

**The University of Hong Kong  
Faculty of Education**

**Postgraduate Diploma in Education**

**Key Learning Area / Major: English Language Education (Full-time)**

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The PGDE Major in *English* aims to prepare professional and reflective specialist Key Learning Area English language teachers to teach English as a Second/Foreign language in local Hong Kong primary and secondary schools. The course is also suitable for teachers of English as a second or foreign language in international schools. The objectives of the programme are to help student-teachers:

- Gain an understanding of the English Language curriculum in Hong Kong and reflect on the aims and objectives of English language education
- Gain an understanding of how primary/secondary students learn English as a second language
- Build a foundation of necessary theoretical and practical knowledge and attitudes of being an educator to guide the development of one’s professional teacher identity
- Understand and apply pedagogical principles, teaching methodologies and skills to the teaching, learning and assessing of English (i.e. listening, speaking, reading, writing) in the primary and secondary contexts
- Broaden awareness and consideration of various educational issues in English language education
- Prepare critically reflective teachers to explore and implement evidence-based practice

There are two streams within this Major Subject:

- *English (Secondary)*
- *English (Primary)*

**Full Time Programme:**

The English Major includes the following topics:

<b>English as a Second/ Foreign Language in Secondary Schools*</b>	<b>English as a Second/ Foreign Language in Primary Schools*</b>
This stream introduces participants to the various skills and processes involved in learning and using English as a second or foreign language and to a variety of approaches to teaching and assessing these skills, with particular emphasis on the demands of teaching English as a <u>second</u> or <u>foreign</u> language in Hong Kong secondary schools.	This stream introduces participants to the various skills and processes involved in learning and using English as a <u>second</u> or <u>foreign</u> language and to a variety of approaches to teaching and assessing these skills, with particular emphasis on the demands of teaching English as a <u>second</u> or <u>foreign</u> language in Hong Kong primary schools.
Topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching and learning second language reading, writing, speaking and listening skills in the HK secondary English language classroom</li> <li>• Teaching and learning second language grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation in the HK secondary English language</li> </ul>	Topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How young children learn second languages</li> <li>• Teaching and learning second language reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in the primary English language classroom</li> <li>• Teaching and learning second language</li> </ul>

<p>classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second language teaching and learning resources for secondary learners</li> <li>• Curriculum issues and reforms in the HK secondary English Language curriculum e.g. the optimization of the Senior Secondary Curriculum and the impact of generative AI</li> <li>• Assessing and evaluating teaching and learning in the secondary English as a second language classroom</li> <li>• Using technology for teaching and learning</li> </ul>	<p>grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation in the primary English language classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources for teaching English as a second language to children including learning through stories, games, drama, and song and also through textbooks</li> <li>• Assessing and evaluating teaching and learning in the primary English as a second language classroom</li> <li>• Language awareness for teaching purposes</li> </ul>
<p>* N.B. The secondary school stream does NOT prepare teachers to teach first language English and English Literature as is required in many international schools in Hong Kong. That is, teachers will NOT receive instruction in teaching first language literacy in English or English for the International Baccalaureate/ British GCSE or A-Levels. The focus on English as a <u>second</u> or <u>foreign</u> language reflects the structure of the Hong Kong Secondary Curriculum and the needs of local Hong Kong secondary school learners.</p>	<p>* N.B. The primary school stream does NOT prepare teachers for general primary teaching across the curriculum, as is practiced in many international schools in Hong Kong. That is, teachers will NOT receive instruction in teaching maths, first language literacy, science, humanities, art, PE, or music. The focus on English as a <u>second</u> or <u>foreign</u> language reflects the structure of the Hong Kong Primary Curriculum and the needs of local Hong Kong primary school children.</p>

### School Experience

Starting in November and up to the start of the Professional Practicum, full-time students will have 2-day per week visits to their Professional Practicum school. This provides them with early experiences of classroom teaching and learning and of being a teacher in a Hong Kong school. Students will observe lessons, shadow their mentor-teacher, be involved in school activities and also have the opportunity to do some teaching.

### Professional Practicum

During the 8-week Professional Practicum component of the PGDE programme, Full Time English Majors will be placed in a local Hong Kong secondary or primary school (depending on stream) to teach English as a second language. The practicum placement will involve teaching approximately 8-12 English Language lessons per week of classes of approximately 20-30 students.

### Experiential Learning: Immersion Programme

Full-time students in both the primary and secondary streams are required to participate in a compulsory six-week Experiential Immersion programme (in Semester One for a mixture of language enhancement and cultural activities). This may be in mixed-mode, that is both online and face-to-face. Subject to confirmation by the HKSAR Government, a large part of the total Immersion cost will be subsidized by the Government. Students are required to contribute the remaining amount of the total immersion cost, up to HK\$10,000. Financial assistance may be available from the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme - Publicly-funded Programmes (TSFS) for eligible students.

#### Please note:

**If offered a place, applicants cannot transfer to a different stream from the one for which they applied (i.e. from primary to secondary or vice versa) or to a different mode of study (i.e. from full-time to part-time or vice versa).**