



香港學術及職業資歷評審局
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of
Academic & Vocational Qualifications

SUMMARY ACCREDITATION REPORT

THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

LEARNING PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION

**MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN
GLOBAL AND HONG KONG STUDIES**

DECEMBER 2015

This accreditation report is issued by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) in its capacity as the Accreditation Authority as provided for under the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Cap 592) (AAVQO). This report outlines HKCAAVQ's determination, the validity period of the determination as well as any conditions or restrictions on the determination.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Hong Kong Institute of Education (the Institute) was established in 1994 to provide teacher education programmes, and has been granted self-accrediting status for teacher education programmes at degree level and above since 2004. The Government gave support in 2009 for the Institute to develop into a multidisciplinary institution, with priority given to the strategic development of teacher education, offering programmes in Education and other complementary disciplines, as well as undertaking research and research training. Since 2010, the Institute has introduced a number of undergraduate programmes in its self-identified complementary disciplines, which were accredited by the HKCAAVQ. In addition to undergraduate programmes, two Master Degree programmes were successfully accredited and launched in 2013. Also, the Institute was granted the Programme Area Status for three programme areas for a validity period of five years in September 2014.
- 1.2 Based on the Service Agreement, HKCAAVQ was commissioned by the Institute to conduct a learning programme accreditation exercise with the following Terms of Reference:
 - (a) To determine whether the Master of Social Sciences in Global and Hong Kong Studies Programme of the Institute meets the stated objectives and Qualifications Framework (QF) standard and can be offered as an accredited programme from the 2016/17 academic year; and
 - (b) To issue to the Institute an accreditation report covering the named programme setting out HKCAAVQ's determination in relation to (a) above.
- 1.3 A site visit took place on 15-16 October 2015.

2. HKCAAVQ's Accreditation Determination

Having due consideration of the accreditation panel's observations and comments as presented in this Report, HKCAAVQ makes the following accreditation determination:

2.1 Learning Programme Accreditation

Approval

Name of Operator	The Hong Kong Institute of Education 香港教育學院
Name of Award Granting Body	The Hong Kong Institute of Education 香港教育學院
Title of Learning Programme	Master of Social Sciences in Global and Hong Kong Studies Programme 全球及香港研究社會科學碩士課程
Title of Qualification (Exit Award)	Master of Social Sciences in Global and Hong Kong Studies 全球及香港研究社會科學碩士
Primary Area of Study / Training	Social Sciences
Other Area of Study / Training	Not applicable
QF Level (Exit Award)	Level 6
QF Credits	Not applicable
Mode of Delivery and Programme Length	Full-time, 1 year Part-time, 2 years
Start Date of Validity Period	1 September 2016
End Date of Validity Period	31 August 2019
Number of Enrolments	Two enrolments per year
Maximum Number of New Students	26 per year for full-time mode 20 per year for part-time mode
Specification of Competency Standards-based Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Address of Teaching Venue	10 Lo Ping Road, Tai Po, New Territories

2.1.1 Recommendations

- (a) The Institute should re-consider the balance of coverage between Hong Kong and global aspects within individual courses in particular the global core courses.
- (b) The Institute should embed more cultural contents in the courses or add cultural course(s) to the Programme, as and when appropriate.
- (c) The Institute should add additional Elective(s) to the Programme, as and when appropriate.
- (d) The Institute should retitle Hong Kong Politics to Hong Kong History and Politics and Advanced Seminar in Hong Kong Studies to Current Research Seminar in Hong Kong Studies.
- (e) With regard to the Elective Dissertation, the Institute should divide assessment into two parts: continuous assessment and assessment of the final dissertation, with a higher percentage for the final dissertation, and to use an alternative course title, such as *Capstone* or *Independent Project* to truly reflect the nature of the course of lesser intensity than a quality Dissertation.
- (f) The Institute should recruit replacement staff in Economics.
- (g) The Institute should adopt a mechanism, for instance a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA), in selecting students for Dissertation.
- (h) The Institute should introduce a mechanism that ensures a higher degree of consistency of grading across assessment methods.

3. Programme Details

The following programme information is provided by the operator.

3.1 Programme Objectives

- develop multidisciplinary perspectives for students to comprehend the transformations and developments of Hong Kong and the world;

- foster in students a deep understanding of Global Studies, Hong Kong Studies and the interface and interactions between the local and the global dimensions; and
- assist students in mastering the skills of researching, exploring and analysing the complex interactions between Hong Kong and the world.

3.2 Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

On completion of the Programme, graduates should be able to:

- understand the complexity and dynamism in Hong Kong's developments in the national, regional and global contexts;
- acquire multiple perspectives in studying Hong Kong and its interaction with Greater China, Asia-Pacific and the globalizing world;
- apply concepts, theories and methodology of Global and Hong Kong Studies empirically to case studies and real-life examples; and
- appreciate the multiplicity and diversity of values in Global and Hong Kong Studies.

3.3 Programme Structure

Course	Core	Elective	Generic	Specialised	Contact hours	Credits
Global Studies						
Global and Area Studies: Concepts and Methods	v			v	39	3
Global Society	v			v	39	3
Governing the Global Economy	v			v	39	3
Global Politics	v			v	39	3
Hong Kong Studies						
Hong Kong Economy	v			v	39	3
Hong Kong Society	v			v	39	3
Hong Kong Politics	v			v	39	3
Advanced Seminar in Hong Kong Studies	v			v	39	3
Dissertation						
Dissertation		v		v	--	6

Local and National Issues in Education		v	v		39	3
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3.4 Graduation Requirements

To be eligible for the award of the Master of Social Sciences in Global and Hong Kong Studies degree, students are required to (a) achieve the minimum number of credit points required by the Programme and satisfy all other stipulated programme requirements such as Field Experience, language exit requirements, and Dissertation/Thesis/Research Project (if applicable); (b) obtain a Programme GPA of 2.00 or above; and (c) complete the requirements as prescribed by the Programme.

3.5 Admission Requirements

For admission to this Programme under the normal entry route, applicants are expected to hold a recognised Bachelor Degree or equivalent qualification. For those whose entrance qualifications are obtained from institutions in a non-English speaking system are expected to satisfy one of the following postgraduate admission language requirements:

- IELTS 6.0; or
- a TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based test) or 80 (internet-based test) or 213 (computer-based test); or
- Grade C or above in GCSE / GCE O-Level English; or
- Band 6 in the Chinese Mainland's College English Test (CET) (a total score of no lower than 430 if the test was taken after June 2005); or
- Other equivalent qualifications.

3.6 Graduate Profile

Please refer to **Appendix**.

4. Substantial Change

- 4.1 Maintenance of the HKCAAVQ accreditation status during the validity period is subject to no substantial change being made without prior approval from HKCAAVQ.

5. Qualifications Register

- 5.1 Qualifications accredited by HKCAAVQ are eligible for entry into the Qualifications Register (QR) at <http://www.hkqr.gov.hk> for recognition under the Qualifications Framework (QF). The Operator should apply separately to have their quality-assured qualifications entered into the QR.

- 5.2 Only learners who are admitted to the named accredited learning programme during the validity period and who have graduated with the named qualification uploaded in the QR will be considered to have acquired a qualification recognised under the QF.

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Appendix

Graduate Profile of Master of Social Sciences in Global and Hong Kong Studies

Qualification Title	Master of Social Sciences in Global and Hong Kong Studies 全球及香港研究社會科學碩士
Qualification Type	Master Degree
QF Level	Level 6
Primary Area of Study / Training	Social Sciences
Other Area of Study/Training	Not applicable
Programme Objectives	The objectives are: (a) To develop multidisciplinary perspectives for students to comprehend the transformations and developments of Hong Kong and the world; (b) To foster in students a deep understanding of Global Studies, Hong Kong Studies and the interface and interactions between the local and the global dimensions; and (c) To assist students in mastering the skills of researching, exploring and analysing the complex interactions between Hong Kong and the world.
Programme Intended Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of the programme, students should be able to demonstrate the following abilities: (a) Understand the complexity and dynamism in Hong Kong's developments in the national, regional and global contexts; (b) Acquire multiple perspectives in studying Hong Kong and its interaction with Greater China, Asia-Pacific and the globalizing world; (c) Apply concepts, theories and methodology of Global and Hong Kong Studies empirically to case studies and real-life examples; and (d) Appreciate the multiplicity and diversity of values in Global and Hong Kong Studies.

Education Pathways	Graduate of this programme will be able to pursue their doctoral studies, or another Master-level studies, in a variety of disciplines, ranging from China Studies to Hong Kong Studies, from global studies to disciplinary subjects such as sociology and political science, and from interdisciplinary studies to specific disciplinary research degrees. This programme will offer multiple education pathways for graduates to consider and pursue locally, regionally and globally.
Employment Pathways	Graduates of this programme will be equipped with multidisciplinary perspectives and inquiry skills to understand Hong Kong and its relations with Mainland China, Taiwan, Macao and the world. Such knowledge and skills are applicable to a wide range of careers in the government, mass media, education, non-governmental organizations, as well as in private enterprises.
Minimum Admission Requirements	<p>(a) Applicants should normally hold recognized Bachelor's degrees or equivalent.</p> <p>(b) Applicants whose entrance qualifications are obtained from institutions in a non-English speaking system should normally meet the Institute's post-graduate admission language requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS 6.0; or • a TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based test) or 80 (internet-based test) or 213 (computer-based test); or • Grade C or above in GCSE / GCE OL English; or • Band 6 in the Chinese Mainland's College English Test (CET) (a total score of no lower than 430 if the test was taken after June 2005); or • Other equivalent qualifications.
Operator	The Hong Kong Institute of Education 香港教育學院