The University of Hong Kong
Department of Real Estate and Construction, Faculty of Architecture

Master of Science in Real Estate

Frequently Asked Questions*

A) Admission

1. What are the University Entrance Requirements?
   
   [https://aal.hku.hk/tpg/university-entrance-requirements](https://aal.hku.hk/tpg/university-entrance-requirements)

2. If I have met the University Entrance Requirements, does this mean I will be admitted?

   No, meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to the programme.

3. I have an undergraduate degree in chemistry. Am I eligible to apply?

   Of course. Most of the students admitted to the programme did not study real estate before. They might be working in real estate related sectors, or have a plan to develop their career in the real estate sector.

4. What is the application period for the 2019-20 entry?

   Applications can be submitted from 1 December 2018 to 12:00 noon (HKT), 31 January 2019. There is only one application round each year. Late applications are normally not considered.

5. How can I submit my application?

   Filing an application is a two-step process. First, applicants have to submit the applications via the taught postgraduate online application system at [https://aal.hku.hk/tpg](https://aal.hku.hk/tpg). Second, after the online application is submitted, applicants will receive instructions, via email, to upload supporting documents to the Faculty's Document Submission System. Both steps have to be completed within the application period.

   Once the application is submitted and the fee is settled, information in the application cannot be changed.

6. What are the supporting documents required for step 2?

   a) CV
   b) Final academic transcript of undergraduate (and postgraduate) studies of all the courses taken (*if you have not yet graduated, see Q.10); and
   c) Graduation certificate and/or diploma of undergraduate (and postgraduate) studies (*if you have not yet graduated, see Q.10);
   d) TOEFL/IELTS official score report (see Q.7); and
   e) School attendance certificate (for current Mainland University students only)
You are **not** required to post any physical supporting documents to the Faculty office at the application stage. If you receive an admission offer, you will be asked to submit the originals or the certified true copies of all required supporting documents. “**Certified true copy**” is a copy of a document that has been duly declared as a true copy in front of a notary public (e.g. Commissioner for Oaths at a City District Office, Hong Kong SAR Government), or certified by the appropriate office/department of your home institution.

Documents that are **not** in English should be accompanied by a formally certified translation in English.

7. **Do I have to submit the TOEFL/IELTS report?**

   It is a **must** for applicants from universities where the language of instruction and/or examination is not English.

   For all other applicants, it is highly recommended to submit evidence of their English proficiency (TOEFL, IELTS, or other tests). This is important because all teaching and learning activities in HKU are conducted in English.

8. **Is there any requirement on the choice of referees?**

   You are required to nominate two referees. Preferably at least one of the two referees should be your current or former university teacher who can comment on your academic abilities. Applications with less than two referee reports are deemed incomplete.

9. **What do referees have to do?**

   After the online application is submitted, referees will be invited to complete an online referee form and upload a signed soft-copy (PDF) reference letter with their institutional/company letterhead to the Faculty’s Referee Report System by the application deadline.

10. **I am a final-year undergraduate student. What should I do if I cannot submit a complete version of my academic transcript and graduation certificate by the end of the application period?**

    You should then submit the latest version of your academic transcript, which includes all the available assessment grades/marks of the courses taken. You will be asked to submit complete academic transcript(s) and graduation certificate(s) when you are given an offer of admission.

11. **If I have been granted or have attended an admission interview, does this mean I will be given an offer of admission?**

    No, this is part of the shortlisting process and does not guarantee admission.

12. **When will I be informed of the admission result?**

    Initial screening of applications will begin after the application period. Shortlisted applicants will be granted an admission interview, either in person or via video conferencing, in March or April.
After evaluating both the application material and interview performance, final admission results will be announced from April onwards and no later than July.

13. How much is the tuition fee of the programme?

The tuition fee for the 2019-20 intake is HK$186,000 (for both full-time and part-time modes of study), which is subject to the University’s approval.
Expected study load and mode in the Programme

1. What is the medium of instruction of the programme?
   English.

2. Where and when do classes take place?
   In general, classes take place on the main campus of The University of Hong Kong. Unless otherwise specified, each class lasts 2 to 3 hours and begins at 6:30 p.m. on weekdays. Only a handful of courses will be available on Saturdays. You can refer to the previous timetables at [https://www.arch.hku.hk/programmes/rec/master-of-science-in-real-estate/regulations-syllabus-timetables/](https://www.arch.hku.hk/programmes/rec/master-of-science-in-real-estate/regulations-syllabus-timetables/).

3. How heavy is the study load?
   For a 6-credit course, 150 hours of student working (including 24 contact hours and other student learning activities and efforts) is expected.

   Full-time students normally enrol in six 6-credit courses per semester. Part-time students normally enrol in 3 courses per semester. There are two semesters a year: the first semester is September to December, and the second semester is January to May.

4. How long does it take to complete the programme?
   Full-time students are expected to complete their study in one academic year. Part-time students are normally expected to complete their study in two academic years.

   In any case, students cannot exceed the maximum period of registration, which is two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study. Students who fail to complete the curriculum by the end of their maximum period of registration will be recommended for discontinuation of studies.

5. What will happen if I fail a course?
   If it is a prescribed course, you are required to repeat the same course in the next academic year.

   If it is an elective course, you are required to repeat the same elective course, or take another elective course as replacement in the next semester or next academic year.

   Students have to pay the course fee again when they re-take the failed course.

6. What is the available* major option of the programme?
   I) Real Estate Investment and Finance
   II) Urban Development

*Remark: the availability of the above major option is subject to the offer of the required courses and is at the discretion of the Department.
7. **Where can I find out the groups of required courses for the majors?**

   Please refer to the roadmap of the programme at:


   Note that the roadmap is for reference only. There may be changes to the majors’ requirements from year to year.

8. **Do I need to declare my preferred major before the start of my study?**

   At the application stage, you are required to indicate your preference in major option(s) in the application form.

   Those who are given an offer to study in our programme will be requested to re-indicate their interest in the major option(s) when they are admitted in September.

9. **Can I switch from one major option to another during my study period?**

   Yes. The major option which students could attain is determined by the courses they have successfully completed during their study period.

10. **Can I get a double major?**

    Students are not allowed to obtain more than one major.

11. **As a prospective student, could I audit some classes before submitting my application?**

    Non-registered students are not allowed to audit any class.

    [For any further enquiries, please contact Mr Carlos Lau at (852) 2219-4406 or carloslc@hku.hk.]

November 2018