

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CONSERVATION
[MSc(Conservation)]**

*(See Iso General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)
(These regulations are applicable to students who are admitted to the Master of Science in Conservation in the 2020-21 academic year and thereafter)*

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

Admission requirements

Ar121

To be eligible for admission to the curriculum leading to the Master of Science in Conservation, candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (b) hold a Bachelor's degree in a relevant field of this University or from a comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
 - (c) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required; and
 - (d) demonstrate a good command of spoken and written English as a prerequisite for acceptance.
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Qualifying examination

Ar122

- (a) The qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed.
 - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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Transfer of candidature into the Master of Science in Conservation curriculum

Ar123

- (a) Subject to the approval of the Board of the Faculty, candidates who have registered for the Postgraduate Diploma in Conservation curriculum at HKU and have satisfactorily completed the curriculum, may be permitted to transfer directly to the second year of the part-time Master of Science in Conservation curriculum, provided that they
 - (i) comply with Regulations Ar121(a) to (d);
 - (ii) have fulfilled all the curriculum requirements for the Postgraduate Diploma in Conservation at the first attempt;
 - (iii) transfer to the Master of Science in Conservation curriculum in the year they are due for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Conservation; and
 - (iv) are not awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Conservation.
- (b) Upon transfer to the Master of Science in Conservation curriculum, the candidates' period of study for the curriculum shall be counted from the date of their commencement of the Postgraduate Diploma in Conservation curriculum in calculating the maximum period of registration as prescribed in Ar126.
- (c) Candidates will be allowed to transfer their credits and assessment results of the courses that

they have completed for the Postgraduate Diploma in Conservation to the Master of Science in Conservation curriculum, and for the purposes of calculating the Dean's List and award of distinction as prescribed in Ar132.

- (d) If candidates after transferring to the Master of Science in Conservation curriculum fail to complete the requirements of the Master of Science in Conservation curriculum, they may be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Conservation provided that they have satisfied the requirements of the Postgraduate Diploma in Conservation.
 - (e) The Postgraduate Diploma in Conservation and the Master of Science in Conservation curricula are an impermissible combination. Candidates who are awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Conservation shall not be admitted to the Master of Science in Conservation curriculum.
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Advanced standing

Ar124

Subject to the approval of the Board of the Faculty, candidates may be given advanced standing for up to 18 credits (equivalent to 18% of the total credits required for the Master of Science in Conservation curriculum) on the ground that equivalent courses have been passed at another university or institution accepted by the Board of the Faculty for this purpose, provided that no candidate shall be eligible for the award of the Master of Science in Conservation degree set out in these regulations without having completed at least 81 credits in the Master of Science in Conservation curriculum.

Requirements for graduation

Ar125

To be eligible for the award of the Master of Science in Conservation, candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
 - (b) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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Period of study

Ar126

The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of Faculty.

Completion of curriculum

Ar127

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) enrol for courses of a total of 99 credits;

- (c) satisfactorily complete all written work including the dissertation;
 - (d) attend all field trips and complete all assigned fieldwork; and
 - (e) satisfy the examiners in all examinations as may be required.
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Practical training

Ar128

- (a) Candidates shall choose the organization in which they are to carry out the practical training from a list of organizations approved or recommended by the Programme Director.
 - (b) At the end of their practical training, candidates are required to
 - (i) submit a practical-training report for review and assessment by the Board of Examiners; and
 - (ii) obtain a completion of practical training letter from the candidates' practical training supervisor (who must hold a senior managerial, executive or technical position in the organization the candidates have carried out their practical training) certifying the candidates' satisfactory completion of their practical training. This letter, which forms part of the assessment of the candidate's practical training performance, shall be included as the first page of the practical training report.
 - (c) Candidates who have failed to satisfactorily complete their practical training requirement or have not completed the required minimum of 72 contact hours of practical training, but have satisfactorily completed other parts of the curriculum, shall be required to satisfactorily complete a minimum of 72 contact hours of practical training in the following academic year before they may be awarded the Master of Science in Conservation degree, and the number of hours the candidates have already performed in the practical training in the previous year shall not be carried forward.
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Dissertation

Ar129

- (a) Candidates shall submit the title of their dissertation by a date specified by the Programme Director. Candidates may submit their dissertation after the successful completion of their coursework, and shall submit it not later than the end of September of the year, unless special permission is granted by the Board of Examiners.
 - (b) Candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents their own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by their co-worker, which shows their share of the work) undertaken after the registration as candidates for the degree.
 - (c) The preferred length of the dissertation shall be around 10,000 words.
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Assessment

Ar130

- (a) Every examinable assignment including the practical training report and the dissertation must be submitted within the stipulated deadline or within a final extended deadline approved by the Programme Director in consultation with the Internal Examiners.
- (b) Candidates of the part-time programme who have failed in not more than two courses in their first-year or second-year of studies, or candidates of the full-time programme who have failed in not more than two courses in their studies, shall be permitted to present themselves for re-examination.
- (c) If they fail in the assessment at the second attempt, they shall be required to repeat the entire course(s) in the following academic year, and present themselves for the final assessment at

the third attempt before they can be considered for advancement or graduation. If a course that the candidates are required to repeat is not available in the following academic year, the candidates shall take an alternative course of instruction as specified by the Programme Director and take the prescribed assessment. This will constitute the final attempt.

- (d) Candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under General Regulation G12 if they have:
- (i) failed to satisfy the examiners in more than two courses at the first attempt; or
 - (ii) failed to satisfy the examiners in any course at the third attempt; or
 - (iii) failed to satisfy the examiners in an alternative course under the circumstances as described in Ar130(c);
 - (iv) failed to submit any examinable assignment including the practical training report and the dissertation within the final extended deadline stipulated by the Programme Director and the Internal Examiners; or
 - (v) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in these regulations of the degree.
- (e) Subject to the recommendation of the Programme Director, candidates who fail to complete their dissertation after two extensions, but have satisfactorily completed all other courses, may in exceptional circumstances be considered for award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Conservation.
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Grading system

Ar131

Courses of this curriculum shall be graded 'Distinction', 'Pass' or 'Fail' as determined by the Board of Examiners.

Assessment results

Ar132

- (a) On successful completion of the Master of Science in Conservation curriculum, candidates who have passed all the required courses in the curriculum at the first attempt and scored distinctions in at least half of these courses will be placed on the Dean's List and awarded a mark of distinction.