

Fact Sheet on the Application for the
BA (Hons)/BSc (Hons) Scheme in Language Sciences, Translation, and Speech Therapy
(Academic Year 2023/24)

1. Programme introduction

Founded in 1937, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University is a government-funded public institution. As one of the departments under the Faculty of Humanities, the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies (CBS) offers a 4-year undergraduate scheme, namely **BA (Hons) / BSc (Hons) Scheme in Language Sciences, Translation and Speech Therapy**. The Scheme comprises one of the following awards: the **BA (Hons) in Linguistics and Translation**; the **BSc (Hons) in Language Sciences and Analytics**; and the **BSc (Hons) in Speech Therapy**.

Students admitted to the Scheme study a common curriculum in Year One and complete their chosen programme (one of the above three) over the following 3 years. Students are asked to rank their choices of Major programme in order of preference by the end of Semester 2 of Year One for the consideration of and approval by the CBS. The decision to admit a student to a Major programme is made by the CBS based on the student's choice and their GPA of all discipline-specific requirement subjects at the end of their first year studies. An intake quota may apply.

BA (Hons) in Linguistics and Translation (BALT)

Programme Aims

- To train language-related professionals in 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 cultural and linguistic sensitivity in intercultural and corporate communication; interpersonal skills and empathy in face-to-face interaction as well as digital communication and the technological savvy to address the complex needs and challenges of today's media landscape;
- To equip our graduates with a general knowledge of the underlying concepts and profession-specific literacy skills in linguistics, speech sciences, translation and interpreting, and corporate communication; and
- To equip our graduates with competence in data analytics involving linguistic and textual data, and the ability to identify, analyse and evaluate relevant trends and information using effective linguistic analytic methods.



Programme Characteristics

- Leveraging the combined strengths of linguistics and translation to create a synergy of theory, application and professional training.
- Capitalising on advanced information and communication technologies (ICT) to train language-related professionals across a wide range of professions (e.g. translation and interpreting, the IT industry, language policy making, language teaching, and publishing).

Medium of Instruction

English and Chinese*

**Putonghua by default; Cantonese used only in elective subjects on the Cantonese language*

BSc (Hons) in Language Sciences and Analytics (BSCLSA)

Programme Aims

- To train language and knowledge professionals for our information-rich and highly connected world and the era of digital humanities.
- 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 know-how to master current and future new media.
- To equip our graduates with general knowledge of the underlying concepts and profession-specific literacy and skills in linguistics and bilingual communication.
- To train our graduates in utilising analytic tools, performing and presenting quantitative analyses on language data, and extracting useful information from large-scale language datasets with complex scales.
- To empower our graduates with the ability to create, adapt and utilise language-related applications and tap into advances in artificial intelligence research.



Programme Characteristics

- The programme provides students with interdisciplinary training in areas including language sciences, quantitative data analytics, computer programming and computational linguistics.
- To nurture a deep understanding of how language works (in an individual and in a society) and foster familiarity with the concepts of digital humanities and the tools and methods of collecting and analysing language data in the digital era.
- To strengthen skills in analysing social sentiments, spotting trends in the making, generating predictions and providing insight for business and/or administrative decision making.

Medium of Instruction

English and Chinese*

**Putonghua by default; Cantonese used only in elective subjects on the Cantonese language*

BSc (Hons) in Speech Therapy (BSST)

Programme Aims

- To produce collaborative practice-ready speech therapists with the ability to practise speech therapy safely and effectively in the areas of speech, language, voice, fluency and swallowing with children and adults presenting with developmental and acquired communication disorders and swallowing disabilities.
- To equip students with the professional and academic knowledge base, clinical and research skills, and attitudes and ethics required to function effectively as entry-level speech therapists.
- To cultivate graduates who are able to practise as speech therapists in Hong Kong and serve as speech therapy advocates in mainland China and the Macau SAR.



Programme Characteristics

- The curriculum offers a unique approach to education and training in Cantonese, Mandarin and English, addressing speech therapy in both Chinese and bilingual contexts. A hybrid teaching and learning approach is adopted: traditional lectures are conducted in the first year, and the problem-based learning (PBL) approach is adopted in the second year.

- The curriculum of this undergraduate programme builds on the success of our self-financed Master of Speech Therapy programme, with added emphases on interdisciplinary approaches to rehabilitation and evidence-based practice underpinned by the latest research conducted at CBS.
- The teaching team is composed of academic and teaching staff with considerable teaching experience, proven research track records and extensive clinical expertise.
- Accreditation for the programme will be sought from the Hong Kong Institute of Speech Therapists (HKIST), the local professional body responsible for regulating the speech therapy profession and conducting Institution-based Assessment for Speech Therapy Education Programmes in Hong Kong under the Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions, Department of Health, Hong Kong.

Medium of Instruction

English[#]

[#]Supplemented by Cantonese and Mandarin for Cantonese-speaking and Mandarin-speaking clients in clinical placements

Recognition

Contingent on successful accreditation of the programme by the Hong Kong Institute of Speech Therapists (HKIST), BScST graduates will be qualified to practise as registered speech therapists in Hong Kong.

2. Career prospects

BA (Hons) in Linguistics and Translation (BALT)

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:

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



BSc (Hons) in Language Sciences and Analytics (BSCLSA)

The programme produces graduates who can make meaningful contributions to various sectors of society (e.g. business development, marketing, journalism and media, education, academic research, and public services) by analysing social sentiments, spotting trends in the making, generating predictions and providing insight for business and/or administrative decision making.



BSc (Hons) in Speech Therapy (BScST)

Graduates are equipped to practise as speech therapists in different service settings in Hong Kong, such as the Hospital Authority, non-government organisations, special and mainstream schools, private clinics, as well as other community service providers.



3. Admission and language requirements for non-local students

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

GCE A-level / International A-level	GCE Advanced Level or International Advanced Level with passes in 3 AL, OR 2 AL and 2 AS subjects
International Baccalaureate (IB)	A minimum score of 24 with at least grade 4 in 2 Higher Level subjects
Other non-local qualifications	Please refer to the guidelines on non-local qualifications of PolyU

- b. Non-local applicants are also required to meet the following English language requirement:
- TOEFL score of 80 for the Internet-based test⁺ or 550 for the paper-based test; OR
 - An overall Band Score of 6 in IELTS
- ⁺*PolyU does not accept MyBest™ Score as meeting the English language requirement.*
- c. Applicants are invited to attend an interview, accompanied by a possible written test in English and Chinese, to evaluate their potential/suitability for admission to the programme, and to examine their communication skills and interest in the field of study.
- d. To be considered for the BSc (Hons) in Speech Therapy on a competitive basis by the end of their Year 1 studies, students should be able to communicate verbally in both Cantonese and English effectively; proficiency in Mandarin (Putonghua) is preferred.
- e. Applicants holding alternative qualifications with outstanding academic result and good interview performance may be given a conditional offer of guaranteed admission into a programme of their choice (from Year 2 to Year 4). This will be conducted on a case-by-case basis. Other than ‘guaranteed’ admission cases, priority of programme choice from Year 2 to Year 4 will be based on the students’ GPA of all discipline-specific requirement subjects at the end of their first year studies.
- f. The option of a Secondary Major in AI and Data Analysis is available to the students in the BA (Hons) in Linguistics and Translation and BSc (Hons) in Language Sciences and Analytics programmes. Admission to a secondary major is on competitive basis and subject to different credit requirements for graduation.

4. Entry Scholarship

Assessed on admission and interview scores, non-local applicants admitted to the BA (Hons)/BSc (Hons) Scheme in Language Sciences, Translation, and Speech Therapy may be granted scholarship ranging from a one-off to full scholarship amount.

- a. **Full scholarship**[@]: HKD 152,500 - 205,000 per year (~USD 19,400-26,100; for 4 years)
- b. **Half scholarship**[@]: HKD 72,500 per year (~USD 9,200; for 4 years)
- c. **One-off scholarship**[@]: HKD 72,500 (~USD 9,200)

[@]*Subject to review*

5. Enquiry

- a. Phone: +852 2766 7463
- b. Email: cbs.enquiry@polyu.edu.hk
- c. Website: <https://polyu.hk/azpEa>



Remarks: The information on this fact sheet is subject to change. PolyU reserves the right to change or withdraw the scholarship at any time. In case of any dispute/disagreement, PolyU's decision is final.