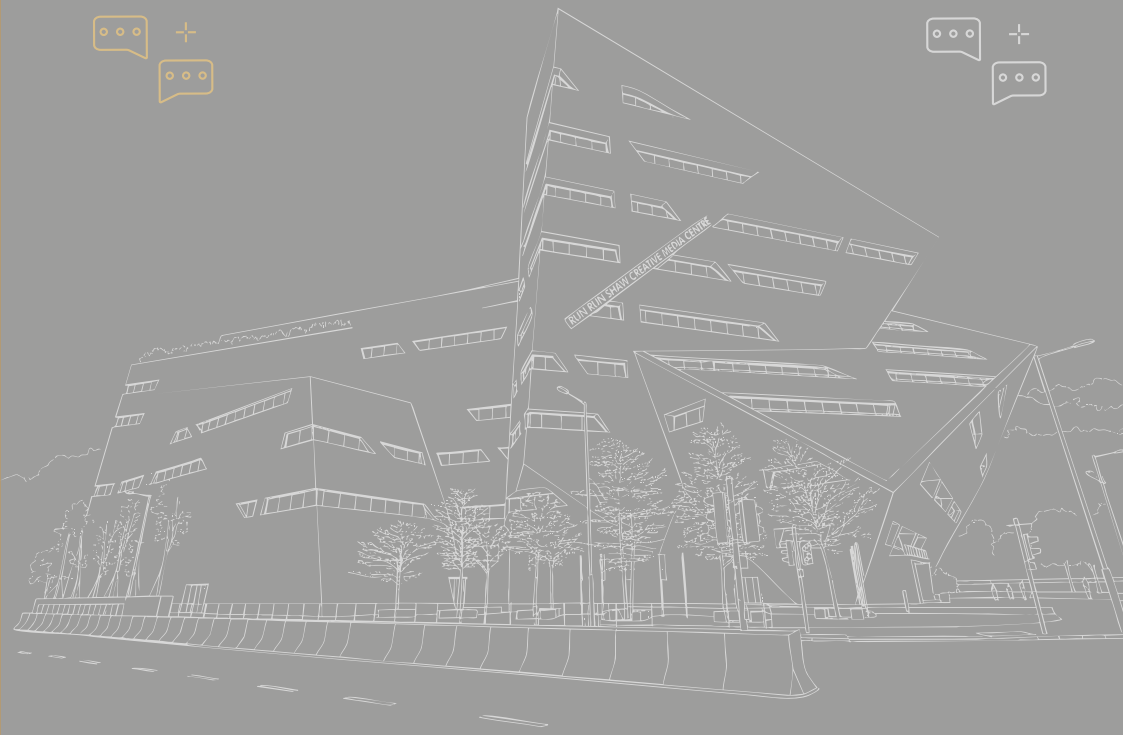
BA in English

City University of Hong Kong



BA IN ENGLISH

The BA in English programme equips students with both theoretical and practical knowledge in English language, literature, and professional communication. Our courses are designed to develop our students' ability to think critically about the English language and its use in a variety of genres, modes, and media. Upon completion of the programme, our students have acquired the knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential for successful communication in a wide range of contexts. The BA programme thus prepares our students for professions in fields including communication and business, as well for postgraduate study.

WHY STUDY WITH US?

- World leading academic faculty, including Stanford Top 2% Scholars and renowned experts in linguistics, professional communication, and literature
- A unique programme combining academic rigour with real-world work experience for all students
- A choice of two study streams that allows students to develop their own interests
- Graduates equipped for a wide variety of careers in teaching and research, business, and the creative industries

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The programme consists of three types of course: programme core, stream core and electives.

Through programme core subjects, all of our students are introduced to vital academic fields related to the study of English, including:

- Applied Linguistics
- Cultural Studies
- Discourse Analysis
- Language and Digital Media
- Literary Studies
- Professional Communication

Students can choose between two streams: 1) English and Professional Communication; or 2) Language and Literature.

Within each stream, core subjects offer close engagement with relevant skills and research areas, while a set of diverse elective courses allow students to strengthen and develop personal areas of interest.

All our students do an internship, and graduate with work experience that equips them well for future work opportunities. They also complete either a Professional Final Year Project or a Research Final Year Project as a capstone experience during which they put the skills and knowledge they have acquired to use.

Studying the humanities is going to be more important than ever [. . .] this idea that there are things that make us uniquely human—understanding ourselves, understanding history, understanding what makes us tick—I think that will always be really, really important. And I think the ability to have critical thinking skills and learn how to interact with other people will be more important in the future, rather than less.

Daniela Amodei,
co-founder and president of Anthropic, 2025

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Our programme is carefully designed to help students:

- Demonstrate communicative competence in English in a wide range of local and international contexts
- Apply theories of linguistics, communication, and literary and cultural studies to analyse the way language is used in a variety of settings
- Develop an understanding of the role of English locally and globally
- Complete innovative language-based projects individually and collaboratively
- Apply a spirit of discovery and creativity to the study of English

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Our programme offers students hands-on workplace experience within various professional settings. Through Internships and Professional Final Year Projects, students develop important workplace skills in contexts where they can apply the theories and knowledge they have acquired in their courses to real-world situations. Our students work at a wide group of host organisations, including:

- Charlotte Travel
- Orbis
- South China Morning Post Operation Santa Claus
- Randstad Hong Kong
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- Hong Kong Generation Next Arts

GLOBAL OUTREACH

Our programme adopts a global perspective on English as it is used in diverse cultural and professional contexts. Many of our students take part in overseas learning experience to improve their awareness of intercultural communication in English, through student exchanges and overseas internships.

OUR GRADUATES SAY...

The BA English programme at City University of Hong Kong provided me with a strong foundation in English professional communication, critical thinking, and content writing. Through the curriculum which thoughtfully balances academic rigour with experiential learning, I was able to translate classroom knowledge into meaningful practical application. In particular, internships and a final year project where my peers and I worked closely with a company and were assessed on our professional performance enabled me to apply the skills and knowledge gained from lectures in authentic, real world contexts. This holistic learning experience strengthened my confidence, adaptability, and appreciation of the English language beyond the classroom.

Bilal Muhammad, Graduate 2025
Assistant, Community Partnerships & Impact Community, Hongkong Land

”

Even though it has been 2 years since I graduated from CityUHK English, the fond memories of hiking up to CMC for lectures and assignments remained fresh in me. Combining a mixture of intellectual rigor and practical experience, the BA in English programme is instrumental in shaping my current identity as a junior educator of literary studies in higher education. I'm especially grateful to the department for granting my first dip into humanities research, which prepared me significantly for my future journey in graduate school. Overall, I'll highly recommend any prospective students to consider CityUHK English as their next intellectual home. It is a diverse, rigorous, and vibrant, and diverse community where anyone can find their calling, no matter in language and literature, or professional communication.

Joshua Lee, Graduate 2024
Research and Teaching Assistant, School of English, University of Hong Kong

”

I graduated from the Department of English at CityUHK in 2021, and my time there played a decisive role in shaping my academic path. The programme provided a rigorous and supportive environment that encouraged independent thinking and intellectual curiosity. In particular, the Final Year Project allowed me to develop my own research interests and gain valuable experience in academic writing and methodology. The guidance and training I received through this process prepared me to pursue further study, and I later had the opportunity to undertake a research master's degree overseas. I remain deeply grateful to the department for laying the foundation for my academic career.

Matilda Chan, Graduate 2021
PhD Candidate, Heidelberg University

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The BA programme in English served as the beginning of my pursuit of an academic career. Before I started my PhD in English at the University of Cambridge and my MSc at Edinburgh, I was exposed to a wide range of courses that explored not just different genres of English Literature, but also the role of it across art forms. As an interdisciplinary scholar who researches Ernest Hemingway and the Spanish visual arts, the convergences of these undergraduate teachings helped me build a solid basis in my consideration of the intercultural interactions between modernist literature and paintings beyond the Anglophone scope. Academics in the department also endeavoured to involve me in academic publishing and teaching projects, which played a huge part in my decision to embark on my PhD journey. On top of that, I had the chance to immerse myself in the Russell Group's research culture before my postgraduate studies, thanks to the department's networking opportunities. In the long run, these experiences were crucial to the archival research skills I need when working in Spanish and American archives in my PhD studies.

Audrey Chan, Graduate 2020
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BA IN ENGLISH

The Department has an outstanding research and publication record, and is a leading centre for English studies in Asia. In the 2026 QS subject rankings, we are 13th in Asia and 93rd in the world in English Language and Literature. Our courses are designed to be challenging, interesting and intellectually stimulating, and to connects to many other academic and professional fields.

CityU
Department of English
香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong

Application requirements: www.cityu.edu.hk/admo
Enquiries: +852 3442 8870 | www.en.cityu.edu.hk

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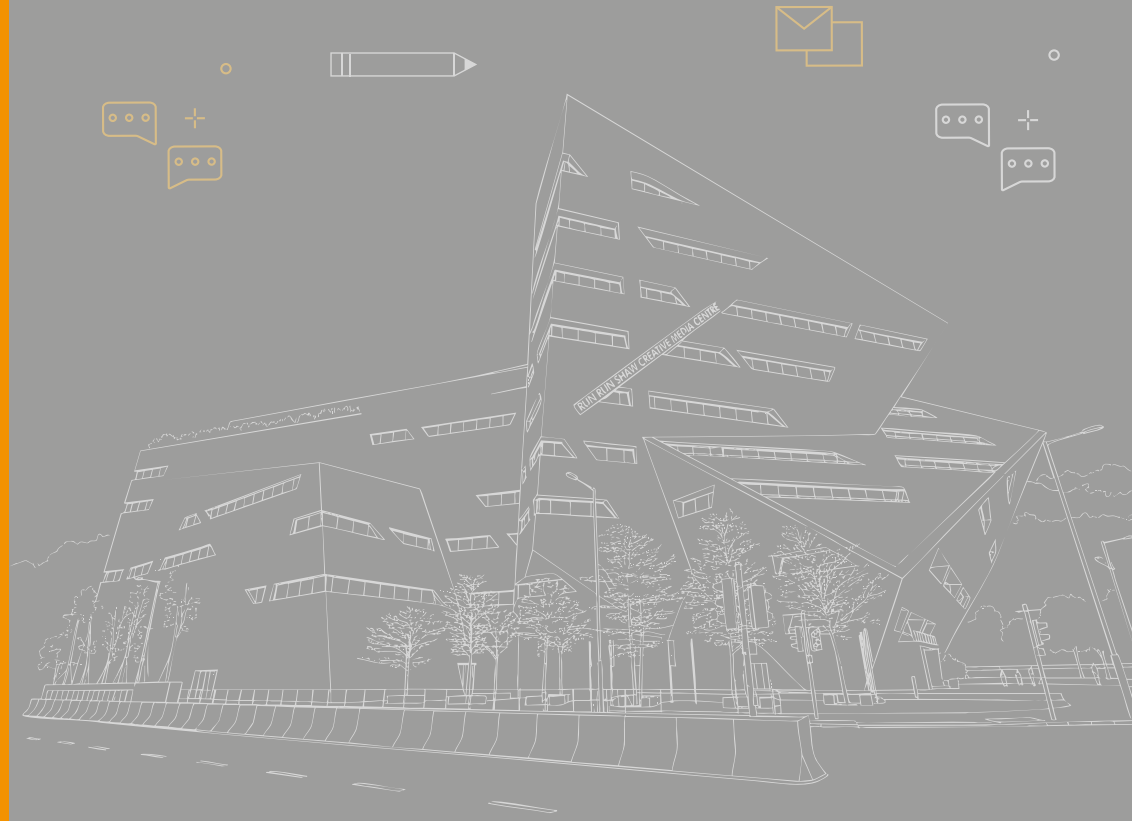

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