

MA in English for the Professions

Programme Leader:

Prof. Martin Warren
BA (Hons), PgC (Ed), MA, PhD

Programme Code:

71024-MPF (Full-time) /
71024-MPP (Part-time)

What You Will Gain from This Programme

This programme is designed for practising professionals who hold positions of responsibility. Students develop the high level of communicative competence in English that is required for communicatively demanding managerial tasks, such as carrying out advanced research into organisational communication or evaluating language use in the workplace.

Special Features

The aim of the programme is to equip graduates with an understanding of the concepts and skills that underlie the use of English in professional contexts. These include:

- a critical awareness of how communication functions in organisations;
- an improved understanding of the principal language systems of English to be able to monitor their own and others' work-related language use;
- an effective repertoire of practical communication strategies for demanding managerial tasks; and
- research skills necessary to undertake a substantial study of communication within their own organisation with a view to enhancing that communication.

Programme Details

Core Subjects (3 credits each subject)

Stage 1

- **Practical Communication Strategies I***
- **Analysis of Contemporary English I***
(phonology and lexical studies)
- **Analysis of Contemporary English II* (grammar)**

Stage 2

- **Practical Communication Strategies II***
- **Analysis of Contemporary English III****
(discourse and pragmatics)
- **Elective subjects****

Stage 3

- **English as an International Language**
- **Elective subject or Research Design & Methods**

Stage 4

- **2 Electives or a Research Project**

Electives (3 credits each subject)

Information on the range of elective subjects offered can be obtained at

<http://www.engl.polyu.edu.hk/Courses/MAScheme.html>

The completion of 12 credits (indicated with a single asterisk "**") is the requirement for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate, and the completion of a further 6 credits (indicated with a double asterisk "**") is the requirement for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma. The completion of 30 credits is required for the award of a Master of Arts.

Students who take Research Design & Methods and undertake a Research Project take only 1 Elective at Stage 2. All subjects are 3 credits except for the Research Project, which is 6 credits. Students may take Research Design & Methods as an elective subject only.

Duration

- Full-time mode: 1 year

Students study 5 subjects (a total of 15 credits) each semester. In semester 1 students study 4 compulsory and 1 elective subjects, and 2 compulsory and 3 elective subjects (or 1 elective and the Research Project) in semester 2.

- Part-time mode: 2 years

Students take 3 compulsory subjects in semester 1, and 2 compulsory subjects and 1 elective in semester 2 of their first year of studies. Students take 1 compulsory subject and 1 elective in semester 1, and 2 electives (or a Research Project) in semester 2 of their second year of studies.

Entrance Requirements

- A Bachelor's degree or the equivalent in an area of specialism, indicating study through the medium of English;
- A minimum of two years of relevant post-qualification work experience;
- A very high standard of competence in both written and spoken English; AND
- Applicants are expected to meet ONE of the following requirements:
 - A Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 96 or above for the Internet-based test, 590 or above for the paper-based test; OR
 - An International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of at least 7.0 for the listening and reading sections and at least 6.5 for the speaking and writing sections; OR
 - A level of competence in English, as demonstrated by performance in the admission interview and written test set by the Department of English, which indicates that the applicant* is capable of studying successfully at the taught MA level.

Notes:

* This only applies to either native English speakers or non-native English applicants with a Bachelor's degree from a university using English as the medium of instruction (EMI).

Non-native speakers or applicants without a Bachelor's degree from an EMI university still have to fulfil the University-wide minimum language requirements. Exceptional cases shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The programme is primarily intended for those with an undergraduate degree other than in English. However, applications are considered from a range of specialisms, including English. Candidates are expected to be in current full-time employment.

Direct entry to Stage 3 of the programme is possible for holders of a PgD in English for the Professions (with preference given to those with a Credit or Distinction).

Programme Fees

HK\$3,200 per credit (for local students)

HK\$4,500 per credit (for non-local students)

Enquiries

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Student Message

"To gain a competitive edge in today's global business environment, speaking English is essential, but having impressive English proficiency is increasingly important. The MA in English for the Professions programme is designed for professionals who use or plan to use English at work. The programme helps to improve English proficiency and communication skills as it balances theoretical knowledge with practical application. The programme is practical for any work setting and there are definitely opportunities to apply this new knowledge in any profession or even in social contexts. The programme is flexible and able to accommodate most work schedules."

TAN Hui Min, Francine

2014 Graduate

"I am very satisfied with the direction my professional career has taken. Having retired from my job two years ago, I still have a very proactive attitude and therefore undertook to improve my skills in both written and verbal communication in English. The MAEP programme enhanced my English pronunciation in the phonology classes and helped me to understand how to write letters, reports and emails etc. in a coherent style and cohesive manner in the workplace. While MAEP provided flexibility for the busy professional, I was also amazed that a classmate took maternity leave and was still able to complete the course with her determination, and because of the course design. After completing the MAEP, I enrolled in PolyU's Doctor of Applied Language Sciences programme to further improve my understanding of English as a second language, and its usage in business communications."

CHAN Ho Lap, Joe

2014 Graduate

