

Introduction

The Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) is committed to the scientific study of language as an integral part of mind. We emphasize interdisciplinary research and training that draws on knowledge and methods from a wide range of related disciplines such as philosophy, psychology, cognitive neuroscience, engineering, and education, with the goal of nurturing scholarship and advancing knowledge of language, its structure, use and acquisition.

The Master of Arts (MA) Programme in Chinese Linguistics and Language Acquisition provides an intensive training in contemporary analysis of Chinese language structure, the acquisition of Chinese as a first or second language, and the application of linguistic theory to the teaching of the Chinese language. It is intended for current or prospective Chinese language teachers and students of Chinese who are interested in a scientific understanding of the cognitive processes underlying language learning and teaching.



Objectives

The programme aims to:

- enable students to acquire a rich understanding of the systematic design of Mandarin Chinese, through providing them with principled accounts of Chinese language phenomena, in comparison to other languages and Chinese dialects;
- equip students with methodological tools for the analysis of Chinese language structure, and for the empirical study of learners of Chinese, as well as the dynamics of the teaching and learning process; and
- enhance students' understanding of the complexities of second/foreign language learning and second dialect learning in the context of multi-lingual and multi-dialectal communities.

Programme Mode

The programme is offered in full-time mode which covers a normal period of one academic year. Students are required to complete a total of 27 units, including 15 units of required courses and 12 units of elective courses.

Entry Requirements

Applicants should have graduated from a recognized university and obtained a Bachelor's degree, normally with honours not lower than Second Class, and have fulfilled the English Language Proficiency Requirement.

Please refer to the homepage of the Graduate School of CUHK:
<https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/>



Application Procedures

Applicants should submit their applications via the website of the Graduate School of CUHK. The application period is from September to end of February of the following year. Unless otherwise required by our Department, please do not send any supporting documents in hard copies.

Entrance Examination

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview and take a written test.

Application Fee

HK\$300 (non-refundable).

Tuition Fee

Please refer to the homepage of the Graduate School of CUHK.



Course List

Required Courses

- Foundations I: Phonetics and Phonology
- Foundations II: Syntax and Semantics
- Foundations in Language Acquisition

(Take at least 2 out of the following 3 courses)

- Topics in Chinese Phonetics and Phonology
- Topics in Chinese Syntax and Semantics
- Topics in Chinese Language Acquisition

Elective Courses

- Foundations in Sign Language Research
- Topics in Second Language Acquisition
- Topics in Bilingualism
- Linguistics and Language Teaching
- Topics in Language Acquisition of Deaf Children
- Sign Linguistics
- Special Topics in Linguistics
- Topics in Sociolinguistics
- Special Topics in Applied Linguistics
- Topics in Psycholinguistics
- Language Disorders
- Linguistic Research
- Research Project
- Research Practicum



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Words from Graduates



" I went into the MACLA programme hoping it would equip me with a solid knowledge of Linguistics so that I could better understand the languages I had been studying in my undergraduate years. I was also looking forward to integrating more into Hong Kong society. The MACLA programme absolutely delivered in training me to be a proper linguist and, despite being oriented towards Chinese language research, offers students plenty of opportunity to pursue any research topic they might be interested in. I personally am grateful for the guidance of our enthusiastic professors who appreciated my input and welcomed the suggestions I had for my own research papers.

What I would have never expected was that I would go into this programme on Chinese linguistics and come out as an aspiring sign linguist. During the course of the programme, I became exposed to CUHK's excellent sign linguistic research and took a liking to the professors and researchers studying Hong Kong Sign Language.

Thanks to the freedom to pursue my own research interests that I experienced in the MACLA programme, I am currently a PhD student working on Hong Kong Sign Language. I would say the MACLA programme is a suitable programme for anyone who loves languages and linguistics and is not afraid to keep an open mind."

- Emily Koenders (2018), awardee of HKPhD Fellowship Scheme 2018-19



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