

Study Scheme

Postgraduate Student Handbook 2025-26 (GPS-I)

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Governance and Policy Science

Study Scheme

M.Phil.-Ph.D. Programme in Government and Public Administration (Full-time)

Please read the Study Scheme in conjunction with the email on “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>.

Applicable to students admitted in 2025-26 and thereafter

A. M.Phil. Students

1. Coursework Requirement

(a) Lecture courses^{Note 1}:

12 units

First Year of Attendance: GPAD5050, 5055, 5290^{Note 2}

Second Year of Attendance: GPAD5080

Note 1: In order to graduate, the minimum grade required for the four compulsory courses of GPAD5050, 5055, 5080 and 5290 is a passing grade.

Note 2: Subject to actual course offerings, GPAD5290 may be taken in first/second year of attendance.

(b) Thesis research / monitoring courses:

Students are required to take the following thesis research course every term: GPAD8006

Part-time and continuing students: GPAD8003

(c) Other course:

One 3-unit course offered by the division of GPA or other divisions (approval by the Division Head required in the latter case), to be taken in the first or second year. In order to graduate, the minimum grade required is C-.

2. *Other Requirements*

- (a) Students must fulfill the Term Assessment Requirement of the Graduate School. For details, please refer to Clause 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 also fulfill the additional Term Assessment Requirement of the Programme. Apart from achieving the minimum grade for each individual course, M.Phil. students are also required to achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (i.e. B) throughout the entire period of study. Students failing this may be put on academic probation.
- (c) M.Phil. student with cumulative GPA of 3.3 (i.e. B+) or above may apply for transferal to the Ph.D. stream. Exemption for individual courses may be granted to students who have taken similar graduate-level courses before.
- (d) Students are required to submit a research thesis and pass an oral examination for graduation.
- (e) 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:
<https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/prodev/ipl.html>.
- (f) 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:
<https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/download/IPL-Researchskills.pdf>.
- (g) 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. Students are required to have published the data on the CUHK Research Data Repository or an open data repository with a valid Digital Object Identifier (DOI) or other forms of permanent identifier when submitting the final version of

the thesis/portfolio. Upon thesis supervisor's endorsement, students can decide on how much data from the research project is to be published.

- (h) Students are required to complete an online Research Ethics Training (RET) module on "Publication Ethics" offered by the Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer Services (ORKTS) 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/>.

B. Ph.D. Students (Pre-candidacy)

The "candidacy requirement" composes of four major parts, namely, coursework requirement, candidacy examination, thesis proposal (and oral defence) and stipulated Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) module requirements. Students must complete and fulfill the first three parts within the "maximum period for fulfilling candidacy requirements" and complete the stipulated IPL module(s) in their first year of study. Details of the requirement are listed below:

1. Coursework Requirement

- (a) Lecture courses^{Note 1}:

15 units

First Year of Attendance: GPAD5050, 5055, 5290^{Note 2}

Second Year of Attendance: GPAD5080, 5111

Note 1: In order to graduate, the minimum grade required for the five compulsory courses of GPAD5050, 5055, 5080, 5111 and 5290 is a passing grade.

Note 2: Subject to actual course offerings, GPAD5290 may be taken in first/second year of attendance.

- (b) Thesis research / monitoring courses:

Students are required to take the following thesis research course every term: GPAD8006

Part-time and continuing students: GPAD8003

- (c) Other course(s) or programme requirements:

One 3-unit course offered by the division of GPS or other divisions (approval by the Division Head required in the latter case), to be taken in the first or second year. In order to graduate, the minimum grade required is C.

Note: Apart from achieving the minimum grade for each individual course, Ph.D. students are also required to achieve a minimum cumulative GPA 3.3 (i.e. B+) every year throughout the entire period of study. Students failing this may be transferred to the M.Phil. stream, or be discontinued from study upon consideration of the Graduate Panel. Exemption for individual courses may be granted to students who have taken similar graduate-level courses before.

2. *Candidacy Examination*

Students shall write an exam paper on one of the following fields: public administration, international relations, comparative politics, and Greater China. In addition, they have to write one exam paper, or submit a critical literature survey, on another field mentioned above. The two papers must be passed separately.

Students are required to complete the candidacy examination within the first four months of the second year. Those admitted without a research Master's degree should complete the examination within the second year.

Each student may attempt the candidacy examination twice. Students who fail in the first attempt may try the second time within six months. Students who fail in both attempts will be discontinued from study upon consideration of the Graduate Panel.

3. *Thesis Proposal and Oral Defence*

Within 4 months after passing the candidacy examination, the student must submit and orally defend a thesis proposal to be examined by a thesis committee consisting of his/her thesis supervisor and two other internal examiners.

4. *Other Requirements*

Students are required to complete the following Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) modules in their first year of study for partial fulfillment of candidacy requirements:

- (a) 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: <https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/download/IPL-Researchskills.pdf>.

- (b) Students are required to submit a Data Management Plan (DMP), with effect from the 2025-26 intake.

C. Ph.D. Students (Post-candidacy)

1. Coursework Requirement

Thesis research / monitoring courses:

Students are required to take the following thesis research course every term: GPAD8012

Part-time and continuing students: GPAD8003

2. Other Requirements

- (a) Students must fulfill the Term Assessment Requirement of the Graduate School. For details, please refer to Clause 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 are required to submit a research thesis and pass an oral examination for graduation.

In addition to completing the IPL modules stipulated for partial fulfillment of candidacy requirements, students are also required to complete the following IPL modules for graduation:

- (c) Complete an 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: <https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/prodev/ipl.html>.
- (d) Complete an online Research Ethics Training (RET) module on “Publication Ethics” offered by the Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer Services (ORKTS) 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/>.
- (e) 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. Students are required to have published the data on the CUHK Research Data Repository or an open data repository with a valid Digital Object Identifier (DOI) or other forms of permanent identifier when submitting the final version of the thesis/portfolio. Upon thesis

supervisor's endorsement, students can decide on how much data from the research project is to be published.

Applicable to students admitted in 2022-23 to 2024-25

A. M.Phil. Students

1. Coursework Requirement

- (a) Lecture courses^{Note 1}: **12 units**

First Year of Attendance: GPAD5050, 5055, 5290^{Note 2}

Second Year of Attendance: GPAD5080

Note 1: In order to graduate, the minimum grade required for the four compulsory courses of GPAD5050, 5055, 5080 and 5290 is a passing grade.

Note 2: Subject to actual course offerings, GPAD5290 may be taken in first/second year of attendance.

- (b) Thesis research / monitoring courses:

Students are required to take the following thesis research course every term: GPAD8006

Part-time and continuing students: GPAD8003

- (c) Other course:

One 3-unit course offered by the division of GPA or other divisions (approval by the Division Head required in the latter case), to be taken in the first or second year. In order to graduate, the minimum grade required is C-.

2. Other Requirements

- (a) Students must fulfill the Term Assessment Requirement of the Graduate School. For details, please refer to Clause 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 also fulfill the additional Term Assessment Requirement of the Programme. Apart from achieving the minimum grade for each individual course, M.Phil. students are also required to achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (i.e. B) throughout the entire period of study. Students failing this may be put on academic probation.
- (c) M.Phil. student with cumulative GPA of 3.3 (i.e. B+) or above may apply for transferal to the Ph.D. stream. Exemption for individual courses may be granted to students who have taken similar graduate-level courses before.
- (d) Students are required to submit a research thesis and pass an oral examination for graduation.
- (e) 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: <https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/prodev/ipl.html>.
- (f) Students are required to complete and pass an IPL module on “Basics of Research Data Management” in their first year of study for completion of the University-specified requirement, with effect from the 2022-23 intake. This is an online module and relevant information can be accessed from the website: <https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/download/IPL-Researchskills.pdf>.
- (g) Students are required to complete an online Research Ethics Training (RET) module on “Publication Ethics” offered by the Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer Services (ORKTS) 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/>.

B. Ph.D. Students (Pre-candidacy)

The “candidacy requirement” composes of four major parts, namely, coursework requirement, candidacy examination, thesis proposal (and oral defence) and stipulated Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) module requirements. Students must complete and fulfill the first three parts within the “maximum period for fulfilling candidacy requirements” and complete the stipulated IPL module(s) in their first year of study. Details of the requirement are listed below:

1. Coursework Requirement

- (a) Lecture courses^{Note 1}:

15 units

First Year of Attendance: GPAD5050, 5055, 5290^{Note 2}

Second Year of Attendance: GPAD5080, 5111

Note 1: In order to graduate, the minimum grade required for the five compulsory courses of GPAD5050, 5055, 5080, 5111 and 5290 is a passing grade.

Note 2: Subject to actual course offerings, GPAD5290 may be taken in first/second year of attendance.

(b) Thesis research / monitoring courses:

Students are required to take the following thesis research course every term: GPAD8006

Part-time and continuing students: GPAD8003

(c) Other course(s) or programme requirements:

One 3-unit course offered by the division of GPA or other divisions (approval by the Division Head required in the latter case), to be taken in the first or second year. In order to graduate, the minimum grade required is C.

Note: Apart from achieving the minimum grade for each individual course, Ph.D. students are also required to achieve a minimum cumulative GPA 3.3 (i.e. B+) every year throughout the entire period of study. Students failing this may be transferred to the M.Phil. stream, or be discontinued from study upon consideration of the Graduate Panel. Exemption for individual courses may be granted to students who have taken similar graduate-level courses before.

2. *Candidacy Examination*

Students shall write an exam paper on one of the following fields: public administration, international relations, comparative politics, and Greater China. In addition, they have to write one exam paper, or submit a critical literature survey, on another field mentioned above. The two papers must be passed separately.

Students are required to complete the candidacy examination within the first four months of the second year. Those admitted without a research Master's degree should complete the examination within the second year.

Each student may attempt the candidacy examination twice. Students who fail in the first attempt may try the second time within six months. Students who fail in both attempts will be discontinued from study upon consideration of the Graduate Panel.

3. *Thesis Proposal and Oral Defence*

Within 4 months after passing the candidacy examination, the student must submit and orally defend a thesis proposal to be examined by a thesis committee consisting of his/her thesis supervisor and two other internal examiners.

4. *Other Requirements*

Students are required to complete and pass an Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) module on “Basics of Research Data Management” in the first year of study for partial fulfilment of candidacy requirements and completion of the University-specified requirement, with effect from the 2022-23 intake. This is an online module and relevant information can be accessed from the website: <https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/download/IPL-Researchskills.pdf>.

C. Ph.D. Students (Post-candidacy)

1. *Coursework Requirement*

Thesis research / monitoring courses:

Students are required to take the following thesis research course every term: GPAD8012

Part-time and continuing students: GPAD8003

2. *Other Requirements*

- (a) Students must fulfill the Term Assessment Requirement of the Graduate School. For details, please refer to Clause 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 are required to submit a research thesis and pass an oral examination for graduation.

In addition to completing the IPL modules stipulated for partial fulfilment of candidacy requirements, students are also required to complete the following IPL modules for graduation:

- (c) Complete an 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: <https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/prodev/ipi.html>.
- (d) Complete an online Research Ethics Training (RET) module on “Publication Ethics” offered by the Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer Services (ORKTS) 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/>.

Applicable to students admitted in 2019-20 to 2021-22

A. M.Phil. Students

1. Coursework Requirement

- (a) Lecture courses: **12 units**

First Year of Attendance: GPAD5050, 5055, 5290

Second Year of Attendance: GPAD5080

Note: In order to graduate, the minimum grade required for the four compulsory courses of GPAD5050, 5055, 5080 and 5290 is a passing grade.

- (b) Thesis research / monitoring courses:

Students are required to take the following thesis research course every term: GPAD8006

Part-time and continuing students: GPAD8003

- (c) Other course:

One 3-unit course offered by the division of GPA or other divisions (approval by the Division Head required in the latter case), to be taken in the first or second year. In order to graduate, the minimum grade required is C-.

2. 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: <http://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk>.

- (b) Students must also fulfill the additional Term Assessment Requirement of the Programme. Apart from achieving the minimum grade for each individual course, M.Phil. students are also required to achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (i.e. B) throughout the entire period of study. Students failing this may be put on academic probation.
- (c) M.Phil. student with cumulative GPA of 3.3 (i.e. B+) or above may apply for transferal to the Ph.D. stream. Exemption for individual courses may be granted to students who have taken similar graduate-level courses before.
- (d) Students are required to submit a research thesis and pass an oral examination for graduation.
- (e) Complete an Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) module on “Observing Intellectual Property and Copyright Law during Research”. This will be an online module and relevant information can be accessed from the website: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/prodev/ipl.html>.
- (f) Students are required to complete an online Research Ethics Training (RET) module on “Publication Ethics” offered by the Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer Services (ORKTS) 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/>.

B. Ph.D. Students (Pre-candidacy)

The “candidacy requirement” composes of three major parts, namely, coursework requirement, candidacy examination, and thesis proposal (and oral defence). Students must complete and fulfill all three parts within the “maximum period for fulfilling candidacy requirements”. Details of the requirement are listed below:

1. Coursework Requirement

- (a) Lecture courses: **15 units**

First Year of Attendance: GPAD5050, 5055, 5290

Second Year of Attendance: GPAD5080, 5111

Note: In order to graduate, the minimum grade required for the five compulsory courses of GPAD5050, 5055, 5080, 5111 and 5290 is a passing grade.

- (b) Thesis research / monitoring courses:

Students are required to take the following thesis research course every term: GPAD8006

Part-time and continuing students: GPAD8003

(c) Other course(s) or programme requirements:

One 3-unit course offered by the division of GPA or other divisions (approval by the Division Head required in the latter case), to be taken in the first or second year. In order to graduate, the minimum grade required is C.

Note: Apart from achieving the minimum grade for each individual course, Ph.D. students are also required to achieve a minimum cumulative GPA 3.3 (i.e. B+) every year throughout the entire period of study. Students failing this may be transferred to the M.Phil. stream, or be discontinued from study upon consideration of the Graduate Panel. Exemption for individual courses may be granted to students who have taken similar graduate-level courses before.

2. *Candidacy Examination*

Students shall write an exam paper on one of the following fields: public administration, international relations, comparative politics, and Greater China. In addition, they have to write one exam paper, or submit a critical literature survey, on another field mentioned above. The two papers must be passed separately.

Students are required to complete the candidacy examination within the first four months of the second year. Those admitted without a research Master's degree should complete the examination within the second year.

Each student may attempt the candidacy examination twice. Students who fail in the first attempt may try the second time within six months. Students who fail in both attempts will be discontinued from study upon consideration of the Graduate Panel.

3. *Thesis Proposal and Oral Defence*

Within 4 months after passing the candidacy examination, the student must submit and orally defend a thesis proposal to be examined by a thesis committee consisting of his/her thesis supervisor and two other internal examiners.

C. Ph.D. Students (Post-candidacy)

1. Coursework Requirement

Thesis research / monitoring courses:

Students are required to take the following thesis research course every term: GPAD8012

Part-time and continuing students: GPAD8003

2. 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: <http://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk>.
- (b) Students are required to submit a research thesis and pass an oral examination for graduation.
- (c) Complete an Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) module on “Observing Intellectual Property and Copyright Law during Research”. This will be an online module and relevant information can be accessed from the website: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/prodev/ipi.html>.
- (d) Students are required to complete an online Research Ethics Training (RET) module on “Publication Ethics” offered by the Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer Services (ORKTS) 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/>.

Course List

A. Applicable to students admitted in 2023-24 and thereafter

<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Unit</u>
GPAD5030	Independent Research	3
GPAD5050	Qualitative Methods of Political Research	3
GPAD5055	Quantitative Methods of Political Research	3
GPAD5080	Graduate Seminar	3

GPAD5090	Seminar on Sustainability Governance	3
GPAD5111	Advanced Social Science Research Methods	3
GPAD5290	Contemporary Political Science	3
GPAD8003	Thesis Research	3
GPAD8006	Thesis Research	6
GPAD8012	Thesis Research	12

B. Applicable to students admitted from 2019-20 to 2022-23

<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Unit</u>
GPAD5030	Independent Research	3
GPAD5050	Qualitative Methods of Political Research	3
GPAD5055	Quantitative Methods of Political Research	3
GPAD5080	Graduate Seminar	3
GPAD5111	Advanced Social Science Research Methods	3
GPAD5290	Contemporary Political Science	3
GPAD8003	Thesis Research	3
GPAD8006	Thesis Research	6
GPAD8012	Thesis Research	12

[Study Scheme](#)

[Learning Outcomes](#)

Learning Outcomes

1. Our research programmes aim to educate researchers to embark on careers that would allow them to become world leaders in their fields, working as university professors, principal investigators in research institutes, senior managers in enterprises, or experts in other professions related to the pursuit and application of knowledge.
2. The University expects **doctoral degree graduates** of research programmes to have acquired in-depth knowledge in a number of major areas of an academic discipline while maintaining a broad understanding of other related fields. Doctoral degree graduates should have accumulated enough educational experience and background learning to be capable of performing independent research to advance scholarship, with global standards. In particular, doctoral graduates should have the ability to identify research trends and opportunities, venture into new research areas when appropriate, define long-term research objectives, formulate original research problems, and originate and develop solution methodologies. Doctoral graduates should be capable of producing research output at a level that can either

lead to publications in high-ranking scholastic venues, or to novel applications in relevant industrial, commercial, or other public sectors, or to other forms of useful knowledge transfer to society. They should have gained proficiency in techniques of knowledge dissemination through presentation and writing and some teaching experiences through student tutoring.

3. The University expects **master's degree graduates** of research programmes to have acquired advanced knowledge in major areas of an academic discipline while maintaining a broad understanding of other related fields. Master's degree graduates should have gained enough background knowledge to enable them to perform research with minimal supervision. In particular, they should have the ability to formulate individual research tasks and to develop solution methodologies under minimal supervision. Master's degree graduates should be capable of producing original, innovative research output, some of which may lead to publication in well-respected scholastic venues. They should have gained proficiency in techniques of knowledge dissemination through presentation and writing.

4. For graduates of research programmes at both doctoral and master's level, communication and language skills at a level appropriate to university graduates are expected already at the time of admission. In particular, fluent communication skills are expected in the language(s) essential to their research areas. In general, a high level of proficiency in English is expected as it is commonly regarded as the default international research language. Ability in a second language is encouraged.