

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

Postgraduate Diploma in Education

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

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 (ie. 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)*

Part Time Programme:

The part time programme is aimed at currently employed English Language teachers in Hong Kong secondary and primary schools (see below for eligibility). There are two streams:

English as a Second/ Foreign Language in Secondary Schools	English as a Second/ Foreign Language in Primary Schools
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"> • Teaching and learning second language reading, writing, speaking and listening skills in the HK secondary English language classroom • Teaching and learning second language grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation in the HK secondary English language 	Topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How young children learn second languages • Teaching and learning second language reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in the primary English language classroom • Teaching and learning second language

<p>classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second language teaching and learning resources for secondary learners • 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 • Assessing and evaluating teaching and learning in the secondary English as a second language classroom • Using technology for teaching and learning 	<p>grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation in the primary English language classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second language teaching and learning resources for primary learners • Curriculum issues and reforms in the HK primary English Language curriculum • Assessing and evaluating teaching and learning in the primary English as second language classroom
<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>

Eligibility and Teaching Requirement

The assessment of the Professional Practicum component of the PGDE course will be carried out in students' current place of employment. In addition, coursework and assessment tasks for the English Language Major will draw heavily on participants' current teaching. Successful applicants, therefore, must be employed as a teacher of English as a second language in a Hong Kong primary or secondary school throughout the two years of study.

You are eligible to apply for the Part Time English Major if you hold/have

- Full time or part time employment as an English as a second/foreign language (ESL/EFL) teacher in a Hong Kong primary, secondary, or international school with **a minimum of five ESL lessons per week with appropriate class size (minimum 10 students)** throughout the two academic years.
- Full time employment as a Teaching Assistant in a local Hong Kong primary, secondary, or international school with **a minimum of five ESL lessons per week with appropriate class size (minimum 10 students)** throughout the two academic years.

In addition to the above, applicants must also be able to show that they teach a wide range of the English Language Curriculum (i.e. reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar and vocabulary) and that they have at least 10 students in their classes. If given a conditional offer on the course, all applicants will then need to submit a document, signed by their principal, confirming that their teaching context meets the course requirements.

Please note:

Those employed in a primary school must follow the Primary stream, while those employed in a secondary school are required to follow the Secondary stream. 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 part-time to full-time or vice versa).