

**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 specialist teachers in the Key Learning Area of *English Language Education* to teach in local Hong Kong primary and secondary schools. The focus of this major is the teaching and learning of English as a second or foreign language. The course is also suitable for teachers of English as a second or foreign language in international schools.

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>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Topics include:</p> <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 classroom</li> <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. New Senior Secondary Curriculum and the English Elective choices</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>Topics include:</p> <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 grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation in the primary English language classroom</li> <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</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</p>

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 second or foreign language reflects the structure of the Hong Kong Secondary Curriculum and the needs of local Hong Kong secondary school learners.

receive instruction in teaching maths, first language literacy, science, humanities, art, PE, or music. The focus on English as a second or foreign language reflects the structure of the Hong Kong Primary Curriculum and the needs of local Hong Kong primary school children.

### **School Experience**

Starting in November (subject to the prevailing situation in relation to COVID-19) 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. Depending on the prevailing situation in relation to COVID-19, some of this Professional Practicum may be in online mode.

### **Experiential Learning: Immersion Programme**

Full-time students in both the primary and secondary streams are required to participate in a compulsory six-week Immersion programme (in Semester One for a mixture of language enhancement and cultural activities). Depending upon the prevailing situation in regard to COVID – 19, this Immersion programme may be conducted in online format. 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).**