

Applying to the MPhil/PhD programme in Linguistics

General application procedure

To apply for admission to the MPhil/PhD programme in Linguistics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, you would need to complete the steps for admission required by the Graduate School of the University. The following URLs will be of use to you:

a) The Graduate School:

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/gss>

b) General entry requirements:

Please follow the following path once you access the Graduate School webpage:

Graduate School> Admissions> Entry Requirement

Or you may access the following URL for relevant information:

<http://www2.cuhk.edu.hk/gss/entry.php>

c) Online applications:

You may apply for admission online by going to the Graduate School webpage and follow the path:

Admissions> How to Apply> Online Application

Or you may access the following URL for related information:

<http://www2.cuhk.edu.hk/gss/apply.php>

Documents required by the Division of Linguistics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

To submit an application to the Division of Linguistics, you need to send the following documents to the Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages:

a) Application fee receipt (if any);

b) Official Transcripts;

Please note that you should complete the *Transcript Submission Covering Sheet* downloadable from the online application website, and send it to the universities where you have completed your studies to apply for official transcripts. Transcripts should be returned directly to us in *sealed envelopes* from the university.

c) Copies of degree certificate(s);

d) Copies of Examinations (e.g. HKALE & HKCEE) / Score report of TOEFL or IELTS or CET;

e) Two recommendation letters;

At least two recommendation letters are needed. These letters should discuss your strengths as well as

weaknesses. The letters should be sent directly by the referees to the Division of Linguistics, Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages.

f) Copy of HKID or other identity documents;

g) Samples of research writing;

You are required to send representative samples of your research writing that are related to language analysis, which may be term papers or project reports, or publications. Please send no more than 2 samples if you are applying for the MPhil programme, and no more than 4 samples if you are applying for the PhD programme. These papers may be written in Chinese or English.

h) A statement of purpose;

In not more than 2 single-spaced type-written pages, written in English, explain why you are applying to the programme, your strengths and weaknesses, and what you intend to achieve through receiving a postgraduate education in Linguistics.

i) Research Proposal

Applicants are required to submit a research proposal that describes the topic that you wish to work on for your MPhil/PhD research. The proposal, to be written in English, should discuss the theoretical background to your project, the significance of the proposed research, the key issues that you wish to investigate, and the steps that you plan to take to seek a better understanding of the issues.

The main body of the proposal (excluding figures, tables, references, and appendices) should not exceed 5 single-spaced type-written pages for MPhil applicants, and 10 single-spaced type-written pages for PhD applicants.

You are encouraged to indicate in your proposal which member(s) of the Division of Linguistics you wish to work with for your MPhil thesis research.

The sample writings, the statement of purpose and the research proposal (items (g-i)) are important documents for our evaluation of your application. Please observe the above guidelines when preparing them.

The postal address for the above documents:

Graduate Division
Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages
G8B, G/F
Fung King Hey Building
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Shatin, NT
Hong Kong

Entrance examination and interview

Applicants are required to take a three-hour written examination that tests their understanding of basic linguistic concepts, their knowledge of the main areas of language study, as well as their ability in analyzing linguistic issues.

For some idea about the Linguistics background presupposed for this examination and the nature of the examination, please consult the recommended readings for preparing the entrance examination (*will be uploaded on department website shortly*) as well as a sample examination paper ([2007](#)) ([2008](#)).

The written examination for this year will take place in the morning of the following date:
Saturday, March 7, 2009.

For local applicants, the examination venue will be the Chinese University of Hong Kong. For those applying from Mainland China, the examination venue will be the Guangdong Foreign Studies University, Guangzhou. Alternative arrangements will be made for applicants from other places.

In addition, applicants may be required to attend an interview in person. For applicants from overseas, a web-conferencing interview will be arranged.

Notification of acceptance

Applicants will be notified of the Division's decision on their application for admission by June 30, 2009 at the latest.