The Faculty of Arts comprises 11 academic departments, and the Centre for China Studies. Fifteen 4-year major programmes and one 2-year major programme for Associate Degree/Holder Diploma Holders are to be offered:

- Anthropology
- Chinese Language and Literature
- Cultural Studies
- Cultural Management (Faculty Programme)
- English
- Fine Arts
- History
- Japanese Studies
- Linguistics
- Music
- Philosophy
- Religious Studies
- Theology
- Translation
- Chinese Studies* (offered by Centre for China Studies)
- Bimodal Bilingual Studies* (A 2-year programme for articulation of local Associate Degree / Higher Diploma Holders)

The Faculty also offers two Double-Degree programmes in collaboration with the Faculty of Law:

- BA (Translation) – Juris Doctor (JD)
- Bachelor of Laws (LLB) – BA (Translation)

In addition, two co-terminal Double-Degree programmes are offered in collaboration with the Faculty of Education:

- BA (Chinese Language Studies) and BEd (Chinese Language Education)
- BA (English Studies) and BEd (English Language Education)

The Faculty is dedicated to promoting effective dialogue within the humanities and to enhancing the integration of Chinese and Western cultures. It not only cultivates the transmission and transformation of knowledge, thought and culture, but also offers an education that fosters an open and inquisitive mind and independent and critical thought. Special emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary and cross-cultural studies, providing students from around the world with a sound and challenging liberal education.

Two language teaching units of the University are also housed under the Faculty of Arts. The English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU) provides English enhancement courses for all CUHK students. Many of its practical, skills-based courses are highly relevant to our students, both in terms of their ongoing studies and as preparation for future career challenges. The Yale-China Chinese Language Centre (CLC), which is a self-financed unit under the faculty, provides language education in both Putonghua and Cantonese to CUHK students, exchange students and the public at large. Apart from that, the Modern Languages Section of the Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages offers courses in Arabic, French, German, Hong Kong Sign Language, Italian, Korean, Russian, Spanish and Thai, along with courses in the respective literature and culture of the countries in which these languages are spoken.

Anthropology

Anthropology is the study of human cultures and societies. It examines cultural differences around the world by studying human values and social practices.
Anthropologists study the past and the present, and their area of focus encompasses everything from local societies to the globalised world. Many people think of anthropology as the study of ancient traditions and exotic tribes, but that is a misunderstanding. Most anthropologists today study modern societies, such as Hong Kong, the US and Japan, and how these cultures have changed over time.

To better understand various aspects of cultural life, anthropologists adopt a holistic perspective and systematic research methods. They use both qualitative and quantitative methods of social science to understand the views of the peoples they study. Anthropologists emphasise interactions with real people, directly observing what they do in a given social context and talking with them about why they do it. To study cultures that no longer exist, they use archaeological methods.

Anthropology equips students with a cross-cultural perspective, a broader vision of the world and a critical mindset, all of which facilitate an understanding of the needs and conflicts of various societies and the reasons for cultural differences. Anthropology students learn to see Hong Kong and Chinese culture in a new light, and also learn about other cultures in Asia and the rest of the world.

Undergraduate students can take part in an annual field trip to learn about ethnic groups and cultures outside Hong Kong, and they also have opportunities to participate in summer internship programmes to gain first-hand knowledge and hands-on work experience. A number of overseas, mainland Chinese, and local cultural organisations and museums also offer internship opportunities to our students. They include the University of Sydney (Australia), the University of Cambridge (UK), the Institute of Archaeology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (mainland China), the Antiquities and Monuments Office, the Hong Kong History Museum, the Hong Kong Maritime Museum (Hong Kong), and more.

CUHK is the only tertiary institution in Hong Kong with an anthropology department. The CUHK Anthropology Department offers major and minor undergraduate programmes and both Master’s and PhD programmes. Undergraduates can also apply to minor in Archaeology and/or Cultural Heritage Studies. In addition to the local student population, the undergraduate programme has recently welcomed students from Korea, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, mainland China, South Africa and North America. All of the students have access to the department’s incomparable facilities, which include the Archaeology Laboratory, Ethnographic Data Library and Ethnographic Artefacts Collection. The department also enjoys close collaborative relationships with anthropological research centres and museums in Hong Kong, the mainland of China and Taiwan, and our undergraduates have earned scholarships to participate in academic and cultural exchange programmes in the US, UK, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Mexico, Singapore, Korea, and more.

Chinese Language and Literature

The Department of Chinese Language and Literature offers rigorous training in Chinese language and literature. The curriculum affords a close examination of the characteristic features of the Chinese language, an in-depth introduction to theories of language and linguistics, and critical study of classical and modern Chinese literature. Students are expected to acquire solid understanding of the field in general while specialising in their own areas of interest, such as Chinese phonology and grammar, Qin-Han textual studies, Tang-Song poetry, modern Chinese fiction or creative writing—all under the guidance of our erudite faculty members. Our graduates display an excellent command of both written and spoken Chinese, are well-versed in the great traditions of Chinese literature, and are thoroughly prepared to take on new challenges as they embark on their professional or academic careers.
The programme has the following features:

1. Core course requirements that lay a good foundation for further study in Chinese language and literature;
2. More than 50 specialty courses that students can select according to their academic interests;
3. Small-group teaching for creative writing courses, which forges close teacher-student bonds;
4. A core course of independent research for the final-year major students in which they learn research methodologies and critical approaches by planning and conducting research on a topic in preparation for a thesis written under the close supervision of a faculty member; and
5. Writing courses that enhance students’ creative writing ability. Every year, our students win coveted prizes in major literary competitions.

The Department has developed a new stream known as ‘Creative Writing in Chinese’ since the 2016–17 academic year. The specialised training provided in this stream helps students develop their expertise as writers. It equips students with advanced skills in both creative and professional writing, enhances their knowledge of various literary genres and other closely related arts, sharpens their literary sensibility, and builds their creative vision.

Cultural Studies

What is culture and how does it work?

Cultural Studies is an emerging and increasingly influential field of study. It equips students with an understanding of the political dimensions of culture and the means to examine the ways in which culture is a contested site for conveying various ideologies. The programme offers a new perspective that helps students to better understand contemporary Chinese and global culture, and invites them to engage critically in the study of culture to arrive at a more advanced and sophisticated understanding of power.

We support a broad range of interests. Through close readings of a variety of texts, including films, literature, theatrical performances, popular music, advertisements and even the Web, we analyse a diverse range of issues and topics that are related to contemporary culture, such as travel, body politics, modernity, the city, gender, technoscience, consumer culture, visual culture, youth culture, globalisation and cultural policy.

We also work closely with the Religious Studies programme to offer a range of courses that explore culture and religion. In general, we study both elite and popular cultures critically, and our programme cultivates in students an acute cultural sensibility and expertise that is highly valued in many professional sectors of contemporary society.

Cultural Management

Cultural Management is a relatively new field that addresses the contemporary issues as to how culture, taken as a product or service for urban life and consumption through management, can maximise its meanings and values to benefit life qualities and facilitate policy making. There are four main categories of cultural management: [i] cultural heritage, conservation and tourism; [ii] cultural institutions and programming; [iii] cultural and creative industries; and [iv] community cultural projects for social enhancement.

People have come to realise that culture can have an impact on the economy and governmental decisions that are made all over the world. In the 21st century, the creative and knowledge-based economy will rely on the development and growth of cultural and creative industries. In addition, social awareness towards cultural rights, as well as the recognition for cultural democracy and diversity, is on the rise. This has led to the establishment of various cultural infrastructures from large-scale cultural districts to small-sized community arts spaces during the last decade. Thus, there is a pressing need to nurture the new generation as supporting ‘cultural software’ with visions, expertise, sensibility, and ethics to serve as mediators between the public and cultural productions. This cross-disciplinary programme aims to educate and train this new breed of cultural leaders and mediators. They will be the pioneers in the society to interpret, define, exchange and defend cultures. With sensitivity to and respect for different cultures, they will commit to developing local culture from a global perspective.

English

The English Department offers foundation and elective courses in literature, applied linguistics and communication. The foundation courses equip students with basic knowledge of these areas, and the elective courses emphasise critical, analytical, and interpretative skills and focus on specialised literary and linguistic studies.

The aims of the literature programme are to:

1. Introduce the major ideas that have shaped Western literature and culture;
2. Cultivate in students the ability to constructively criticise, analyse and appreciate literature and culture;
3. Explore literary and cultural theories and conduct comparative studies of Chinese and Western literature;
4. Extend students’ knowledge and understanding of the many cultures in which English is spoken; and
5. Foster the development of students’ historical knowledge and imagination.

The aims of the applied English linguistics programme are to help students to:

1. Understand the fundamental properties of language;
2. Deepen their appreciation of the importance of language at the individual and societal levels;
3. Foster their understanding of the ways in which language relates to thought and culture; and
4. Familiarise themselves with the major findings of applied linguistics research.

The aims of the communication courses are to:

1. Strengthen students’ ability to express themselves in English; and
2. Provide them with critical-thinking, speaking and writing experience that will be of considerable value in their future lives and careers.

The literature, linguistics and communication components of the programme complement one another in cultivating graduates who are able to think critically, creatively and independently, and exhibit a high level of proficiency in the global language of English.

**Fine Arts**

With a mission to advance traditional Chinese culture, bridge Chinese and Western art, and nurture local arts professionals, the Department of Fine Arts offers a comprehensive and balanced undergraduate programme that prepares students for future careers as artists, art historians and museum curators, among other arts-related professions.

The programme achieves this mission in the following ways.

1. **Focus on Chinese Art in a Global Context**
   A wide range of courses in Chinese art practices and history is offered alongside Western art history and studio training. Whenever possible, cross-field interactions are encouraged. Such an integrated approach reflects Hong Kong’s position as an advanced, multicultural city.

2. **Emphasis on Both the Practice and History of Art**
   The Department places equal emphasis on studio and art history courses. As a result, our graduates are well-rounded and well-equipped for professional careers in the arts.

3. **Career Preparation**
   The Department constantly revises its existing courses and introduces new courses that cater to the prevailing trends and needs of society. It also organises professional training courses and internship programmes to equip students with practical experience, thereby laying a solid foundation for their future careers as professional artists, arts educators and arts administrators.

**History**

The curriculum offered by the Department of History is designed to cultivate students’ interest in human civilisations and to equip them with the ability to apply historical knowledge to their lives and careers.

The curriculum embraces diversity and applicability as its guiding principles. Hong Kong is an international city in which the cultures of East and West meld seamlessly. CUHK has promoted international academic exchange from its inception, which has favoured and given rise to the Department’s adoption of a comparative, interdisciplinary approach to curriculum design with public history as its research focus. Students are encouraged to analyse history from multiple interdisciplinary perspectives. Courses are grouped into National/Regional History, Comparative History, Public History and Topic Studies, and students write a graduation thesis in their final year.

In their first two years of study, students are required to take a number of basic courses, including Tradition and Transformation in Chinese History, Tradition and Transformation in Western History, and Historiography. They also take History for Today, a course offered by the Department as part of the Faculty of Arts’ Core Package.

Our Department has worked actively to nurture talented students. Apart from participating in university scholarships, scores of scholarships are awarded to History major undergraduates each year. For example, the Leung Hung Kee scholarships provide funding to at least five distinguished history majors to conduct research abroad so as to collect materials for their graduation theses. The Department has also introduced a series of internship programmes that give students opportunities to gain practical experience working in a variety of organisations. The Department also arranges study tours to mainland China, Taiwan and overseas regions to broaden students’ perspectives. In addition, students have opportunities to participate in a variety of University-organised exchange programmes, including short visits to or study at universities in the UK, the US, Japan and elsewhere.

**Japanese Studies**

The Department of Japanese Studies provides academic and professional training in the study of Japan and the Japanese language. The programme is designed to meet the growing demand for globally aware citizens, promote cultural and academic exchange, and facilitate communication and cooperation between Hong Kong and Japan.
The programme provides training in critical approaches to Japanese society and culture, and is geared towards mastery of the Japanese language. All third-year students are required to spend one academic year in Japan and to take unit-bearing courses at a Japanese exchange partner university. A key element of the programme is a field research project. Second-year students are trained in research methodologies that they then implement in their third year of study in Japan, when they conduct research in the field. In their fourth year of study, students use the materials collected during their field research to write an academic research paper.

The programme offers three optional streams: (1) Business and Management; (2) Japan in Global Perspective; and (3) Japanese Language and Linguistics. Each stream provides specialised training in the named area and allows students to take courses from other relevant departments, including the Departments of Management, Sociology, Anthropology, and Linguistics and Modern Languages. Students who select one of these streams must choose a related topic for their final-year project.

**Linguistics**

The Linguistics programme offers basic training in contemporary theories of language, and addresses such issues as the universal properties of natural language and the human mind, language acquisition in various modes and modalities, and language in different contexts of use. Students are encouraged to apply linguistic theories to the investigation of a wide variety of languages, including endangered languages, minority languages and sign languages. They will gain an appreciation of linguistics as an interdisciplinary field that crosses the traditional boundary between the arts and the humanities, drawing ideas and tools from various disciplines of cognitive science. At the practical level, linguistics training raises students’ bilingual and multilingual awareness and sharpens their sensitivity to the complexity of human language. Such training builds the linguistic resources necessary for students’ careers and postgraduate study, and enables them to make informed judgments about the language issues of their own speech community. The Linguistics programme includes the following areas of study.

1. Foundation and language awareness training:

2. Core, applied and interdisciplinary electives:
   - **Core Linguistics:** Morphology, Phonetics II, Phonology II, Syntax II, Lexical Studies, Sign Linguistics, Comparative Grammar, Language Survey in the Field and Advanced Readings in Linguistics.
   - **Language and Mind:** First Language Acquisition, Psycholinguistics, Language and Mind, Language Acquisition of Deaf Children, Bilingualism, Bilingual Acquisition, Language Disorders and Neurolinguistics.

3. Research capability development:
   - Research Practicum I and II, Linguistic Argumentation I and II, Quantitative Methods for Linguistics, and Research Project I and II.

**Music**

The Department of Music at CUHK is the oldest degree-granting music department in Hong Kong, having introduced the BA in Music in 1965. The programme provides instruction in the study of music as a humanistic discipline and offers extensive opportunities for the development of practical skills. Its goals are:

1. To equip graduates with an informed understanding of music in both Western and global musical traditions by fostering the development of musicianship, creativity, and critical thinking;
2. To offer a well-balanced curriculum that provides training in both professional skills and the scholarly study of music; and
3. To cultivate in our graduates a sense of ethical responsibility and a broad cultural awareness in the practice of music.

The Department boasts an international teaching team with a wide range of expertise, and has nurtured important musicians of Chinese and Western music for decades. Its library and archival collections are among the most important in Asia. It has its own symphony orchestra, wind orchestra, and choir, in addition to ensembles devoted to Chinese music, jazz, early music, and new music.
At the end of their second year of studies, students select from one of four streams: Composition, Pedagogy, Performance, or Research. Each of which leads to a capstone or final year project.

Philosophy

The Philosophy Department offers a diverse yet comprehensive curriculum that incorporates both Eastern and Western philosophical traditions. It provides students with a strong liberal arts education by giving them a solid, systematic philosophical training in the critical thinking, writing and oral communication skills that are essential for advanced studies as well as future career development.

The core courses are Introduction to Philosophy, Logic, History of Chinese Philosophy I and II, History of Western Philosophy I and II, Philosophy and Human Conditions, Ethics, Epistemology and Metaphysics, and a capstone course that requires students to write an undergraduate thesis. In addition to these courses, students are also required to take at least two courses in each of three main areas: Chinese/Eastern Philosophy, Western Philosophy and Philosophical Problems. The objective of this requirement is to ensure a well-rounded and balanced academic experience.

Discussion is an essential component of learning philosophy. In-depth discussions in classes and tutorials encourage students to raise critical questions, comment on one another’s presentations, put forward their ideas and defend their own positions.

In addition to understanding the central issues in various areas of philosophy, students are expected to have a grasp of the contemporary relevance of these areas and to be able to bring philosophical reflection to bear on the things that matter in life.

Religious Studies

Religious Studies considers religion to be an integral part of human life, thought and activity. It advocates for an objective and academic approach to the study of religious phenomena and a critical yet sympathetic understanding of people’s religious lives. The programme begins with a comparative review of the roles that religions play in different cultures and historical periods. The programme adopts an interdisciplinary approach to the study of religion that acquaints students with theories and methods from a range of disciplines, including psychology, sociology, philosophy, education and literature. The elective courses fall into six areas: (1) Approaches to Religious Studies, (2) Religious Traditions and their Development, (3) Religious Classics and Literature, (4) Religion, Culture and Society (5) Languages, Seminars and Special Topics, and (6) Religion and Everyday Life. Students are able to explore numerous religious traditions, including Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

Students are required to conduct fieldwork to gain a fuller understanding of people’s daily religious lives in Hong Kong and beyond. They are also encouraged to join a summer internship programme, which integrates theory and practice, and allows the acquisition of on-site experience.

Theology

The Theology programme offered by the Divinity School of Chung Chi College and the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies provides students with theological knowledge and the ability to think theologically. The programme accommodates a broad range of interests, offering students five areas of study to choose from: Biblical Studies, History of Christianity, Systematic Theology, Pastoral Studies, and Christianity and Society. Students can also choose from a range of elective courses offered by the Theology Department and other departments to widen their theological base and to enhance their theological thinking skills. In addition, students can equip themselves for ministerial work by enrolling in advanced courses and conducting fieldwork.

Translation

Established in 1972, the Department of Translation was the first of its kind in Asia. It offers a coherent and comprehensive programme that equips students with the broad skills and perspectives necessary to assume leadership positions in a variety of professions.

The curriculum of our BA programme covers a wide range of study areas, including literary translation, legal translation, business translation, subtitling, interpreting, translation studies and computer-aided translation. Equal emphasis is placed on theory and practice to prepare students for further study and to make them ideal candidates for careers in law, business, publishing, journalism, government and education. The Department is equipped with specially designed language laboratories for the teaching and learning of interpreting, and a computer room with up-to-date software and facilities for computer-aided translation.

In addition to the University’s General Education course requirements, translation majors are required to complete a minimum of 69 credit units in translation courses, including the 9-credit Faculty Package. Students may consider pursuing a minor and are afforded considerable flexibility with the remaining credit units in course selection. This provides them with the advantage of a broad knowledge base.
A Double-Degree option is offered in conjunction with the Faculty of Law, allowing students to complete a first degree in translation and continue directly on to a two-year Juris Doctor graduate degree programme.

The Department maintains a close relationship with translation companies, the media and many other types of businesses that provide students with internship and work opportunities.

Our Faculty members are committed to excellence in both teaching and research and are frequently awarded competitive research funding from the University Grants Committee. In addition, world-class scholars, writers and translation professionals are regularly invited to teach courses and give lectures.

**Chinese Studies**

**(A new programme to be introduced in 2019)**

Chinese studies is a multi-disciplinary programme focused on studying and learning through direct engagement with China. With an emphasis on teaching in English and training for effective communication in international arenas, the programme offers an integrated exploration of the complexities of Chinese history, culture, languages and contemporary society, including the integrated realms of the economy, governance, and business, for majors intent on becoming the globally-oriented China-specialist analysts, cross-cultural communicators and network-builders of the twenty-first century. This major is designed for two streams of students distinguished by Chinese language fluency, i.e. 1) International Student Stream (ISS) and 2) Chinese Native-Speaker Stream (CNSS). Students in each stream pursue a subset of learning offerings tailored to their language capacities while completing most of their course work in a shared learning environment in which international and Chinese-native speaker students learn from each other and pursue collaborative projects together.

Special features of the programme include: 1) the commitment to having students attain a high level of proficiency in both Chinese (Putonghua) and English; 2) the commitment to having all students undergo an intensive term-long target-language, social-cultural ‘immersion’ experience; 3) the commitment to direct ‘on-the-ground’ learning about China through required experiential and social enterprise courses; 4) the commitment to a student-centered, ‘liberal arts’ interactive mode of instruction that emphasises developing skills in critical-thinking, rational analysis, and logical persuasive argumentation to carry out original in-depth research on Greater China.

**Bimodal Bilingual Studies**

**(A new 2-year programme to be introduced in 2019 for articulation of local Associate Degree/Higher Diploma Holders)**

The BA in Bimodal Bilingual Studies is a two-year, top-up degree programme having the goal of eventually creating a workforce in society that is competent in spoken and sign languages for professional support in education in different settings, information accessibility in social and professional contexts, social welfare of disadvantaged groups, and many other domains that call for such a unique combination of linguistic skills. The first of its kind in Hong Kong and Asia, this interdisciplinary programme focuses on the study of language science from the perspective of bimodality – auditory/oral and visual/spatial – and bilingualism/multilingualism, and examines how such language knowledge may become functional in a number of professional disciplines.

Students enrolled in this programme will be given foundational training in Linguistics and Sign Linguistics for them to appreciate why both sign and spoken languages enjoy an equal linguistic status for human communication, how children acquire spoken and/or sign languages in a monolingual or bimodal bilingual fashion, how adults may become bimodal bilingual when they acquire a sign language as a second/third language, and how interactions between spoken and sign languages create intriguing benefits for humans in their language, cognitive and sociopsychological development. Such a new understanding of language will be achieved by requiring students to engage in the learning of Hong Kong Sign Language at levels of capabilities prescribed by the Common European Framework of References for Languages - Sign Languages, as well as courses that apply knowledge of Linguistics and Sign Linguistics to certain professional domains, to prepare them to enter the relevant workforce with social acumen and bimodal bilingual sensitivity.

With further training, students from this programme will become effective educators, sign interpreters, social welfare and counselling workers, psychologists, speech and language therapists, NGO administrators or social entrepreneurs.