



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

POSTGRADUATE
STUDIES

Master Degree by Mixed Mode
Master Degree by Research
PhD by Research

Introduction

The School of Humanities was one of the earliest schools to be established at Universiti Sains Malaysia and one of the largest to offer arts based courses. Since its inception in 1970, the school has built up a reputation as one of the leading Humanities faculties in the country.

Courses offered at the School of Humanities are designed to attain our goal of achieving academic excellence and producing well rounded students. The curriculum is thus structured specifically to produce graduates who are able to meet the manpower needs of the country and are well prepared to face various challenges at the workplace in the present era of ICT and globalisation.

Research and publication is the main priority at this school. Manned by experienced, dedicated and qualified academic and ancillary staff, members of the school are actively involved in numerous research projects geared towards fulfilling the complex and specialized demands of contemporary society.

Vision

Studying humanity to develop the self and society for a sustainable tomorrow.

Mission

The School of Humanities is committed in its mission to teach, research and publish in the major areas of the Humanities, and to engage with the community for the betterment of human kind.

To produce holistic graduates with a strong grounding in their area of specialization, soft skills, and sensitivity towards the environment.

To undertake fundamental, field and applied research that benefits humankind.

To produce and disseminate knowledge through high quality teaching, research and publications.

To contribute to society's development through community engagement and consultation.

Philosophy

The School's academic programmes emphasize elements of humanities and universal values. In line with this ideal, the curricula of the respective programmes stress on the following: a wide scope of knowledge, a teaching and learning process which takes on critical and analytical approaches, the effective dissemination of knowledge, and the emphasis not only on science and technology but also culture, customs, ethics as well as eastern values.

Postgraduate Programmes

The School of Humanities offers the following postgraduate studies degrees:

Master of Arts

Master of Science

Doctor of Philosophy

Mixed-Mode Programmes

- Master of Arts (Linguistics & English Language Studies)
- Master of Arts (Literature)
- Master of Arts (Southeast Asian History)
- Master of Arts (Hadith)
- Master of Science (Sustainable Cities and Communities)

By Research:

- Master of Arts
- Doctor of Philosophy

Research can be undertaken in the following areas:

- Malay Linguistics
- English Language Studies
- Literature
- Translation and Interpretation
- History
- Geography
- Islamic Studies
- Islamic Civilization & Asian Civilization
- Philosophy

Programme Aims

- To produce graduates with high level of intellectual skills in the field of humanities to meet the needs manpower for the country.
- To add to and increase knowledge as well as to encourage the growth of ideas in accordance with the role of the university as an institution of higher education.
- To provide opportunities for graduates to achieve academic maturity and acquire further expertise in related fields, leading to the exploration of aesthetic creative maturity of the individual and in the humanities.
- To aid the exploration and development of thoughts with the goal towards addressing the problems faced by society, the country and mankind in general.

MASTER DEGREE BY MIXED MODE PROGRAMME

The School of Humanities of Universiti Sains Malaysia offers five (5) post-graduate programmes at the Masters level by mixed mode (coursework and research):

Programme of Studies	Required Credit Hours	Mode of Studies
Master of Arts (Literature)	40	Full-time/ part-time
Master of Arts (Southeast Asian History)	40	Full-time/ part-time
Master of Arts (Hadith)	44	Full-time/ part-time
Master of Arts (Linguistics and English Language Studies)	40	Full-time/ part-time
Master of Science (Sustainable Cities And Communities)	40	Full-time only

Duration of candidature:

Type of Candidature	Minimum	Maximum
Full-Time	1 year (2 semesters)	2 years (4 semesters)
Part-Time	2 years (4 semesters)	4 years (8 semesters)

Application:

Possess good Bachelor degree (Second Class Upper or CGPA of at least 2.75 and above) in their respective fields of specialization and CGPA of 3.00 for Master of Arts in Linguistics and English Language Studies. Candidates, who do not have the appropriate academic background but who are eligible to be considered, must take the required undergraduate courses and pass them before enrolling in their studies.

Language requirements:

For Malaysian citizens, the minimum qualification is a pass in Bahasa Malaysia in Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia. For foreigners, candidates must sit and pass LKM100 as a requirement for Bahasa Malaysia at Universiti Sains Malaysia. In the field of Linguistics and English Language Studies, candidates must have TOEFL minimum score of 550 or IELTS Band 6.

Dissertation:

The candidates for mixed mode programmes are required to do and pass the dissertation. The candidates must produce a dissertation of 25,000 words. They are advised to identify the research topic and discuss with their supervisor in advance before they register for the dissertation.

Dissertation must be completed in a stipulated period of time. Full-time candidates must complete the dissertation in one semester and part-time candidates have to complete it in two semesters (including presenting the proposal, writing up of the dissertation, submitting the dissertation, attending the viva and doing the corrections).

PROGRAMME SYNOPSIS

The mixed-mode study programme aimed at fulfilling the ambitions of postgraduate students for continuing their comprehensive studies in any discipline offered through the components of coursework and dissertation. This programme is designed to be flexible based on the dissertation component that enabled students to undertake research in various areas relating to their interest, ability and respective academic experiences. Students interested in this programme can register either as full-time or part-time. With this selection it enabled them to arrange their personal and study schedule to the best they could. This programme is conducted in mixed-mode involving course work and research.

All students are required to prepare an assignment, involved in tutorial classes, seminar presentation and sit for a written examination apart from attending lectures. Except for English Language Studies, all study programmes are conducted either in Malay language or bilingually (Malay Language and English) throughout.

Masters of Arts (Southeast Asian History)

The programme focuses on the history of the Southeast Asian region and is complemented by Malaysian and Asian history. Candidates must complete and clear numerous courses that serve as a prerequisite to their commencement of a dissertation under a supervisor. Similar to research-mode higher degrees, mixed-mode M.A. students face a viva voce that ultimately determines their attainment of this higher degree. The studies are conducted under the supervision of an academic member of staff of the Section whereby candidates undertake research and fieldwork in libraries, archives, and other repositories including tapping into oral source materials to produce a thesis for examination. Both research-mode higher degrees cater to full-time or part-time study.

Masters of Arts (Literature) aims to cater to graduate students who want to continue their studies in the field of Literature comprehensively through these components: coursework and research. This programme is very flexible and is based on the dissertation component that enables students to conduct research in various fields that are connected to their interest, skills and study experience.

The Master of Arts (Hadith) aims to serve the needs of graduates who are interested in furthering their studies in Hadith by coursework and dissertation. This programme provides an alternative to the existing programme of Master of Arts (Islamic Studies) via full research which is also offered. The mixed-mode structure is designed for graduates interested in pursuing a coursework-based M.A. programme that is flexible. The flexibility of the programme lies in the dissertation component that allows candidates to do research on a particular area that is relevant to their experience and interests.

The Master of Arts programme in Linguistics and English Language Studies aims to serve the needs of graduates who are interested in furthering their studies in Linguistic and English Language Studies by coursework and dissertation. The mixed-mode structure is designed for graduates interested in pursuing a coursework-based M.A. programme that is flexible. The flexibility of the programme lies in the dissertation component that allows candidates to do research on a particular area that is relevant to their experience and interests. Master of Science (Geographical Information Science, GIS) The aim of this graduate program is to enhance the student's skills in current scientific knowledge in theory, method and application of geographic information in various fields such as urban and regional planning, social planning, resource management, business management and planning as well as environmental aspects. The programme structure is flexible and it allows students to acquire the opportunities of enhancing certain field of studies by doing research topics based on their interest, ability and educational experience. At present, this program is offered full time since most of the courses involve practical works through computer application in the lab.

Master of Science (Sustainable Cities and Communities) The aim of this graduate program is to produce graduates who are able to appreciate and apply the integration of art-science (fusion) to address issues of management and governance of cities and sustainable communities in the context of sustainable development and management. The focus is also given to the intricate relationship between human and physical processes that shape the ecology and urban environment. This program will explore the social and ecological processes in a city that has complexity, conflict and diversity of its own. The programme structure is flexible to allow students the opportunities of enhancing certain field of studies by doing research topics based on their interest, ability and educational experience. This program is offered full time/ part time basis.

MASTER AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE BY RESEARCH

Introduction

The School of Humanities offers two post-graduates degrees, Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) by research. The areas of research are very wide covering the fields of Literature, Malay Language, Translation Studies, Interpretation Studies, Linguistics and English Language Studies, History, Geography, Philosophy, Islamic Civilization & Asian Civilization and Islamic Studies. Within these sections, many kinds of research can be undertaken by the potential candidates.

Application

Candidates for the Master of Arts must possess a good Bachelor Degree (Second Class Upper) or CGPA of above 2.75 in the related fields. Candidates for the Doctor of Philosophy must have a Master of Arts in the respective fields of specialization. Candidates with academic backgrounds other than in the area for which they are applying for may be required to complete undergraduate level courses (courses will be identified by the sections concerned) before embarking on their research. Successful candidates generally work under a main supervisor. Nevertheless, there are provisions for a co-supervisor to be considered should the situation merit it.

Language requirements:

For Malaysian citizens, minimum qualification is a pass in Bahasa Malaysia in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia. For foreigner, candidates must sit and pass the LKM100 as a requirement for Bahasa Malaysia in Universiti Sains Malaysia. In the field of Linguistics and English Language Studies, candidates must have a minimum TOEFL score of 550 or IELTS Band 6.

Research Proposal Presentation

Candidates are required to prepare a research proposal in consultation with the supervisor. The presentation of the proposal will be evaluated by a panel selected by the Section and must fulfil the requirements of a good research proposal. Upon approval of the research proposal, the candidate shall then proceed with his/her research and thesis proper after making the necessary corrections and amendments as suggested by the Section.

Thesis

Candidates are required to produce a Master of Art or Doctor of Philosophy thesis. This shall be done in consultation with the supervisor. A MA thesis should not exceed 50,000 words and a Ph.D thesis must not exceed 80,000 words.

Period of candidature:

Master of Art	Min	Max
Full time	12 months (1 year)	36 months (3 years)
Part time	24 months (2 years)	72 months (6 years)
Doctor of Philosophy	Min	Max
Full time	24 months (2 years)	60 months (5 years)
Part time	36 months (3 years)	90 months (7 ½ years)

AREA OF SPECIALISATION

PROGRAMME TITLE	TITLE
Malay Linguistics	Phonetics
	Phonology
	Morphology
	Syntax
	Sociolinguistics
	Psycholinguistics
	Semantics
	Discourse Analysis
	Pragmatics
	Historical and Comparative Linguistics of Austronesian Languages
	Development History of Malay Linguistics
	Theoretical Linguistics
	Applied Linguistics
Corpus Linguistics	
English Language & Literature Studies	Applied Linguistics
	Discourse Studies
	Semantics
	Sociolinguistics
	Teaching & Learning of English TESL/TEFL
	English Literature
	Malaysian Literature in English
	World Englishes/Varieties of English
	Multimodality/Semiotics
	Corpus Linguistics
	Literary Theory(Post-colonialism; Feminism; Psychoanalysis)
	Postcolonial South East Asian Literature in English
	American Literature
	Children's Literature
	Drama (from Shakespeare to the present)
	Psychology and English Literature
Emotion and Cognition in Learning Literature	

PROGRAMME TITLE	TITLE
Geography	Human Geography
	Urban & Metropolitan Geography
	Economic & Development Geography
	Industrial Geography
	Geography of Population and well-being
	Regional Development Planning
	Geography of Services
	Agricultural Geography and Rural Development
	Resource Management
	Geography of ASEAN & Asia-Pacific
	Geographical Information System
	Remote Sensing
	Geomorphology
	Hydrology
	Climatology
	Biogeography
	Land-use Planning and Management
	Environmental Management
	Sustainable Cities And Communities
	Environmental Hazard Management
Literature	Comparative Literature (Asian , African, Indian and Europe Literature)
	Nusantara Literature
	Literary Theory(Post-colonialism; Feminism; Post-structuralism)
	Creative Writing
	Literature

PROGRAMME TITLE	TITLE
Islamic Studies	Usuluddin (Aqidah; Islamic Philosophy, Da'wah)
	Syari'ah (Fiqh and Islamic Jurisprudence)
	Syari'ah (Islamic Administrative Law)
	Syari'ah (Islamic Banking and Finance)
	Syari'ah (Food and Halal Development)
	Islamic Thought (Islamic Modern Thought; Islamic Classical Thought)
	Islamic Psychology
	Al-quran and Hadith Studies
	Islamic Education
History	Malaysian History
	Asian History
	Southeast Asian History
	History
Islamic Civilization & Asian Civilization	Islamic History
	Islamic Thought
	Islamic Education
	Comparative Religion
	Islamic Civilisation
	Malay World Civilisation
	Civilisation in Asia (China, India, Indonesia, Berunei, Singapore, Thailand, Japan)
	Culture Studies
Philosophy	Philisophy of Islamic Science
	Philisophy of Science
	Modern Western Philosophy

PROGRAMME TITLE	TITLE
Translation & Interpretation	Translation
	Translation Studies
	Audiovisual Translation (Subtitling, Dubbing)
	Media Translation (Advertisement, News, etc.)
	Translation and Technology (PEMT, CAT, Localisation, etc.)
	Translation History
	Translation Editing and Assessment
	Interpreting Studies
	Consecutive Interpreting
	Simultaneous Interpreting
	Community-based Interpreting

FACILITIES

- Resource Room
- Archive & Documentation Room
- Language Labs
- Computer Lab
- Audiovisual Lab
- Interpretation Lab
- Geographic Information Systems Lab (GIS)
- Cartography Lab
- Physical Geography Lab
- Hydrology Lab
- Literature & Media Lab
- Undergraduate Student Lounge
- Postgraduate Karel Room



APPLICATION

When to Apply

Applications for postgraduate studies are open throughout the year with no closing dates but there are still cut-off date for coursework and mixed mode programmes which are as below:

1st Semester (September Intake)	- 15 June
2nd Semester (February Intake)	- 15 October

For research mode programme, application and registration can be anytime throughout the year.

Online Application:

<http://www.ips.usm.my/index.php/prospective-students/admission>

Scholarship/Funding Opportunities

- USM Global Fellowship
- Vice-Chancellor Award
- USM Fellowship Scheme
- USM Graduate Assistant Scheme

Further information on financial assistance is available on USM Institute of Postgraduate Studies website: <http://www.ips.usm.my>

Contact Us

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