

Master of Arts in Language Studies

語言研究文學碩士

Brochure for Local Applicants

Full-time/Part-time Programme

(updated on 22 December 2025)

Master of Arts in Language Studies (MALS) is a programme offered by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. It is taught by faculty members of the Department of English Language and Literature, which is under the Academy of Language and Culture. It has been running since 1992.

MALS graduates are recognized as degree holders who have fulfilled the Hong Kong Education Bureau's (EDB) requirements for (1) English subject knowledge (encompassing an English Language major degree or the Postgraduate Diploma in Subject Knowledge - PGSK-ELT) and (2) the English Language Proficiency Requirement (Benchmark Test) for language teachers. Students who have successfully completed the programme may apply to EDB for a Professional Development Incentive Grant.

Aims

MALS provides comprehensive knowledge about language and prepares students for linguistic analysis of problems arising from the students' particular interests, careers and concerns. It trains students to solve language-related problems and prepares graduates for a broad range of jobs which require good language skills, or for further studies in linguistics.

Mode of Study

There is a non-dissertation option that can be done in two years part-time or in one year fulltime. There is also a dissertation option that can be done in two years part-time or in one-and-a-half years of fulltime study.

The dissertation option is subject to the final approval by the Programme Director, depending on the student's academic results and the merits of his/her preliminary proposal.

With the Programme Director's approval, students can extend their study period to a maximum of three part-time years. Classes are conducted on weekday evenings and Saturdays, so that both part-time and full-time students can attend. We may offer a few courses in the daytime so that full-time students can be given more choices of elective

courses.

Medium of Instruction

English

Tuition Fee (w.e.f. 2026/27 intake)

HK\$164,700 (local students)

HK\$183,600 (non-local students)

Scholastic Award

The graduate attaining the highest cumulative GPA in the graduating class of the Programme and whose cumulative GPA is no less than 3.67 will be awarded the MALS Scholastic Award for that year.

Admission Requirement

Applicants should possess:

- (1) a Bachelor's degree from a recognized university or comparable institution, or
- (2) a qualification deemed to be equivalent.

Applicants are expected to have advanced competence in spoken and written English. A good knowledge of other languages (including Chinese) would be an added advantage. If English was not the medium of instruction for the first degree, applicants are required to provide evidence of good English proficiency. At least one of the following minimum scores or standards has been achieved: (i) IELTS (Academic): Overall Band at 6.5; (ii) TOEFL: 550 (Paper-based), 79 (Internet-based); (iii) CET-6 (College English Test band 6): 500; (iv) Grade D in AS Use of English (HKALE); OR (v) Level 4 in English Language (HKDSE). For IELTS, TOEFL and CET6, the test result provided should be within two years from the date of issuance of the Admission Offer letter. Test result of TOEFL iBT Home Edition or IELTS Indicator is not accepted.

Transfer of units may be granted (i) if relevant and comparable course(s) have been previously taken from a recognised institution no more than eight years before the commencement of study at HKBU and (ii) if the relevant course result is equivalent to B- or above in the University's grading system. Subject to programme requirements and panel approval, transfer may be granted for up to four courses for credits earned from an HKBU postgraduate diploma programme. Applications for credit transfer should be submitted to the admission panel, supported by relevant proof. Where appropriate, students may be required to sit for and achieve satisfactory results in the University's

proficiency test(s) or qualifying examination(s) before their application for transfer of units is approved. Where a transfer of credits is effected, the tuition fee will be adjusted accordingly.

Programme Structure:

5 core courses + 4 electives, or

5 core courses + 2 electives + a dissertation

Core courses

LANG 7110	Research Methodology	3 units
LANG 7401	Introduction to the Study of Language (Part I)	3 units
LANG 7402	Introduction to the Study of Language (Part II)	3 units
LANG 7510	Language in Society	3 units
LANG 7610	Discourse Analysis	3 units

Elective courses

LANG 7390	Special Topic in Language Studies	3 units
LANG 7530	Language Curriculum	3 units
LANG 7550	English as a World Language	3 units
LANG 7570	Language and Education	3 units
LANG 7580	Language Development	3 units
LANG 7590	Advanced Topics in Discourse Studies	3 units
LANG 7600	Comparative Studies of English and Chinese Grammar	3 units
LANG 7630	Pragmatics in Language Learning and Teaching	3 units
LANG 7640	Grammar of Modern English	3 units
LANG 7650	Advanced Seminar in Language and Gender	3 units
LANG 7660	Linguistics and Liberal Thinking	3 units
LANG 7680	Language, Politics, and Identity	3 units
LANG 7690	The Pronunciation of English	3 units
LANG 7700	Critical Discourse Analysis and Public Policy Engagement	3 units
LANG 7710	Phonological Tone	3 units
LANG 7720	Second Language Pronunciation Pedagogy	3 units

Cross-Listed Elective Courses from MA Course Sharing Scheme

(Shared Courses offered in 2026/27 – Subject to Change) 3 units

*Each student may study **only one shared course** during their entire study period.

For course description, please visit the MALS Website:

<https://mals.hkbu.edu.hk/info/3/>

Teaching Staff

Prof. CHOR, Winnie O W

BA (Hons) (HKU), MPhil (HKU)

PhD (SydneyU)

Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature

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BA (CUHK)

PhD (U. of Maryland)

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BA, MA (U. of Maryland)

PhD (Boston U.)

Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature

Dr. LU, Dan Huai

Dip (Anhui), MA (Shanghai Int'l Stud), PhD (Alberta)

Honorary Associate / Part-time Lecturer, Language Centre

Prof. ROWLETT, Benedict

BA (Hons) (U of London), MSc (AstonU)

PhD (CityU HK)

Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature

Prof. SHAO, Jing

BA (Beijing Normal U), MA (Peking U)

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BA (Hons) (Singapore), PhD (Rutgers)

Professor, Department of English Language and Literature

Dr. WONG, Janice W S

BA (Hons) (CUHK), MPhil (CUHK)

PhD (CUHK)

Senior Lecturer, Department of English Language and Literature

Programme Director, MALS

Application Period

Normally from January to April every year

Application Method

Online application through the website of the Taught Postgraduate Section of Academic Registry, Hong Kong Baptist University:

<https://ar.hkbu.edu.hk/tpg-admissions/programmes/master-of-arts-ma-in-language-studies>

Application Hotline: (852) 3411 5127

Application Enquiries Email: hkbu_tpg@hkbu.edu.hk

Programme Enquiries

MALS Programme Office

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