The University of Hong Kong  
Department of Psychology  
PSYC4008 Thesis in Psychology  
Frequently Asked Questions

1) **Is “Thesis in Psychology” or “Independent Study in Psychology” compulsory for psychology major?**

Ans: No, they are optional. However, thesis writing or an independent research project is usually preferred for applying postgraduate programme(s).

2) **Am I qualified to take “Thesis in Psychology”?**

Ans: The eligibility is an average GPA of 3.30 or above (for students admitted in 2015/16 of before) or an average GPA of 3.50 or above (for students admitted in 2016/17 and after) in advanced psychology courses taken in HKU by the end of the 3rd year for 4-year curriculum or 4th year for BEd&BSocSc students. The Department will invite students who meet this criterion to apply for course enrollment at the beginning of July.

3) **Is there any quota for students to take “Thesis in Psychology”?**

Ans: No, there is no quota. Students who meet the criterion as stated in question 2 may select to take “PSYC4008 Thesis in Psychology”.

4) **When is the application deadline?**

Ans: Students have to complete the “Supervisor Preference Form” and submit it via the Moodle before the end of course enrollment period in August. The results of supervisor assignment will be announced before the end of add/drop period.

5) **Will my course(s) taken on exchange be included for calculating the eligibility of taking “Thesis in Psychology”?**

Ans: No, the course(s) taken on exchange is only recognized as credit transfer.

6) **Will the advanced course(s) taken in year one be included for calculating the eligibility of taking “Thesis in Psychology”?**

Ans: All advanced courses taken before the final year of study will be included for calculating the eligibility of taking Thesis in Psychology.
7) **May I take “Independent Study in Psychology” if I am not qualified to take “Thesis in Psychology”?**

Ans: Yes, you may take Independent Study in Psychology with the supervision of an advanced research postgraduate students or a demonstrator.

8) **I have not yet taken the compulsory course “Research and Quantitative Methods in Psychology” (PSYC2060). May I take “Thesis in Psychology” in my final year if I am qualified?**

Ans: You have to successfully complete PSYC2060 in the 1st semester. Your thesis writing has to be started from the 2nd semester and extend to the summer semester or 1st semester of next year. Prior approval is needed by completing the Special Approval Form.

9) **Can I take an advanced lab course together with “Thesis in Psychology” in the same semester?**

Ans: Yes, taking an advanced lab course together with Thesis in Psychology can fulfill the co-requisite requirement.

10) **I am planning to take an exchange programme in the 1st semester (or 2nd semester) of my final year. May I still allow taking “Thesis in Psychology” or “Independent Study in Psychology”?**

Ans: Yes, eligible students must seek prior approval (Click Form) for the special arrangement.

11) **I am not qualified to take “Thesis in Psychology”. What can I do if I really want to take it?**

Ans: You may seek special approval (Click Form) for a petition if your GPA is 3.20 or above. However your supervisor selection will be put into the second priority.

12) **How can I know which teaching staff are available to supervise our theses in the coming academic year?**

Ans: A list of available supervisors will be included in the invitation at the beginning of July.

13) **May I approach teaching staff for thesis supervision?**

Ans: You are free to approach any supervisor and seek advice from them on the research topic.
14) May I select a member of the teaching staff who is not on the supervisor list?

Ans: Yes, if you are accepted by the teaching staff. Such supervision will be counted as extra workload to the teaching staff. However, for “Thesis in Psychology” the supervisor must hold the rank of Post-doctoral Fellow / Research Assistant Professor / Assistant Professor or above.

15) What will happen if all my 6 preferences do not select me as their supervisee?

Ans: You will be contacted by the Department.

16) What can I do if my research interest does not match the research area of my supervisor?

Ans: Every supervisor has limited quota. Such case usually happen. You may have to follow the research area of your supervisor.

17) I am approved to continue my thesis writing / IS project during my exchange to overseas. May I apply to extend the submission deadline?

Ans: You may seek special approval (Click Form) to extend the submission deadline. Two weeks extension may be granted if an application together with the schedule of your progress is received.

18) Why do I need to fill in 2 past theses in the Supervisor Preference form?

Ans: It is good for you to read past theses in a topic related to your proposal in advanced. By reading past theses, you may understand what is a thesis. It also shows you are prepared to do a thesis project of comparable scope.