FBE Major and Minor Programmes
Frequently Asked Questions for non-FBE Students

Declaration

1. When shall I declare my major/minor?

You can start declaring your major/minor, either hosted by your home Faculty or other Faculties, starting from the pre-enrolment period in August of your second year of study. You should finalize your major/minor options by the add/drop period of the first semester of your fourth year of study.

2. What is the purpose for declaring my major/minor in the SIS?

Your major/minor declaration in the SIS is to indicate what major/minor you intended to pursue during your study. The programme guide of the respective major/minor will be shown in the SIS for your reference. Your major/minor declaration in the SIS may not imply your eligibility for pursuing the respective programme or will not guarantee you a place in courses required by the programme.

3. Am I allowed to switch my major in Finance to minor in Finance at the end of my third year of study?

Yes, you are allowed to switch your major in Finance to minor in Finance in the SIS during the pre-enrollment period in August or the add/drop period. You are required to finalize your major/minor options by the add/drop period of the first semester of your fourth year of study.

Requirements

4. Are there any requirements for declaring a major/minor offered by FBE?

For those admitted before the 2015-16 intake, non-FBE students must obtain a cumulative GPA (CGPA) of 3.0 or above as of August 31 (excluding Summer Semester) at the end of the second year of study in order to be eligible to declare any major/minor offered by FBE. In other words, we will consider the eligibility only when students have completed at least four regular semesters of study.

Regardless of the intake year, non-FBE students considering a second major in Business Design and Innovation (BDI) (for students admitted in 2018-19 and earlier) / Entrepreneurship, Design and Innovation (EDI) (for students admitted in 2019-20 and thereafter) are required to undergo a selection process.

With effect from the 2016-17 intake, there would be a selection process for students who wish to pursue Quantitative Finance (QF) as a second major.

There would be a selection process for students who wish to pursue Asset Management and Private Banking (AMPB) as a second major. AMPB is applicable to students of 2017-18 intake and onwards.
5. What is the selection process for Major in Business Design and Innovation (BDI) (for students admitted in 2018-19 and earlier) / Entrepreneurship, Design and Innovation (EDI) (for students admitted in 2019-20 and thereafter)?

The selection process will take place in the second semester of students’ second year of study. Students who wish to declare a Major in BDI / EDI can approach the Faculty of Business and Economics for application details. Application includes submission of an application form and an essay by a specified deadline for consideration by the respective Programme Coordinator. Shortlisted students will be invited to a selection interview. Declaration of a second major in BDI / EDI has been blocked by the system. Only successful students will be able to declare such via SIS during the initial course selection period or add/drop period. For those admitted before the 2015-16 intake, a CGPA of 3.0 has to be obtained to confirm their eligibility.

FAQ6-11 – CGPA Requirements for students admitted BEFORE the 2015-16 intake:

6. What is the arrangement if I do not fulfill the CGPA requirements for declaring an FBE major/minor?

For students who do not have a CGPA of 3.0 or above at the end of their second year of study, their declaration of the FBE major/minor in the SIS will be removed. Students will be notified of the arrangement by email.

7. I have obtained a CGPA of 2.99 at the end of the second year of study. Will you give special consideration to my major/minor declaration?

No special consideration will be given to students who do not have a CGPA of 3.0 or above at the end of the second year of study.

8. My CGPA at the end of my second year of study is below 3.0 but I have obtained a CGPA higher than 3.0 in my third year of study. Will you re-consider my case and can I re-declare an FBE major/minor?

We will only consider students’ CGPA at the end of their second year of study as a cut-off point. Hence, re-consideration of students’ eligibility to declare an FBE major/minor will NOT be given and the students concerned should not re-declare the FBE major/minor in the SIS.

9. Will my declaration be removed if my CGPA drops below 3.0 after the third year of study?

We will only scrutinize students’ CGPA by the end of your second year of study (excluding Summer Semester). If any students fail to maintain a CGPA of 3.0 thereafter, we will not remove their declaration.
10. I will be on exchange in one of the semesters in my second year of study, and the CGPA achieved at HKU prior to my exchange study is above 3.0. Am I eligible for pursuing an FBE major/minor?

For students who are away for a semester exchange in their second year of study, we will consider their eligibility by scrutinizing their CGPA at the end of their second year of study (excluding Summer Semester).

And yet, for students who are on leave of absence for a semester or more in either their first / second year of study, we will consider their eligibility only when they have completed four regular semesters of study at HKU.

11. Will I be eligible for pursuing an FBE second major/minor if I have been granted advanced standing at the point of admission or I am admitted directly to senior year?

Students’ eligibility to pursue an FBE second major/minor can only be confirmed after they have finished two years of study at HKU with a CGPA of 3.0 or above. For students who are granted with advanced standing and are admitted to the second year of study, they will receive confirmation from FBE when their CGPA of their third year of study is available. For students who are admitted via Direct Admissions Scheme to third year of study, they will not be eligible for pursuing an FBE second major/minor.

For other special cases, please email to the Faculty Office at fbe.undergrad@hku.hk together with your academic records for consideration.

12. I took some FBE courses in my first and second years of study to fulfill the requirements of an FBE major/minor, but my FBE major/minor declaration was removed from the SIS as I could not meet the CGPA requirement at the end of my second year of study. What shall I do?

The FBE courses you took in previous years will be treated as free electives. You may discuss with the academic advisor in your home Faculty for your study plan.

Course Enrolment

13. I have declared an FBE major/minor. Will I be guaranteed a place in the core courses of the major/minor programme?

In view of the limited teaching resources, there is quota restriction on every class offered by FBE. Students’ declaration of an FBE major/minor in the SIS will not guarantee them a place in the courses required by the programme.

14. Can I be waived from the pre-requisite requirement of a course?

No, you are required to obtain a pass in the pre-requisite course before taking the subsequent courses. Students will normally not be granted waiver for pre-requisite requirement; and cannot take the pre-requisite course and subsequent course concurrently.
15. A course serves to fulfill the requirement of two different major/minor programmes. Can the course be double-counted?

Double-counting is **NOT** allowed except for the 4 Faculty Core Courses under the “double-major” combination, i.e. ACCT1101 Introduction to financial accounting; ECON1210 Introductory microeconomics; FINA1310 Corporate finance; and a statistics course as prescribed in the syllabuses.

Where a course applies to more than a major or minor programme, a disciplinary elective (advanced level) must be taken in lieu of the overlapped courses. The specified Faculty Core Courses can be double-counted between the major curricula and students are required to take any free electives in lieu of the double-counted Faculty Core Courses.

16. I have taken a course in my home Faculty which is mutually exclusive with the required course of an FBE major/minor. What can I do?

Please download the application form for course exemption (document BE44/714 amended) at https://www.fbe.hku.hk/ug/useful-info/downloadable-forms and return the completed form to the Faculty Office. In general, you are required to take a disciplinary elective (advanced level) in lieu of the mutually exclusive course.

17. I will take part in an exchange programme. Can I take a course in an overseas institution during my exchange to fulfill part of the requirements for FBE major/minor?

Yes, we allow credit transfer of equivalent courses from overseas institution to HKU during your exchange study. You should submit to your home Faculty an application for credit transfer together with the syllabuses of the courses you intend to take during your exchange before the specified deadline stipulated by your home Faculty. For the course equivalence information of successful credit transfer applications in the past, please visit our website at https://www.fbe.hku.hk/ug/enrichment/overseas-learning-experience/outgoing-exchange

18. Will I be notified by FBE what course(s) I lack to fulfill the requirements of the major/minor I declared?

Students are advised to check with their home Faculty that whether there are any remaining courses they have to enroll in to fulfill their major/minor requirements. Students are also advised to check on their own if they have fulfilled the requirements.

**Academic/Regulatory Advices**

19. How can I get academic or regulatory advices on major/minor programmes offered by FBE?

You can request for a temporary academic advisor to obtain academic-related advises. Please login to the SIS, go to “Student Center” and click the link “Request Temporary Adviser”. After inputting your intended major/minor, details of your temporary academic adviser will be shown and you can take contact him/her by email. The assignment of temporary academic adviser will only remain valid for 90 days.

For any enquiries related to regulations and structure of the major/minor programmes, please contact the Faculty Office at 3917 5343 or by email fbe.undergrad@hku.hk.