

FAQ 4-year Curriculum & 2012 Admission Intake

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In January 2011, The University of Hong Kong began to celebrate its centennial or 100th anniversary. In recognition of its official founding in 1911, HKU will host celebratory Centennial events over the next two years, including the opening of the Centennial Campus. Starting in 2012, the university will adopt a new, four-year curriculum and welcome its first intake of students under this programme.

For one year only (2012 entry), the previous curriculum of three years will remain alongside the new, four-year plan in order to accommodate the two cohorts of students who will finish school in 2012. This also means that the number of spaces available for incoming first years will double in 2012.

Therefore, in 2012 only, the chance of you being admitted to Asia's No.1 University (QS WUR 2011) is much higher than it was in 2011, or, indeed, will be in 2013! Furthermore, the number of available scholarships will be doubled as well, so that students from all backgrounds will be able to join HKU, so long as you have excellent academic standards, of course! The timeline for applications has also changed as we are introducing a fast-track system for early processing of applications made by Nov. 1. If you are certain that you want to attend HKU or would like an early notification from HKU, you can speed up your application process by using the fast-track system.

To learn more about 2012 admissions, the new four-year curriculum, and how it can benefit you, please see the FAQ's below.

4-year curriculum (<http://tl.hku.hk/reform/>)

1) What is the new 4-year curriculum exactly? How is it better than before?

There is more flexibility in the curriculum, to enable you to design your own degree with courses that are of interest and/or value to you. The whole curriculum is designed to meet the demands of graduates in the 21st century, which are different from those of even a decade ago. You have to be able to work in teams, lead and organize, communicate and present. Intellectually, you have to be able to deal with uncertainty and attempt answers to difficult problems, just as would happen after leaving university. The curriculum, therefore, equips you to be highly sought by employers after graduation, and will help to continue HKU's five-year old tradition of having virtually full employment for all graduates.

2) What are the required credits to fulfill within the new curriculum?

Students are required to complete 240 credits over four years (instead of the 180 credits assigned to the previous 3-year curriculum). Table for reference on the right.

*The requirement for English and Chinese language credits has been raised in order to strengthen students' language skills.

Component	Courses	No. of Credits*	% of Total No. of Credits
Compulsory Courses	Common Core	36 credits	22.5%
	English	12 credits	
	Chinese	6 credits	
Specialization	Major	72-96 credits	30% - 40%
	Minor	36-48 credits	15% - 20%
Electives	Electives for all students	Remainder to complete 240 credits	17.5% - 32.5%
Total no. of required credits**		240 credits	100%

*6 credits = 120-180 student workload hours

** Students are allowed to take additional credits up to 6 credits per semester and graduate with a total of 288 credits

3) Will I have more opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities and internships?

Yes, in fact we strongly encourage it! At HKU, the term "Experiential Learning" will be a major component of your university life. "Experiential Learning" refers to the development of knowledge and skills through direct encounters with the topics being studied. This kind of active learning goes outside the traditional boundaries of the class room, and facilitates a direct and holistic understanding of relevant issues. Participating in study abroad opportunities, community service, student societies and clubs, and internships are all wonderful ways of approaching experiential learning!

Find out more about the experiential learning component of the curriculum. (<http://tl.hku.hk/reform/experiential-learning/>)

2012 Admission Intake



1) Should I apply for the 3 or 4-year programme?

You will only need to submit one application when applying for admission to HKU.

Applicants will be assigned a curriculum by the relevant programme Admissions Committee, based on their academic background. In general, if you have GCE ALEs or IB diplomas or are from a 13 grade school system, you will most likely be assigned the 3-year curriculum. If there are no places left in the 3-year curriculum then the 4-year curriculum will automatically be assigned.

Applicants should not worry too much about which curriculum they are assigned to, but rather focus on making the most of their university experience. These are usually regarded as the best years of your life!

2) What if I have only done 12 years of education prior to my application? Can I be considered for the 3-year curriculum?

The Admissions Committee will review all applicants on a case-by-case basis, however some outstanding students with 12 years of education may be considered for the 3-year curriculum.

3) I have completed 13 years of education prior to my application, and I have been assigned the 4-year curriculum. Can I still be considered for the 3-year curriculum?

Once assigned, you will not be able to change your curriculum. However, you may be considered for credit transfers for the first year through Advanced Standing, to reduce the number of courses you need to take to graduate. Theoretically, you could get as much as a year's worth of credit unit transfers, but each case is different. The general minima and maxima are as follows:

Advanced Standing may be granted to students with (a) GCE A-levels (b) IB diplomas (c) Associate Degrees. Each applicant will be considered case-by-case based on their academic background.

Qualification	CC Credits (36 credits)	English General (36 credits)	English in Major (36 credits)	Chinese Language (36 credits)	Total (240 credits)
Assoc. Degree holders and Undergraduate transferred from other universities	24	6	0	6	120
7-year secondary school	12	6	0	6	60
Mainland students on 1+3	0	0	0	6	60

4) Will my chances for admission be slimmer now that there are two curriculums?

Although it may seem like the curriculum changes will make admission more competitive, in fact, the opposite is true. For 2012 only, there will be double the number of places across the 3-year curriculum and the 4-year curriculum combined. Your chances for admission will in fact be higher.

5) With so many applicants, won't there be fewer scholarships available?

The number of entrance scholarships for 2012 for non-local students will actually increase (and potentially double) as a result of the double cohort of students. A new scheme will be set up to offer entrance scholarships to local non-JUPAS students in 2012. Scholarships worth up to HK\$640,000 (4-year curriculum, non-local) and HK\$240,000 (4-year curriculum, local) will be available.

In sum, students' eligibility for scholarships will NOT decrease in 2012. Entrance scholarships will still be given on the basis of academic merit and consideration of non-academic achievement.

6) HKU is my top choice for application to a university. Will there be a chance for me to receive an early admission?

We no longer have an Early Admission Scheme. However there is an alternative called the Fast Track application system. This system allows you to submit your application to HKU earlier than the regular deadline and to have more time to make your decision. You should apply by November 1, 2011 if you wish to be considered under the Fast Track application system. Early offers (as early as December) will be sent to top applicants in Fast Track. If you receive an early offer from HKU through the Fast Track system, you will also be able to consider our offer alongside other offers from abroad. Other applicants may be shortlisted, which means that your application is being considered seriously.