**B.SocSc. (Hons) in European Studies**

European Studies is a four-year programme centered in the Department of Government and International Studies. Its aim is to give students a firm knowledge of the basic features of the European world through a combination of political, historical, social, linguistic and business-oriented studies, together with the experience of living, studying and working in Europe itself.

**European Major**

The Major in European Studies provides the core of the programme. It consists of obligatory courses in *European Language in Context* (French or German), courses about European, French and German history and contemporary cultural, social, economic and political dimensions of the French- and German-speaking societies of Europe.

The Major in European Studies includes a complex academic thesis on a self-selected topic in either one of these fields at the end of the four-year programme.

**Language**

As part of the Major in European Studies, the language component of the programme is intensive and rigorous. Students must choose at the outset whether they wish to learn French or German. During the first two years students are trained to a level of fluency, which allows them to study, work and live in a French- or German-speaking environment. Language training on advanced levels is completed in the final year, so as to allow students to use French/German in a professional or academic environment either in Hong Kong or a French-/German-speaking country.

**Academic Focus**

Political science provides an important disciplinary focus. Students acquire knowledge and skills for the study of politics and society in two major states of Europe: France and Germany. Problems and prospects of European integration are introduced and the European Union is examined in detail. This is complemented by studies on European economic and business life so as to prepare students for future careers.

**Electives**

Students can choose elective subjects during their third year in Europe. Depending on the study location, there is the possibility to build up concentrations in Political Science or related social-science disciplines as well as business-related studies.

**General Education**

In accordance with the University’s concept of *Whole-Person Education*, students must enroll in General Education courses. These include *English, Chinese, Public Speaking, Information Management Technology, Numeracy, History & Civilization and Philosophy*. The aim is to equip all graduates with skills necessary to cope with a fast-changing social and economic environment and to enable them to become lifelong learners.

**Year in Europe**

The students spend the third year of the programme fully in Europe. It consists of academic study at a French-speaking or German-speaking university and, when feasible, a placement with European companies or public institutions. While the overall objective of the year is total immersion in the life of European societies, students must obtain credits in advanced language and academic courses, to be transferred back to HKBU. Study and work placements allow students to gain familiarity with European markets/societies and qualify them for further postgraduate studies in Europe. Success in Year III is highly dependent on individual student achievements, demonstrated intercultural awareness and communication skills.

**Honours Project**

After returning from Europe, students write an extensive thesis in French/German based on their own research into a particular subject related to Europe. The Honours Project is a major component of the programme, which fuses capabilities of critical thinking, independent research and presentation skills as well as language proficiency in a coherent academic product.

**The European Studies Programme Structure**

**Year I: Foundation**

- *General Introductory Stage for University Study*
- *Elementary Stage European Studies + Intensive Language in Context* (French or German)

**Year II: Focus**

- *Area Studies/Discipline Focus*
- Preparation of study/work abroad; Intermediate Stage Intensive Language in Context

**Year III: Total Immersion**

- *Study Abroad* (individual arrangements)

**Year IV: Specialization**

- *Advanced European Area Studies/Political Science; Honours Projects; Advanced Stage Language in Context*
COURSE CURRICULUM

Major in European Studies  66
of which:
- European Language in Context (French or German) 36
- European Area Studies 24
- European Area Studies Honours Project 6

General Education Courses  38
Free Electives in Europe  21
Free Elective (HK) 3

Total : 128

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for admission must satisfy the general University requirements.

The programme will consider Other Language subjects at Grade B or above as unspecified elective subject.

Good results in English Language, French or German and History are preferred.

Other qualifications in French or German will be considered. Prior knowledge of German/French, however, is NOT required for admission.

Students apply separately for admission to either the French or German Stream of the programme (first year entry).

In order to be admitted applicants should have a genuine interest in the social sciences-related study of Europe/ the European Union and above-average language and communication skills. The programme welcomes the application of mature candidates with prior professional experience, international students and applicants from mainland China. Non-JUPAS applicants have to attend an interview prior to admission.

Applicants should be advised that course requirements in the programme are rigorous and cumulative. Advancement into Year III of the programme is conditional on satisfactory GPA and foreign language performance.

Information on this page may be subject to change without prior notice. For further details please check the current JUPAS information brochures / website issued by the Academic Registrar of the University.

Further information about the European Studies programme:
http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/~europe

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