

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
LKS FACULTY OF MEDICINE**

To: Students admitted to Year 1 of the Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences (BBiomedSc) programme in 2025/26

Enrolment Arrangement and Exemption/Advanced Standing Policy
for CAES1001 Academic Communication in English Course and Common Core Courses

In accordance with the regulations and syllabuses for the BBiomedSc degree, students are required to successfully complete the following in order to satisfy part of the requirements as stipulated under UG5 of the *Regulations for First Degree Curricula*:

- (i) a non-credit bearing *CAES1001 Academic Communication in English (ACE)*¹ in the first year of study; and
- (ii) 36 credits of courses in the Common Core (CC) Curriculum, comprising at least one and not more than two courses from each Area of Inquiry with not more than 24 credits of courses being selected within one academic year, before the end of the second year of study, except where candidates are required to make up for failed credits (please consult the University website on CC Curriculum to gain more information: <https://commoncore.hku.hk/about-us/>). BBiomedSc students are expected to take four CC courses in the first year and the remaining two courses in the second year.

A. Enrolment Arrangement

Enrolment Arrangement	ACE <i>[Not required for students who have achieved Level 5 or above in the HKDSE English Language Examination, or equivalent]</i>	CC Courses
<p>Course Selection Period [First Semester/Full-year courses: August 19, 2025 (10 am) to August 25, 2025 (4 pm)] [Second Semester courses: August 19, 2025 (10:10 am) to August 25, 2025 (4 pm)] <i>Except the following period: August 20, 2025 (12 noon) – August 21, 2025 (2:29 pm)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Students are required to sign up for an ACE class via the SIS self-service enrolment during the course selection period. BBiomedSc students are advised to enrol in an ACE class in First Semester. For those who do not have any ACE course enrolment after the course selection period, the SIS will automatically assign students to a class either in First or Second Semester. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> BBiomedSc Year 1 students are required to enrol in <u>four</u> CC courses via the SIS self-service enrolment during the course selection period. Approval of CC course enrolments will be done, via SIS, on a first-come-first-served basis.
<p>First Semester Add/Drop Period for both First and Second Semesters courses: September 1, 2025(10 am) to September 15, 2025 (4 pm) <i>Except the following period: September 2, 2025 (12 noon to 4:59 pm)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Students can add/drop an ACE class freely during the add/drop period. For those who do not have any ACE course enrolment after the add/drop period, the SIS will automatically assign them to a class either in First or Second Semester. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Students can add/drop CC courses freely during the add/drop period. First auto-balloting job will be executed during the suspension period from 3 pm to 4:59 pm on September 2, 2025. Subsequent auto-balloting jobs will be performed 6 times a day at 8 am, 11 am, 2 pm, 5 pm, 8 pm and 11 pm respectively, from September 2, 2025 (8 pm) to September 15, 2025 (11 pm).

¹ Candidates who have achieved Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, or equivalent, are exempted from this requirement, and the ACE is optional.

Enrolment Arrangement	ACE <i>[Not required for students who have achieved Level 5 or above in the HKDSE English Language Examination, or equivalent]</i>	CC Courses
<p>Second Semester Add/Drop Period for <u>both Second and Summer Semesters</u> courses:</p> <p>January 19, 2026 (10 am) to February 2, 2026 (4 pm)</p> <p><i>Except the following period: January 20, 2026 (12 noon to 4:59 pm)</i></p>	<p>1. Students can add/drop an ACE class freely during the add/drop period (if ACE is not completed in First Semester).</p> <p>2. For those who do not have any ACE course enrolment in 2025/26 after the add/drop period, the SIS will automatically assign them to a class in Second Semester.</p>	<p>1. Students can add/drop CC courses freely, including those offered in Summer Semester (if any), during the add/drop period.</p> <p>2. First auto-balloting job will be executed during the suspension period from 3 pm to 4:59 pm on January 20, 2026. Subsequent auto-balloting jobs will be performed 6 times a day at 8 am, 11 am, 2 pm, 5 pm, 8 pm and 11 pm respectively, from January 20, 2026 (8 pm) to February 2, 2025 (11 pm).</p>
<p>Summer Semester Add/Drop Period:</p> <p>June 15, 2026 (10 am) to June 22, 2026 (4 pm)</p> <p><i>Except the following period: June 16, 2026 (12 noon to 4:59 pm)</i></p>	<p>---</p>	<p>1. Students can add/drop CC courses freely (if any) during the add/drop period.</p> <p>2. First auto-balloting job will be executed during the suspension period from 3 pm to 4:59 pm on June 16, 2026. Subsequent auto-balloting jobs will be performed 6 times a day at 8 am, 11 am, 2 pm, 5 pm, 8 pm and 11 pm respectively, from June 16, 2026 (8 pm) to June 22, 2026 (11 pm).</p>

B. Exemption Policy for ACE

In consultation with the Centre for Applied English Studies (CAES), the following exemption policy for the ACE course will be administered:

1. Students who have achieved Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE), or equivalent, are exempted from the ACE requirement, and the ACE is **optional**².
2. **The following students need NOT apply for exemption from the ACE requirement (exemption will automatically be processed only for students listed below):**
 - (a) **Students who are admitted via the JUPAS pathway and have achieved Level 5 or above in the HKDSE English Language Examination; and**
 - (b) **Students who have already been granted advanced standing for the ACE requirement upon admission.**
3. Students who are not one of those as stated in point 2 above but have achieved any of the following qualifications regarded as having attained the equivalent of Level 5 or above in the HKDSE English Language Examination are eligible to **apply for exemption** (see point 4 below) from the ACE requirement, and the ACE is **optional**²:

² Optional students may take ACE as an elective on a non-credit bearing basis. For those students who would like to take the ACE as an optional course, please sign up for an ACE class via SIS self-service enrolment during the course selection period.

- (a) holder of a Bachelor's degree from an English-medium university
- (b) achieved Grade A or above in English Language at **GCSE/ GCEO** / English First Language at **IGCSE** / English Second Language at **IGCSE** / English Language or English Literature at **GCE AS/ AL**
- (c) achieved an overall **IELTS** score of no less than 7 **AND** with all sub-scores no less than 6.5 on the Reading, Speaking, Listening, and Writing Tests
- (d) achieved an overall **TOEFL Internet-based test** score of no less than 94 **AND** no less than a 24 on the writing, a 20 on the speaking, a 20 on the listening, AND a 19 on the reading sections
- (e) achieved in **International Baccalaureate (IB)** Grade 4 or above in HL English Language A: Language and Literature / HL English Language A: Literature / HL English Language (B Syllabus) / HL English Language (A1 or A2 Syllabus); Grade 5 or above SL English Language A: Language and Literature / SL English Language A: Literature / SL English Language (B Syllabus) / SL English Language (A1 or A2 Syllabus)
- (f) achieved Grade 4 or above on the **Advanced Placement (AP) English Language/ English Language and Composition/ English Literature and Composition Test**
- (g) achieved section scores of 630 or better in Reading and Writing of the **NEW Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)** in the same attempt
- (h) achieved Level C2 in Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English / Grade A in Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English
- (i) achieved a score of 76 in the Pearson Test of English Assessment (Academic)
- (j) achieved Grade B or above in H1 General Paper at the **Singapore GCE A-level**
- (k) achieved Grade A or better in English language at **Malaysia SPM examination**
- (l) achieved Grade A2 or better in **Malaysia UEC-Senior English Language**
- (m) attained Level 4 in each set of credits in **New Zealand NCEA Literacy** (10 credits made up of 5 credits in reading and 5 credits in writing)
- (n) achieved a score of 95% or better in English at **All India Senior School Certificate Examination / Higher School Certificate**
- (o) achieved a final score of 90% or better in English at **Grade 12 Canadian high school curriculum.**
- (p) achieved Grade B or better in English Language at **Sri Lanka Ordinary examination**
- (q) achieved a score of 90 or better in English in the **Russian Unified State Exam** (Единый государственный экзамен, ЕГЭ, Yediniy gosudarstvenniy ekzamen, EGE)
- (r) **Academic Speaking and Writing test conducted by CAES** for students who have not taken any of the above tests. (*Note: these students will be invited to attend an assessment session conducted by the CAES on August 25, 2025. The CAES will contact the students concerned to convey details of the arrangement in due course.*)

- *When applying to take the Academic Speaking and Writing Test, students should provide evidence to their Faculties and the CAES1001 Course Coordinator that they were admitted to HKU using qualifications **other than** those included in the list. The relevant supporting documents should be submitted together with the online applications (see point 4 below).*

- *Students are required to show **the evidence of those other qualifications** to the assessor on the day of the Academic Speaking and Writing Test.*
 - *If any students fail to provide any evidence that they were admitted to HKU using qualifications other than those included in the list provided by CAES, the CAES assessor has the rights not to allow the applicant to take the test.*
 - *The test takes place annually in August. If a student fails to meet the application deadline, they will not have another chance to take the test, as no alternative test dates will be provided.*
 - *The test is conducted face-to-face. There will be no alternative testing methods available for students.*
4. Students who have achieved any of the above qualification(s) and would like to apply for exemption of taking CAES1001 should complete the online form “*Application for Exemption from the Academic Communication in English Requirement*” by clicking [here](#) (HKU Portal login is required) and **upload all supporting documents to the online application platform by August 14, 2025 (or by August 29, 2025 for other late comers)**. Students may be invited to produce the original of the supporting documents for verification purpose if necessary.

C. Advanced Standing Policy for CC Course(s)

Students with recognised qualifications or studies before admission may apply for advanced standing for the relevant CC course(s). To apply, students should complete the online form “*Application for Advanced Standing for Common Core Course(s)*” by clicking [here](#) (HKU Portal login is required) and **upload all supporting documents (including academic transcript and syllabuses of the relevant courses from the previous studies)** to the online application platform by **August 14, 2025 (or within 3 days upon acceptance of offer for other late comers)**. Students may be invited to produce the original of the supporting documents for verification purpose if necessary.

Students who have already been granted advanced standing for CC courses upon admission need NOT apply.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Phyllis Lee (kimkau@hku.hk / 3910 2634) of the Faculty Office.

July 11, 2025