bachelor's degree with a major in another subject with experience of studying issues relevant to AI, Ethics and Society;
 - (iii) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Art History, either a Bachelor's degree with a major in art history; or a Bachelor's degree in another subject and substantial art-related experience;
 - (iv) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Chinese Language and Literature, a Bachelor's degree with a major in Chinese or a closely related subject;
 - in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of English Studies, a Bachelor's degree with a major in English or a closely related subject;

(a) TOEFL: a Test of Written English (TWE) score of 4 or above or a Writing score of 25 or above in the internet-based TOEFL (not applicable to the MA in the field of Chinese Historical Studies); or

(b) IELTS : (i) a minimum overall Band of 7 with no subtest lower than 5.5 (not applicable to the MA in the fields of Chinese Historical Studies and Translation);

(ii) a minimum overall Band of 7 with no subtest lower than 6 (applicable to the MA in the field of Translation).

¹ In addition to the admission requirement specified in General Regulation G 2, the Faculty also requires:

- (vi) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Hong Kong History, a Bachelor's degree with a major in history; or a Bachelor's degree with a major in another subject with experience of studying history;
- (vii) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Linguistics, a Bachelor's degree with a major in Linguistics or a closely related subject;
- (viii) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Museum Studies, a Bachelor's degree with a major in museum studies or art history; or a closely related subject;
- (ix) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Music Studies, a Bachelor's degree with a major in music; or a Bachelor's degree with a major in another subject with experience studying music;
- (x) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Philosophy, Politics and Economics, a Bachelor's degree with major in Philosophy, Politics and Economics; or a Bachelor's degree with a major in another subject with experience studying either subject;
- (xi) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Translation, a professional qualification deemed to be equivalent to a Bachelor's degree; and
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

MA 2 Qualifying examination

- (a) A qualifying examination and/or interview may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
- (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination and/or interview shall not be permitted to register unless they have satisfied the examiners in the examination and/or interview.

MA 3 Award of degree

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Arts, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) shall comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
- (c) shall complete the curriculum as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.

MA 4 Period of study

- (a) The curriculum shall normally extend
 - (i) in the fields of Art History, Creative Communications, Linguistics, Museum Studies, and Music Studies, over one academic year of full-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years;
 - (ii) in the fields of Chinese Historical Studies, Chinese Language and Literature and Translation, over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study; and
 - (iii) in the fields of AI, Ethics and Society, English Studies, Hong Kong History,

Literary and Cultural Studies, and Philosophy, Politics and Economics over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study.

(b) Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration specified in MA 4(a), unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

MA 5 Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work:
- (c) shall complete and present a satisfactory capstone experience on a subject within their fields of study;
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of assessment as prescribed in the syllabuses; and
- (e) shall satisfy the examiners in an oral examination if required.

MA 6 Advanced standing

Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in the field of Translation in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the curriculum. Candidates who are awarded Advanced Standing will not be granted any further credit transfer for those studies for which Advanced Standing has been granted. The number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty, in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) a candidate may be granted a total of not more than 20% of the total credits normally required under a curriculum for Advanced Standing unless otherwise approved by the Senate;
- (b) application for Advanced Standing will only be considered if the previous studies were done within 5 years before admission to the curriculum;
- (c) Advanced Standing will not be granted for elective course and capstone experience; and
- (d) credits granted for Advanced Standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.

MA 7 Capstone experience

Subject to the provisions of Regulation MA 5(c), the title of the capstone experience (dissertation, portfolio or individual project) shall be submitted for approval by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study. Similarly, the capstone experience shall be presented by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study. Candidates shall submit a statement that the capstone experience represents their own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by their co-worker(s), which shows their share of the work) undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

- (a) The assessment for each course shall be as specified in the syllabuses. Only passed courses will earn credits. Grades in all fields of study shall be awarded in accordance with TPG 9(a) of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula.
- (b) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners on the first attempt in not more than two courses, excluding the capstone experience, in an academic year may be permitted to
 - (i) present themselves for re-examination in the failed course(s) on a specified date or re-submit their work for the failed course(s) for re-assessment within a specified period determined by the Board of Examiners for Taught Postgraduate Curricula, but no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
 - (ii) repeat the failed course(s) by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessment requirements; or
 - (iii) for elective courses, take another course in lieu and satisfy the assessment requirements.
- (c) Subject to the provisions of Regulation MA 5(c), candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory capstone experience may be permitted to revise and re-present the capstone experience within a specified period determined by the Board of Examiners for Taught Postgraduate Curricula.
- (d) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in the final review in the field of English Studies may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination on a specified date determined by the Board of Examiners for Taught Postgraduate Curricula, but no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester).
- (e) There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

MA 9 Discontinuation

Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination/re-submission in any written examination or coursework assessment in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners or to repeat the failed course(s); or
- (b) are not permitted to revise and re-present the capstone experience; or
- (c) have failed to satisfy the examiners on second attempt in any coursework assessment, examination, or the capstone experience; or
- (d) have failed more than two courses, excluding the capstone experience, on the first attempt in an academic year; or
- (e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration as specified in MA 4 may be required to discontinue their studies under the provisions of General Regulation G 12.

MA 10 Assessment results

On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

MUSEUM STUDIES

These Syllabuses apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Arts in the field of Museum Studies in the academic year 2023-24 and thereafter.

The MA in the field of Museum Studies is supported by the University Museum and Art Gallery, and it provides advanced training in the skills and methodologies of academic professional curating and interpretation. This MA focuses on the historic and future development of museums and the academic development of exhibitions and public education programmes, as well as the professional acquisition, care and management of collections. One core course introduces the *historical development, ongoing purpose and ever-developing functions of museums*. Elective courses provide students with the ability to explore a variety of aspects of museum curation and collection management, etc.. The MA dissertation is a capstone course in which students develop a specialist area of research under the guidance of expert supervisors. Students may elect to do a professional work placement or one additional cross listed course.

The MA curriculum comprises five semester-long courses, a dissertation, and an internship or a cross listed elective course distributed in the following way:

- 1 required core course (9 credits)
- 4 elective MA courses (9 credits each)
- 1 MA dissertation (9 credits)
- 1 Professional Internship (6 credits) or 1 cross listed elective course (6 credits)

All instruction is in English and assessment is 100% coursework, which may include discussion, oral presentations, research essays, and various kinds of short writing assignments.

COURSES

(1) All students are required to take the following core course.

MUSE7001. Studying Museums: The Historical Development, Ongoing Purpose and Ever-developing Functions of Museums (9 credits)

This core course examines a range of themes, problems, and issues in past and contemporary museum practices. The goals of the course are to familiarize students with the ways scholars and practitioners have helped develop individual collections and whole museums, how they have brought purpose to public institutions and in which ways they serve functions that advance the vision and fulfil the mission of cultural institutions; and assess how theories based on other historical experiences can be used to analyse museums and the ways they adopt strategies to adapt to changing times and evolving requirements. Students will develop the skills necessary for the organizational structure of museums and the roles within; and understand the characteristics of different cultural institutions and how they work together and benefit one another. They will acquire the knowledge required to pursue independent research and draft an effective dissertation research proposal; and learn to use scholarly citations properly and in accordance with disciplinary standards and conventions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(2) Students choose four MA electives from the following list.

MUSE7002. Museums and Curatorial Strategies (9 credits)

This course offers a rich introduction as well as critical analysis of different curatorial philosophies and artistic and academic developments that lead to exhibition projects. The aim is to create a good

fundamental knowledge of different project types, their development and purpose to gain confidence in initiating and researching exhibition topics – be this in collaboration with artists or by studying museum collections. Both the sources of display material and its character are important to practice visual and oral communication techniques that do the exhibited material justice, adhere to ethical and legal standards, and deliver a project that is educational and accessible, and fully appropriate and beneficial to the community it is curated for.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MUSE7003. Languages of an Exhibition: Curatorial Practices and Exhibition Design (9 credits)

In this course, the individual elements of an exhibition are presented, from research to the first draft, from planning, calculation, production to the process, documentation and follow-up. How can important contemporary issues be transferred to exhibitions? Which languages of the exhibition (associative, explorative, narrative, etc.) are used? Which media should be used and what is conveyed and how? The curatorial strategies, the design and the concepts of the communication of the exhibition are analyzed and discussed on the basis of historical case studies and some visits to exhibitions in art institutions in Hong Kong. The interaction between artists, curators and collectors, the art market and auction houses is also discussed. The participants of the course no longer get to know exhibitions from the point of view of consumers, but from the point of view of curators, producers and designers.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MUSE7004. Museum Education and Community Engagement (9 credits)

Building upon the previous two courses, this class offers insights into the importance of public education and community engagement. Essential to any public cultural institution is its outreach programme and the varied strategies employed to cater to the needs, imagination and educational practices used to entertain, educate and stimulate academic thinking, social behaviour and – in museums – historical and scientific learning. The course introduces different forms of engagement, mass and specialised programmes and the philosophies that connect and enrich individual cultural events. Although taught with museums in mind, the learning outcomes include enhance interpretation and communication skills, and community-centred think about inclusivity and equality.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MUSE7005. Collections Acquisitions, Management and Care (9 credits)

The focus of this course is the professional development and care of collections. On the one hand, the focus is on analysing collections, understanding their historic and future purpose and to envision a plan for anticipated growth both of the collections themselves and the engagement with them. On the other hand, the course teaches systematic practical skills, including the management of collections, care and storage-related tasks and preventive conservation. Although no specific emphasis is put on conservation, this course will be a class connecting this Museum Studies programme with a future conservation programme. A pedagogical aim of this course is to help prepare students for a specific professional field: those who do not wish to continue in art, history, archaeology, etc., will have the opportunity to learn concrete management skills.

This course highlights the relationship between art history, the history of collecting and provenance research. The focus will be on the need for clarity concerning the ownership history of collection items, and the legal and ethical engagement with the community from which museum objects arrive, the fair and unbiased communication of their origins and the sensible handling, preservation and presentation, also of indigenous and religious objects. Students will learn about international and local government regulations and the ongoing practices concerning restitution and repatriation. Different circumstances under which objects were acquired will be studied and the diverse, also contrasting, opinions that guide present-day cultural institutions and their dealings with foreign cultural heritage will be analysed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MUSE7007. Digital Media for Collecting, Archiving and Exhibiting (9 credits)

The course provides a basic introduction to how digital technologies are used for the diverse tasks of museums. This concerns registration and inventory through collection / museum management systems as it is done in museum informatics and for building digital collections. Furthermore, information is given on long-term archiving of digital and digitised data and the different media used by artists for their works of art (Video Art, Media Art etc.). Another part of the course deals with the conception, design and production of interactive media (offline and online) for the field of education and in exhibitions. Here, a review of important multimedia applications (CD-ROMs as predecessors of apps as well as interactive stories for webdocs), gesture-based computing, immersive spaces and augmented/virtual reality will be presented.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MUSE7008. The Art of Storytelling (9 credits)

This course explores cultural aspects of visual narrative imagery from China to the Mediterranean world. Using cross-cultural comparisons across time and in different cultural contexts, we will explore how pictorial narrative scenes were produced, presented and received by their audiences. Topics range from the animal-combat scenes at Persepolis to the fantastic beasts on the Shang and Zhou ritual bronzes, from the first emperor's terra cotta warriors to the royal hunt on the Sassanian Silver, from the Greek beech-nut gold jewelry to Venetian glass and its modern legacy. In the exercise of creating and writing exhibits that do more than just present information, we will explore issues of representation, narrative, space, gender, monumentality, ideology and politics as well as technology and materials, and develop an argument about word and image.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MUSE7009. The Art Market (9 credits)

The Art Market is designed as a block seminar and takes place in preparation for and alongside the art fairs, auctions, and gallery weekends in Hong Kong. The aim of this block seminar is to get to know the functions of the key players in the art market. How does the interaction between them work? What is the difference between the primary market and the secondary market? Where do collectors stand? And what roles do museums and curators play in the art business? In order to understand how the mechanisms, work and how the key players act, art fairs (Fine Art Asia, Art Basel Hong Kong), auctions and openings will be visited and examined.

(9 credits)

This course will be closely connected to the other course in this programme and present each week different hot topics related to the voluntary and involuntary evolution of the cultural sector and current affairs influencing both the internal work and outward-facing presentation at art, archaeological and related cultural institutions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MUSE7011. Market, Message, Money: Marketing and Fundraising in the Museum Sector (9 credits)

This course will focus on the intertwined connections between curatorial and educational contents, audiences and financial backing. It will introduce fundraising strategies and explain how retail shops and other commercial activities support the overall missions of cultural institutions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MUSE7012. Public History and Museums (9 credits)

This course will focus on the important tasks, opportunities and challenges museums have to research, define, display and teach history. As highly trusted public institutions, museums are confided to represent a true and balanced analysis of the historical facts and a fair perception of the past and present importance of the cultures they explain and exhibit. With political and societal change, museums have been seen as authorities displaying in just statements and yet, they can be challenged to adapt to changing regimes and perceptions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MUSE7013. Techniques, Styles and Meanings: Insights into Collection Research (9 credits)

This course offers different approaches to object research from an interdisciplinary perspective, from the concepts of materiality and object biography to scientific research and contextual analysis. Students will work closely with the Museums Studies faculty and curators from the University Museum and Art Gallery and other local museums in Hong Kong, to carry out object-driven material cultural studies. Using archival sources, physical examinations and scientific research to investigate individual objects and entire collections, we will engage a growing variety of methods to decode the physical making and cultural significance of artworks in museum collections.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(3) Students choose the professional internship or one cross listed elective from the following list. Students will not be permitted to re-enrol in the undergraduate elective if they previously enrolled in it whilst studying for any undergraduate degree at HKU.

Professional Internship

MUSE7998. Professional Internship (6 credits)

The Professional Internship provides students with a 4-6 week work placement opportunity at UMAG or one of our partner institutions/organisations, through which they can apply their knowledge and gain professional experience. These internships are designed as 'first jobs' or as study periods in which students can develop a certain focus or project to further specialise in their professional development. Participants write and submit log books documenting their work processes and learning

outcomes.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Cross listed electives

HIST3065. Workshop in historical research (6 credits)

The research skills and methodologies used by historians are based on the critical analysis of primary and secondary sources. Competency in these skills and an acquaintance with the various methodologies of the historian are central to advanced studies in the historical discipline, but these skills and methodologies are also highly transferable to the workplace. In this course, students will work in small groups on a research project. Learning will be through directed group discussions and coordinated individual research tasks. The course will introduce students to a wide range of historical sources, equip them with the skills to analyze and interpret those sources, and will also encourage students to develop leadership and team-work roles in solving real historical problems.

Assessment: 100% coursework

HIST4033. Museums and history (6 credits)

Museums have become one of the most popular ways of telling history. Many scholars argue that museums are not neutral places; rather, they are often used for a wide range of strategic purposes: regulating social behavior, building citizenship and national identity, and expanding state power. But museums also face a variety of constraints and challenges: culture, money, politics, physical space, locating and selecting appropriate artifacts, and forming narratives. This course considers these issues by looking at history museums and heritage preservation in Hong Kong. The goals of the course are to familiarize students with a range of theoretical approaches to museum studies; explore the ways in which museums and heritage preservation can be used to further certain political, cultural, and commercial agendas; and help students learn to write an analytical research essay based on readings and museum fieldwork.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MLIM6203. Digital collection (6 credits)

This course introduces the goals for digital collection and curation of cultural objects, such as physical or born-digital books, documents, or artworks, within cultural heritage institutions like galleries, libraries, archives, and museums. Various issues of digital collection development like digitisation, 7 object types and digital formats, access strategies and interfaces, metadata and interoperability, public engagement and outreach, ethical issues, economic and social policies, and collections management and online exhibit systems evaluation are examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MLIM6206. Leading and managing in the workplace (6 credits)

This course uses a case method approach to explore a range of established and emerging management and leadership concepts. Adopting an organisational behaviour approach, participants will be challenged to compare the suitability of their own management styles in a range of different situations. Experiential learning exercises engage the participants in managerial activities such as team building and decision-making.

MLIM6210. Preservation of information in a digital age (6 credits)

This course examines the physical nature of materials and the causes of deterioration. Techniques for promoting longevity; environmental control; storage and handling practices including data warehousing; and reformatting are explored and valuated. Preservation planning, disaster planning and recovery is addressed. Students are introduced to the conservation and preservation of archive materials in an online age, digitisation program management and digitisation technologies.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MLIM6212. Knowledge management (6 credits)

This course provides an overview of the concepts, theories, and practices of Knowledge Management (KM) and Innovation Management (IM) in organisations and communities. Students will examine basic issues and approaches about knowledge creation, identifying, capturing, storage, sharing and application. Techniques and tools for building a knowledge sharing culture and system are introduced. KM and IM case studies will illustrate the implementation and development of a knowledge sharing culture and innovation management in organisations. A special focus will be placed on the development of KM programs in practical situations.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MLIM6311. E-learning strategies and management (6 credits)

In recent years, we have witnessed an explosive growth in the use of e-learning. But how do we actually design e-learning courses that can engage learners? This course will explore important issues relevant to the design and management of e-learning in both school and organisational learning contexts. Participants will be introduced to six specific types of learning: (a) factual knowledge, (b) conceptual knowledge, (c) critical thinking ability, (d) problem solving, (e) procedural learning, and (f) attitude change. This course will investigate the various instructional strategies that can promote the mastery 8 of each aforementioned six types of learning. Strategies to motivate students in e-learning contexts will also be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MNPM7003. Managing nonprofit organisations: issues, tools and challenges (6 credits)

A major challenge facing the nonprofit sector today is to attain effective management in a complex, rapidly changing environment. This course provides an overview of the broad range of management tools, principles and practices on which nonprofit organisations rely as they seek to meet mission objectives, frame messages to attract public support, motivate volunteers, plan effectively, develop strong board leadership, connect with the other sectors, and set and meet performance objectives. The course also looks toward future trends and developments in the management of nonprofit organisations. Topics covered range from developing organisational capacity to leveraging stakeholder and community engagement.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MNPM7005. Strategic management of nonprofit organisations (6 credits)

This course focuses on leadership and management of nonprofit organisations in the current context of resource scarcity and the blurring of boundaries between the private, public and nonprofit sectors. As there is increasing emphasis on corporate social responsibilities and collective share holding in

for-profit businesses, case studies of effective businesses and witnessing transformation of corporations will empower students to appreciate Change Management in an ever changing socio-economic environment. The course aims to provide the necessary perspectives and tools for executing high-impact strategy, including the conceptual frameworks for understanding high-impact organisations and the role of strategic leadership; analytical tools for developing and evaluating strategy; issues around succession planning; risk assessment; systems thinking and sustainability; approaches to working with stakeholders to mobilise commitment; and methods for leading change and achieving goals.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MNPM7011. Social entrepreneurship and innovation (6 credits)

Social entrepreneurship is about advancing long-term social change through technological innovative solutions and is a rapidly developing and changing field that constitutes different activities and goals depending on whether one is from the private, nonprofit or public sector. This course analyses the strengths and limitations of social entrepreneurship and social businesses, from a comparative perspective, as a tool for achieving significant lasting social change within nonprofit organisations. It explores the different theories, concepts, frameworks, guidelines and measurement tools, such as impact investing and SORI for effective social entrepreneurship and innovation with an eye towards sustainability of such solutions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

(4) All students are required to complete the following MA dissertation.

MUSE 7999. Capstone Experience: MA Dissertation in Museum Studies (9 credits)

Students in this course will produce a written dissertation (8,000 - 10,000 words) based on research into a selected topic in Museum studies. They will apply advanced methods of scholarly research to this topic; demonstrate knowledge of theory and methodology; show original thinking in presenting a scholarly argument about their topic; and master professional practices and standards of analytical writing, use of sources, and presentation. Students are advised to start their dissertations during the semester and they are given 8 weeks (in May and June) to complete this course.