

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
Bachelor of Arts Programme in French
CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The French language and culture programme offered as a major or a minor by the School of Modern Languages and Cultures comprises six different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. The weighting of all French courses is 6 credits, with a range of 120-180 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) per course. Depending on the nature of the course, the contact hours vary in a range of 24 to 72 hours. All courses are assessed by 100% continuous assessment. As a general guide, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be not more than 4,000 words for any 6-credit course. The categories of French courses are as follows:

1. Introductory language courses (6 credits)

These first-year courses emphasize the learning of the French language. Students acquire a basic knowledge in the four areas of competence (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) with a particular emphasis on communicative skills. Classes are conducted in small groups in order to ensure a high degree of interactivity between students and teachers. Conversation groups and laboratory groups are usually also arranged separately on a regular basis. The number of contact hours is approximately 72. Assessment is based upon 100% coursework, which includes in-class tests, regular assignments, and online reading and listening, with a total written output of not more than 2,000 words in French. It must be emphasized that assessable output is not only in written form, but also includes a student's performance in terms of spoken, listening, and reading proficiency in the French language.

2. Advanced language courses (6 credits)

These advanced language courses build on the first-year, introductory language courses, thus they emphasize the learning of the French language at an intermediate and advanced level, grammatically as well as in culture-specific issues which are gradually introduced into the curriculum. Students develop further their proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in the French language. As in the first-year language courses, classes are conducted in small groups in order to ensure a high degree of interactivity between students and teachers. Discussion groups are also arranged separately on a regular basis. The number of contact hours is approximately 60. Assessment is based upon 100% coursework, including regular class tests, assignments, essays, small research projects, portfolios, group debates and/or short oral presentations, with a total written output of not more than 4,000 words in French. It must be emphasized that assessable output is not only in written form, but also includes a student's performance in terms of spoken, listening, and reading proficiency in the French language.

3. Survey courses (6 credits)

These courses focus on the exploration of specific topics, such as society, literature, media, films, history, politics, linguistics, history of the language, etc. They are taught predominantly in French by lectures and tutorials/seminars, or by lectures only in a range of 24-36 contact hours. Guest speakers are occasionally invited to give presentations on particular topics. Assessment methods are appropriate to the stated learning outcomes of the courses and include in-class tests, quizzes, questionnaires, oral presentations, as well as the writing of essays, reports, and projects totalling not more than 4,000 words in French. Assessment may also include linguistic analyses and portfolios.

4. *Translation courses* (6 credits)

These courses focus on problems arising from transferring concepts and ideas from the French language into Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese) and/or English and vice versa while reinforcing students' language and culture skills in the French language. These courses involve approximately 24 contact hours and they are taught in seminar format that includes class debates and problem-solving discussions. Assessment is 100% coursework, predominantly translation exercises totalling not more than 2,000 words in French, Chinese or English.

5. *Study Abroad courses* (6 credits)

These courses are usually offered during the summer between the second and third years or the third and fourth years, and organized by several universities and teaching institutions from one of the countries where the French language is spoken. These courses comprise at least 60 hours of contact hours and are designed to build on and to reinforce the language competence acquired during the first two or three years of study of the French language. These courses prepare students for more advanced work upon their return to Hong Kong. The percentage of assessment by coursework and/or by final examination will vary depending on the host institution.

6. *Research course: Capstone* (6 credits)

This course is designed as a capstone experience for students to develop and apply their writing and analytical skills in French. The student undertakes a research project on an approved topic related to French studies and under the supervision of a member of the French Programme. The course involves approximately 20-24 contact hours, which include an induction workshop, as well as regular supervision, electronic correspondence and feedback on draft materials. The final essay includes at least 3,500 words but not more than 4,000 words in French and comprises a detailed bibliography and sources.

7. *Internship* (6 credits)

The objective of this course is to offer students an internship learning experience, along with the opportunity to earn credits towards their degree, while working in an organisation outside the campus. The internship experience draws on the French Programme coursework to encourage students to apply their classroom knowledge to work in organisations that demonstrate the use of French in the community. The duration of the internship depends on the arrangement made between the student and the organisation, but should involve approx. 120 contact hours of committed service for the host organisation. Internships can be conducted during the semester (e.g. 8 hours/ week) or at full-time equivalent during the lecture-free period. Students should spend at least 15 working days with the organisation. Students will be assessed by the organisation contact throughout the duration of the internship and will also, if possible, receive a letter of reference from the organisation at the end of the internship. A written report (800-1,000 words in English or French) with a description, critical assessment of and reflection on the internship experience, will be assessed by the course supervisor at HKU. Students are asked to make their own internship arrangements with an organisation of their choice. They are asked to do this in liaison with a relevant teacher at the French Programme of HKU.

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