

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Master of Arts in China Development Studies

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The Master of Arts in China Development Studies curriculum consists of broadly four different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. The total study load of the curriculum is 1,500 hours.

The majority of courses are 6-credit courses, but we also have a 12-credit dissertation course. Although we use 150 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) as the norm for a 6-credit courses, the contact hours and output requirements for different types of courses vary according to the learning modes employed. Normally, the contact hour for a standard 6-credit course is ranging from 30 to 36 hours.

1. Thematic courses (6 credits)

These courses focus on thematic contents and introduce subject-specific skills and knowledge in the field of China development studies. They are taught by a combination of lectures (24 hours), class discussions, exercises and presentation. Assessment is generally by means of end-of-semester examination and/or a variety of coursework assignments with output not exceeding 3,000 words (50-100% coursework, 0-50% exam).

2. Field trip course (6 credits)

The Master of Arts in China Development Studies curriculum offers a 6-credit field trip course. This field trip course aims at giving students an opportunity to participate in different field visit activities in rural and urban settings in China, through a variety of contexts. The course consists of a small number of lectures and a 4-5 days field trip in a selected destination in China. Assessment is by a combination of after-trip presentation and a written report (4,000 words) (100% coursework).

3. Seminar-based courses (6 credits)

These courses are taught in the form of reading seminar and aims to provide a forum for students' in-depth discussion on concepts, theories and issues in the related subjects. The course consists of lectures and students' discussions and debates on selected topics and readings given by the teachers. Assessment is based on end-of-semester examination, student presentation and course assignments with output not exceeding 3,000 words (50-100% coursework, 0-50% exam).

4. Capstone experience courses (6-12 credits)

The capstone experience courses take the form of either directed project with research methods (a 6-credit course for students choosing the 'non-dissertation' option) or dissertation writing (a 12-credit course for students choosing the 'dissertation' option). The directed project course is for one semester, whereas the dissertation course will last for 2 semesters. The directed project course is structured to help students to acquire basic quantitative skills and to grasp the basic understanding in the process and framework to produce a research proposal (100% coursework). For the dissertation course, students are required to design an empirical research study, collect and analyze data, and write a formal thesis at about 10,000 – 20,000 words (100% coursework).