

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE

Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies Degree [BA(UrbanStud)]

Induction Programme

1. To provide all freshmen with essential information to ensure a smooth transition to your studies at the University, students are required to attend the induction programme which include the following events:

- a. **Faculty Induction Talk** will be held face-to-face on **14 August 2024 (Wednesday) from 10:00am to 12:00noon, at Room 223, 2/F Knowles Building, HKU.**
- b. **Programme Induction Talk** will be held face-to-face after the Faculty Induction Talk on **14 August 2024 (Wednesday) from 1:00pm to 3:30pm, at Room 803, 8/F Knowles Building, HKU.** During this Programme Induction session, the Department will go through the BA(UrbanStud) curriculum and other academic matters related to Urban Studies.

Faculty Academic Adviser

2. To ensure that your transition to the University is going well, each new student will have an academic staff to serve as your Faculty Academic Adviser (FAA). Please sign up for your FAA from **2:00 pm, 12 August 2024 (Monday) to 10:00 am, 20 August 2024 (Tuesday)** at <https://ugaa.hku.hk/signup-faa.php>. If you do not sign up by 10:00 am, 20 August 2024, the System will randomly assign one to you.

Some quick notes:

- *How to sign up:* You will be directed to select from the list of advisers on a first-come-first-served basis.
- *Who is FAA:* FAA is a current teacher from your home Faculty who advises you on study-related matters.
- *When to consult FAA:* You are encouraged to approach your FAA whenever you need academic advice. Feel free to consult your adviser during the consultation hour (which can be found in your portal), or contact her/him by email to make an appointment.

Important policies and regulations

3. As a BA(UrbanStud) first year student, you should study the following documents carefully:

- i. Regulations for First Degree Curricula
- ii. Regulations and Syllabuses for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies applicable to candidates admitted to the first year in 2024-25
- iii. Common Core courses website "For Students" section

(Please visit: <http://www.handbook.hku.hk/ug/>, <https://www4.hku.hk/pubunit/drcd/> and <http://commoncore.hku.hk> for details of the above)

Course Selection and Curriculum requirements in 2024-25

4. All BA(UrbanStud) first year students are required to take the following courses in the First Year of studies in the 2024-25 academic year:

Course <small>notes</small>	Credits	Semester
AFIC1003 On Agendas	6	1
URBS1003 Theories and Global Trends in Urban Development	6	1
CAES1000 Core University English *	6	1 or 2
One Elective Course	6	1 or 2
One Common Core Course	6	1
AFIC1004 On Methods	6	2
URBS1004 Urban Analytics Studio	6	2
URBS1005 Urban Problems, Interventions and Design Thinking	6	2
CEUC9001 Practical Chinese for Surveying, Urban Studies and Conservation students	6	2
One Common Core Course	6	2
Total:	60	

**Please refer to the "English Language requirement" section*

Notes:

1. The course list and course information above are subject to change.
2. Students are normally required to take not fewer than 24 credits nor more than 30 credits. Students may, of their own volition take additional credits units not exceeding 6 credits in each semester.

5. In order to satisfy the University/Faculty Graduation Requirements for the BA(UrbanStud) degree, all BA(UrbanStud) students are required to take a professional core of 138 credits (including 126 credits of core courses and 12 credits of Faculty Interdisciplinary courses), plus a total of 54 credits in language and Common Core courses, and 48 credits of elective courses, totalling 240 credits for the 4-year curriculum. Successful completion of any other non-credit bearing courses as required by the University forms part of the graduation requirements.

English language requirement

6. To satisfy the English language requirement, student must take the following English language courses:

- CAES1000 *Core University English (Year 1)
CAES9121 Communication course for architecture students (Year 2)

*Note: Students who have achieved Level 5 or above in the English Language in the HKDSE, or one of the equivalent qualifications as listed below, are exempted from this requirement, and taking CAES1000 is **optional**. Those students should take an **elective course** in lieu. (see UG6 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula).

7. The list of qualifications recognized as equivalent to achieving Level 5 or above in HKDSE English Language examination is as follows:

- holder of a Bachelor's degree from an English-medium university
- achieved Grade A or above in English Language GCE Advanced Level (AL)/ Advanced Subsidiary Level (ASL)
- achieved an overall **IELTS** score of no less than 7 **AND** with all sub-scores no less than 6.5 on the Reading, Speaking, Listening, and Writing Tests
- achieved an overall **TOEFL Internet-based test** score of no less than 94 **AND** no less than a 24 on the writing, a 20 on the speaking, a 20 on the listening, AND a 19 on the reading sections
- achieved in **International Baccalaureate (IB)** Grade 4 or above in English A1/ English Language A/ English A: Literature/ English A: Language and Literature (HL); or Grade 5 or above in English B/ English Language B (HL); or Grade 5 or above in English A1/ English Language A/ English A: Literature/ English A: Language and Literature (SL)
- achieved Grade 4 or above on the **Advanced Placement (AP) English Language/ English Language and Composition/ English Literature and Composition Test**
- achieved a **NEW Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)** score of 35 or above on both the Writing & Language Test and Reading Test (from 2016)
- achieved Grade B or above in H1 General Paper at the **Singapore GCE A-level**
- achieved Grade A or better in English language at **Malaysia SPM examination**
- achieved Grade A2 or better in **Malaysia UEC-Senior English Language**
- attained merit (3 points) or above in each set of credits in **New Zealand NCEA Literacy** (10 credits made up of 5 credits in reading and 5 credits in writing)
- achieved a score of 95% or better in English at **All India Senior School Certificate Examination / Higher School Certificate**
- achieved a final score of 90% or better in English at **Grade 12 Canadian high school curriculum.**
- achieved Grade B or better in English Language at **Sri Lanka Ordinary examination**
- achieved a score of 90 or better in English in the **Russian Unified State Exam** (Единый государственный экзамен, ЕГЭ, Yediniy gosudarstvenniy ekzamen, EGE)
- **Academic Speaking and Writing test conducted by CAES** for students who have not taken any of the above tests.
 - *When applying to take the Academic Speaking and Writing Test, students should provide evidence to their Faculties and the CAES1000 Course Coordinator that they were admitted to HKU using qualifications **other than** those included in the list.*
 - *Applicants are required to show **the evidence of those other qualifications** to the assessor on the day of the Academic Speaking and Writing Test.*
 - *If any applicants fail to provide any evidence that they were admitted to HKU using qualifications other than those included in the list provided by CAES, the CAES assessor has the rights not to allow the applicant to take the test.*

- *The test takes place annually in August. If a student fails to meet the application deadline, they will not have another chance to take the test, as no alternative test dates will be provided.*
- *The test is conducted face-to-face. There will be no alternative testing methods available for applicants.*

Please note that:

- **Optional students can only take the course during their first year of studies.**
- **JUPAS students with HKDSE English Language Level 3 or Level 4 are NOT allowed to use any of the above equivalent standards to get exempted from CAES1000.**
- **Non-JUPAS students* are NOT allowed to use HKDSE results to get exempted from CAES1000.**
- **Test results (i.e., the above list* and HKDSE) should be in the same year in which students are admitted to the University. Test results obtained after the admission to the University will NOT be considered.**
- * **Non-JUPAS students are allowed to use IELTS/TOEFL which is achieved within 2 years before admission to fulfil the English language requirement for admission.**
- * **Re-admitted students with combined HKDSE results with a level 5 or above in the HKDSE English Language examination, irrespective of the year they took the exam, will be eligible for exemption from CAES1000.**
- * **Students admitted through the School Nominations Direct Admission Scheme (SNDAS) are allowed to use results of HKDSE English Language Level 5 or above to get CAES1000 exemption. However, these students are not allowed to use any other equivalent qualifications to get exemption.**

8. Except for students who have achieved Level 5 or above in the English Language paper in HKDSE, the exemption is subject to application and provision of the documentary proof. If you have fulfilled one of the above criteria, please write to hchleung@hku.hk or approach the Faculty Office (address: 4/F, Room 415, Knowles Building) directly with the original official copy/certified true copy of the relevant qualification by **15 August 2024**.

9. For students who are admitted to HKU using qualifications other than those included in the list above, they may apply to take the Academic Speaking and Writing Test if they wish to be exempted from taking CAES1000. Students who have been tested by the Centre of Applied English Studies to be of a standard equivalent to achieving Level 5 or above in English Language in HKDSE will be exempted from taking CAES1000. Students who are exempted will need to take an elective course in lieu. Please submit an application by email to hchleung@hku.hk on or before **noon, 21 August 2024** if you would like to attend Academic Speaking and Writing Test scheduled for 26 August 2024. *Late submission will not be accepted.*

10. Students who are automatically exempted from taking CAES1000 course (i.e., for achieving Level 5 or above in English Language in HKDSE) may, at their own wish opt to take the CAES1000 course. In this case, students do not need to take an elective course in lieu.

Chinese language requirement

11. To satisfy the Chinese language requirement, student must take the following Chinese language course which will be offered in the Semester 2 of the First Year of studies:

CEUC9001 *Practical Chinese for Surveying, Urban Studies, and Conservation students*

For Mandarin/Putonghua-speaking students:
 CUND9002 Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society, or
 CUND9003 Cantonese for Non-Cantonese Speaking Students

For all other students:

- (a) Take a 6-credit Cantonese or Putonghua language course offered by the School of Chinese for international or exchange students, or
- (b) Request to be exempted from the Chinese language requirement. If exempted, these students should take an elective course in lieu of the language course.

12. Please note that only those who have not attained HKDSE/GCSE level Chinese can apply for **exemption** from taking a **Chinese** language enhancement course as mentioned in paragraph 11(b) above. However, exemption will only be granted on a case by case basis and students who wish to apply for **exemption** of Chinese language enhancement course will have to submit their application to the Faculty Office (write to hchleung@hku.hk by **noon, 19 August 2024** at the latest. Please note, however, that those who have been granted an exemption of the Chinese language requirement are highly encouraged to take a 6-credit Cantonese or Putonghua language course offered by the School of Chinese for international or exchange students. The Faculty Office will **NOT** consider late application and any such application submitted in the Second/Third/Fourth year of studies.

13. Students will be notified of the application results through email.

Course enrolment schedule

14. The course enrolment information system will be opened for freshmen to preview available courses after performing master registration. Please log in to the SIS Website via HKU Portal (<https://hkuportal.hku.hk/>) for access to the course selection system (SIS menu→Enrollment→Enrolment Add Classes).

15. The online course selection schedule for 2024-25 is as follows:

Date	Event
August 2024 (after master registration)	The course information system will be opened for freshmen to preview their available courses (Summer semester courses will not be available before 2 January 2025)
20 August 2024 (10:00am) – 26 August 2024 (4:00pm)	Course selection system available to students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Semester 1/full-year courses starting from 10:00am, 20 Aug 2024; and - Semester 2 courses starting from 10:10am, 20 Aug 2024 There will be a suspension period during which students cannot have access into the system: 12:00 noon, 21 August 2024 to 2:29pm, 22 August 2024
2 September 2024 (10:00am) – 16 September 2024 (4:00pm)	Semester 1 add/drop period (students can add/drop courses for both semester 1 & 2 courses)

	* There will be a suspension period during which students cannot have access into the system: 3 September 2024 12:00noon – 4:59pm
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16. All undergraduates are required to complete their course enrolment via the online course selection system during the course selection period, from **10:00am, 20 August 2024 until 4:00pm, 26 August 2024.**

17. Please note that the course approval method of Common Core courses (CCC) is on a first-come-first-served basis and quota is limited. To expedite the selection process, you may add the CCC that you wish to enroll in the shopping cart first and submit your request as early as possible once the course selection system opens. Please avoid selecting a sub-class with the prefix "X" as this is for visiting/exchange students only. For details of the course selection arrangements of CCC, please refer to the guide that will be sent to you from the SIS Office.

18. Please note that students are **not** allowed to:

- i. add/drop any Semester 1 courses/full-year courses after 4:00pm, **16 September 2024**;
- ii. drop any Semester 1 courses/full-year courses during Semester 2;
- iii. change sub-classes of any Semester 1/full-year courses during Semester 2.

19. Students are urged to check their enrolment records via SELF SERVICE in the SIS as frequently as possible to ensure that their records are correct.

20. For enquiries regarding SIS and course enrolment, you may contact the IT Helpdesk by phone (Tel: 3917 0123) or through e-mail (ithelp@hku.hk).

21. Dates for the add/drop period of **Semester 2** will be from **10:00am on 20 January 2025 to 4:00pm on 10 February 2025**. Students are NOT allowed to make any changes to their course selection during the suspension period, from 12:00 noon to 4:59pm, 21 January 2025.

22. Dates for the add/drop period of the summer semester courses will be from 10:00am on 16 June 2025 to 4:00 pm on 23 June 2025. There will be a suspension period during which students cannot have access into the system, from 12:00 noon to 4:59 pm, 17 June 2025.

Faculty Office
Faculty of Architecture

29 July 2024

Disclaimer: This document is intended for BA(UrbanStud) first year students as a quick reference. The Information contained in this document may change. If there is any inconsistency or doubt between this document and the relevant Regulations and Syllabuses, the official Regulations and Syllabuses shall prevail.

Appendix A

How can I view the course effectiveness of a course?

- The results of course evaluation can be accessed by teachers and students via the Student Information System (SIS). Please follow the path: HKU Portal > Student Information System > HKU Course Management > Course Effectiveness.

The screenshot displays the 'Course Effectiveness Profile' page. The left-hand navigation menu has 'Course Effectiveness Profile' highlighted with a red box. The main content area features search filters: 'Academic Career' (dropdown), '*Subject Area' (text input with 'LLAW' and a search icon), and 'Catalogue Number' (text input with '1001'). A 'Refresh' button is located below the filters. A table displays the following data:

Academic Year	Academic Career	Subject Area	Catalogue Number	Course Title	Enrollment #	Response #	Response Rate (%)	Mean Course Effectiveness	Course Coordinator's Comments
1 2017-18	UG	LLAW	1001	Law of contract I	284	156	54	77.6	
2 2016-17	UG	LLAW	1001	Law of contract I	248	168	68	75.3	
3 2016-17	TPG	LLAW	1001	Law of contract I	12	10	83	80.0	
4 2015-16	UG	LLAW	1001	Law of contract I	288	152	53	74.3	

Below the table, a note states: 'Course effectiveness ratings are provided by the Social Sciences Research Centre (SSRC). If the number of response is less than 6, "Mean Course Effectiveness" will be masked. For further details, please refer to [Operational Guide for Student Evaluation of Teaching & Learning](#).'