

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
BACHELOR OF ARTS AND SCIENCES IN DESIGN+  
[BASc (Design+)]**

*These regulations are applicable to candidates admitted to the first year of the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Design+ in 2025-26 and thereafter.*

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for First Degree Curricula)*

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**Admission to the degree**

**DESN1** To be eligible for admission to the degree of Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Design+ (hereinafter referred to as (BASc (Design+))), a candidate shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) comply with the Regulations for First Degree Curricula; and
  - (c) satisfy all the requirements of the curriculum in accordance with these regulations and the syllabuses.
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**Period of study**

**DESN2** The curriculum for BASc (Design+) shall normally require eight semesters of full-time study, extending over not fewer than four academic years, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester. Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of six academic years, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

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**Advanced standing**

**DESN3** Advanced standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the curriculum in accordance with UG2 of the Regulations of First Degree Curricula. Credits granted for advanced standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.

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**Selection of courses**

**DESN4** Candidates shall select their courses in accordance with these regulations and the guidelines as specified in the syllabuses before the beginning of each semester. Such selection shall be subject to the approval of the Program Director.

**DESN5** Changes to the selection of courses may be made during the prescribed add/drop period of each semester, subject to the approval of the Program Director, and such changes shall not be reflected in the transcript. Requests for changes after the designated add/drop period of a semester shall not be considered, and a candidate withdrawing from any course without permission shall be given an F grade.

**DESN6** Candidates shall not be permitted to select other courses for which a failed course forms a prerequisite unless permission is given by the Program Director for the candidates to be reassessed in the failed course and for them to satisfy the examiners in this.

**DESN7** The Design+ Major will only open to candidates who are admitted to the BAsC (Design+) curriculum, and it will not be offered to other students to choose as a second major.

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## **Curriculum requirements**

**DESN8** To complete the curriculum a candidate shall:

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula;
  - (b) enrol in courses of a total of 240 credits, comprising of 18 credits of BAsC core courses, 96 credits of courses in Design+ Major, 6 credits in English in the Discipline, 6 credits in Chinese language enhancement, 6 credits in Artificial Intelligence Literacy, 24 credits of Common Core courses<sup>1</sup> and 84 credits of elective courses;
  - (c) complete a non-credit bearing course in national education and national security education, and a non-credit bearing Academic Communication in English course<sup>2</sup>;
  - (d) follow instruction in the courses as prescribed under these regulations and satisfactorily complete all coursework requirements set as tests or as parts of any assessment and practical work to be undertaken as an integral part of the BAsC (Design+) curriculum; and
  - (e) satisfy the examiners in the assessment of the courses in the manner specified in the regulations and syllabuses.
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## **Progression in curriculum**

### **DESN9**

- (a) Candidates shall normally be required to take not fewer than 24 credits nor more than 30 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester) unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty, or except in the last semester of study when candidates may be required to take fewer than 24 credits to satisfy the outstanding curriculum requirements.
- (b) Candidates may, of their own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 72 credits in one academic year. With the special permission of the Board of the Faculty, candidates may exceed the annual study load of 72 credits in a given academic year provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed 288 credits, save as provided for under DESN9 (c).
- (c) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty may give permission for candidates to exceed the annual study load of 72 credits

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<sup>1</sup> Candidates should enroll 24 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum from any four different Areas of Inquiry.

<sup>2</sup> Candidates who have achieved Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE), or equivalent, are exempted from taking “CAES1001 Academic Communication in English”. In exceptional circumstances, strong candidates who have achieved Level 4 may be considered for admission to the curriculum but they will be required to take “CAES1001 Academic Communication in English”

provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed 432 credits for the maximum period of registration specified in DESN2.

- (d) Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions at any time during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The number of credits to be transferred shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the degree curricula of the candidates during their candidature at the University.
  - (e) Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty, candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:
    - (i) failed to complete successfully 36 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters, or
    - (ii) failed to achieve an average Semester GPA of 1.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), or
    - (iii) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in the regulations of the degree.
  - (f) Candidates may be required by the Board of Examiners to take a reduced study load of not fewer than 24 credits if their academic progression is unsatisfactory.
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## **Assessment**

**DESN10** Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any one or any combination of the following manners: written examinations or tests, written assignments or exercises, continuous assessment of coursework, laboratory work, field work, research or project reports, or any other manner as determined by the examiners. Only passed courses will earn credits. Grades shall be awarded in accordance with UG8(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

## **DESN11**

- (a) Candidates who are unable, because of illness, to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the First Semester of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within 7 calendar days of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examinations shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.
- (b) Candidates who are unable, because of illness, to be present at any assessment task of any course may apply for permission to present themselves for supplementary assessment of the same course to be held in a manner prescribed at the Program Director's discretion.

## **DESN12**

- (a) Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a D grade or above for the purpose of upgrading.
- (b) Where candidates are permitted or required to present themselves for

re-assessment / re-examination / assessment in an alternative course, the new grade obtained together with the previous F grade shall be recorded on the transcript and will be included in the calculation of the semester GPA, the year GPA, the cumulative GPA and graduation GPA.

- (c) The maximum number of attempts for a particular course or requirement is three.

**DESN13** There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

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### **Failure in assessment**

**DESN14** Candidates are required to make up for failed courses in the following manner as prescribed by the Board of Examiners:

- (a) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
  - (b) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
  - (c) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
  - (d) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.
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### **Honours classification**

#### **DESN15**

- (a) Honours classifications shall be awarded in five divisions: First Class Honours, Second Class Honours Division One, Second Class Honours Division Two, Third Class Honours, and Pass. The classification of honours shall be determined by the Board of Examiners for the degree in accordance with the following Graduation GPA scores (GGPA), with all courses taken (including failed courses) carrying weightings which are proportionate to their credit values<sup>3</sup>:

| <i>Class of honours</i> | <i>GGPA range</i> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| First Class Honours     | 3.60 – 4.30       |
| Second Class Honours    | (2.40 – 3.59)     |
| Division One            | 3.00 – 3.59       |
| Division Two            | 2.40 – 2.99       |
| Third Class Honours     | 1.70 – 2.39       |
| Pass                    | 1.00 – 1.69       |

- (b) Honours classification may not be determined solely on the basis of a candidate's

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<sup>3</sup> For students who have successfully completed two 3-credit Common Core Microcredentials in place of one 6-credit Common Core course, the average grade point of the two 3-credit courses will be treated as the grade point of one 6-credit Common Core course.

Graduation GPA and the Board of Examiners for the degree may, at its absolute discretion and with justification, award a higher class of honours to a candidate deemed to have demonstrated meritorious academic achievement but whose Graduation GPA falls below the range stipulated in DESN 15(a) of the higher classification by not more than 0.1 Grade Point.

- (c) A list of candidates who have successfully completed all degree requirements shall be posted on Faculty noticeboards.

**(SUBJECT TO APPROVAL)**  
**SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF**  
**BACHELOR OF ARTS AND SCIENCES IN DESIGN+**  
**[BASc(Design+)]**

*These syllabuses are applicable to candidates admitted to the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Design+ curriculum in the 2026-27 academic year and thereafter.*

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Candidates admitted in 2026-27 (2026 intake) and thereafter are required to take 96 credits of Design+ Major courses, 18 credits of BASc core courses, plus 6 credits in English in the Discipline, 6 credits in Chinese language enhancement, 6 credits in Artificial Intelligence Literacy, 24 credits of Common Core courses, and 84 credits of electives, totaling 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.

Candidates are advised to refer to the Credit Unit Statement for details related to the courses offered, such as contact hours, student learning hours, workload, and assessment methods.

The syllabuses of the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Design+ shall comprise the following requirements:

**University Requirements**

42 credits of compulsory University requirements which must be completed successfully:

- (i) One 6-credit course in English in the Discipline course and one 6-credit course in Chinese language enhancement<sup>1</sup> (12 credits)
- (ii) 24 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum, each 6 credits course from any four different Areas of Inquiry (24 credits)
- (iii) Two 3-credits courses in Artificial Intelligence Literacy (i.e. AILT1001 Artificial Intelligence Literacy I and AILT9010 AI in the Built Environment) (6 credits)

Candidates are also required to complete a non-credit bearing course in national education and national security education, and a non-credit bearing Academic Communication in

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<sup>1</sup> Students are required to successfully complete the 6-credit Faculty-specific Chinese language enhancement course, except for:

- (a) Putonghua-speaking students who should take CUND9001 Basic Spoken and Written Cantonese for Mandarin Speakers, CUND9002 Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society, CUND9003 Cantonese for Non-Cantonese Speaking Students or CUND9004 Practical Applied Chinese Writing and Effective Presentation Skills for Non-local Mandarin Speaking Students; and
- (b) 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 write to the Board of the Faculty to apply to be exempted from the Chinese language requirement, and 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.

English course<sup>2</sup>

### Design+ Major Courses

|                   |                                                                                                    |                   |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| DESN1001          | Ideas <sup>3</sup>                                                                                 | (6 credits)       |
| DESN1002          | Representation <sup>4</sup>                                                                        | (6 credits)       |
| DESN1004          | Contemporary Issues in Design                                                                      | (6 credits)       |
| DESN2001          | Material Science and Engineering                                                                   | (6 credits)       |
| DESN2002          | Data for Interdisciplinary Innovation                                                              | (6 credits)       |
| DESN2003          | Research for Innovation                                                                            | (6 credits)       |
| DESN4002          | Law, Innovation, Technology, Entrepreneurship: Tech Startup Law                                    | (6 credits)       |
| DESN4004          | Interdisciplinary Processes and Applications                                                       | (6 credits)       |
| DESN2004          | Design+ Studio 1 – Ideation <sup>4</sup> [for 2021 intake and thereafter]                          | (6 credits)       |
| DESN3001          | Design+ Studio 2 – Rationale<br>(Pre-requisite: DESN2004 Design+ Studio 1 – Ideation)              | (6 credits)       |
| DESN3002          | Design+ Studio 3 – Process<br>(Pre-requisite: DESN3001 Design+ Studio 2 – Rationale)               | (12 credits)      |
| DESN4001          | Design+ Studio 4 – Expertise<br>(Pre-requisite: DESN3002 Design+ Studio 3 – Process)               | (12 credits)      |
| DESN4003          | Design+ Studio 5 – Capstone <sup>4</sup><br>(Pre-requisite: DESN4001 Design+ Studio 4 – Expertise) | (12 credits)      |
| <b>Sub-total:</b> |                                                                                                    | <b>96 credits</b> |

### BASc Core Courses

|                   |                                                                                                |                   |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| BASC9002          | Leadership in Practice: Project-based Approaches to Interdisciplinary Challenges               | (6 credits)       |
| BASC9001          | Approaching Interdisciplinarity: Knowledge Beyond Disciplines [for 2023 intake and thereafter] | (6 credits)       |
| SDST1016          | Data Science 101 [for 2025 intake and thereafter]                                              | (6 credits)       |
| <b>Sub-total:</b> |                                                                                                | <b>18 credits</b> |

### Electives

Students will take 84 credits of electives for a second major, or two minors, subject to the prior agreement with the Design+ Programme Director.

|                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| A second major or two minors | (72-84 credits)   |
| Free electives               | (0-12 credits)    |
| <b>Sub-total:</b>            | <b>84 credits</b> |

**Total: 240 credits**

### Course Structure

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<sup>2</sup> Candidates who have achieved Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, or equivalent, are exempted from Academic Communication in English. In exceptional circumstances, strong candidates who have achieved Level 4 may be considered for admission to the curriculum but they will be required to take CAES1001 Academic Communication in English.

<sup>3</sup> DESN1001, DESN1002 & DESN2004 are 'introductory' courses. All other disciplinary courses are 'advanced' courses.

<sup>4</sup> Capstone course

| Course Title                                                                              | Credits | 2026 Intake and thereafter |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| UGRE1001 Introduction to the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law    | 0       | Year 1-4                   |
| AILT1001 Artificial Intelligence Literacy I                                               | 3       | Year 1                     |
| AILT9010 AI in the Built Environment                                                      | 3       | Year 1                     |
| CAES1001 Academic Communication in English                                                | 0       | Year 1                     |
| BASC9001 Approaching Interdisciplinarity: Knowledge Beyond Disciplines                    | 6       | Year 1                     |
| SDST1016 Data Science 101                                                                 | 6       | Year 1                     |
| DESN1001 Ideas                                                                            | 6       | Year 1                     |
| DESN1002 Representation                                                                   | 6       | Year 1                     |
| DESN1004 Contemporary Issues in Design                                                    | 6       | Year 1                     |
| Common Core course(s) / Electives <sup>5</sup>                                            | 24      | Year 1                     |
| CAES9121 Communication course for Architecture Students                                   | 6       | Year 2                     |
| CARC9001 Practical Chinese for Architecture and Landscape Students                        | 6       | Year 2                     |
| BASC9002 Leadership in Practice: Project-based Approaches to Interdisciplinary Challenges | 6       | Year 2                     |
| DESN2001 Material Science and Engineering                                                 | 6       | Year 2                     |
| DESN2002 Data for Interdisciplinary Innovation                                            | 6       | Year 2                     |
| DESN2003 Research for Innovation                                                          | 6       | Year 2                     |
| DESN2004 Design+ Studio 1 – Ideation                                                      | 6       | Year 2                     |
| Common Core course(s) / Electives <sup>5</sup>                                            | 18      | Year 2                     |
| DESN3001 Design+ Studio 2 – Rationale                                                     | 6       | Year 3                     |
| DESN3002 Design+ Studio 3 – Process                                                       | 12      | Year 3                     |
| Common Core course(s) / Electives <sup>5</sup>                                            | 42      | Year 3                     |
| DESN4001 Design+ Studio 4 – Expertise                                                     | 12      | Year 4                     |
| DESN4002 Law, Innovation, Technology, Entrepreneurship: Tech Startup Law                  | 6       | Year 4                     |
| DESN4003 Design+ Studio 5 – Capstone                                                      | 12      | Year 4                     |
| DESN4004 Interdisciplinary Processes and Applications                                     | 6       | Year 4                     |
| Common Core course(s) / Electives <sup>5</sup>                                            | 24      | Year 4                     |

<sup>5</sup> The course taking pattern in respect of the Common Core courses and electives are recommended but not compulsory. Students may make adjustments where necessary with an objective to achieve a balanced study load of not more than 30 credits of courses in each semester and to fulfill the 24 credits of Common Core courses and 84 credits of elective courses requirements.

## Course Description

### **AILT1001 Artificial Intelligence Literacy I (3 credits)**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) literacy is essential for navigating our modern society effectively and responsibly. This course provides students with the skills and knowledge needed to understand AI concepts, interact with AI systems, and critically evaluate their impact. Through lectures, online learning activities and a practical project, students will explore the ethical, social, and technological dimensions of AI, preparing them to make informed decisions in a world that is increasingly AI-driven.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

### **AILT9010 AI in the Built Environment (3 credits)**

The course focuses on various applications, underlying concepts, and theories of artificial intelligence (AI) within different Built Environment (BE) disciplines. It will enable students to:

1. Explore latest AI applications / approaches within the BE.
2. Understand current and potential uses, limitations, ethical considerations, adaptations, and the future development of various applications / approaches.
3. Engage in practical exercises using key AI tools.

The course will comprise:

1. Lectures, tutorials, coursework exercises and/or quizzes.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

### **CAES1001 Academic Communication in English (0 credit)**

The course is designed to equip first-year undergraduate students with a solid foundation in academic English literacy to succeed in their university studies. The course is dedicated to nurturing students' competencies in an English-medium university environment and fostering their confidence in effective oral, written, and visual communication. This is achieved by cultivating students' critical reading skills, information literacy skills, and digital literacy skills for academic English learning. The course also provides students with a comprehensive understanding of academic rhetoric across different mediums, including written, spoken, and visual tasks. By familiarizing students with the key genres and communication conventions in university education, the course empowers students to apply the acquired knowledge and skills to Common Core Courses.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

### **BASC9001 Approaching Interdisciplinarity: Knowledge Beyond Disciplines (6 credits)**

How does knowledge emerge from different disciplines? What is the nature and limit of knowledge generated by different methods? This foundations course will open up an interdisciplinary discourse about knowledge building and integration in arts and humanities, social sciences, and sciences. It will consist of three parts:

1. A philosophical and historical perspective of human knowledge  
In this part students will engage in debates about the nature of knowledge, ways of knowing, and integrating knowledge. Students will also study how certain forms of

knowledge formation have become dominant in our society, and learn how humans have come to know what we know today about ourselves and our planet.

2. From knowledge to judgement

Knowledge is not just about information and facts. Knowledge calls for wisdom to interpret data and to make decisions about how to act upon them; it also requires critical reflections about the human condition and our roles and responsibilities as individuals and as a collective. In this part of the course, we will examine moral principles and ethical dilemmas during the process of building and responding to knowledge.

3. Knowledge sharing

We will look at traditional and creative methods of knowledge dissemination, and explore opportunities and challenges in knowledge transfer in the information society. This course will help students build a solid foundation on knowledge creation, sharpen their critical thinking skills when they confront new information and ideas, and prepare them to become effective analysts and communicators of knowledge.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**SDST1016 Data Science 101**

**(6 credits)**

The course introduces basic concepts and methodology of data science to junior undergraduate students. The teaching is designed at a level appropriate for all undergraduate students with various backgrounds and without pre-requisites.

Students will engage in a full data work-flow including collaborative data science projects. They will study a full spectrum of data science topics, from initial investigation and data acquisition to the communication of final results.

Specifically, the course provides exposure to different data types and sources, and the process of data curation for the purpose of transforming them to a format suitable for analysis. It introduces elementary notions in estimation, prediction and inference. Case studies involving less-manicured data are discussed to enhance the computational and analytical abilities of the students.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**DESN1001 Ideas**

**(6 credits)**

This course explores the history of design, through both Eastern and Western industrial revolutions up to the emergence of the knowledge economy and fourth industrial revolution'. It considers key figures in design, science and art, by examining the creative processes that enabled their work. The goal of the course is to familiarize students with the principles of design and understand it through methodology and execution. Students will examine design not as a cohesive or isolated product of any formal school of thought but rather as a complex and contradictory history bound by prevalent theoretical, social, environmental, technological, political and economic considerations. Throughout the course, students will touch upon two key influences in the development of design thinking: changes brought about by technology and received ideas of progress stemming from the utopian legacy of the Enlightenment.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**DESN1002 Representation****(6 credits)**

Students are introduced in this course to common representational methods and media in both the development of design ideas and their final projection across a range of contemporary design fields, together with their related technologies. Through problem-based group exercises students experiment with the representation of ideas and critically assess representational strategies within different design contexts.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**DESN1004 Contemporary Issues in Design****(6 credits)**

This seminar course examines key discursive issues that impact design thinking today. Emphasis will be placed on understanding contemporary challenges in design practice and theory and their origins vis-à-vis the continuation, diversification, and transformation of the modernist tradition, and the development of specific arguments around the role of design in society. It introduces concepts of ethics, consumption, sustainability and the data economy. Students will engage with major disciplinary questions, themes, and issues including the relationship between design and the digital revolution, sustainability, and the interconnectedness of design and other disciplines.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**CAES9121 Communication Course for Architecture Students  
(Certified Communication-intensive Course [CiC]<sup>6</sup>)****(6 credits)**

This English-in-the-Discipline course is designed to help students to respond effectively to the communication demands of their studio programmes and their future careers. The focus is on raising students' awareness of the genre of professional discourse by providing them with opportunities to enhance their linguistic range in their approach to architectural, cultural, real-estate & built environment literacy.

Activities are organized through engagement in project-based discussion and written tasks designed to simulate the English Language demands on Architectural, Surveying and Built Environment professionals.

The out-of-class learning component of the course will supplement the main aims by consolidating use of vocabulary related to architectural, real estate & built environment and further enhancing students' writing. Students will also become familiar with self-evaluation and with resources they can access to take responsibility to improve their own language skills in future.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**CARC9001 Practical Chinese for Architecture and  
Landscape Students****(6 credits)****(Certified Communication-intensive Course [CiC]<sup>6</sup>)**

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<sup>6</sup> A certified Communication-intensive Course (CiC) which meets all of the requirements endorsed by the Senate, including  
(i) the teaching and assessment of oral, written and visual communication 'literacies'; and  
(ii) at least 40% of the course grade assigned to communication-rich assessment tasks.

Please refer to the respective syllabuses statements on the programme website for the details

The main objective of this course is to enhance the students' command of Chinese for the architecture profession through basic training in presentation skills and in specific techniques for the preparation of target-oriented letters, proposals, plans and reports. This course also aims to develop students' ability to engage in negotiations, debates as well as critical and creative thinking. In order to promote artistic and aesthetic appreciation, thematic lectures and topical workshops on Chinese calligraphic and artistic representations will be conducted. Site visits to traditional Chinese temples, gardens and museums will be organized to provide students with opportunities to gain hands-on experiences of the inner dynamics of Chinese culture. Students will be able to acquire sophisticated Chinese language skills and knowledge of Chinese culture within the context of the discipline of architecture.

Assessment: 50% continuous coursework assessment and 50% examination

### **BASC9002 Leadership in Practice: Project-based Approaches (6 credits) to Interdisciplinary Challenges**

This advanced BASc core course transforms leadership education through an immersive, project-based approach. Building on the introductory course *Approaching Interdisciplinarity: Knowledge Beyond Disciplines* (BASC9001), students will apply leadership theories and approaches (trait, shared, complexity, adaptive) directly in real-world contexts, working with community partners on sustainability challenges that require interdisciplinary solutions.

The course combines brief contextual lectures, extensive field work, and creative assignments. Students will explore and try out collaborative and distributed leadership by implementing community engagement processes, addressing socio-scientific and technological challenges, and applying essential leadership tools: policy analysis, foresight, resilience thinking, and adaptive management.

Through guided practice rather than theory alone students will begin to develop several critical leadership capabilities: distributed decision-making, conflict management, inclusive communication, and strategies for innovation, scaling, and impact assessment. Regular coaching and reflection sessions will help students connect theoretical frameworks with their lived experiences of leadership and collaboration.

At the individual level, this course emphasizes reflexivity (critical self-awareness) and ethical stewardship. By integrating disciplinary perspectives, confronting issues of power and representation, and crafting evidence-informed sustainable development strategies, students will move beyond theoretical understanding towards greater practical leadership competence.

This course is to be taken in Year 2 or above.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

### **DESN2001 Material Science and Engineering (6 credits)**

This course addresses the material aspects and underpinning engineering principles of design, and how material science, engineering, and production influence design. Through case studies, demonstrations and applied exercises, students will develop a clear understanding of physical properties of materials, their functions, behavior in manufactured constructions, and inherent processes and construction technologies.

Students will explore a conceptual framework for sustainable design, and through a broad-based understanding of the possibilities and limitations of different design materials, will consider how material choices in design are determined by the cultural, sociological, commercial and environmental context.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**DESN2002 Data for Interdisciplinary Innovation (6 credits)**

This course explores contemporary methods and tools for the generation, storage, analysis, and manipulation of data as drivers for interdisciplinary design and innovation, and the ethical implications of mining and monetizing big data. Specific technical training will be given in relevant data systems to evaluate current systems for organizing and utilizing data within the design fields in order to understand how data can influence design and open up novel areas of inquiry. Students will also investigate data systems relating to manufacturing, operational, logistic, communication and financial processes, and will explore and debate the nature and potential of emerging ideas such as big data, smart cities, e-health, virtual currencies, and fin tech.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**DESN2003 Research for Innovation (6 credits)**

This seminar course examines both the nature of research practices in design and the concept of design as a research practice. Students will engage in both quantitative and qualitative analysis methods to study how they have been used in different design endeavors. Students will consider the nature of evidence, the reliability of sources, data, and the presentation of research findings. Emphasis will be placed on challenging existing assumptions and research directions within the design field and on the construction of evidence-based arguments to support design propositions.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**DESN2004 Design+ Studio 1: Ideation (6 credits)**

Within this first design studio students apply the skills and concepts they have developed to a set of problem-based scenarios. The studio focuses on the process of problem conceptualization and definition, research and comparative study, selection of appropriate problem-solving strategies; ideation and the iterative processes of generating and testing ideas through speculation, experimentation, and prototyping; and the development and presentation of specific creative solutions. The course will develop an understanding of design language and build design literacy. Field trips form an integral part of the course.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**DESN3001 Design+ Studio 2 – Rationale (6 credits)**

This studio builds on the foundational design studies of the first studio and addresses issues of agency and rationale in design. Why do we design and for whom? Working in interdisciplinary groups, students will be challenged with a series of real-world design problems and scenarios that allow them to develop both critical and analytical skills to

enhance their technical and ideological sensibilities. Emphasis is placed on sustainability in design proposals (and processes) and the need for environmental, societal and community relevance. The course looks to build transferable skills, including structuring and communicating ideas to stakeholders concisely and with clarity, effective interdisciplinary teamwork and leadership, and self-reflection within the design process. Field trips form an integral part of the course.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

Pre-requisite: DESN2004 Design+ Studio 1

### **DESN3002 Design+ Studio 3 – Process (12 credits)**

Studio 3 focuses on a project as a framing concept for the delivery of ideas. It looks at the entire process from the generation of the idea to ex-post evaluation of the product, system or designed service. Through detailed case study analysis, field observation of real-world practices and problem-based design scenarios, students will explore how to optimize a project through the deployment of effective management tools and systems; team building and coordination of stakeholder inputs; creative planning, financing and resourcing, and working within policy and regulatory environments. Field trips form an integral part of the course.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

Pre-requisite: DESN3001 Design+ Studio 2

### **DESN4001 Design+ Studio 4 – Expertise (12 credits)**

Studio 4 follows a project through successive stages of design to gain experience and detailed insight into their design thinking and collaborative decision-making processes within relevant economic, operational, social, and environmental contexts. The course will involve the gaining of first-hand experience in operational requirements, fabrication testing and manufacturing processes, financing and marketing, logistics and project delivery. Working in small interdisciplinary groups, students will document and analyze the processes they encounter and project those back to the class for detailed critical and comparative analysis and speculation. In parallel, students will commence planning work on their own design project that will be undertaken in Studio 5, by developing initial ideas and design processes. The scope and nature of the individual project will be agreed by their supervisor but is expected to draw substantively on the learning achieved within the second major. Field trips form an integral part of the course.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

Pre-requisite: DESN3002 Design+ Studio 3

### **DESN4002 Law, Innovation, Technology, Entrepreneurship: Tech Startup Law (6 credits)**

Technology entrepreneurs often seek new and innovative ways of introducing products and services, whether through new business models (e.g., fintech, online marketplaces, software-as-a-service) and/or new technologies (e.g., use of artificial intelligence (AI), distributed ledger technology (DLT)/ blockchain, Internet of things (IoT)). Even the

profession and delivery of legal services is evolving with these changing business models and technologies. Inevitably, questions arise regarding whether these new innovations conform with existing law and regulations, many of which are still evolving and differ across borders.

This unique survey course introduces students to the entrepreneurial and legal journey of tech startups and social entrepreneurs, broadly covering the myriad of laws applicable to such entrepreneurs, including organization establishment, operations, funding, negotiating partnerships, protection of assets, and consumer protection, as well as to more cutting-edge areas of data privacy and ABCD technologies (AI, blockchain, cloud and data).

Accordingly, this interdisciplinary course welcomes law students who seek to better understand and serve tech startups and social entrepreneurs, as well as students across the university (regardless of their discipline) as would-be tech startup and social entrepreneurs to better understand the journey and pitfalls ahead. Since its creation, LITE Lab has attracted student enrollments from 6 of HKU's 10 faculties - 2022/23 will be the first year the course invites students from the Faculty of Architecture.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

#### **DESN4003 Design+ Studio 5 – Capstone (12 credits)**

In Studio 5, the Design+ capstone experience, students will build on initial concepts and processes developed in Studio 4, and execute their own interdisciplinary, entrepreneurial design project through to implementation. Students will take on the role of disruptive innovators, startups, risk takers etc. but will need to take account of design and user requirements, and address all manufacturing, operational, logistic, financial, marketing and promotional requirements necessary to launch the idea as a commercially viable project. Students are expected to demonstrate many of the skills acquired during the programme. The design project will be assessed by oral examination on the basis of the robustness and completeness of the design processes followed. Students are required to keep a reflective journal of the project and evaluate decision-making processes and outcomes.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

Pre-requisite: DESN4001 Design+ Studio 4

#### **DESN4004 Interdisciplinary Processes and Applications (6 credits)**

Through explorative research and comparative case studies, students examine interdisciplinary design thinking processes and their tactical deployment within different design fields. They explore and develop practical tools to critically analyze collaborative design thinking strategies for their development and application within different social and economic contexts. Functional limitations and requirements of designed processes, artefacts and systems, will be investigated, together with principles and concepts that underpin sustainability in design, such as life-cycle costs and embodied energy.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment