

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

To: All new full-time undergraduate Social Sciences students

Notes for New Social Sciences Students

I am pleased to welcome you to the Faculty of Social Sciences. I hope you will find the coming years both intellectually stimulating and academically rewarding.

Registration Documents

The dates for completing the registration and course selection formalities are set out in document SS61/820, which also includes information of major events in this academic year.

Regulations and Syllabuses

When you read all the details concerning registration, University regulations and so on, the next and most important thing you have to do is to choose courses you wish to study in the coming year. Courses available and regulations governing the selection of courses are stated in the “Regulations for First Degree Curricula” and the “Regulations and Syllabuses for the respective Degrees” at <http://www.socsc.hku.hk/reg>.

Course Selection

The first semester of the 2020-2021 academic year begins on Monday, September 1, 2020, and you are expected to attend lectures, tutorials, etc. from that day onwards. Please visit the departmental website(s) from which you have selected your courses and pay attention to the emails sent from the departments, as they will give further details with regard to timetables of courses, books to be used and so on. You should also check the location of the lecture theatres and tutorial rooms in advance and/or links for online teaching sessions as appropriate.

The course selection period for the 2020-2021 academic year is **from August 21 (10:00am) to August 27 (4:00pm), 2020**. You are required to complete the course selection for the whole academic year via the HKU Portal.

If for any reason that you subsequently wish to make changes in your course selection, you may do so in the first and second weeks of the semester [i.e. **from September 1 (10:00am) to September 15 (4:00pm), 2020 for the first semester**] during the course add/drop period. This should again be done through the HKU Portal.

Some courses are offered twice a year and you are required to indicate the exact semester as well as the sub-class you wish to take when completing your online

course selection. However, your preferred sub-class may need to be changed to achieve a better distribution of students for a particular course. You are advised to check the course selection status online via HKU Portal before the semester begins. In planning your studies, you should also note that, in addition to lectures, courses may consist of tutorials, seminars, exercise classes or laboratory work; information on these will be given by the departments at the beginning of the semester. Such groups may meet at any time during the week, provided that they do not clash with the lecture hours of the students participating in a particular group. Attendance is obligatory.

Language Enhancement and Common Core Courses

According to the graduation requirements prescribed in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula, students are required to successfully complete the following courses:

<u>UG5 requirements</u>	<u>No. of credits</u>	<u>Curricula</u>
1. <u>Language Enhancement courses</u>		
Chineses language enhancement course: CSSC9001 <i>[see exemption details as outlined below]</i> or CUND9002 (for Putonghua-speaking students) or CUND9003 (for Putonghua-speaking students)	6 credits	All curricula
Core University English course (CAES1000) <i>[see exemption details as outlined below]</i>	6 credits	All curricula, except BAsC [^]
English in the Discipline course	6 credits	All curricula
2. <u>Common Core Curriculum (CCC) courses</u>		
Six courses in the CCC within the first three years of study, comprising at least one and not more than two courses from each Area of Inquiry, with not more than 24 credits of courses being selected within one academic year except where candidates are required to make up for failed credits	36 credits	BJ, BSocSc and BSW
Four courses in the CCC within the first three years of study, comprising not more than one course from each Area of Inquiry	24 credits	BAsC, BEd&BSocSc and BSocSc(Govt&Laws)&LLB

[^] BAsC students who have not achieved Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE), or equivalent, is required to take "CAES1000 Core University English" as supplementary credits and complete at least 246 credits for graduation from the University.

Exemption of CAES1000

Students obtained the following qualifications are exempted from the requirement (ii) in the above, and Core University English (CAES1000) is optional. Those who do not take this course should take a 6-credit elective course in lieu.

- i) achieved Level 5 or above in the English Language paper in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE)
- ii) holder of Bachelor's degree from an English-medium university
- iii) achieved Grade A or above in English Language GCE Advanced Level (AL)/ Advanced Subsidiary Level (ASL)
- iv) 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
- v) 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
- vi) 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)
- vii) achieved Grade 4 or above on the Advanced Placement (AP) English Language/ English Language and Composition/ English Literature and Composition Test
- viii) achieved a NEW Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score of 35 or above on both the Writing & Language Test and Reading Test (from 2016)
- ix) achieved Grade B or above in H1 General Paper at the Singapore GCE A-level
- x) achieved Grade A or better in English language at Malaysia SPM examination
- xi) achieved Grade A2 or better in Malaysia UEC-Senior English Language
- xii) 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)
- xiii) achieved a score of 95% or better in English at All India Senior School Certificate Examination / Higher School Certificate
- xiv) achieved a final score of 90% or better in English at Grade 12 Canadian high school curriculum
- xv) achieved Grade B or better in English Language at Sri Lanka Ordinary examination
- xvi) achieved a score of 90 or better in English in the Russian Unified State Exam (Единый государственный экзамен, ЕГЭ, Yediniy gosudarstvenniy ekzamen, EGE)

The exemption shall be granted automatically to eligible students based on the academic results provided for admission. The record of exemption for CAES1000 will be shown on the Degree Audit Report in Student Information System (SIS) starting from **August 20, 2020**. For other students who have satisfied the above criteria but do not see the exemption record, please submit an online application to the Faculty Office via the link at <https://www.socsc.hku.hk/webforms/cueexemption> **on or before August 28, 2020**.

For non-HKDSE students who have not taken any of the above admission tests, you can apply for exemption by sitting for the Academic Writing and Speaking test conducted by the Centre for Applied English Studies scheduled on **August 27, 2020**. Please submit your application to the Faculty Office via the link at <https://www.socsc.hku.hk/webforms/cueexemption> **on or before August 20, 2020**.

Exemption of CSSC9001

To fulfil the Chinese language enhancement requirement, students should take CSSC9001 “Practical Chinese for Social Sciences students” in the second semester of the Year II studies.

However, students who have not studied the Chinese language during their secondary education or who have not attained the requisite level of competence in the Chinese language enhancement course may apply for exemption and take a 6-credit Cantonese or Putonghua language courses offered by the School of Chinese (especially for international/exchange students), or an elective course in lieu. Such students are required to submit an application to the Faculty Office for exemption via the link at <https://www.socsc.hku.hk/webforms/chiexemption> **on or before September 15, 2020**.

After the aforementioned date, students who wish to apply for exemption from the course should submit a hard copy of completed application form together with supporting documents to the Faculty Office before the second semester of Year II of studies. The application form is available at http://www.socsc.hku.hk/students/ug/pdf/forms/Exempt_CSSC9001_form.pdf.

Academic Advising

New students will be assigned in groups with 3 to 4 Faculty Student Advisers (FSA) to assist them in adjusting to the university studies as well as the registration and course enrolment process.

In addition, each student will have a Faculty Academic Adviser (FAA). You are required to sign up for your FAA **from 10:00am, August 18, 2020 to 4:00pm, August 24, 2020** at <https://ugaa.hku.hk/signup-faa.php>. If you do not sign up by August 24, 2020, the System will randomly assign one FAA to you. All students are strongly encouraged to meet with their assigned FAA at least once per semester during the first year to discuss various academic issues and their learning experience.

Information Technology Services Guide

For details of the services provided by the Information Technology Services, please refer to <http://www.its.hku.hk/>.

Enquiries

If you have any questions concerning the degree regulations, your choice of courses or any aspect of University life, you are welcome to contact the Faculty Office either by email at socscug@hku.hk, or by telephone at 3917 1212. The Office is pleased to assist you whenever possible.



(Ms) Maggie Cheuk
Faculty Secretary

MC/PK/gc

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