

Welcome Aboard!

Institute of Transdisciplinary Studies (ITS)
Transdisciplinary PhD Programme

25 August 2026



Institute of Transdisciplinary Studies

University's Transdisciplinary Research

Health and Drug Discovery

Humanities and Cultures

Research Clusters

Data Analytics and Artificial
Intelligence

Creative Media and Practice



AY2026/27 Cohort

Student	Principal Supervisor
GU Yida	Prof TONG Tiejun (SCI/MATH)
GUO Yimin	Prof MA Guancong (SCI/PHYS)
LI Linhao	Prof ZHANG Lu (SCI/COMP)
LI Pan	Prof ZHANG Lu (SCI/COMP)
LI Shanshan	Prof ZHOU Le (SCI/MATH)
LU Xiangyu	Prof HAN Bo (SCI/COMP)
LUO Yalong	Prof CHEN Li (SCI/COMP)
Md Abdul BAREK	Prof ZHANG Hongjie (SCM/CMTR)
QIN Tianli	Prof ZENG Xiangze (SCI/PHYS)
QIN Tianxu	Prof KWAN Hiu Yee (SCM/CMTR)

Student	Principal Supervisor
SHEN Heming	Prof MA Guancong (SCI/PHYS)
SO Hei Wa	Prof ZHANG Ge (SCM/CMTR)
SUN Jingwei	Prof HAN Bo (SCI/COMP)
TANG Weihua	Prof GAO Meng (FASS/GSIS)
WANG Jiaxuan	Prof SONG Yao (FASS/CHRP)
WANG Yufei	Prof TANG Qianyuan (SCI/PHYS)
YAN Qinghong	Prof WAN Renjie (SCI/COMP)
YAO Yiwei	Prof SONG Jun (FASS/GSIS)
YU Haojie	Prof ZENG Xiangze (SCI/PHYS)
YUAN Ruiting	Prof Joydeep BHATTACHARYA (SCA/MUS)



Principal Supervisors



Prof TONG Tiejun
Department of Mathematics



Prof MA Guancong
Department of Physics



Prof ZHANG Lu
Department of Computer Science



Prof ZHOU Le
Department of Mathematics



Prof CHEN Li
Department of Computer Science



Prof ZHANG Hongjie
Chinese Medicine – Teaching and
Research Division



Prof ZENG Xiangze
Department of Physics



Prof KWAN Hiu Yee
Chinese Medicine – Teaching and
Research Division



Principal Supervisors



Prof HAN Bo
Department of Computer Science



Prof GAO Meng
Academy of Geography, Sociology and
International Studies



Prof SONG Yao
Academy of Chinese, History,
Religion and Philosophy



Prof TANG Qianyuan
Department of Physics



Prof ZHANG Ge
Chinese Medicine – Teaching and
Research Division



Prof WAN Renjie
Department of Computer Science



Prof SONG Jun
Academy of Geography, Sociology
and International Studies



**Prof Joydeep
BHATTACHARYA**
Academy of Music



Course Instructors



Prof Joydeep BHATTACHARYA

Academy of Music

Course: ITS 7100 Transdisciplinary Research and Critical Thinking
for Global Challenges



Prof TAM Tsz King Bjorn

Academy of Wellness and Human Development

Course: ITS 7130 Crafting Your Transdisciplinary PhD Journey: Identity, Skills,
and Communication



Highlights of the Programme

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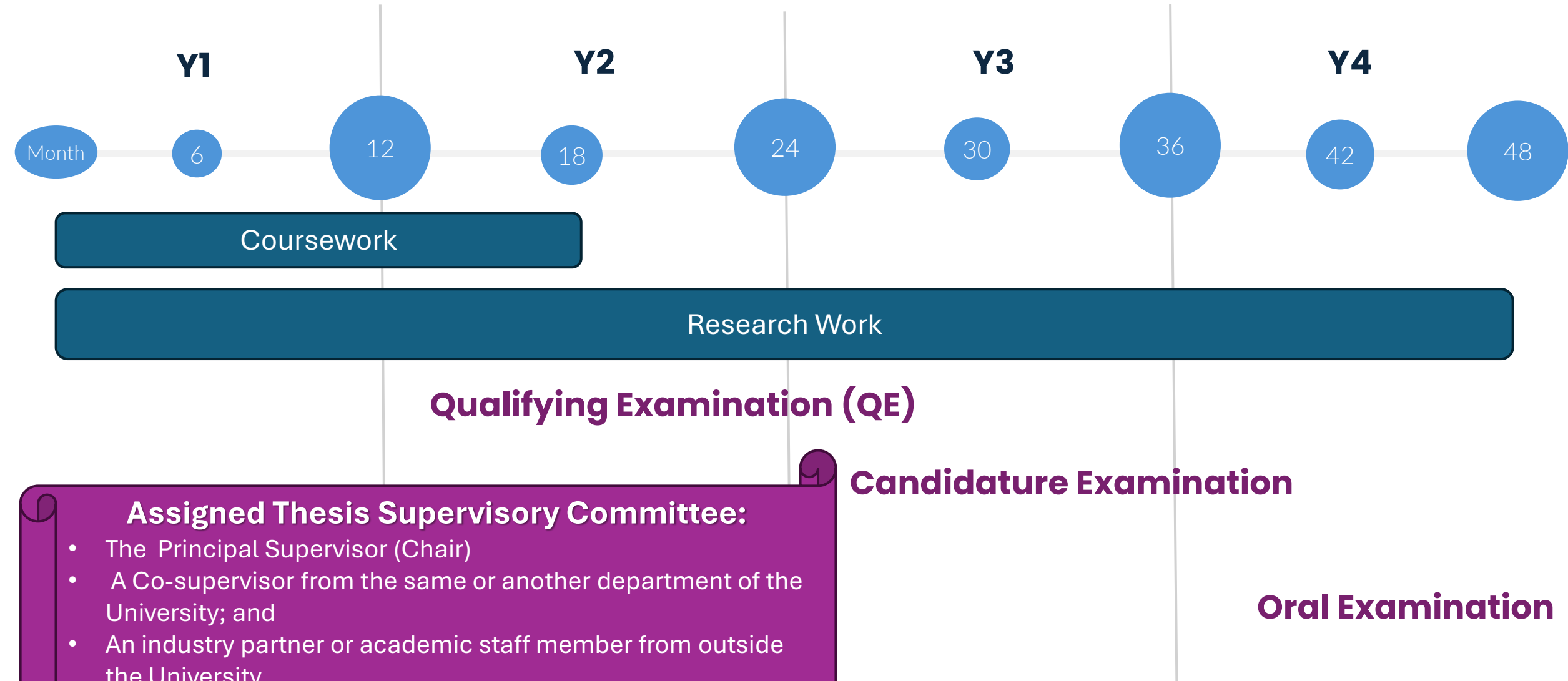
- Students admitted under the **Transdisciplinary PhD Programme** will be affiliated to their department throughout four years.
- ITS students receive practical and intensive **research training in transdisciplinary research projects**.

- Key features of the programme include:

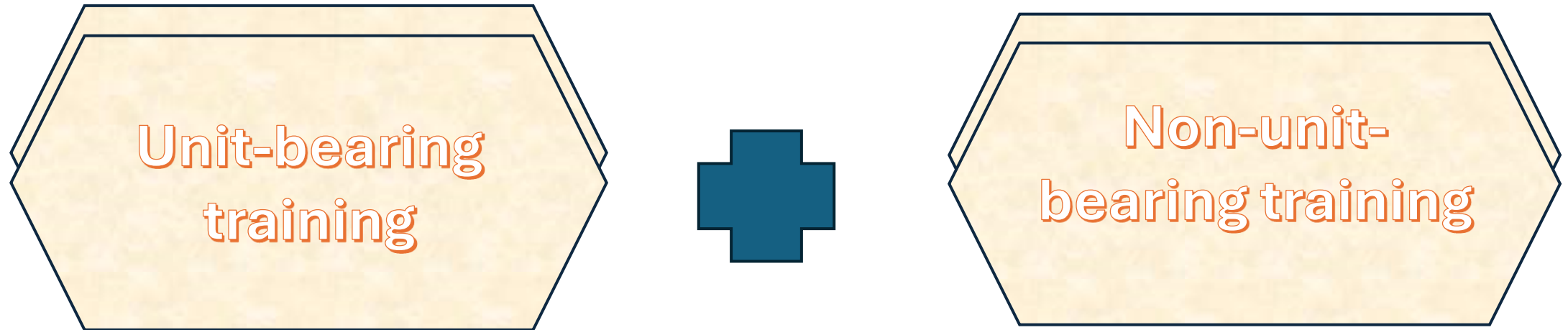


Highlights of the Programme

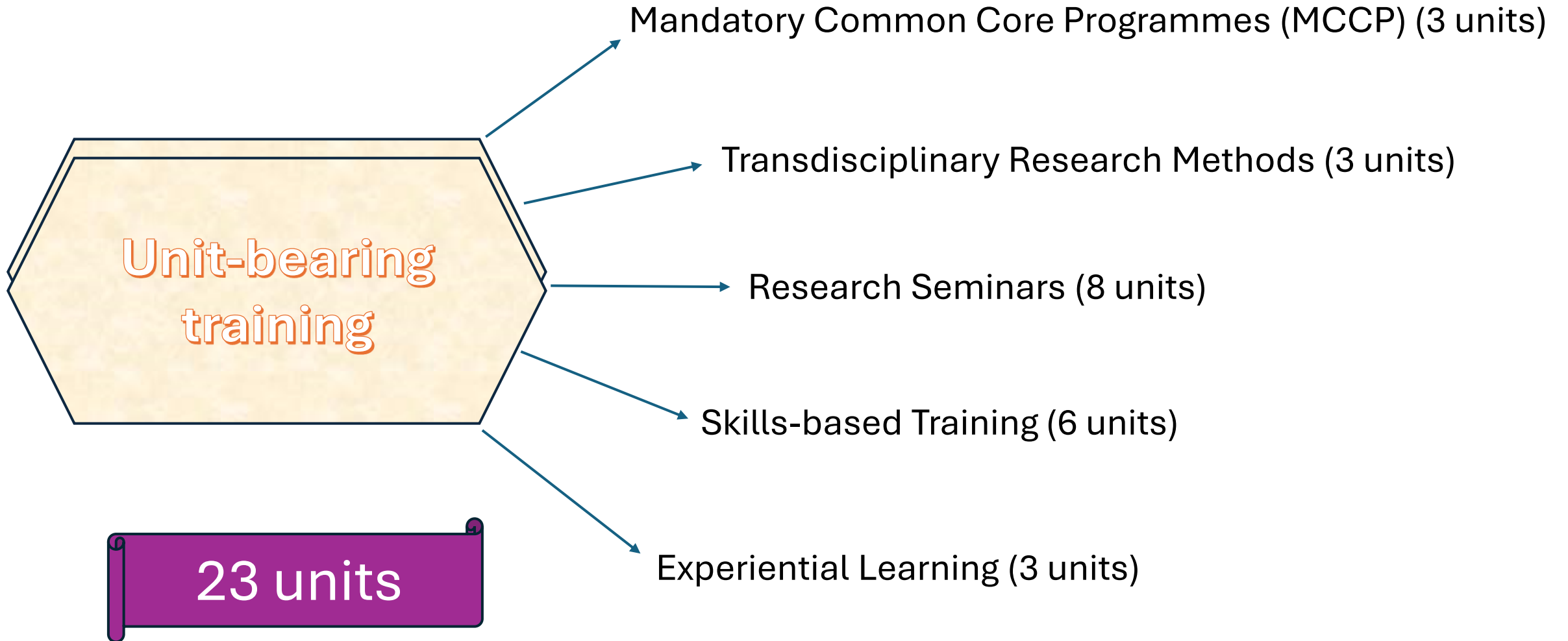
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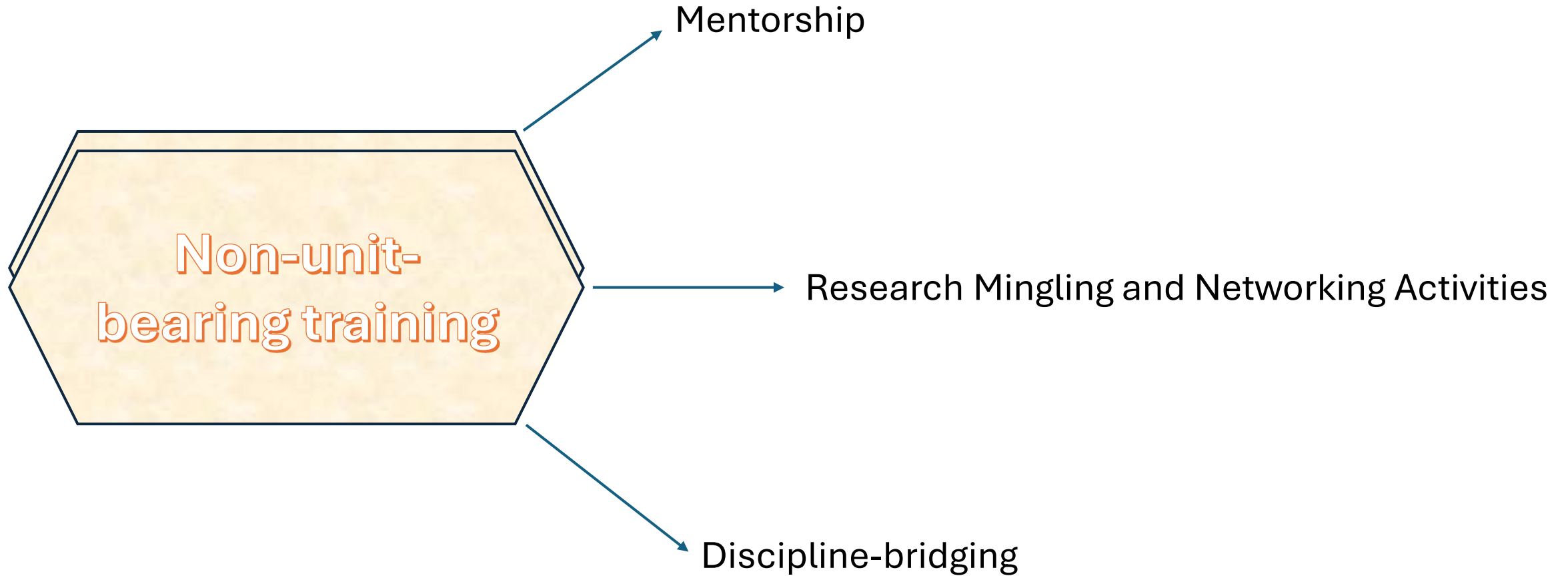
Coursework Requirements



Coursework Requirements

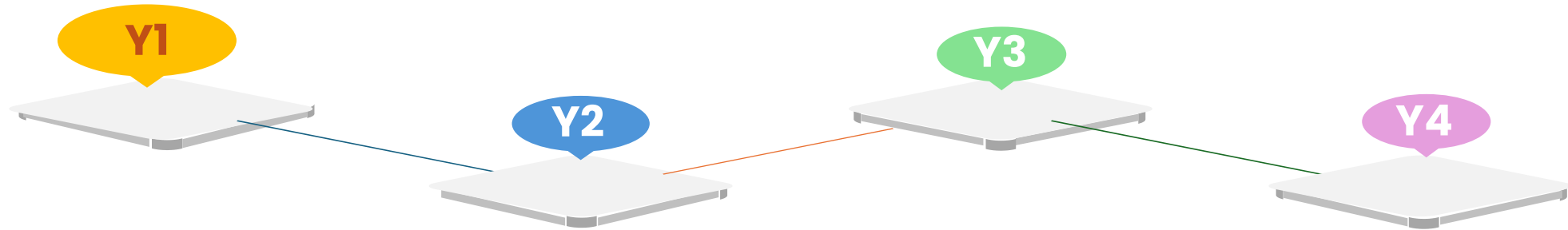


Coursework Requirements



Coursework Timeline

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Courses offered by ITS (pre-registered):

Y1			
Sem 1		Sem 2	
Course Title	Instructor/ Speaker	Course Title	Instructor/ Speaker
ITS 7100 Transdisciplinary Research and Critical Thinking for Global Challenges (TUE 09:30-11:20)	Prof Joydeep BHATTACHARYA	ITS 7130 Crafting Your Transdisciplinary PhD Journey: Identity, Skills, and Communication (WED 09:30-11:20)	Prof Bjorn TAM
ITS 7110 ITS Research Seminar (THU 14:30-16:20)	Principal Supervisors	ITS 7120 ITS Research Seminar (WED 14:30-16:20)	Principal Supervisors

Y2
Sem 1
Course Title
ITS 7140 Experiential Research Engagement OR Discipline-specific Course*

*Other courses- registration required (e.g. Discipline-specific Course, Research Methodology and Departmental Research Seminars)



ITS 7100

Transdisciplinary Research and Critical Thinking for Global Challenges

3 Units

Aims & Objectives

- Introduce the principles, methods, and intellectual skills required for rigorous transdisciplinary research in the context of complex global challenges

Activities

- Lectures and seminar discussions
- Case-study analysis
- Guest lectures
- Collaborative workshops, systems-mapping activities, and group presentations

For details, please refer to the course outline [ITS 7100](#)



ITS 7130

Crafting Your Transdisciplinary PhD Journey: Identity, Skills, and Communication

3 Units

Aims & Objectives

- Support students in developing the knowledge, skills, professional competencies and dispositions required for advanced doctoral study

Activities

- Preparation and revision of a manuscript, draft paper, report, or equivalent written research output
- Oral presentations
- Discussion and feedback

For details, please refer to the course outline [ITS 7130](#)



Course Introduction

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ITS 7110
ITS 7120

Research Seminars

Y1:
1+1 units



Y2-4:
6 units

Aims & Objectives

- Engage in seminar-based learning that supports the development of transdisciplinary inquiry, academic communication, critical reflection and scholarly exchange

Activities

- Participation in research seminars
- Seminar discussions
- Critiques, reflection or other assignments on the seminar topics

Students will take departmental Research Seminars. In departments where each Research Seminar carries **0.5 unit**, students will earn **only 3 units in Years 2 - 4**

- Therefore students must complete **an additional 3-unit course** offered by their affiliated department, as recommended by the PS, to fulfil the 8-unit requirement

*For details, please refer to the course outline
[ITS 7110/7120](#)*

Experiential Research Engagement – Y2, Sem 1

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Option 1:

Experiential Research Engagement (ITS7140)

3 units

Aims & Objectives

- Extend students' doctoral training beyond the University by enabling them to engage with real-world research environments, organisational practices, and societal challenges

Activities

- One-month research attachment, internship, or equivalent experiential placement with an approved host organisation
- Reflective journal

This will count towards the Non-local International Research Learning Experience (NIRLE) requirement.

For details, please refer to the course outline [ITS 7140](#)

Option 2:

Discipline-specific course

3 units



Notes for Principal Supervisors

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Thesis Supervisory Committee

- ☐ a Co-supervisor (from the same or another department of the University)
&
- ☐ an external Co-supervisor from industry or an international academic partner



Coursework Requirements

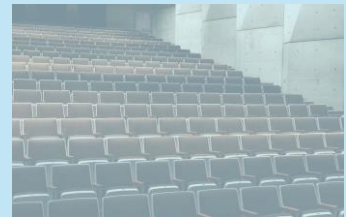
Students are required to complete minimum of **23 units**, in addition to any discipline-specific requirements:

- ☐ advise them to take a relevant Research Methodology course
- ☐ ensure them complete 8 units of Research Seminars
- ☐ arrange a research attachment or a discipline-specific course
(if your students hold a master's degree by research, they may ask for course exemption)



Research Seminar by PS

- ☐ deliver one seminar (1-2 hrs) on a transdisciplinary topic in the 1st year



Useful Resources

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01

Graduate School

<http://gs.hkbu.edu.hk/>

02

Student Handbook for RPg Students

<https://gs.hkbu.edu.hk/handbook/handbook-for-research-postgraduate-students>

03

University Student Handbook

<https://ar.hkbu.edu.hk/student-services/useful-information/publications>



Useful Resources

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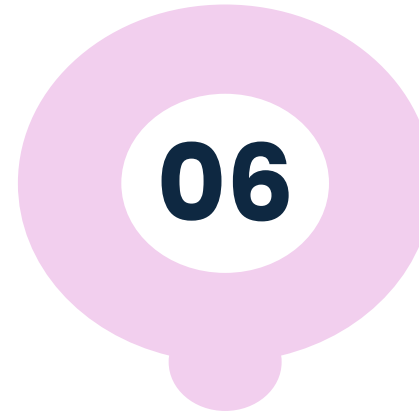
Academic Calendar 2026/27

<https://ar.hkbu.edu.hk/student-services/useful-information/publications>



Instats (Library subscription)

<https://instats.org/>



ITS Webpage

<https://gs.hkbu.edu.hk/page/detail/3358>



ITS Email Contact

its@hkbu.edu.hk



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