

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Biomedical Engineering

Study Scheme

M.Phil. – Ph.D. Programme in Biomedical Engineering (Full-time and/or Part-time)

Please read the Study Scheme in conjunction with the following emails:

1. "Completing certain Improving Postgraduate Learning modules in the first year of study (for fulfilment of Ph.D. and Taught Doctoral candidacy requirements) with retroactive effect from 2022-23 intake", dated 27 October 2023: <https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/download/IPL.pdf>.
2. "Amendments to Research Data Management Practice and Requirements for Candidacy and Graduation -- applicable to RPg and taught doctoral students admitted in 2025/26 or thereafter", dated 20 February 2026: <https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/download/Amendments.pdf>.

A. M.Phil. Student

1. Coursework Requirement

(a) Lecture courses:

(Applicable to students admitted in 2024-25 and before)

Each M.Phil. student is required to complete a minimum of 15 units of 5xxx graduate courses offered by the Division, or by other Divisions subject to the approval of the supervisor and Division Head. At least one faculty core courses must be taken. To satisfy the Faculty core course requirement, students must achieve at least a grade B in the course. Otherwise, the course will only be counted as an elective.

(Applicable to students admitted in 2025-26 and thereafter)

Each M.Phil. student is required to complete a minimum of 15 units of 5xxx graduate courses offered by the Division, or by other Divisions subject to the approval of the supervisor and Division Head. At least one faculty core courses must be taken.

Student shall consult and obtain permission from the supervisor on course selection (the supervisor's signature on the course selection form is needed.)

Note:

- (1) Each Lecture course normally carries three (3) units.
- (2) Each student will receive grades (A to F) every term for lecture courses. The pass grade for all courses is D or above.

(b) Thesis research / monitoring courses:

Each M.Phil. student must register for the relevant Thesis Research Course in every term throughout his/her study period.

- Full-time M.Phil. students: BMEG8006
- Part-time and Continuing M.Phil. students: BMEG8003

Note:

- (1) BMEG8006 carries 6 units and BMEG8003 carries 3 units. Each unit should be regarded as equivalent to approximately 3 hours of study/research per week by the student.
- (2) Each student will receive grades (A to F) every term for Thesis Research courses. The pass grade for all courses is D or above.

2. Other Requirements

- (a) Students must fulfill the Term Assessment Requirement of the Graduate School. For details, please refer to Clause 13.0 "Unsatisfactory Performance and Discontinuation of Studies" of the General Regulations Governing Postgraduate Studies which can be accessed from the Graduate School Homepage: <https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk>.
- (b) Students are required to submit a research thesis and pass an oral examination for graduation.
- (c) Each student must present a graduate seminar.
- (d) Students are required to complete an Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) module on "Observing Intellectual Property and Copyright Law during Research". This is an online module and relevant information can be accessed from the website: <https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/prodev/ipi.html>.
- (e) Students as advised by their supervisors or Graduate Divisions to take laboratory safety courses, including "General Safety", "Biological Safety" and/or "Chemical Safety" (excluding the Animal Experimentation at CUHK), are required to attend the course(s) and pass the corresponding examination(s) in their first year of study, with effect from the 2022-23 intake.
- (f) Students are required to complete an Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) module on "Introduction to Research & Thesis Writing For Engineering, Medicine & Science" or "Thesis Writing Workshop For Engineering, Medicine & Science" in their first year of studies.
- (g) Students are required to complete and pass an IPL module on "Basics of Research Data Management" in their first year of study, with effect from the 2022-23 intake. This is an online module and relevant information can be accessed from the website: <https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/prodev/ipi.html> (under "Research Skills").
- (h) Students are required to submit a Data Management Plan (DMP) during the first year of study, with effect from the 2025-26 intake. The final DMP should have been shared to the CUHK community on DMPTool or the relevant platform that CUHK provides when submitting the final version of the thesis/portfolio to the Graduate School. The guide is available on Library's website: <https://libguides.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/rdm/mandate-support>.
- (i) Students are required to complete an online Research Ethics Training (RET) module on "Publication Ethics" offered by the Research Office (RO) and obtain a valid Publication Ethics Certificate for graduation. Relevant information can be accessed from the RET website at <https://www.research-ethics.cuhk.edu.hk/web/>.

Note:

- (1) Students from the M.Phil. programme may apply for transfer to the Ph.D. Programme as a Ph.D. student (pre-candidacy) with a recommendation letter from the supervisor. The Division will consider the application and decide if approval is granted.
- (2) The length of study will follow the regulation stipulated by the Graduate School.

B. Ph.D. Student (Pre-candidacy)

The "candidacy requirement" composes of four major parts, namely, coursework requirement, candidacy examination, thesis proposal (and oral defence) and stipulated Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) module requirements. Students must complete and fulfill the first three parts within the "maximum period for fulfilling candidacy requirements" and complete the stipulated IPL module(s) in their first year of study. Details of the requirement are listed below:

1. Coursework Requirement

(a) Lecture courses:

(Applicable to students admitted between 2019-20 and 2021-22)¹

Each Ph.D. student is required to complete a minimum of 21 units of courses offered by the Division, or by other Departments/Divisions subject to the approval of the supervisor and Division Head. At least one faculty core courses must be taken. To satisfy the Faculty core course requirement, students must achieve at least a grade B in the course. Otherwise, the course will only be counted as an elective.

(Applicable to students admitted between 2022-23 and 2024-25)

Each Ph.D. student is required to complete a minimum of 18 units of courses offered by the Division, or by other Departments/Divisions subject to the approval of the supervisor and Division Head. At least one faculty core courses must be taken. To satisfy the Faculty core course requirement, students must achieve at least a grade B in the course. Otherwise, the course will only be counted as an elective.

(Applicable to students admitted between 2025-26 and thereafter)

Each Ph.D. student is required to complete a minimum of 18 units of courses offered by the Division, or by other Departments/Divisions subject to the approval of the supervisor and Division Head. At least one faculty core courses must be taken.

Note 1: The University allows PhD students to take at most 15% of the course unit requirement at undergraduate level, which means, among the 21 units, at most 3 units can be at undergraduate level.

Student shall consult and obtain permission from the supervisor on course selection (the supervisor's signature on the course selection form is needed.)

Note:

- (1) Each lecture course normally carries three (3) units.
- (2) Each student will receive grades (A to F) every term for lecture courses. The pass grade for all courses is D or above.

(b) Thesis research / monitoring courses:

Each Ph.D. student must register for the relevant Thesis Research Course in every term throughout his/her study period.

- Full-time Ph.D. (pre-candidacy) students: BMEG8006
- Part-time Ph.D. (pre-candidacy) students: BMEG8003

Note:

- (1) BMEG8006 carries 6 units and BMEG8003 carries 3 units. Each unit should be regarded as equivalent to approximately 3 hours of study/research per week by the student.
- (2) Each student will receive grades (A to F) every term for Thesis Research courses. The pass grade for all courses is D or above.

2. Other Requirements

Students are required to complete the following Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) modules in their first year of study for partial fulfillment of candidacy requirements:

- (a) Students as advised by their supervisors or Graduate Divisions to take laboratory safety courses, including "General Safety", "Biological Safety" and/or "Chemical Safety" (excluding the Animal Experimentation at CUHK), are required to attend the course(s) and pass the corresponding examination(s) in their first year of study, with effect from the 2022-23 intake.
- (b) Students are required to complete and pass an IPL module on "Basics of Research Data Management" in their first year of study, with effect from the 2022-23 intake. This is an online module and relevant information can be accessed from the website: <https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/prodev/ipl.html> (under "Research Skills").
- (c) Students are required to complete an Improving Postgraduate Learning (IPL) module on "Introduction to Research & Thesis Writing For Engineering, Medicine & Science" or "Thesis Writing Workshop For Engineering, Medicine & Science" in their first year of studies.
- (d) Students are required to submit a Data Management Plan (DMP), with effect from the 2025-26 intake. The guide is available on Library's website: <https://libguides.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/rdm/mandate-support>.

3. *Candidacy Examination*

- (a) Each Ph.D. student is required to pass a candidacy examination (CE) within the maximum period of his/her pre-candidacy stage for the advancement to his/her post-candidacy stage. The purpose of this examination is to test the student's basic knowledge and understanding in the BME discipline.

The CE is an open book, written examination. The student is required to answer a required number of questions selected by the supervisor.

- (b) At least 6 months before a student's written CE, the Division would inform the student a specific set of examination materials covering the underpinning knowledge of the student's field of research study. The materials may include textbooks, reference book chapters, review articles, and other major foundational publications.

The outcomes of a CE shall be stated as:

- Pass
- Conditional Pass with prescription of additional coursework
- Fail

The CE will be held every year. A student is required to pass a CE within the first two years of enrolment.

- (c) Instead of the CE as described above, a student with the endorsement of his/her thesis supervisor may also apply for permission to take the CE orally before an candidacy examination committee appointed by the BME Division in consultation with the student's supervisor. A student's candidacy examination committee shall normally consist of at least 3 members including a Chairman appointed by the Graduate Division Head. The student's supervisor shall not be included as a member of the candidacy examination committee of their own students. The composition of the candidacy examination committee shall be proposed by the student's chief supervisor, endorsed by the Graduate Division Head, and approved by the Graduate Panel.

During the oral CE, the candidacy examination committee members are expected to raise questions on the specific set of examination materials prescribed for the student, with the purpose to determine whether the student has an adequate mastery of the underpinning knowledge for his/her field of research study. The duration of the oral CE is expected to last for 90 to 120 minutes normally.

Once such an application is approved by the BME Division and the collaborating home division, the student would not be able to revert back to take the written CE.

- (d) Instead of the CE as described above, a student with the endorsement of his/her thesis supervisor may also apply for permission to take the CE of the home division of his/her supervisor. Once such an application is approved by the BME Division and the collaborating home division, the student would not be able to revert back to take the BME CE. BME Division will accept the decision of the collaborating home division as final within the BME Division.
- (e) A student is required to discontinue from her/his Ph.D. study if the student fails twice in the Candidacy Examination.

4. Thesis Proposal and Oral Defence

- (a) Each Ph.D. student is required to pass a thesis proposal defence after 9 months and not later than 18 months from the date of his/her initial registration in the Ph.D. programme. The thesis proposal defence shall consist of a presentation open to the public and an oral proposal defence attended by the student's thesis proposal examination committee. (Note 4)
- (b) Each Ph.D. student is required to submit a formal progress report to his/her thesis proposal examination committee at least two weeks before the thesis proposal defence. The purpose of the thesis proposal defence is to assess the capability of the candidate for research work at the doctoral level.
- (c) The formal progress report and the thesis proposal defence will be assessed by the student's thesis proposal examination committee. The results of the examination of the thesis proposal and oral defence shall be stated as:
 - (a) Passed, or
 - (b) Required to take a second proposal defence, or
 - (c) Failed
- (d) A student is required to withdraw from his/her Ph.D. study if he/she fails the thesis proposal defence.

Note:

- (1) A "pass" of the thesis proposal defence means that the thesis proposal examination committee has found that the student is in possession of the research ability to complete the doctoral dissertation research. Failure to pass the defence may result in a requirement to withdraw from the programme.
- (2) The main purpose of the Thesis Proposal Defence is to assess the suitability of the candidate for research work at the doctoral level.
- (3) Each student in a Ph.D. programme is required to take the defence after 9 months and not later than 18 months from the date of the initial registration in the Ph.D. programme.
- (4) A student's thesis proposal examination committee shall normally consist of at least 3 members including the chief supervisor, and a Chairman appointed by the Graduate Division Head. The composition of the examination committee shall be proposed by the chief supervisor, endorsed by the Graduate Division Head, and approved by the Graduate Panel.
- (5) The proposal defence shall consist of a presentation open to the public and an oral examination limited to the thesis proposal examination committee of the student. The presentation of the Thesis Proposal Defence should be announced to the public at least one week before the examination. If the performance of the candidate in the oral examination is deemed unsatisfactory by the examination committee, he/she will be requested to discontinue the study.

5. Remarks

(Applicable to students admitted between 2019-20 and 2021-22)

For the advancement to his/her post-candidacy stage, each Ph.D. student is required to pass:

- (a) at least 15 units of graduate courses²,
- (b) the Candidacy Examination,
- (c) the thesis proposal defence,
- (d) The IPL module on "General Safety", and complete the IPL module on "Introduction to Research & Thesis Writing For Engineering, Medicine & Science" or "Thesis Writing Workshop For Engineering, Medicine & Science".

(Applicable to students admitted in 2022-23 and thereafter)

For the advancement to his/her post-candidacy stage, each Ph.D. student is required to pass:

- (a) At least 15 units of graduate courses,
- (b) The Candidacy Examination,
- (c) the thesis proposal defence,
- (d) The IPL module on "General Safety", and complete the IPL module on "Introduction to Research & Thesis Writing For Engineering, Medicine & Science" or "Thesis Writing Workshop For Engineering, Medicine & Science". Students who are prescribed laboratory safety training shall take the courses and, where appropriate, examinations in their first year of study, with effect from the 2022-23 intake.

Note 2: Students admitted in 2019-20 and thereafter can take at most 15% of the course unit requirement at undergraduate level, which can also be counted towards the course requirements for advancing to post-candidacy stage.

C. Ph.D. Student (Post-candidacy)

1. Coursework Requirement

- (a) Lecture courses:

(Applicable to students admitted between 2019-20 and 2021-22)

Each Ph.D. student is required to complete the rest of 21 units of course requirement.

(Applicable to students admitted in 2022-23 and thereafter)

Each Ph.D. student is required to complete the rest of 18 units of course requirement.

- (b) Thesis research / monitoring courses:

Each Ph.D. student must register for the relevant Thesis Research Course in every term through his/her study period.

- Full-time Ph.D. (post-candidacy) students: BMEG8012
- Part-time Ph.D. (post-candidacy) students: BMEG8006
- Continuing Ph.D. (post-candidacy) students: BMEG8003

Note: (1) BMEG8012 carries 12 units, BMEG8006 carries 6 units and BMEG8003 carries 3 units. Each unit should be regarded as equivalent to approximately 3 hours of study/research per week by the student.

2. Other Requirements

- (a) Students must fulfill the Term Assessment Requirement of the Graduate School. For details, please refer to Clause 13.0 "Unsatisfactory Performance and Discontinuation of Studies" of the General Regulations Governing Postgraduate Studies which can be accessed from the Graduate School Homepage: <https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk>.

- (b) Students are required to submit a research thesis, and pass an oral examination for graduation.
- (c) Each student must present a graduate seminar.

In addition to completing the IPL modules stipulated for partial fulfillment of candidacy requirements, students are also required to complete the following IPL modules for graduation:

- (d) Complete an IPL module on "Observing Intellectual Property and Copyright Law during Research". This is an online module and relevant information can be accessed from the website: <https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/prodev/ipl.html>.
- (e) Complete an online Research Ethics Training (RET) module on "Publication Ethics" offered by the Research Office (RO) and obtain a valid Publication Ethics Certificate for graduation. Relevant information can be accessed from the RET website at <https://www.research-ethics.cuhk.edu.hk/web/>.
- (f) The final DMP should have been shared to the CUHK community on DMPTool or the relevant platform that CUHK provides when submitting the final version of the thesis/portfolio to the Graduate School. The guide is available on Library's website: <https://libguides.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/rdm/mandate-support>.

Note:

- (1) Students are required to attend all Graduate Seminars of their own research group. If the number of Graduate Seminars of a research group is less than 6 in an academic year, then each student in the group is required to attend Graduate Seminars given by other research groups so that the total number of Graduate Seminars attended is 6 or above. The Department encourages students to attend more than 6 Graduate Seminars each year. Should they have difficulties in attending the seminars, please inform their supervisors and the lecturer-in-charge. Students who fail to do so without sufficient reasons will be reprimanded.
- (2) Postgraduate Studentship/Research Studentship holders are requested to fulfill their teaching duties as assigned by the Department satisfactorily. They are required to be present in the Department during normal office hours. They should post their duty timetables, and the consultation hours reserved for undergraduate students should be clearly marked. Students are urged to leave a note on their desk to indicate where they can be found if not in their office.
- (3) Postgraduate Studentship/Research Studentship holders are requested to seek approval from their Supervisors in advance if they wish to take leave (14 working days per academic year). They should fill in a Leave Application Form (available from the General Office) which should be countersigned by their supervisors and the Graduate Division Head.

Course List

<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Unit</u>
BMEG5310	Biomedical Engineering Seminar I	1
BMEG5320	Biomedical Engineering Seminar II	1
BMEG5330	Biomedical Engineering Seminar III	1
BMEG5340	Biomedical Engineering Seminar IV	1
BMEG5530	Tissue Engineering	3
BMEG5540	Bio-MEMS and Biophotonics	3
BMEG5610	Research Methods in Biomedical Engineering	3
BMEG5630	Fundamental Gene Therapy	3
BMEG5710	Introduction to Biomedical Engineering	3
BMEG5720	Basic Biomedical Science	3
BMEG5730	Medical Devices and Sensor Networks	3
BMEG5750	Medical Robotics	3
BMEG5760	Bioelectronics and Nanotechnology	3

BMEG5790	Bioinformatics	3
BMEG5820	Virtual Medicine and Computer Aided Surgery	3
BMEG5830	Medical Imaging	3
BMEG5840	Biomedical Engineering Laboratories	3
BMEG5850	Medical Device Regulatory Affairs and Intellectual Property	3
BMEG5860	E-Health Technologies	3
BMEG5870	Golden Age Opportunities and Sustainable Smart Ageing	3
BMEG5880	Stem Cell Fundamentals	3
BMEG8003	Thesis Research	3
BMEG8006	Thesis Research	6
BMEG8012	Thesis Research	12
MAEG5080	Smart Materials and Structures	3

Faculty Core Courses

<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Unit</u>
ENGG5101	Advanced Computer Architecture	3
ENGG5103	Techniques for Data Mining	3
ENGG5104	Image Processing and Computer Vision	3
ENGG5105	Computer and Network Security	3
ENGG5106	Information Retrieval and Search Engines	3
ENGG5108	Big Data Analytics	3
ENGG5202	Pattern Recognition	3
ENGG5281	Advanced Microwave Engineering	3
ENGG5282	Nanoelectronics	3
ENGG5291	Fiber Optics: Principles and Technologies	3
ENGG5301	Information Theory	3
ENGG5303	Advanced Wireless Communications	3
ENGG5383	Applied Cryptography	3
ENGG5392	Lightwave System Technologies	3
ENGG5402	Advanced Robotics	3
ENGG5403	Linear System Theory & Design	3
ENGG5404	Micromachining and Microelectromechanical Systems	3
ENGG5501	Foundations of Optimization	3
ENGG5601	Principles of Biomechanics and Biomaterials	3
ENGG5781	Matrix Analysis and Computations	3

[Study Scheme](#)

Learning Outcomes

1. Our research programmes aim to educate researchers to embark on careers that would allow them to become world leaders in their fields, working as university professors, principal investigators in research institutes, senior managers in enterprises, or experts in other professions related to the pursuit and application of knowledge.

2. The University expects **doctoral degree graduates** of research programmes to have acquired in-depth knowledge in a number of major areas of an academic discipline while maintaining a broad understanding of other related fields. Doctoral degree graduates should have accumulated enough educational experience and background learning to be capable of performing independent research to advance scholarship, with global standards. In particular, doctoral graduates should have the ability to identify research trends and opportunities, venture into new research areas when appropriate, define long-term research objectives, formulate original research problems, and originate and develop solution methodologies. Doctoral graduates should be capable of producing research output at a level that can either lead to publications in high-ranking scholastic venues, or to novel applications in relevant industrial, commercial, or other public sectors, or to other forms of useful knowledge transfer to society. They should have gained proficiency in techniques of knowledge dissemination through presentation and writing and some teaching experiences through student tutoring.

3. The University expects **master's degree graduates** of research programmes to have acquired advanced knowledge in major areas of an academic discipline while maintaining a broad understanding of other related fields. Master's degree graduates should have gained enough background knowledge to enable them to perform research with minimal supervision. In particular, they should have the ability to formulate individual research tasks and to develop solution methodologies under minimal supervision. Master's degree graduates should be capable of producing original, innovative research output, some of which may lead to publication in well-respected scholastic venues. They should have gained proficiency in techniques of knowledge dissemination through presentation and writing.

4. For graduates of research programmes at both doctoral and master's level, communication and language skills at a level appropriate to university graduates are expected already at the time of admission. In particular, fluent communication skills are expected in the language(s) essential to their research areas. In general, a high level of proficiency in English is expected as it is commonly regarded as the default international research language. Ability in a second language is encouraged.