

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 SS47/826, which also includes information of major events in this academic year.

Regulations and Syllabuses

After reviewing all the details concerning registration and University regulations, your next crucial step is to select courses you wish to study in the upcoming year. The available courses and regulations governing course selection are stated in the “Regulations for First Degree Curricula” at <https://calendar.hku.hk/> and the “Regulations and Syllabuses” at <https://www.socsc.hku.hk/reg>.

Course Selection

The First Semester of the 2026-27 academic year begins on Tuesday, September 1, 2026. 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 these departments, as they will provide further details with regard to course timetables, books to be used and so on. You should also check the locations of lecture theatres and tutorial rooms in advance, and/or Moodle links for teaching materials/sessions, as appropriate.

The course selection period for the 2026-27 academic year is **from 10:00am, August 18 to 4:00pm, August 24, 2026**. 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 to your course selection, you may do so during the first and second weeks of the semester [i.e. **from 10:00am, September 1 to 4:00pm, September 15, 2026 for the First Semester**]. This should be done through the HKU Portal during the course add/drop period.

Some courses are offered twice a year. When selecting courses online, you are required to indicate the exact semester and sub-class you wish to enrol in. Please note that your preferred sub-class may be subject to change to ensure a better distribution of students. You are advised to check your 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 provided by

the respective departments at the beginning of the semester. These sessions may meet at any time during the week, provided that they do not clash with the lecture hours. Attendance is obligatory.

Fulfilment of Graduation Requirements under Regulations for First Degree Curricula

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>		
a. Chinese language enhancement course: CSSC9001 or CUND9001 / CUND9002 / CUND9003 / CUND9004 (for Putonghua-speaking students) <i>[see exemption details as outlined below]</i>	6 credits	All curricula
b. Academic Communication in English course (CAES1001) <i>[see exemption details as outlined below]</i>	-	All curricula
c. English in the Discipline course	6 credits	All curricula
2. <u>Common Core Curriculum (CCC) courses</u>		
36 credits in the CCC within the first three years of study, comprising at least 6 credits and not more than 12 credits 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	BA(GCIN), BJMAI, BSocSc, BPsych and BSW
24 credits in the CCC within the first three years of study, comprising not more than 6 credits from each Area of Inquiry	24 credits	BSocSc(Govt&Laws)&LLB
3. <u>Artificial Intelligence Literacy courses</u>		
6 credits of artificial intelligence literacy, comprising two 3-credit microcredential courses	6 credits	All curricula
4. <u>Non-credit Bearing course(s) as required</u>		
Successful completion of a non-credit bearing course in national education and national security education, and any other non-credit bearing course(s) as may be required from time to time	-	All curricula

Exemption of CAES1001

Students who obtained the following qualifications are exempted from the requirement 1b as stated above, and Academic Communication in English (CAES1001) is optional:

- 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 at GCSE/ GCEO / English First Language at IGCSE / English Second Language at IGCSE
- iv) achieved Grade A or above in English Language GCE Advanced Level (AL)/ Advanced Subsidiary Level (ASL)
- v) 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
- vi) 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
- vii) 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); or Grade 5 or above in SL English Language A: Language and Literature / SL English Language A: Literature / SL English Language (B Syllabus) / SL English Language (A1 or A2 Syllabus)
- viii) achieved Grade 4 or above on the Advanced Placement (AP) English Language / English Language and Composition / English Literature and Composition Test
- ix) achieved a section score of 630 or better in Reading and Writing of the NEW Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) in the same attempt
- x) achieved Level C2 in Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English / Grade A in Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English
- xi) achieved a score of 76 in the Pearson Test of English Assessment (Academic)
- xii) achieved Grade B or above in H1 General Paper at the Singapore GCE A-level
- xiii) achieved Grade A or better in English language at Malaysia SPM examination
- xiv) achieved Grade A2 or better in Malaysia UEC-Senior English Language
- xv) 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)
- xvi) achieved a score of 95% or better in English at All India Senior School Certificate Examination / Higher School Certificate
- xvii) achieved a final score of 90% or better in English at Grade 12 Canadian high school curriculum
- xviii) achieved Grade B or better in English Language at Sri Lanka Ordinary examination
- xix) 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 CAES1001 will be reflected on the Degree Audit Report in Student Information System (SIS) starting from **August 18, 2026**.

For students who have satisfied the eligibility 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/webforms2/aceexemption> **on or before 2:00pm, September 11, 2026.**

For non-HKDSE students who have not taken any of the abovementioned admission exams, you can apply for exemption by sitting for the Academic Speaking and Writing Test conducted by the Centre for Applied English Studies scheduled for **August 24, 2026**. Please submit your application to the Faculty Office via the link at <https://www.socsc.hku.hk/webforms2/aceexemption> **on or before 2:00pm, August 18, 2026.**

Exemption of Chinese language enhancement course

Students are required to take one of the following courses in the Second Semester of Year II to fulfil the Chinese language enhancement requirement:

- CSSC9001 “Practical Chinese for Social Sciences Students” or
- CUND9001 “Basic Spoken and Written Cantonese for Mandarin Speakers” (for Putonghua-speaking students) or
- CUND9002 “Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society” (for Putonghua-speaking students) or
- CUND9003 “Cantonese for non-Cantonese Speaking Students” (for Putonghua-speaking students) or
- CUND9004 “Practical Applied Chinese Writing and Effective Presentation Skills for Non-local Mandarin Speaking Students” (for Putonghua-speaking students)

Students who did not study the Chinese language during their secondary education and have not reached the required proficiency level for the Chinese language enhancement course specified for the degree curriculum may take one of the following courses in either Chinese language or Chinese culture in lieu:

- CHIN9501 “Chinese as a Foreign Language I” or
- CHIN9502 “Chinese as a Foreign Language II” or
- CHIN9503 “Chinese as a Foreign Language III” or
- CHIN9504 “Chinese as a Foreign Language IV” or
- CHIN9505 “Chinese as a Foreign Language V” or
- CHIN9506 “Chinese as a Foreign Language VI” or
- CHIN9507 “Chinese as a Foreign Language VII” or
- CHIN9508 “Chinese as a foreign language VIII” or
- CHIN9511 “Cantonese as a Foreign Language I” or
- CHIN9512 “Cantonese as a Foreign Language II” or
- CHIN9513 “Cantonese as a Foreign Language III” or
- CHIN9521 “The Fundamentals of Chinese Characters” or
- CHIN9522 “Exploration of Major Cultural Themes across Chinese History”.

Such students are required to submit an application for exemption to the Faculty Office via the link at <https://www.socsc.hku.hk/webforms2/chiexemption> **on or before September 30, 2026.**

Academic Advising

Students will each have a Faculty Academic Adviser (FAA) and Faculty Student Adviser(s) (FSA(s)) to assist them in adjusting to the university studies as well as the registration and course enrolment process. You are required to sign up for your FAA and FSA(s) during the period **from 2:00pm, August 10, 2026 to 10:00am, August 18, 2026** at <https://ugaa.hku.hk/signup-faa.php>. If you do not sign up by August 18, 2026, the System will randomly assign FAA and FSA(s) to you. All students are strongly encouraged to meet with their assigned FAA and FSA(s) at least once per semester during the first year to discuss various academic issues and learning experiences.

Important Notes for Students Using a Visa to Study in Hong Kong¹

According to the Hong Kong Immigration Department, all visitors who do not have a right of abode in Hong Kong are required to apply for a student visa for study. Studying in Hong Kong without a valid visa is a breach of the Conditions of Stay under the Immigration Ordinance of the Laws of Hong Kong.

After you have arrived in Hong Kong, you are required to upload your visa, landing slip, and input the visa expiry date via HKU Portal. The email for collection of Student Registration Card will only be sent to your HKU Portal email account and your student status at HKU will only be regarded as confirmed after you have completed the online submission of visa, landing slip and visa expiry date. You should bring both the original and a photocopy of your visa document(s) when collecting your Student Registration Card. Your visa record at HKU will be verified upon successful collection of the Student Registration Card.

Students who fail to upload their visa documents to the HKU Portal and whose visa status remains unverified will receive weekly reminders sent by the Academic Support and Examinations Section of the Registry from mid-September; access to all University facilities (with the exception of the University Health Service) will be suspended from October; access to Moodle, University Halls, Residential Colleges and CEDARS services will be suspended from mid-October; and the studentship at HKU will be terminated with effect from November for those whose visa status remains unverified by the end of October.

¹ Students studying in Hong Kong on a visa are defined as holders of the following documents issued by the HKSAR Immigration Department: a) dependent visa/entry permit; b) full-time employment visa/work permit; c) student visa/entry permit; d) visa/entry permit for Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents; e) visa/entry permit for Capital Investment Entrant Scheme; f) visa/entry permit for Top Talent Pass Scheme; g) visa/entry permit for Quality Migrant Admission Scheme; or h) visa/entry permit under the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG). Alternatively, under the Education Bureau's definition of local students (<https://www.jupas.edu.hk/en/page/detail/3670/>), students without any LS1-9 documents are also regarded as studying on a visa.

Instant Messaging Applications for Information Dissemination from the Faculty

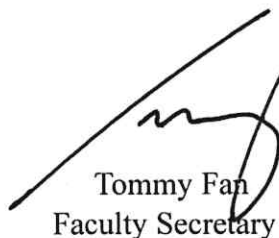
The Faculty will pilot the use of instant messaging applications, including WhatsApp and WeChat, to broadcast important Faculty-wide information to students through the Faculty's designated account. Messages will be sent to the mobile phone number recorded in your student profile. Further details will be announced in due course. Please pay attention to any related messages or announcements from the Faculty Office, and keep your mobile contact information up-to-date in your student profile.

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 degree regulations, course selection, 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 Faculty Office is committed to assisting you in any way possible.



Tommy Fan
Faculty Secretary

TF/YH/el
August 2026