



The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Division of Emerging Interdisciplinary Areas (EMIA)
Individualized Interdisciplinary Major Program (IIM)
Proposal Outline

Objective

The overall purpose of the proposal is to demonstrate how your interests, strengths and experiences connect to the academic goals you hope to achieve in your IIM program. The proposal should explain why your areas of study interest you and the contribution of each course area to your proposed major. You should follow this outline while drafting your proposal.

What should be included in the proposal?

1. Cover Page

- A cover sheet, listing your i) English Full Name, ii) School Name, iii) Application Number, iv) Email Address, and v) The Proposed IIM Major Title.

2. Introduction and Background (approximately 1 page)

- Describe your interests, strength and background and explain how it is related to your proposed major.
- Provide specific reasons why you are interested in the area you are chosen.

3. The Central Academic Purpose of the Proposed IIM Major (approximately 3 pages)

- Discuss your academic purposes, and if appropriate, your personal and/or professional objectives.
- Indicate what you will know at the end of your study, the course area and how the course areas you have chosen are related to your proposed major.
- Why you cannot accomplish the program with a regular existing major.
- How this program of study fits into your future plans.

4. Conclusion (approximately 1 -2 paragraphs)

- Briefly summarize the strengths of your proposed major.
- Demonstrate how your areas of study enable you to meet your academic goals.
- Explain how your plans for the future relate to your chosen course of study in IIM.

Reminder

Developing an IIM is an intensive and demanding journey, but it ultimately leads to significant intellectual returns. The process pushes you to rethink your educational goals and map out a precise strategy to achieve them. During your initial research, you might discover that current academic programs available at HKUST already meet your needs, in which case we encourage you to pursue those options. However, if you confirm that IIM is the ideal fit, we advise you maintaining a strong commitment to your vision. Although launching the IIM requires substantial effort and may feel overwhelming, designing your own academic pathway provides an unique and impactful learning experience.

Attention: The purpose of this major is to allow students to design a major which is interdisciplinary, yet forms a conceptual holistic framework of study. It is not intended to allow a student to randomly select courses which of interest to them or to selectively omit one or two requirements from another major currently offered in HKUST. The major must have a theme, an in-depth examination of a particular topic, or a defined field of study.