



**The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
Division of Emerging Interdisciplinary Areas (EMIA)  
Individualized Interdisciplinary Major Program (IIM)  
Application Guideline**

**A. Overview of IIM**

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 exceptional Hong Kong and international students with the vision, talents and character to create their own study program.

At leading universities globally, such programs have established themselves as a superb option for a small group of high-potential achievers – those who flourish best by moving beyond regular curricula to fully engage their passion for a particular area or a pace-setting combination of disciplines.

HKUST's cutting-edge major, developed and administered by the Division of Emerging Interdisciplinary Areas (EMIA), is currently the only program of its kind in the Greater China region. With unique specialisms and skills, and the ability to step out of established comfort zones, IIM graduates can initiate new fields and career paths unexplored before, bringing novel insights and multifaceted initiatives to community and global advancement.

**B. Program Intended Learning Outcomes of IIM**

IIM students are expected to:-

1. create an individualized program of study drawing on theories, methods, and practices from a variety of disciplines
2. integrate knowledge and skills across courses in a unique major to be individually pursued
3. develop multi-dimensional perspectives and innovative problem-solving skills to existing and emerging problems
4. develop distinctive skill mix that enables them to communicate effectively with people of different levels and work areas within and across organizations
5. take initiative and responsibility to apply their interdisciplinary knowledge to solve the problems pressing social issues outlined in their program proposal

### C. Program Requirement of IIM

Students have to earn at least 120 credits to graduate. Additional free elective must be earned if the total number of credits of the Fundamental Courses, the Major Required Courses, the Elective Courses and the University Common Core is less than 120.

Students are required to complete the following requirements:

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>No. of credits</b>
University Common Core	30
Fundamental Courses	6-7
Major Required Courses planned by the students (with approval)	<b><i>At least 54</i></b>
Elective Courses planned by the students (with approval)	<b><i>At least 24</i></b>
Interdisciplinary Capstone Project	6

### D. Application Procedure

IIM 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. Selected students are not allowed to join their School's Major Selection Exercise in the same semester and required to stay in IIM for at least one semester before applying for Program Transfer.

*Timeline for admission in Fall (Major Round)*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
Sept – Oct	<i>Meet with the Program Director</i> before identifying your faculty advisors.
Sept – Nov	<i>Identify two faculty members</i> to be your advisors.
Sept – Jan	<i>Meet and discuss with your advisors regularly</i> throughout the process of creating your individualized curriculum and study plan.
Mid-Jan	The softcopy (word/ excel) should be submitted to <a href="mailto:iim@ust.hk">iim@ust.hk</a> by the deadline
By Early Mar	Selected applicants will be invited to <i>an interview</i> . Selection criteria will be heavily based on the <i>interview performance</i> and the <i>proposed study plan</i> . Students' <i>academic performance</i> will also be considered.
By April	Application result will be announced.
Fall	Registered as an IIM student

*Timeline for admission in Spring*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
Feb – Mar	<i>Meet with the Program Director</i> before identifying your faculty advisors.
Feb – Apr	<i>Identify two faculty members</i> to be your advisors.
Feb – Aug	<i>Meet and discuss with your advisors regularly</i> throughout the process of creating your individualized curriculum and study plan.
Mid-Jul	The softcopy (word/ excel) should be submitted to <a href="mailto:iim@ust.hk">iim@ust.hk</a> by the deadline
By early Oct	Selected applicants will be invited to <i>an interview</i> . Selection criteria will be heavily based on the <i>interview performance</i> and the <i>proposed study plan</i> . Students' <i>academic performance</i> will also be considered.
By Mid-Nov	Application result will be announced.
Spring	Registered as an IIM student

**E. Enquiries**

Mr. Matthew CHIK (Tel: 3469 2071; Email: [iim@ust.hk](mailto:iim@ust.hk); Office: Room 4373)