M.Phil. Degree Programme (Full-time and Part-time)

Study Scheme
Applicable to students admitted in 2026-27

1. Coursework Requirement

(a) Excluding COMM 8100, students are required to complete a minimum of 21 units of courses for graduation.

Required Courses — 15 units

First Year of Attendance

COMM 5220	Communication Theories I
COMM 5250	Writing for Research and Publication
COMM 5310*	Statistical Analysis in Communication
COMM 5320	Quantitative Communication Research
COMM 5330	Qualitative Communication Research

* Students who have taken statistics courses in Social Science or related disciplines may apply for course exemption from the Division Head.

Elective Courses — 6 units

COMM 5110	Topical Studies in Communication I
COMM 5111	Topical Studies in Communication II
COMM 5650	Journalism Theory and Analysis
COMM 5775	Cultures in Media
COMM 5831	Theories in Advertising and Communication
COMM 5942	New Communication Technologies: Trends and Impacts
COMM 6110	Independent Studies in Communication
COMM 6111	Advanced Statistical Analysis in Communication
COMM 6120	Topical Studies in Communication III
COMM 6121	Topical Studies in Communication IV
COMM 6220	Communication Theories II
COMM 6320	Digital Research
COMM 6330	Advanced Qualitative Communication Research

A minimum of 3 units (elective courses) must be taken from the Division of Communication.

Total: 21 units

(b) Thesis Monitoring Course
Students are required to take COMM 8100 Thesis in Progress every term starting from the time of admission, throughout the preparation of thesis, until its completion. Students will gain the units each time they pass COMM 8100.

2. Study plan

Students must submit a study plan, with the advice of the supervisor, for the approval of the Graduate Panel of the Board of School of Journalism and Communication within six months after registration. The Division Head will help the student search for a supervisor within the first semester of study.

3. Thesis

Students are required to submit a research thesis and pass an oral examination for graduation.

4. Other Requirements

(a) Students must fulfill the Term Assessment Requirement of the Graduate School. For details, please refer to Section 13.0 “Unsatisfactory Performance and Discontinuation of Studies” of the General Regulations Governing Postgraduate Studies which can be accessed from the Graduate School Homepage: https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/.

(b) Students must achieve a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 in order to graduate, unless special approval is granted by the Graduate Council.

(c) Students are required to complete an Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) module on “Observing Intellectual Property and Copyright Law during Research”. This is an online module and relevant information can be accessed from the website: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/prodev/ipl.html.

(d) Students are required to complete and pass an IPL module on “Basics of Research Data Management” in their first year of study, with effect from the 2022-23 intake. This is an online module and relevant information can be accessed from the website: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/prodev/ipl.html (under “"Research Skills”).

(e) Students are required to submit a Data Management Plan (DMP) during the first year of study, with effect from the 2025-26 intake. The final DMP should have been shared to the CUHK community on DMPTool or the relevant platform that CUHK provides when submitting the final version of the thesis/portfolio to the Graduate School. The guide is available on Library’s website: https://libguides.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/rdm/mandate-support.

(f) Students are required to complete an online Research Ethics Training (RET) module on "Publication Ethics" offered by the Research Office (RO) and obtain a valid Publication Ethics Certificate for graduation. Relevant information can be accessed from the RET website at https://www.research-ethics.cuhk.edu.hk/web/.

5. Unsatisfactory Performance

A student whose thesis/portfolio is not passed but re-submission is allowed and re-examination is required must re-write and re-submit the thesis/portfolio to the satisfaction of the Thesis/Assessment Committee before being recommended for the award of degree. Such re-submission must be made within twelve months from the date of the official notification of the result of the first examination and within the student’s prescribed maximum period of study. Only one re-submission of thesis/portfolio is allowed.

6. Remarks

With the approval of the Division Head, in lieu of the courses on the elective course list, students can take other courses within and/or outside the Division of Communication.

Please read the Study Scheme in conjunction with the following emails:

1. “Completing certain Improving Postgraduate Learning modules in the first year of study (for fulfilment of Ph.D. and Taught Doctoral candidacy requirements) with retroactive effect from 2022-23 intake” dated 27 October 2023: https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/download/IPL.pdf.

2. “Amendments to Research Data Management Practice and Requirements for Candidacy and Graduation -- applicable to RPg and taught doctoral students admitted in 2025/26 or thereafter”, dated 20 February 2026: https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/download/Amendments.pdf.