

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 **13 August 2025 (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 **13 August 2025 (Wednesday) from 1:00pm to 3:30pm, at Room 820, 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, 11 August 2025 (Monday) to 10:00 am, 19 August 2025 (Tuesday)** at <https://ugaa.hku.hk/signup-faa.php>. If you do not sign up by 10:00 am, 19 August 2025, 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 2025-26
- iv. 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 2025-26

4. All BA(UrbanStud) first year students are required to take the following courses in the First Year of studies in the 2025-26 academic year:

Course notes	Credits	Semester
AFIC1005 Introduction to the Built Environment	6	1
URBS1003 Theories and Global Trends in Urban Development	6	1
AILT1001 Artificial Intelligence Literacy I	3	1
One Elective Course	6	1
One Common Core Course	6	1
CAES1001 Academic Communication in English*	0	1 or 2
URBS1004 Urban Analytics Studio	6	2
URBS1005 Urban Problems, Interventions and Design Thinking	6	2
AILT1002 AI in the Built Environment	3	2
CEUC9001 Practical Chinese for Surveying, Urban Studies and Conservation students	6	2
One Elective Course	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 132 credits (including 126 credits of core courses, 6 credits of Faculty Interdisciplinary course), plus a total of 54 credits in language, artificial intelligence literacy and Common Core courses, and 54 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:

- CAES1001 **Academic Communication in 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.

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 at **GCSE/ GCEO** / English First Language at **IGCSE** / English Second Language at **IGCSE** / English Language or English Literature at **GCE AS/ AL**
- 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 HL English Language A: Language and Literature/ HL English Language A: Literature/ HL English Language (B Syllabus)/ HL English Language (A1 or A2 Syllabus); Grade 5 or above in SL English Language A: Language and Literature/ SL English Language A: Literature/ SL English Language (B Syllabus)/ SL English Language (A1 or A2 Syllabus)
- achieved Grade 4 or above on the **Advanced Placement (AP) English Language/ English Language and Composition/ English Literature and Composition Test**
- achieved section score of 630 or better in Reading and Writing of the **NEW Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) in the same attempt**
- achieved Level C2 in Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English/ Grade A in Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English
- achieved a score of 76 in the Pearson Test of English Assessment (Academic)
- 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 Level 4 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 CAES1001 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 4 or below are NOT allowed to use any of the above equivalent standards to get exempted from CAES1001.**
- **Non-JUPAS students* are NOT allowed to use HKDSE results to get exempted from CAES1001.**
- **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 admission to the University will NOT be considered.**
- * **Non-JUPAS students are allowed to use IELTS/TOEFL scores which are achieved within 2 years prior to August 1 of the year they are admitted to the University 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 CAES1001.**
- * **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 CAES1001 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 claren@hku.hk with documentary proof by **noon, 14 August 2025**.

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 CAES1001. 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 CAES1001. Please submit an application by email to claren@hku.hk on or before **noon, 19 August 2025** if you would like to attend Academic Speaking and Writing Test scheduled for **25 August 2025**. *Late submission will not be accepted.*

10. Students who are automatically exempted from taking CAES1001 course (i.e., for achieving Level 5 or above in English Language in HKDSE) may, at their own wish opt to take the CAES1001 course as an elective on a non-credit bearing basis. 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,
CUND9001 Basic Spoken and Written Cantonese for Mandarin Speakers, or
CUND9002 Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society, or
CUND9003 Cantonese for Non-Cantonese Speaking Students, or
CUND9004 Practical Applied Chinese Writing and Effective Presentation Skills for Non-Local Mandarin Speaking Students

For all other students, including students who have not studied Chinese language during their secondary education or who have not attained the requisite level of competence in the Chinese language to take the Chinese language enhancement course, should seek for the approval of the Board of the Faculty by writing to the Faculty Office (email to claren@hku.hk by **noon, 20 August 2025**) to be exempted from the Chinese language requirements. These students are then required to take a 6-credit course in either Chinese Language (CHIN9501 Chinese as a Foreign Language I or CHIN9511 Cantonese as a Foreign Language I) or Chinese Culture (CHIN9521 The Fundamentals of Chinese Characters or CHIN9522 Exploration of Major Cultural Themes across Chinese History) offered by the Chinese Language Centre of the School of Chinese, to satisfy the Chinese language enhancement requirement. The Faculty Office will **NOT** consider late application and any such application submitted in the Second/Third/Fourth year of studies.

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

Course enrolment schedule

13. 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).

14. The online course selection schedule for 2025-26 is as follows:

Date	Event
August 2025 (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 2026)
19 August 2025 (10:00am) – 25 August 2025 (4:00pm)	Course selection system available to students: - Semester 1/full-year courses starting from 10:00am, 19 Aug 2025; and - Semester 2 courses starting from 10:10am, 19 Aug 2025 There will be a suspension period during which students cannot have access into the system: 12:00 noon, 20 August 2025 to 2:29pm, 21 August 2025

1 September 2025 (10:00am) – 15 September 2025 (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: 2 September 2025 12:00noon – 4:59pm
--	--

15. All undergraduates are required to complete their course enrolment via the online course selection system during the course selection period, from **10:00am, 19 August 2025 until 4:00pm, 25 August 2025.**

16. 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.

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

- add/drop any Semester 1 courses/full-year courses after **4:00pm, 15 September 2025;**
- drop any Semester 1 courses/full-year courses during Semester 2;
- change sub-classes of any Semester 1/full-year courses during Semester 2.

18. 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.

19. 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).

20. Dates for the add/drop period of **Semester 2** will be from **10:00am on 19 January 2026 to 4:00pm on 2 February 2026.** Students are NOT allowed to make any changes to their course selection during the suspension period, from 12:00 noon to 4:59pm, 20 January 2026.

21. Dates for the add/drop period of the summer semester courses will be from 10:00am on 15 June 2026 to 4:00 pm on 22 June 2026. There will be a suspension period during which students cannot have access into the system, from 12:00 noon to 4:59 pm, 16 June 2026.

Faculty Office
Faculty of Architecture

31 July 2025

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 HKU Student Information System (SIS) interface. The top navigation bar includes links for My Page, MyEmail, My eLearning, MyLibrary, Events, and MyFaculty. The left sidebar contains a 'Links' section with a red box highlighting 'Course Effectiveness Profile'. The main content area is titled 'Course Effectiveness Profile' and features search filters for Academic Career, Subject Area (LLAW), and Catalogue Number (1001). A 'Refresh' button is present. Below the filters is a table with 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](#).'