The University of Hong Kong  
Faculty of Education

Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (MA(TESOL))

Outline of the six Core Courses and Project by Independent Study:

Course 1: MAES7001 English Language Teaching Methodology (6 credits)

This course is concerned with developments in English language teaching methodology and focuses on a variety of approaches to the learning, teaching and assessment of the four macro skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking – internationally. Topics covered include: principles underlying the communicative approach and implications for the teaching and learning of reading, writing, listening and speaking; (approaches to the teaching and learning of grammar and lexis); evaluation, selection and adaptation of course materials and authentic materials for language teaching purposes; and task design for communicative practice.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Course 2: MAES7002 Grammar and Pedagogy (6 credits)

This course aims to enhance candidates’ knowledge about aspects of the language system, with grammar and lexis, and the relationship between the two, focused on in particular. It aims to promote understanding of the importance of such knowledge about lexico-grammar in pedagogical decision-making, and their development of teacher language awareness (TLA). The module explores TLA-related issues in the context of the teaching and learning of grammar and lexis at the classroom level. It considers the importance of critical evaluation of grammar treatment in course books and teaching materials, as well as in candidates’ own classroom practice. The module also engages candidates in critically reflecting on their own TLA and its impact on their teaching and learning practices.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Course 3: MAES7003 Second Language Acquisition (6 credits)

The course begins by introducing key theoretical approaches that form the scientific basis of describing and explaining second language learning phenomena. It will cover topics on input and interaction, developmental stages, cognitive processes, individual differences, and social contexts influence — all in one way or another instrumental to second language development. The course also aims to cultivate a critical perspective when examining relationships between evidence-based research and second language learning practices. As such, students will explore and learn to demonstrate ways to apply research to practice as a means to foster theory-practice integration and innovation in SLA.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Course 4: MAES7004 Sociolinguistics and English Language Education (6 credits)

This course aims to help candidates to develop a systematic understanding of the relationship between language, culture, education and society so that they can identify the ways in which sociocultural factors mediate language use in a specific identified setting. They will also be able to appreciate the roles that language plays in society and education and apply this knowledge and understanding to explore relevant language issues in a wide range of TESOL contexts. The module helps candidates to critically reflect on the implications of these for their professional practices.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Course 5: MAES7005 Teaching Spoken Communication (6 credits)

This course aims to introduce course participants to aspects of the English sound system most relevant to the teaching of English (& specifically English pronunciation) as a second or foreign language. It includes a systematic analysis of both segmental and supra-segmental features as well as wider issues within phonology and a consideration of their practical application to the learning of English as a second or foreign language.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Course 6: MAES7006 Methods of Research and Enquiry in TESOL (6 credits)

This course examines different approaches to conducting research in teaching English as a second language, including experimental, naturalistic and critical research. Candidates will be introduced to the various stages of the research process from the development and justification of research questions and the formulation of an appropriate research design, including methods of data-gathering and data analysis, to the final stage of writing up.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Project for TESOL: MAES7200 Project by Independent Study (12 credits)

Candidates are provided with an opportunity to build on or extend interests developed in TESOL by undertaking an individual project normally of 6,000 words by independent study. Examples of possible projects are a small-scale research project, an extended literature review of an issue or topic of significance in TESOL, a relevant professional development activity, a case study of learning or teaching, or any other project which is intellectually demanding and requires reading of the research and professional literature.
Assessment: 100% coursework.