

BALT

BA (Hons) Scheme in Linguistics and Translation
(Programme code : 72424)



THE HONG KONG
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
香港理工大學



中文及雙語學系
Department of Chinese & Bilingual Studies

Programme overview

Mode of attendance :
Full-time
Duration :
4 years
No. of credits required for graduation :
A minimum of 126 academic credits (including 3 training credits)
Tuition fee :
HK\$42,100 per academic year (for local students)
HK\$145,000 per academic year (for non-local students)

Programme aims

- ◆ To train language and knowledge professionals for our knowledge-rich and highly connected world with special focus on biliterate and trilingual proficiency;
- ◆ To endow our graduates with highly sophisticated communication skills, especially in terms of culture and domain sensitivity in intercultural and corporate communication; inter-personal skills and empathy in face-to-face communication as well as over digital media; and technological savvy to master current and future new media;
- ◆ To equip our graduates with a general knowledge of the underlying concepts and profession-specific literacy and skills in linguistics, speech sciences, translation and interpreting, and corporate communication; and
- ◆ To equip our graduates with competence in handling data analytics for language content, and the ability to extract and distil relevant trends and information from big linguistic data for meeting the needs in society.

Characteristics

- ◆ Leveraging the combined strengths of **linguistics** and **translation** to create a synergy of theories, applications and professional training; and
- ◆ Capitalizing on advanced **information and communication technologies (ICT)** to prepare language professionals for digital applications across a wide range of language-related professions (e.g. machine translation/interpreting, automatic tools for text and speech processing).



Academic pathways

The programme offers the following three academic pathways:

- ◆ **The Single Discipline Major Pathway:** BALT as the single degree programme
- ◆ **The Major and Minor Pathway:** BALT as the Major programme and a Minor programme offered by CBS (Japanese Minor or Korean Minor) or another department/faculty/school at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU)
- ◆ **The Double Major Pathway:** A Double Major in Linguistics and Translation & English and Applied Linguistics

The Curriculum

Compulsory Subjects

University Required Subjects

- Freshman Seminar in Linguistics and Translation
- English for Effective Communication
- English for Professional Communication
- English for Advanced Academic Writing
- Chinese for Language Professionals
- Academic and Technical Chinese Writing
- Tomorrow's Leaders
- Service-Learning Requirement
- Cluster Areas Requirements
 - Human nature, relations and development
 - Community, organization and globalization
 - History, cultures and world views
 - Science, technology and environment

Linguistics and Speech Sciences

- Introduction to Linguistics
- Introduction to Modern Chinese
- Semantics: Meaning in Language
- Sounds and Sound Systems of Language
- Pragmatics: Language in Use
- Comparative and Contrastive Studies of Chinese and English Grammar

Translation and Communication

- Introduction to Bilingual Communication
- Introduction to Translation
- Introduction to Interpreting
- Consecutive Interpreting
- Translation for Corporate Communication
- Translation for the Media in the Digital Age
- Translation Studies

Information and Communication Technologies

- Programming and Data Analysis for Language Studies

Capstone Project

- Project in Language Studies

Practical Training

- Work-Integrated Education

Elective Subjects

Linguistics and Speech Sciences

- Syntax
- Phonetics and Phonology
- Language and Society
- Varieties of Chinese
- Cantonese Linguistics
- Psycholinguistics
- Language, Cognition and Brain
- Language Acquisition
- Analysis of Language Samples: Clinical Implications
- Child Communication Disorders and Special Education Needs
- Communication Disorders Across the Life Span
- Language and Speech Production: Anatomical and Physiological Perspectives

Translation and Communication

- Translation for Science and Technology
- Translation for Legal Work
- Machine Aided Translation
- Simultaneous Interpreting
- Literary Translation
- Translation Criticism
- Corporate Communication: Theory and Practice
- Intercultural Communication in Corporate Context
- Advanced Putonghua Communication Skills

Information and Communication Technologies

- Techniques in Language Sciences
- Corpus and Language Technology for Language Studies
- Fundamentals of Computational Linguistics
- Statistics for Language Studies
- Programming Fundamentals
- Data Structures

Free Electives/Minor

- Free elective subjects from any PolyU academic departments
- A Minor from a PolyU academic department

Work-Integrated Education (WIE)

- WIE is a mandatory component of the curriculum which connects classroom theory with practical training. Practicum placement with leading companies, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and social enterprises in Hong Kong, Mainland China or overseas will be arranged for our students. This explains why our graduates are extremely popular with employers.
- Examples of WIE placement in the past:
 - Editor and Translator of New Media, National Geographic
 - International Marketing Intern and Manager Assistant Intern, Villarreal CF
 - Human Resources Intern, L'Oréal Hong Kong Limited
 - Summer Intern (Human Resources), PCCW Limited
 - Content Creator Intern, Daikin Air Conditioning (HK)

Student Exchange Programmes

- Undergraduate students have the opportunity to attend one of our partner institutions in Mainland China or overseas for one semester. The credits earned from the partner institutions can fulfil the academic requirements for BALT.

Overseas Summer Research Programmes

- Six to eight weeks of summer linguistic research experience at prestigious overseas institutions such as University of Chicago, Boston University and University College London.

Career Prospects

- With their strong language proficiency and competence in technology, BALT graduates can pursue careers in various professions, local and overseas, including but not limited to the following:

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|---------------------------------|---|
| • Linguistic research | • Language data analysis |
| • Speech sciences ⁺ | • Digital/social media content creation and editing |
| • Translation/interpreting | • Social/cultural analysis |
| • Administration and management | • Editing and publishing |
| • Education | • Civil service |
| • Corporate communication | • Marketing and sales |

⁺Further study such as the Master of Speech Therapy in CBS or other recognised programmes must be pursued to become a registered speech therapist in Hong Kong.

- Our graduates have worked for various public and private organizations, including:

- European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macao
- Consulate General of Finland, Hong Kong
- Open University of Hong Kong
- Hang Lung Properties Limited
- Hong Kong Maxim's Group
- Tricor Group
- Strategic Public Relations Group (SPRG)



Further Studies

Versatile pathways are available for postgraduate professional and academic studies after graduation.

- ◆ Possible credit transfer to Master programmes offered by CBS in various fields, such as Chinese Linguistics, Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, Translation and Interpreting, Bilingual Corporate Communication, and Speech Therapy.
- ◆ MA, MSc, or PhD programmes offered by local or overseas institutions in various fields, such as:
 - Translation, Specialized Translation with Interpreting;
 - Business Administration, International Management, Public Relations and Corporate Communication, International Business Communication, Strategic Public Relations, Critical Discourse, Culture and Communication, Journalism;
 - Linguistics, Computational Linguistics, Clinical Linguistics, Language Sciences, Language and Cognition, Biological Science, Speech-Language Pathology, Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences; and
 - Chinese Studies, East Asian Studies, and English Language and Literature.

Sharing by CBS students and alumni

Francis Lee (Senior Vice President, FleishmanHillard; graduate of 2006)

"Strong communication skills is a must-have quality in the rapid changing world. CBS programmes have been offering a series of practical workshops which strengthens my communication skills and bilingual language capabilities. The programmes have also trained me to become a good team player to work collaboratively with teammates with different cultures and skill sets."



Chris Lee (PhD student, Boston University; graduate of 2015)

"I received one of the most professional and comprehensive training in town on Chinese Linguistics research from CBS. After graduation from the program, I serve the department as a research assistant. With all the research experiences provided by CBS, I am reading my PhD degree in Boston University starting fall 2019."

Soo Yinn Shin (BACBS graduate from Malaysia; graduate of 2022)

"The core subjects provided by CBS are all well-organized and practical for my future career... I would recommend that you study CBS at PolyU which provides a lot of opportunities to the students, such as overseas activities, internship, service-learning and participate in an outbound exchange programme. So you have the chance to meet people from different countries and have a great exposure to the international world."



Entrance requirements

BALT follows the general entrance policy of PolyU.

For Entry with HKDSE Qualifications

Level 3 or above in English Language and Chinese Language; AND
Level 2 or above in Mathematics and Liberal Studies; AND
Level 3 in 2 Elective subjects
[may include Extended Modules of Mathematics (M1/M2)]

For Non-local Applicants

Qualifications meeting the general minimum entrance requirements of PolyU will also be considered.

Strength of the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies (CBS)

- ◆ Outstanding research in phonetics, syntax, corpus linguistics, Chinese linguistics, data analytics, language processing, neurolinguistics, translation and interpreting;
- ◆ State-of-the-art experimental facilities and language labs, and an e-platform for interpreter training;
- ◆ Speech Therapy Unit (STU) and Master's programme in Speech Therapy (MST);
- ◆ Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad (HKLO) trainer, training students to compete in the annual International Linguistics Olympiad (ILO);
- ◆ Centre for Translation Studies managing the China Aptitude Test for Translators and Interpreters (CATTI).

Enquiries

For academic matters, please contact :

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* The information in this leaflet is subject to review and change. Please visit the above web page for the latest programme information.

