

Credit Transfer Arrangement under the Integrated Bachelor-Master Pathway

BACKGROUND

1 In the higher education arena, there has been a growing trend for combined pathways for bachelor's and master's degrees allowing students to accelerate their studies and get a head start on graduate studies.

2 At the Deans/DIPO/Hub Acting Deans' Joint Lunch Meetings in early 2021, it was affirmed that the Integrated Bachelor-Master Pathway can incentivize undergraduate (UG) students to pursue postgraduate (PG) studies immediately upon graduation. This pathway can also connect UG degrees with research postgraduate (RPg) programs offered at HKUST(GZ), through which students will benefit from their innovative and inter-disciplinary programs, thereby further strengthening cross-campus integration and complementarity.

3 Under the Integrated Bachelor-Master Pathway, students are allowed to take the corresponding PG courses in their final UG year, and upon commencement of their PG studies, they can apply for credit transfer in recognition of those PG courses taken.

4 According to the *Academic Regulations Governing PG Studies*, credits earned at the UG level can only be transferred if the credits concerned have not been used to earn an academic qualification. However, following the *Academic Regulations Governing UG Studies*, all courses including PG courses taken by UG students will be counted toward their overall Cumulative Grade Average (CGA) leading to their UG degrees. To facilitate the Integrated Bachelor-Master Pathway, the arrangement on credit transfer was reviewed to give way to double counting of credits toward the requirements for both the Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

CREDIT TRANSFER ARRANGEMENT

5 The Senate approved in June 2021 revisions to the [Academic Regulations Governing PG Studies](#) to include the following credit transfer arrangement for the Integrated Bachelor-Master Pathway, with effect from Fall Term, 2021/22 at both HKUST and HKUST(GZ):

- For PG programs under the Integrated Bachelor-Master Pathway requiring 30 credits or above, unless restricted by the respective program regulations defined otherwise, a maximum of nine credits earned at the UG level can be used for credit transfer.
- For those programs requiring less than 30 credits, a maximum of six credits earned at the UG level can be used for credit transfer.

6 Undergraduate students who are interested in pursuing the Integrated Bachelor-Master Pathway should submit a form indicating intention to the relevant PG Program Office for consideration. If a green light is received from the PG Program Office, they are required to apply separately via the OAS and should receive offers for admission to the indicated PG program. A [sample template](#) for the intention form is provided for reference.

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