

Important Notes on the MBS Tracks of Study

Students are encouraged to pursue either a RESEARCH track, or a GENERAL track within the MBS programme. Requirements of the two tracks are listed below:

| | GENERAL track | RESEARCH track |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Foundation Courses (9 credits each) | BSTC6079 Early Buddhism BSTC6002 Mahayana Buddhism | |
| 2. Elective Courses (6 credits each) | Any 5 courses (except BSTC6070 Research methodology in Buddhist Studies) | a) BSTC6070 Research methodology in Buddhist Studies b) Any 2 courses of the same language from <u>2.1 Buddhist Languages</u> c) Any 2 courses from <u>2.2 Buddhist Texts, Thought, and Culture*</u> |
| 3. Capstone Experience (12 credits each) | An additional elective course (BSTC8xxx) and the submission of a portfolio or BSTC8999 Capstone Experience: Dissertation | BSTC8999 Capstone Experience: Dissertation |

**Under special approval from the Programme Chairperson, a student may take 1 course from 2.3 Applied Buddhism or 2.4 Other Courses instead of taking courses from 2.2 Buddhist Texts, Thought, and Culture. Please refer to the [MBS syllabus](#) for course list of Category 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4. Please also refer to item 4 below for details.*

1. Students who wish to pursue the RESEARCH track have to comply with the course requirements above. Otherwise, GENERAL track will be the default.
2. The study track will NOT be displayed in all official academic records issued by the University, including transcripts, testimonials and graduation certificates. Students who have fulfilled the RESEARCH track requirements can request for a confirmation letter from the Centre of Buddhist Studies to indicate their academic pursuit in the RESEARCH track upon completion of study. There will be an online platform for requesting the letter. More details will be announced during the graduation season.
3. No declaration is needed to indicate student's track of study. Students who wish to pursue the RESEARCH track simply need to comply with the above course requirements. RESEARCH track students have the responsibility to ensure that their course enrolments match with the RESEARCH track requirements. NO additional reminders will be sent to students on this.
4. If students wish to take 1 course from 2.3 Applied Buddhism or 2.4 Other Courses to replace a course from 2.2 Buddhist Texts, Thought, and Culture for fulfilling the RESEARCH track requirement, please email the request to the MBS Programme Chairman (Dr. Guang Xing: guangxin@hku.hk) and copy the General Office (buddhism@hku.hk). Students concerned have to keep a good record of the approval email and are required to attach it as supporting document in the online platform for requesting the confirmation letter mentioned in Pt. 2 above.
5. "BSTC6070 Research methodology in Buddhist Studies" is ONLY open to students who pursue the RESEARCH track. No sit-ins available. The course will be offered in the second semester and is typically recommended to be taken during the final semester of study. Enrollment in BSTC6070 will only be approved if students have enrolled in all the courses required for RESEARCH track (i.e. courses listed in 1, 2b, 2c, and 3 in the table above under the RESEARCH track).