



CENTRE FOR CHINA STUDIES
FACULTY OF ARTS
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Fact Sheet for Admission Applications for MPhil / PhD in Chinese Studies
2026/27 Admission

The MPhil and PhD in Chinese Studies Programmes welcome applicants interested in advanced research training in the interdisciplinary study of Chinese society, governance, economy, business, literature, culture, and international relations. The programmes are conducted in English and are pursued in a multilingual Chinese community at a university uniquely committed since its establishment to the study of China.

Our MPhil and PhD programmes offer students:

- A devoted group of interdisciplinary faculty advisers with expertise across Chinese society, governance, economy, business, literature, culture, and international relations.
- A vibrant, international, and multicultural learning community.
- Strong research, presentation, communications and writing skills training, with the Yale-China Chinese Language Academy providing an excellent platform for international students to strengthen their Chinese language skills.
- A university library system offering the best resources for Chinese scholarship in the world
- Proximity to major libraries, archives, art collections, and sites for field research in the Greater China
- Generous graduate fellowships

Both programmes have successfully placed more than 90% of graduates within a year of receiving their degree. MPhil graduates have been admitted to PhD programmes at Harvard University, Princeton University, Oxford University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Nanyang Technological University, University of Wisconsin at Madison, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, École Pratique des Hautes Études-Paris, University of Hamburg, Aarhus University, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. PhD graduates have received post-doctoral fellowships from University of Cambridge, Columbia University, the University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown University, University of Victoria, Academia Sinica, NYU-Shanghai, and teaching positions at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong, the Education University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Shue Yan University, CUHK-Shenzhen, Fujian Normal University, Nanjing University of Science & Technology, Nanjing Polytechnic University, Shenzhen University, New York University-Shanghai, and Langara College-Vancouver.

The Programmes and Application Procedures

	MPhil in Chinese Studies	PhD in Chinese Studies
Programme Information	<p>The MPhil student is required to complete a minimum of 18 units of courses, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two required courses (a total of 6 units). • Two elective seminars or courses offered by related programmes and departments (a total of 6 units). • A Thesis Guidance course every term from the beginning of the second year of study until the Master's thesis is finally submitted (a total of 6 units). <p>Students are required to complete an MPhil thesis and to pass an oral defense of the thesis.</p> <p>English should be used in both the thesis and the oral defense.</p>	<p>The PhD student is required to complete a minimum of 27 units of courses, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two required courses (a total of 6 units). • Three elective seminars or courses offered by related programmes and departments (a total of 9 units). • A Thesis Guidance course every term from the beginning of the second year of study (for students admitted with a research master's degree) or the third year of study (for students admitted without a research master's degree) until the doctoral thesis is finally submitted (a total of 12 units). <p>Students must pass the qualifying examination. Students are required to complete a PhD thesis, which should make substantial contribution to scholarship in the chosen field of specialization, and to pass an oral defense of the thesis.</p> <p>English should be used in both the thesis and the oral defense.</p>
Study Mode	Full-time	Full-time
Normative Study Period	24 months	36 months (with a HK MPhil degree) 48 months (without an MPhil degree)
Tuition Fee	HK\$47,000 per annum	HK\$47,000 per annum
Financial Support and Funding	<p><i>(Applicable to both MPhil and PhD students)</i></p> <p><u>Postgraduate Studentships</u> Postgraduate Studentships (PGS) is available to full-time research postgraduate students and will be made known to them at the time of admission. Students awarded PGS will receive stipends in return for assisting in the teaching and research work of the Centre. For reference, the monthly stipend for the academic year 2025-26 is HK\$19,100 for MPhil and PhD (pre-candidacy), or HK\$19,660 for PhD (post-candidacy).</p> <p><u>Tuition Waiver for Local Students</u> The Hong Kong Government grants a tuition waiver to all current and newly admitted local full-time research postgraduate (RPg) students enrolled in UGC-funded RPg programmes for their entire normative period of study. For more details, please visit https://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/funding_opport/tws/.</p>	

		<p><i>(Only applicable to PhD students)</i> <u>Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS)</u> The Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS), established by the Research Grants Council (RGC) of Hong Kong, aims to attract the best and brightest students from across the globe to pursue their PhD studies in Hong Kong universities. It provides a monthly stipend of HK\$28,400 and a conference travel allowance of HK\$14,200 per year during the normative study period for up to three years. For more details, please visit https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/admissions/scholarships-fees/hkpfs.</p> <p><u>CUHK Vice-Chancellor HKPFS Scholarship</u> PhD candidates who are nominated by CUHK to HKPFS but are not being selected by the RGC will be admitted to the regular PhD programme of the University. They will receive the CUHK Vice-Chancellor’s PhD Scholarship of HK\$80,000, subject to satisfactory study progress.</p>
Entry Requirements	<p>In addition to the <u>general requirements</u> of the Graduate School, applicants for MPhil programme must have completed the following in order to qualify for admission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduated from a recognized university and obtained a Bachelor’s degree in an area related to Chinese Studies, normally with honours not lower than Second Class; or • Graduated from an honours programme of a recognized university with a Bachelor’s degree in an area related to Chinese Studies, normally achieving an average grade of not lower than “B” (80 out of 100); or • Completed a course of study in a tertiary educational institution, and obtained professional or similar qualifications equivalent to an honours degree. 	<p>In addition to the <u>general requirements</u> of the Graduate School, applicants for PhD programme must have completed the following in order to qualify for admission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduated from a recognized university and obtained a Master’s degree in an area related to Chinese Studies; or • Have a Bachelor’s degree - normally with Second Class Honours in the upper division or above - and have been registered in a course of study for a Master’s degree at this University for at least one year and have demonstrated research ability;

<p>Language Requirements</p>	<p>Proficiency in Chinese: Applicants should have a good result in the Chinese language paper in Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (AS Level), Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination, GCSE, GCE A-level, SAT 1, SAT AP, HSK, STAMP or equivalent examinations. Alternatively, applicants can submit a sample paper of at least 5 pages in length written in Chinese in order to demonstrate proficiency in Chinese to work on Chinese materials as needed for the thesis research. Applicants who have taken a degree programme of which the medium of instruction was Chinese do not need to provide the aforementioned public examination results or sample paper.</p> <p>Proficiency in English: Applicants must fulfill the English Language Proficiency Requirement prescribed by the CUHK Graduate School</p>	<p>Proficiency in Chinese: Applicants should have a good result in the Chinese language paper in Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (AS Level), Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination, GCSE, GCE A-level, SAT 1, SAT AP, HSK, STAMP or equivalent examinations. Alternatively, applicants can submit a sample paper of at least 5 pages in length written in Chinese in order to demonstrate proficiency in Chinese to work on Chinese materials as needed for the thesis research. Applicants who have taken a degree programme of which the medium of instruction was Chinese do not need to provide the aforementioned public examination results or sample paper.</p> <p>Proficiency in English: Applicants must fulfill the English Language Proficiency Requirement prescribed by the CUHK Graduate School</p>
<p>Application Deadline</p> <p><i>(Applications in Clearing Round will only be considered subject to availability of places.)</i></p>	<p>Main Round: 1 December 2025 Clearing Round: 31 March 2026</p>	<p>Main Round: 1 December 2025 Clearing Round: 31 March 2026</p> <p>HKPFS Application Deadline:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To submit an initial application to <u>RGC</u>: By 12 noon, 1 December 2025 (Hong Kong time); and 2. To submit full application to <u>CUHK</u>: By 11:59 pm, 1 December 2025 (Hong Kong time). <p>Please refer to <u>HKPFS</u> page for more details.</p>

Application Materials Required	<p>Applicants should submit the following supporting application materials:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a research proposal, <u>at least 5 pages</u> in length and written in English. 2. a paper on a topic related to Chinese Studies, at least 10 pages in length and written in <u>English</u>. 3. Documentary proof or recognized test results of the applicant's Chinese ability 4. Documentation showing the applicant has fulfilled the Graduate School's English Language Proficiency Requirement 5. Two confidential letters of recommendation 6. Official transcripts from the colleges/universities attended by the applicants 7. Copies of certificates of academic/professional qualifications (e.g. degree certificates). 8. Applicants who obtained degrees from universities in Chinese Mainland are required to provide a valid Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate (教育部學歷證書電子註冊備案表) and a valid Online Verification Report of Higher Education Degree Certificate (中國高等教育學位在线驗證報告) issued by the CHESICC (學信網) together with their degree certificate and graduation certificate. 9. Copies of identity card or passport 10. a CV. 	<p>Applicants should submit the following supporting application materials:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a detailed research proposal with areas of research interest indicated, <u>about 10 pages</u> in length and written in English. 2. a copy of Master's thesis or sample research paper written in <u>English</u>. 3. Documentary proof or recognized test results of the applicant's Chinese ability 4. Documentation showing the applicant has fulfilled the Graduate School's English Language Proficiency Requirement 5. Three confidential letters of recommendation 6. Official transcripts from the colleges/universities attended by the applicants 7. Copies of certificates of academic /professional qualifications (e.g. degree certificates). 8. Applicants who obtained degrees from universities in Chinese Mainland are required to provide a valid Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate (教育部學歷證書電子註冊備案表) and a valid Online Verification Report of Higher Education Degree Certificate (中國高等教育學位在线驗證報告) issued by the CHESICC (學信網) together with their degree certificate and graduation certificate. 9. Copies of identity card or passport 10. a CV.
Application Method	<p>After submitting application form via <u>online application system</u>, all supporting application materials should be mailed to below address:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Centre for China Studies Room 1102, 11/F, Yasumoto International Academic Park The Chinese University of Hong Kong Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong Attn. MPhil/PhD in Chinese Studies Programme</p>	
Enquires	<p>ccs@cuhk.edu.hk</p>	