



Interdisciplinary  
Studies



BASc | HKU  
Bachelor of Arts & Sciences



Faculty of  
Social Sciences  
The University of Hong Kong  
香港大學社會科學學院

社  
科  
人  
Scientist

# Bachelor of Arts & Sciences (Interdisciplinary Studies)

JUPAS Code: JS6212

## Viewbook (2023-2024)

### - STUDY WHAT YOU LOVE -

Follow your fascination with nature, culture, and humanity, whilst developing your artistic, social and scientific intelligence

### - STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD -

Develop a distinctive interdisciplinary toolkit to connect diverse people and expertise, leading to new discoveries and innovation

### - DEVELOP AS YOUR IDEAL SELF -

Study under renowned scholars, industry pioneers and empathetic mentors who value your strengths and individuality

### - DESIGN YOUR OWN CURRICULUM -

Choose courses that reflect your interests, passions and aspirations, with personalised academic and career guidance



# The Personalised BAsc (Interdisciplinary Studies)

**Interdisciplinary Studies** draws upon the specialised knowledge developed by different disciplines (e.g. psychology, biology, history and literature) and integrates their unique perspectives into a holistic synthesis. This synthesis empowers students to address topics, answer questions, or solve problems that are too complex to be dealt with by a single discipline.

The **BAsc in Interdisciplinary Studies at HKU** is designed for students to become *exceptionally well-rounded*. As the most personalised degree programme in Hong Kong, we offer students the chance to create their own degree under the mentorship of teachers who truly care about students' passions, ambitions and whole person development. Our students explore and develop their intellectual interests during their university studies.

## BAsc (Interdisciplinary Studies) Programme Pillars

### Holistic Development

Academic, social and emotional development of the whole person

### Personalised Learning

Experiences that reflect students' unique interests, passions and formative ambitions



### Multiple Literacies

Aspirations to become literate in several areas as a community of well-rounded, local and global citizens

### Interdisciplinary Education

Integrating disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge through case studies, research opportunities and capstone projects

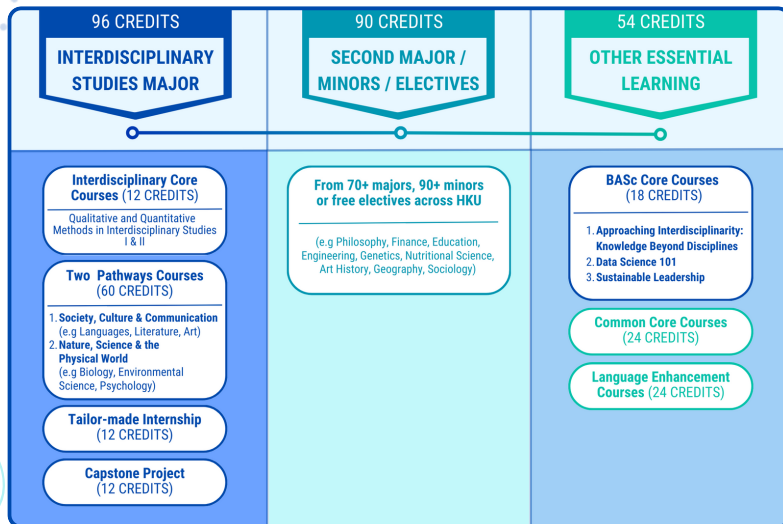


Over the course of four years, we educate *and* train our students to tackle complexity, forge connections among disciplines, gain heightened self-awareness of their strengths and capabilities, and acquire deeper understandings of the world. We aim to cultivate within students a rare unity between unbounded imagination and creativity from the humanistic disciplines, with rigour and systematic analysis from the scientific disciplines.

Our students are provided maximal flexibility and choice over what they learn, with opportunities to develop compassionate leadership and work-readiness skills that apply to the real world. **As true interdisciplinarians, our students develop their potential as young scholars with a signature intellectual agility for an ever-changing world.**



# What You'll Study: Curriculum Structure



The **Two Pathways Courses\*** are selected from the Faculties of Arts, Science and Social Sciences. Students can freely explore courses, or focus them on a thematic area of interest (what we call the 'Concentration'). For example:

## A Concentration in Environmental Crises and Sustainability

### Pathway A: Society, Culture & Communication

Faculty of Arts	Faculty of Science	Faculty of Social Sciences
<b>HIST2138:</b> Humanity in Crisis: Humanitarianism in the Modern World	<b>PHYS1056:</b> Weather, Climate and Climate Change	<b>GEOG2030:</b> Global development
<b>CHIN1211:</b> Economic and Social Development in China	<b>ENVS2002:</b> Environmental Data Analysis	

### Pathway B: Nature, Science & the Physical World

Faculty of Arts	Faculty of Science	Faculty of Social Sciences
<b>HIST3027:</b> Natural Disasters in History, 1700 to Present	<b>ENVS1401:</b> Introduction to Environmental Science	<b>GEOG1003:</b> Contemporary Global Environmental Issues
	<b>EASC2404:</b> Introduction to Atmosphere and Hydrosphere	<b>GEOG3214:</b> Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Auditing

\*For detailed course lists, please visit our programme website

## Distinctive Programme Features:

### Personalised Concentration option:

Unique to the BASc (Interdisciplinary Studies), students may choose to focus their courses and learning experiences on an **interdisciplinary theme** (e.g. Mental Health; Diversity & Inclusion)

### Tailor-Made /Social Innovation Internship:

Hands-on work experience with community partners to develop professional knowledge and skills during the academic year (Part-Time) or in the summer (Full-Time).

### BAScLab and Interdisciplinary Student Research Fellowships

A collaborative initiative for students to lead and develop research projects whilst working together with their peers and staff at HKU. It is an excellent preparation for further research postgraduate studies. **The lab gives students the support and financial resources (up to \$10,000 for each project) to refine the skills they acquired in their courses, whilst making a meaningful impact locally and globally.** In the BAScLab, we emphasise student-staff partnerships, and help projects make an impact either for the HKU community or the wider world.

Check out our BAScLab project involving teachers and students featured in **University World News** and published in an academic, peer-reviewed journal (*Educational Review*)!



Scan each QR code to see more details!



## Multiple Literacies x Experiential Learning (MLEx)

MLEx is a new BAsC (Interdisciplinary Studies) curriculum feature designed to furnish our students with the intellectual tools to engage with complexity, diverse perspective-taking, and to find common ground among disciplines for knowledge integration. Through field trips, we cultivate five foundational literacies that encompass a wide range of disciplines and perspectives:

### 1. Social, Cultural, and Political (SCP) Literacies:

These literacies weave together a nuanced understanding of the intricate relationships among individuals, communities, and nations. They empower students to become active, responsible, and informed global citizens capable of effecting positive change in their communities and beyond.

### 2. Linguistic, Literary, and Communicative (LLC) Literacies:

These literacies underscore the significance of proficient communication across diverse modalities. They enable students to engage with diverse arrays of texts and media, equipping them with abilities to express themselves eloquently and persuasively across a variety of contexts.

### 3. Sustainability, Environmental, and Ecological (SEE) Literacies:

These literacies emphasize the critical importance of understanding the intersections between human societies and the natural environment. They nurture students' knowledge of global environmental challenges, and help them find ways to address the impacts of climate change and global warming, locally and globally.

### 4. Artistic, Creative, and Aesthetic (ACA) Literacies:

These literacies hone students' profound appreciation for the myriad forms of artistic expression and their invaluable contributions to human cultures. They guide students towards contributing to the enrichment of cultural discourse, and to engage in meaningful self-expression across a wide range of artistic mediums.

### 5. Scientific, Technological, and Quantitative (STQ) Literacies:

These literacies encompass basic understandings of the principles and methodologies that underpin scientific inquiry, technological advancement, and quantitative reasoning. They enable students to comprehend the broader implications of scientific discoveries and technological innovations and how they can contribute to the betterment of society.

## Admissions Requirements

### *JUPAS Applicants*

Preference given to applicants ranking BAsC in Band A

Best 5 among Category A or C subjects  
English language: Level 5 or above #\*

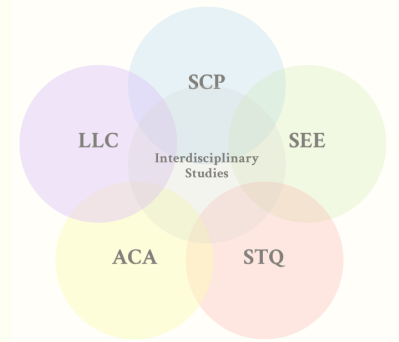
# Subject weighting: English score x 1.5

\* Candidates with level 4 in English Language and good results in other HKDSE subjects will be exceptionally considered on a case-by-case basis, but they will have to take an additional English course if admitted.

### *Non-JUPAS Applicants*

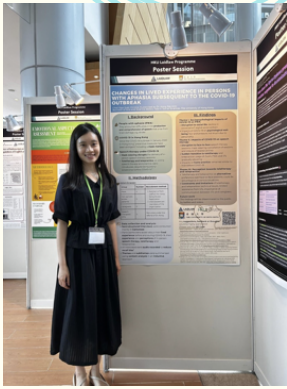
Preference given to applicants ranking BAsC as their First Choice

Minimum Standard:  
University Entrance Requirements





# Interdisciplinary Studies Student Experiences



## Chan Ngo Suet, Christie (BASc II)

As a freshman, I introduced myself as being ‘more interested in quantitative science’. Or so I thought. The course BASC1001 has forged a cheerful farewell to the self I was accustomed to – qualitative research could be just as intriguing! Soon, **I found myself typing my research proposal for the Laidlaw Scholarship application, during which the learnings from BASC1001 came in handy.** The course also introduced me to Dr Hoang, who generously provided guidance and support. Venturing into my Laidlaw Scholar journey, my experience has been far from ‘academic-oriented’ and ‘individual office work’ – alongside meeting new friends from my Laidlaw cohort and becoming part of a research team, I have enjoyed great work flexibility too!

*Christie is a graduate of St. Margaret’s Co-Educational English Primary & Secondary School*

## Wong On Kiu, Kelly (BASc III)

I always wanted to experience various areas of study. Yet, no other programs could satisfy my interests except the unique BASc. Not only are we allowed to take multiple courses from several faculties, but it is also totally up to us to pursue a 2nd major. **One of the best things as a BASc student is that we are able to encounter schoolmates from different academic backgrounds every day. Since we are not limited to a specific type of course, encountering new people and new concepts can be inspiring as we listen to them.** This process further enhances our adaptability to new challenges. As I proceed into my senior year, I am starting to ‘feel’ the relationship across different disciplines, and I am excited to implement them into my future studies in BASc.

*Kelly is a graduate of Yuen Long Merchants Association Secondary School*



## Ngai Ching Yung, Amy (BASc II)

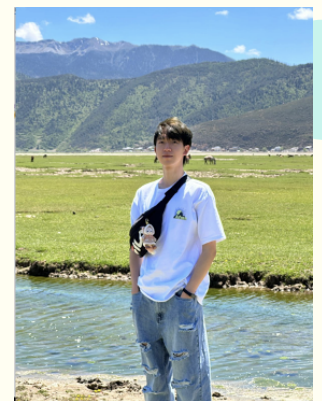
I was never a “stick to the status quo” person. Being ambitious and innately curious, the “stay hungry stay foolish” vibes of the programme fascinated me. I often felt out of place because of my diverse range of interests: **Is there a study plan that is tailored to my needs? Or a future job of a cross-disciplinary nature that I would find enriching and worthwhile? The immense freedom given by BASc to weave my own study plan and career path is what I have always enjoyed.** I’m currently planning to do a second major in Psychology and maybe a minor in Comparative Literature. BASc was a gut-feeling decision that I’m happy with and I’m thrilled to continue exploring what’s in store for me!

*Amy is a graduate of St. Paul’s Co-Educational College*

## Yeung Chak Kwan, William (BASc III)

BASc is a degree perfect for people who constantly seek new challenges and vigorously want to explore the world. Back in secondary school, I was interested in both arts and social sciences. Seeing the description of BASc, I immediately decided to put this as A1 of my JUPAS choice. It did not disappoint, offering me vast opportunities to excavate knowledge from all disciplines. I enjoy discovering interesting topics and relating them to my area of interest. **The flexibility of choosing Entrepreneurship, Design, and Innovation (EDI) offered by HKU Business School as my second major allowed me to solve real-world problems in an interdisciplinary setting.** These two majors combined would be suitable for those who wishing to balance academic studying and job seeking.

*William is a graduate of Wah Yan College*



## Poon Kwok Hang, Henry (BASc IV)

I was interested in multiple disciplines like Psychology, Sociology, and Chinese Literature. After knowing that the BASc programme offers the flexibility to construct my own interdisciplinary learning pathway, I selected the programme as my A1 JUPAS choice. After exploring and distilling my academic interests, I declared a second major in Chinese Language and Literature. **The best thing about BASc is the close-knit community where I feel included and supported. I can always talk to my classmates and professors in our common room and Discord channel. Many of my classmates are my best friends at HKU who I can depend on.** Also, when I encounter difficulties in my research projects, BASc professors are always willing to provide me with detailed and practical advice.

*Henry is a graduate of Ying Wa College*

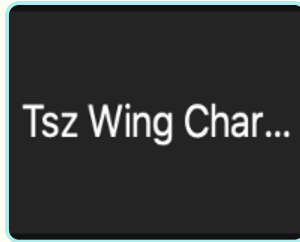
# Alumni Profiles

**Charmaine Wong, BAsc'23** Major in Interdisciplinary Studies, Major in Psychology

Memorable Y1 moment    Memorable Y2 moment    Memorable Y3 moment    Memorable Y4 moment



"I didn't know what I was doing but I pulled through."



"COVID happened so now everyone didn't know what they would be doing."



"Went all over the world and met people from all over the world!"



"Working on my final year assignments: Reading, writing, deleting, reading, writing, deleting."

## **BASC4001 Interdisciplinary Capstone Project:**

*Theorising Film as an Embodied Simulation Experience: The Mental Processing and Therapeutic Potentials of Film*

I reflected on the process of film selection and the success of participants achieving positive impacts after watching and discussing a short film. Through the reflection, I built a theoretical framework to explain the mental processing of information perceived in films or 'filmic information'. I applied the framework to a case study to explain and illustrate that the watching of a film with a therapeutic goal assigned by a therapist allows an easier expression of thoughts and provides new insights into patients or their situation.

## **First Job After Graduation:**

Research Assistant in the Department of Psychiatry at HKU, working on projects related to schizophrenia.

## **Gitanjali Anna Pies, BAsc'23**

*Major in Interdisciplinary Studies & Economics, Minor in Journalism & Media Studies*



**BASC4001 Interdisciplinary Capstone Project:** *What Kind of Person is Produced by the State? Unravelling Conditions of Inequality and Unequal Personhood in Hong Kong Since 1997 (Winner of Best Student Work Award 2023)*

My topic was to unravel key components that factor into the socioeconomic-political elements comprising 'personhood' and develop a conceptual model that can be used to study the interconnectedness among the various factors and 'the human'. I explored the relationship between the government and the individual, and the ties between the unique combination of elements giving rise to 'personhood'.

## **First Job After Graduation:**

Research Assistant in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration at HKU, working on a couple of projects regarding migration and elderly care, conducting policy analysis on Hong Kong's ageing, and the role of the government in providing long-term care.

**Lead Designer of this Viewbook: Briana Lau**

*A final year student of the BASc, also graphic designer for the BASc Society!*

