Program Information

Academic Program: Doctor of Philosophy in Religious Studies
Academic Year: 2023

Select Language: [English   ▾]

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Study Scheme

Postgraduate Student Handbook 2023-24   (REL-I)

FACULTY OF ARTS

Religious Studies

Study Scheme

M.Phil. – Ph.D. Programme in Religious Studies (Full-time and Part-time)

Applicable to students admitted in 2022-23 and thereafter

A.   M.Phil. Student

1.   *Coursework Requirement*

   (a)   Lecture/Seminar courses:
   First Year of Attendance: **15 units**
   RELS5001, RELS6001 and 2 term courses   **(3 units each)**
   Second Year of Attendance:
   RELS6002

   (b)   Thesis research/monitoring courses:
   First Year of Attendance: **12 units**
   RELS8006   **(6 units per term)**
   Second Year of Attendance: **12 units**
   RELS8006   **(6 units per term)**
   Continuing students are required to register for RELS8003 carrying
   3 units per term and until submission of their graduation thesis
                                                                            Total: 39 units

2.   *Other Requirements*

   (a)   Students must fulfill the Term Assessment Requirement of the Graduate School. For details,
           please refer to Clause 13.0 "Unsatisfactory Performance and Discontinuation of Studies" of the
           General Regulations Governing Postgraduate Studies which can be accessed from the
           Graduate School Homepage: http://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk.
   (b)   A student must achieve a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 in order to fulfill
           the graduation requirement, unless special approval is granted by the Graduate Council.
   (c)   Students are required to submit a research thesis and pass an oral examination for graduation.
   (d)   Complete an Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) module on "Observing Intellectual Property
           and Copyright Law during Research". This is an online module and relevant information can be
           accessed from the website: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/prodev/ipl.html.
   (e)   Complete an IPL module on "Research Data Management Training". This is an online module
           and   relevant   information   can   be   accessed   from   the   website:
           https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/download/IPL-Researchskills.pdf.   Students   are   required   to
           complete and pass the module in their first year of studies, with effect from the 2022-23 intake.
   (f)   Students are required to complete an online Research Ethics Training (RET) module on
           "Publication Ethics" offered by the Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer Services
           (ORKTS) and obtain a valid Publication Ethics Certificate for graduation.   Relevant information

can be accessed from the RET website at https://www.research-ethics.cuhk.edu.hk/web/.

B.   Ph.D. Student (Pre-candidacy)

The "candidacy requirement" composes of three major parts, namely, coursework requirement, candidacy examination, and thesis proposal (and oral defence). Students must complete and fulfill all three parts within the "maximum period for fulfilling candidacy requirements". Details of the requirement are listed below:

1.   *Coursework Requirement*

    (a)   For Full-time Students

        (i)   Lecture/Seminar courses:

First Year of Attendance:	**15 units**
RELS5001, RELS6001 and any 2 term courses	**(3 units each)**
Second Year of Attendance:	
RELS6002	

        (ii)   Thesis research/monitoring courses:

First to Second Years of Attendance:	**24 units**
RELS8006	**(6 units per term)**

                                                                Total: 39 units

    (b)   For Part-time Students

        (i)   Lecture/Seminar courses:

First to Second Years of Attendance:	**15 units**
RELS5001, RELS6001 and any 2 term courses	**(3 units each)**
Third Year of Attendance:	
RELS6002	

        (ii)   Thesis research/monitoring courses:

First to Third Years of Attendance:	**18 units**
RELS8003	**(3 units each)**
(Register for 6 consecutive terms from the first semester of study)	
Continuing students are required to register for RELS8003 carrying 3 units per term until submission of their graduation thesis	

                                                                 Total: 33 units

2.   *Language Requirement*

Reading knowledge of at least one language other than English and Chinese is required. The required language may vary according to the field of research of the student and is to be advised by individual supervisors.

3.   *Candidacy Examination*

Candidacy examination will take place upon completion of course work and language requirement. A student normally attempts once for the examination, exception is subject to the Division's approval. The passing of this examination is mandatory for continuation in the Ph.D. (post-candidacy) programme. Three written examinations are required to be taken usually either in December in the 1st term or April in the 2nd term of the second year. Students should be examined in at least 2 Areas of Study or as prescribed by individual supervisors.

4.   *Thesis Proposal and Oral Defence*

Submission of a written thesis proposal and presentation in an oral defense is required by the end of the second year of attendance and within the maximum candidacy fulfillment deadline.

C.   Ph.D. Student (Post-candidacy)

1.   *Coursework Requirement*

(a) Thesis research/monitoring course:

Students are required to take the following thesis research course every term.

Full-time students: RELS8012

Part-time students: RELS8006

Continuing students: RELS8003

2. *Other Requirements*

(a) Students must fulfill the Term Assessment Requirement of the Graduate School. For details, please refer to Clause 13.0 "Unsatisfactory Performance and Discontinuation of Studies" of the General Regulations Governing Postgraduate Studies which can be accessed from the Graduate School Homepage: http://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk.

(b) A student must achieve a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 in order to fulfill the graduation requirement, unless special approval is granted by the Graduate Council.

(c) Submission of an original thesis of substantial contribution to existing knowledge.

(d) Presentation of the graduation thesis in an oral defence and passing the oral examination.

(e) Complete an Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) module on "Observing Intellectual Property and Copyright Law during Research". This is an online module and relevant information can be accessed from the website: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/prodev/ipl.html.

(f) Complete an IPL module on "Research Data Management Training". This is an online module and relevant information can be accessed from the website: https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/download/IPL-Researchskills.pdf. Students are required to complete and pass the module in their first year of studies, with effect from the 2022-23 intake.

(g) Students are required to complete an online Research Ethics Training (RET) module on "Publication Ethics" offered by the Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer Services (ORKTS) and obtain a valid Publication Ethics Certificate for graduation. Relevant information can be accessed from the RET website at https://www.research-ethics.cuhk.edu.hk/web/.

3. *Remark*

Though lecture / seminar course is not a compulsory component for Ph.D. (post-candidacy) students, they may be requested to take additional courses if the Division finds it necessary.

Applicable to students admitted between 2017-18 and 2021-22

A. M.Phil. Student

1. *Coursework Requirement*

(a) Lecture/Seminar courses:

First Year of Attendance:	**15 units**
RELS5001, RELS6001 and 2 term courses	**(3 units each)**
Second Year of Attendance:	
RELS6002	

(b) Thesis research/monitoring courses:

First Year of Attendance:	**12 units**
RELS8006	**(6 units per term)**
Second Year of Attendance:	**12 units**
RELS8006	**(6 units per term)**

Continuing students are required to register for RELS8003 carrying 3 units per term and until submission of their graduation thesis

Total: 39 units

2. *Other Requirements*

(a) Students must fulfill the Term Assessment Requirement of the Graduate School. For details, please refer to Clause 13.0 "Unsatisfactory Performance and Discontinuation of Studies" of the General Regulations Governing Postgraduate Studies which can be accessed from the Graduate School Homepage: http://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk.

(b) A student must achieve a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 in order to fulfill the graduation requirement, unless special approval is granted by the Graduate Council.

(c) Students are required to submit a research thesis and pass an oral examination for graduation.

(d) Complete an Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) module on "Observing Intellectual Property and Copyright Law during Research". This is an online module and relevant information can be accessed from the website: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/prodev/ipl.html.

(e) Students are required to complete an online Research Ethics Training (RET) module on "Publication Ethics" offered by the Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer Services (ORKTS) and obtain a valid Publication Ethics Certificate for graduation. Relevant information can be accessed from the RET website at https://www.research-ethics.cuhk.edu.hk/web/.

B. Ph.D. Student (Pre-candidacy)

The "candidacy requirement" composes of three major parts, namely, coursework requirement, candidacy examination, and thesis proposal (and oral defence). Students must complete and fulfill all three parts within the "maximum period for fulfilling candidacy requirements". Details of the requirement are listed below:

1. *Coursework Requirement*

(a) For Full-time Students

(i) Lecture/Seminar courses:

First Year of Attendance:	**15 units**
RELS5001, RELS6001 and any 2 term courses	**(3 units each)**
Second Year of Attendance:	
RELS6002	

(ii) Thesis research/monitoring courses:

First to Second Years of Attendance:	**24 units**
RELS8006	**(6 units per term)**

Total: 39 units

(b) For Part-time Students

(i) Lecture/Seminar courses:

First to Second Years of Attendance:	**15 units**
RELS5001, RELS6001 and any 2 term courses	**(3 units each)**
Third Year of Attendance:	
RELS6002	

(ii) Thesis research/monitoring courses:

First to Third Years of Attendance:	**18 units**
RELS8003	**(3 units each)**

(Register for 6 consecutive terms from the first semester of study)

Continuing students are required to register for RELS8003 carrying 3 units per term until submission of their graduation thesis

Total: 33 units

2. *Language Requirement*

Reading knowledge of at least one language other than English and Chinese is required. The required language may vary according to the field of research of the student and is to be advised by individual supervisors.

3. *Candidacy Examination*

Candidacy examination will take place upon completion of course work and language requirement. A student normally attempts once for the examination, exception is subject to the Division's approval. The passing of this examination is mandatory for continuation in the Ph.D. (post-candidacy) programme. Three written examinations are required to be taken usually either in December in the 1st term or April in the 2nd term of the second year. Students should be examined in at least 2 Areas of Study or as prescribed by individual supervisors.

4. *Thesis Proposal and Oral Defence*

1. Thesis Proposal and Oral Defence

Submission of a written thesis proposal and presentation in an oral defense is required by the end of the second year of attendance and within the maximum candidacy fulfillment deadline.

C.   Ph.D. Student (Post-candidacy)

1.   Coursework Requirement

(a)   Thesis research/monitoring course:
Students are required to take the following thesis research course every term.
Full-time students: RELS8012
Part-time students: RELS8006
Continuing students: RELS8003

2.   Other Requirements

(a)   Students must fulfill the Term Assessment Requirement of the Graduate School. For details, please refer to Clause 13.0 "Unsatisfactory Performance and Discontinuation of Studies" of the General Regulations Governing Postgraduate Studies which can be accessed from the Graduate School Homepage: http://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk.

(b)   A student must achieve a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 in order to fulfill the graduation requirement, unless special approval is granted by the Graduate Council.

(c)   Submission of an original thesis of substantial contribution to existing knowledge.

(d)   Presentation of the graduation thesis in an oral defence and passing the oral examination.

(e)   Complete an Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) module on "Observing Intellectual Property and Copyright Law during Research". This is an online module and relevant information can be accessed from the website: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/prodev/ipl.html.

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3.   Remark

Though lecture / seminar course is not a compulsory component for Ph.D. (post-candidacy) students, they may be requested to take additional courses if the Division finds it necessary.

Applicable to students admitted in 2016-17

A.   M.Phil. Student

1.   Coursework Requirement

(a)   Lecture/Seminar courses:
First Year of Attendance:	**15 units**
RELS5001, RELS6001 and 2 term courses	**(3 units each)**
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First Year of Attendance:	**12 units**
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Third Year of Attendance:	
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(ii) Thesis research/monitoring courses:

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C. Ph.D. Student (Post-candidacy)

1. *Coursework Requirement*

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Course List

Code	Course Title	Unit
RELS5001	Method and History of Religious Studies	3
RELS6001	Graduate Seminar I	3
RELS6002	Graduate Seminar II	3
RELS8003	Thesis Research	3
RELS8006	Thesis Research	6
RELS8012	Thesis Research	12
Areas of Study		
Area 1: Chinese Religions		
RELS5115	Reading on Chinese Religious Texts	3
RELS6113	Chinese Religions: Seminar I	3
RELS6114	Chinese Religions: Seminar II	3
Area 2: Taoist Studies		
RELS5126	History of Taoism I	3
RELS5127	History of Taoism II	3
RELS6121	Taoist Studies: Seminar I	3
RELS6122	Taoist Studies: Seminar II	3
Area 3: Biblical Studies		
RELS5131	Biblical Hermeneutics in Asian Perspectives	3
RELS5132	Advanced Biblical Exegesis I	3
RELS5133	Advanced Biblical Exegesis II	3
RELS5134	Gender Critical Interpretation of the Bible	3
RELS5135	Religion and Literature of the Bible	3
RELS5139	Readings in Semitic Languages	3
RELS6131	Biblical Studies: Seminar I	3
RELS6132	Biblical Studies: Seminar II	3
Area 4: Christian Studies/Christianity in China		
RELS6140	Christian Studies: Seminar I	3

RELS6145	History of Christianity: Seminar I	3
RELS6146	History of Christianity: Seminar II	3
RELS6147	Chinese Christianity: Seminar I	3
RELS6148	Chinese Christianity: Seminar II	3
RELS6149	Christian Studies: Seminar II	3

Area 5: Religion and Society

| RELS6151 | Religion and Society: Seminar I | 3 |
| RELS6152 | Religion and Society: Seminar II | 3 |

Area 6: Buddhist Studies

| RELS6115 | Buddhist Studies: Seminar I | 3 |
| RELS6116 | Buddhist Studies: Seminar II | 3 |

Area 7: Islamic Studies

| RELS6160 | Islamic Studies: Seminar I | 3 |

[Study Scheme](#)   [Learning Outcomes](#)

Learning Outcomes

1.   Our research programmes aim to educate researchers to embark on careers that would allow them to become world leaders in their fields, working as university professors, principal investigators in research institutes, senior managers in enterprises, or experts in other professions related to the pursuit and application of knowledge.

2.   The University expects **doctoral degree graduates** of research programmes to have acquired in-depth knowledge in a number of major areas of an academic discipline while maintaining a broad understanding of other related fields. Doctoral degree graduates should have accumulated enough educational experience and background learning to be capable of performing independent research to advance scholarship, with global standards. In particular, doctoral graduates should have the ability to identify research trends and opportunities, venture into new research areas when appropriate, define long-term research objectives, formulate original research problems, and originate and develop solution methodologies. Doctoral graduates should be capable of producing research output at a level that can either lead to publications in high-ranking scholastic venues, or to novel applications in relevant industrial, commercial, or other public sectors, or to other forms of useful knowledge transfer to society.   They should have gained proficiency in techniques of knowledge dissemination through presentation and writing and some teaching experiences through student tutoring.

3.   The University expects **master's degree graduates** of research programmes to have acquired advanced knowledge in major areas of an academic discipline while maintaining a broad understanding of other related fields. Master's degree graduates should have gained enough background knowledge to enable them to perform research with minimal supervision. In particular, they should have the ability to formulate individual research tasks and to develop solution methodologies under minimal supervision. Master's degree graduates should be capable of producing original, innovative research output, some of which may lead to publication in well-respected scholastic venues. They should have gained proficiency in techniques of knowledge dissemination through presentation and writing.

4.   For graduates of research programmes at both doctoral and master's level, communication and language skills at a level appropriate to university graduates are expected already at the time of admission. In particular, fluent communication skills are expected in the language(s) essential to their research areas. In general, a high level of proficiency in English is expected as it is commonly regarded as the default international research language. Ability in a second language is encouraged.

Course Information

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