Overview - Your Own Pathway to Success

Today, there is a critical need for flexible, incisive next-generation front-runners, who can tackle the increasingly complex issues of our times through the integration of knowledge and original approaches to solution-building and problem-solving.

To help address this need, HKUST’s new Individualized Interdisciplinary Major (IIM) offers a non-traditional, cross-School academic pathway for students with vision, talents and character to create their own study program.

IIM students have the academic freedom to combine courses from different departments and Schools at HKUST, and even different universities, to develop an interdisciplinary major tailor-made to their intellectual interests. The program initiated will enable the pursuit of a novel interdisciplinary research field or a career in an area of emerging significance, with standards ensured by a small supervisory team.

Program Structure

IIM students are admitted through school-based admission and undertake a four-year interdisciplinary curriculum. Early requirements encompass the University Common Core and fundamental language, computer science and mathematics courses to build communication skills and the mindset for logical and efficient thinking.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BSc in Individualized Interdisciplinary Major</th>
<th>No. of credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University Common Core</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language requirements</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamental courses (including MATH and COMP courses)</td>
<td>6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major required courses planned by student (with advisors’ approval)</td>
<td>At least 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective courses planned by student (with advisors’ approval)</td>
<td>At least 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Capstone Project</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
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Admission

IM students are admitted through school-based admission and undertake a four-year interdisciplinary curriculum. Students who are interested in declaring IIM as their major should apply with prior preparation no later than their Year 1’s Winter semester. Late application will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Admission Criteria
1. Satisfactory academic performance
2. Two faculty advisors are identified
3. Proposal is ready before interview
4. Satisfactory interview performance

Example of IIM

The purpose of this major is to allow students to design a major which is interdisciplinary, yet forms a conceptual whole. It is not intended to allow a student to randomly select courses which are interested to them or to selectively omit one or two requirements from another major currently offered in HKUST. The major must have a theme, an in-depth examination of a particular topic, or a defined field of study. For example, Green Materials and Urban Planning, Human-Animal Studies, etc.

Approved IIM

Behavioral Consumer Science
Computational Cognitive Neuroscience
Built Environment Design
Brain Computer Interface
Approval Process
Each IIM has to go through four-level of approval.

1. Talk to program director
2. Prepare a proposal
3. Review and endorse the proposal by two advisory faculty
4. Approve by committees at IPO and University level

Academic Advising
Advice, guidance and support are provided by the Individualized Major Advisory Committee (IMAC) - a four-person committee set up specifically to oversee an IIM student's progress. Each committee will include two faculty advisors identified by the student as having relevant expertise, a professional from the student's chosen area, or a third academic, suggested by the Interdisciplinary Programs Office, and the IIM Program Director. Students are expected to meet regularly with advisors to provide updates on coursework, activities and future plans.

Career Prospects
Individualized degree holders' outstanding knowledge and skills, along with clear commitment to and enthusiasm for the subject selected for study, opens up an exciting range of openings for graduates. Options include working in the area of specialty for an established company, further studies and research in emerging fields, or developing a start-up.

Alumni Quote
The application process and structuring of the curriculum requires time and effort, but during the process I learned a lot about the details of the curriculum framework and the importance of selecting courses.

by Johnny
Bioenergy Management

The interdisciplinary nature of the program provides knowledge and skills from several different departments and fields of study, which would not be possible to study by majoring in just one of these fields.

by Yash
Environmental Geoscience

It took me months to research the courses across universities, but the time was not wasted because I knew I was doing something meaningful for myself.

by Matt
Human Computer Interaction

A unique experience, An exceptional future!

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