Words from Graduates

“I am extremely lucky to have turned my interest in linguistics into a career. I got a job as a data evaluator in the Google speech team, which aims to build speech recognition and text-to-speech technologies that enable voice-based interactions in products like Google Now, Voice Search, Dictation, Speech-to-Speech Translation, Google Glass, and so forth. Working in Google enables me to connect my linguistic knowledge and expertise with the real-world. Pursuing my master’s degree in CUHK was really a pivotal point in my life.”
- Jin Huan Huan (2011)

“語言學的世界絕對超乎我的想像，它是嚴謹的實驗科學，也是迷人的魔術術，不僅賦予我條理清晰的分析能力。引導我從不同的角度解構事物，也教我會言辭、缺乏自信的我變得更自信、更願意表達自己。翻閱學習期間的日記，有找到語音材料解讀的語言規則後的興奮，有寫出樹形圖後的成就感，有拿到group project成績後的欣喜，有做demo teaching前的緊張，有實習面試後等待結果的忐忑……還有考試時滿滿的，凌亂的草稿，課堂上奮筆疾書的筆記。都是我在這裏學習的記錄，讓我清楚看到自是如何從茫茫中逐漸找到自己真正想要的東西。”
- 張薇 (2012)
Introduction

The Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) is committed to the scientific study of language as an integral part of mind. We emphasize interdisciplinary research and training that draws on knowledge and methods from a wide range of related disciplines such as philosophy, psychology, cognitive neuroscience, engineering, and education, with the goal of nurturing scholarship and advancing knowledge of language, its structure, use and acquisition.

The Master of Arts (MA) Programme in Chinese Linguistics and Language Acquisition provides an intensive training in contemporary analysis of Chinese language structure, the acquisition of Chinese as a first or second language, and the application of linguistic theory to the teaching of the Chinese language. It is intended for current or prospective Chinese language teachers and students of Chinese who are interested in a scientific understanding of the cognitive processes underlying language learning and teaching.

Objectives

The programme aims to:
- enable students to acquire a rich understanding of the systematic design of Mandarin Chinese, through providing them with principled accounts of Chinese language phenomena, in comparison to other languages and Chinese dialects;
- equip students with methodological tools for the analysis of Chinese language structure, and for the empirical study of learners of Chinese, as well as the dynamics of the teaching and learning process; and
- enhance students’ understanding of the complexities of second/foreign language learning and second dialect learning in the context of multi-lingual and multi-dialectal communities.

Programme Mode

The programme is offered in full-time mode which covers a normal period of one academic year. Students are required to complete a total of 27 units, including 15 units of required courses and 12 units of elective courses.

Entry Requirements

Applicants should have graduated from a recognized university and obtained a Bachelor’s degree, normally with honours not lower than Second Class, and have fulfilled the English Language Proficiency Requirement. Please refer to the homepage of the Graduate School of CUHK for details.

Application Procedures

Applicants should submit their applications via the Internet (http://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/). All required supporting documents should be sent to the Division of Linguistics before the application deadline posted on the homepage of the Graduate School of CUHK.

Entrance Examination

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview and take a written test.

Tuition Fee

Please refer to the homepage of the Graduate School of CUHK.

Application Fee

HK$300 (non-refundable).

Course List

Required Courses
- Foundations I: Phonetics and Phonology
- Foundations II: Syntax and Semantics
- Foundations in Language Acquisition

(Take at least 2 out of the following 3 courses)
- Topics in Chinese Phonetics and Phonology
- Topics in Chinese Syntax and Semantics
- Topics in Chinese Language Acquisition

Elective Courses
- Foundations in Sign Language Research
- Topics in Second Language Acquisition
- Topics in Bilingualism
- Topics in Computer Assisted Language Learning
- Topics in Language Acquisition of Deaf Children
- Sign Linguistics I
- Sign Linguistics II
- Teaching Chinese as a Second Language
- Topics in Comparative Grammar
- Special Topics in Linguistics
- Special Topics in Language and Cognition
- Topics in Sociolinguistics
- Special Topics in Applied Linguistics
- Topics in Psycholinguistics
- Language Disorders
- Linguistic Research
- Research Project
- Field Practicum
- Research Practicum