Credit-Based System

All programmes now operate on a credit-based structure. This provides you with greater flexibility in both your selection of subjects and pace of study. Another advantage is that it makes our study programmes more responsive to the changing needs of students and the professions, as well as society. The credit-based structure also makes it much easier to transfer to other programmes, or from other recognised institutions.

Under the Credit-Based System, subjects in any academic programme are evaluated in credits. You are expected to devote about 35-45 hours of study to earn a credit. To graduate, a specified number of credits must be completed within the normal duration of a programme. You are expected to follow a specified progression pattern, although those who have sought counsel and approval from their departments can pace their own studies. However, the maximum period allowed is usually only twice the normal duration of a programme.

Medium of Instruction

Except for Chinese-related subjects, English is the medium used for classes, written assignments and examinations.

Teaching and Assessment Methods

Teaching is usually in the form of lectures, and sometimes tutorials and seminars. Some classes may be supplemented by laboratory and practical sessions.

Academic progress is assessed by methods that can include fieldwork, laboratory assignments, projects, tests and examinations.

Examinations are normally held in December and May every year, after the teaching semesters. For programmes with teaching in the summer, examinations are conducted in July/August.

Professional Recognition

A considerable number of our programmes have obtained either partial or full recognition from relevant professional bodies. You can refer to the respective programme entries for details.

Students who are eligible to sit the examinations of professional institutions and other external examining bodies leading to professional qualifications are encouraged to do so.

Academic Year

There are two teaching semesters, each of 14 weeks, and a summer term in each academic year. The academic year begins in early September, with the second semester ending some time in June and the summer term running from June to August. Successful applicants will be informed of the actual dates for class attendance via the Academic Calendar in the Student Handbook and the Class Timetable posted on the University Portal. You can also check the Academic Calendar at www.polyu.edu.hk/~as in May.