

JUNIOR RESEARCH PROJECT & SENIOR THESIS

BRIEFING

REQUIRED & OPTIONAL COURSE

Step 1

Required

Year 2/Year 3

Research methods course of your Major

- ECO3104 Tools for Economic Analysis
- ECO3105 Introduction to Statistics and Econometrics
- GOV3101/POL3101 Empirical Political Analysis: Approaches and Methods
- PSY3101 Research Methods and Statistics for Psychology I
- SOC3101 Sociological Research Methods

Step 2

Required

Year 3/Year 4

SSC 3319
Junior Research Project

Step 3

OPTIONAL

Year 3/Year 4

SSC 4319
Senior Thesis

SSC 3319 JUNIOR RESEARCH PROJECT

SSC 3319 JUNIOR RESEARCH PROJECT

- A REQUIRED course for Year 3 or Year 4 students
- Pre-requisite : Research methods course in your Major
- JRP can be further developed to form part of your Senior Thesis (SSC 4319 Senior Thesis, optional)
- Provides a platform for you to employ and develop your research interests & research skills

TEACHING METHOD

- Individual consultation/supervision
- At least 4 meetings with project supervisor throughout the term
- OPTIONAL to incorporate Service learning into the JRP
 - Can contact Mr. Chad Chan (OSL) for more details; or visit: <https://www.ln.edu.hk/osl/students/other-students-opportunities/ssc3319-junior-research-project>

JRP WITH SERVICE LEARNING ELEMENT

SSC3319 Junior Research Project

SSC3319 Junior Research Project provides a platform for senior BSS students to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to independently prepare a research project which incorporates the fundamental elements of a full-fledged research project in the Social Sciences. Along with providing individual supervision under an instructor, the Junior Research project includes an **optional Service-Learning (S-L) option**. Students choosing the S-L option in SSC3319 Junior Research Project should carefully consider the information listed in the following guideline about project-related responsibilities, expectations of support from the Office of Service-Learning, project timelines, and other logistical matters. This information is **essential for fulfilling the S-L Graduation Requirement** through SSC3319.

- [Guideline for Junior Research Project with S-L elements](#)
- [Strategic Service-Learning and Research Plan \(template\)](#)

Important Note: If no agency supports your proposed research and S-L ideas, you may not be able to complete the required 30 service-learning hours to fulfill the S-L Graduation Requirement. In 2020-21, only 7 out of 15 enrolled students fulfilled the S-L Graduation Requirement through SSC3319. Therefore, please talk to the S-L coordinator to understand more about the workload of this course before integrating S-L elements into your SSC3319 Junior Research Project.

As the quotas for the Junior Research Project with S-L elements are limited, please communicate with your research supervisor and confirm your drafted research ideas ASAP to outreach a suitable agency partner for the S-L project.

Past S-L Agency Partners in SSC3319

Term	Agency Partners
Term 1, 2019-20	People Service Centre Yan Oi Tong Woo Chung District Elderly Community Centre
Term 2, 2019-20	Tuen Mun Green Station
Term 1, 2020-21	People Service Centre Aomori Heya
Term 2, 2020-21	Yan Oi Tong Woo Chung District Elderly Community Centre World Wide Fund for Nature HK St. James' Settlement
Term 1, 2021-22	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
Term 2, 2021-22	Asia-Pacific Institute of Ageing Studies A Plastic Ocean H.K.S.K.H. Tuen Mun Integrated Services Jockey Club Youth Express The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Term 2, 2022-23	Wofoo Joseph Lee Consulting and Counseling Research Centre

Contact Person

Chad Chan (26168074/ chadchan@ln.edu.hk)

INFORMATION LITERACY WORKSHOP

- One workshop organized by Library in the 1st month of each semester for JRP students
- Takes place in computer lab and/or via Zoom
- You will learn how to effectively search for and manage information relating to your JRP topic

ASSESSMENT

- Mid-term Progress Report (1500-2500 words): 30%
- Final Report (3000-4000 words, excluding references): 70%

ASSESSMENT RUBRICS

MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORT (30%)

	Good (11-15)	Average (6-10)	Poor (0-5)
1) Research question	Well-defined and justified research question with good potential contribution to the field	Adequate definition and justification of the research question and some potential contribution to the field	Poor definition and justification of the research question and little potential contribution to the field
2) References and sources	Comprehensive, focused and well organized	Adequate, reasonably organized	Insufficient, unfocused, poorly organized

ASSESSMENT RUBRICS

SERVICE-LEARNING OPTION

MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORT (30%)

	Good (8-10)	Average (4-7)	Poor (0-3)
1) Research question	Well-defined and justified research question with good potential contribution to the field	Adequate definition and justification of the research question and some potential contribution to the field	Poor definition and justification of the research question and little potential contribution to the field
2) References and sources	Comprehensive, focused and well organized	Adequate, reasonably organized	Insufficient, unfocused, poorly organized
3) Community partner rating	Good communication and good grasp of the community partner's research needs	Adequate communication and adequate grasp of the community partner's research needs	Poor communication and poor grasp of the community partner's research needs

ASSESSMENT RUBRICS

FINAL REPORT (70%)

	Good (10-14)	Average (5-9)	Poor (0-4)
1) Research question	Well-defined and justified research question that directly addresses the community partner's research needs, with good potential contribution to the field	Adequate definition and justification of the research question that addresses the community partner's research needs, and some potential contribution to the field	Poor definition and justification of the research question that cannot adequately address the community partner's needs, and little potential contribution to the field
2) Literature review	Comprehensive, up-to-date, relevant, well-organized	Adequately comprehensive, but not entirely up-to-date, relevant and/or well-organized	Incomprehensive, out-dated, irrelevant and/or poorly organized.
3) Conceptual framework	Clearly stated, strongly derived from the literature review	Adequately stated, evidently but not strongly derived from the literature review	Poorly stated and little relevance to the literature review
4) Proposed data collection and data analysis	Clearly stated, feasible and strongly relevant to the research question	Adequately stated, mostly feasible and somewhat relevant to the research question	Poorly stated, low in feasibility and little relevance to the research question
5) References and style	Comprehensive, focused, well organized and consistent in style	Adequate, reasonably organized but not completely consistent in style	Insufficient, unfocused, poorly organized and inconsistent in style

PROCEDURES (TERM 1 & TERM 2)

- Check email from the Office of the Faculty of Social Sciences in July/August (J RP Form and list of available supervisors attached)
- Visit your Department webpages to find out what teachers' research fields and interests are
- Invite ONE teacher from your Maj or to be your individual supervisor of the project, and decide your Junior Research topic with a brief description
- Each teacher has his/her own quota of students to supervise. Once their quota is full, they will no longer be available
- All J RP students in Term 1 and Term 2 need to submit the completed form to your Department Office by the last day of 1st Term add-drop period in September 2024

LIST OF AVAILABLE SUPERVISORS (2023-24)

Major	Supervisors of Junior Research Project and Senior Thesis in 2023-24		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economics Social and Public Policy Studies International Economy and Politics 	Prof. Larry Qiu Prof. Simon Fan Prof. Adam Wong Prof. Zhang Tianle	Prof. Thomas Voon Prof. Hong Fuhai Prof. Xiao Junji Prof. Laura Wang	Prof. Chen Yiting Prof. Luo Jinfeng Prof. Ye Han Prof. Gregory Whitten Dr. Hu Fang
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government and International Affairs (Political Science) International Economy and Politics 	Prof. Chu Pok Prof. Chung Chien-peng	Prof. Kwok Chi Prof. Li Pang-kwong Prof. Tam Wai-keung	Prof. Yang Kai Prof. Yang Shen Prof. Yang Xiangfeng
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychology 	Prof. Siu Oi Ling Prof. William Hayward Prof. Francis Cheung Prof. Alan Lee	Prof. Vivian Lun Prof. Vicki Yeung Prof. Kelvin Lui Prof. Huang Yi Prof. Ken Ng	Prof. Carmen Ye Prof. Padmore Amoah Prof. Jocelyn Lin Dr. Hezul Ng Prof. Ouyang Xiangzi
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sociology Social and Public Policy Studies 	Prof. Chen Hon Fai Prof. Mok Ka Ho Prof. Roman David Prof. Stefan Kuehner	Prof. Au Yeung Tat Chor Prof. Chen Xi Prof. Jenny Chiu Prof. Ruby Lai Prof. Francisco Olivos	Prof. Ren Chunhui Prof. Alex Preda Prof. Plamen Akaliyski Dr. Abrefa Busia Kwaku Dr. Gary Yip
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Social Services Management (SSC3319 Junior Research Project ONLY) 	<u>APIAS:</u> Prof. Dickson Chan Dr. Florence Fong Dr. Wan Ting Ting Dr. Olivia Liu	<u>SOCSP:</u> Prof. Chen Hon Fai Prof. Mok Ka Ho Prof. Roman David Prof. Stefan Kuehner Prof. Au Yeung Tat Chor Prof. Chen Xi Prof. Jenny Chiu	Prof. Ruby Lai Prof. Francisco Olivos Prof. Ren Chunhui Prof. Alex Preda Prof. Plamen Akaliyski Dr. Abrefa Busia Kwaku Dr. Gary Yip

**Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons) Programme
SSC3319 Junior Research Project Topic Form (2023-24)**

JRP APPLICATION FORM

1. For students who have enrolled in SSC3319 Junior Research Project, please invite one teacher from your Major to be your individual supervisor. Before taking SSC3319, you have to complete one research methods course according to your Major requirement. If you would like to study JRP with Service-Learning option, you are required to contact the OSL and get their approval.
2. Your individual supervisor will grade your mid-term progress report and your final report. You will need to meet with your supervisor at least 4 times throughout the term.
3. Please be reminded that each teacher has his/her own quota of students to supervise. Once their quota is full, they will no longer be available.
4. Please submit the completed form to your department **on or before 7 September 2023.**

Name of Student:			
Student ID:		Year of Study in 2023-24:	
Major:		Study Term:	Term 1/ Term 2
Completion of Research Methods Course:	Completed _____(Course code and title) by Term ____, 20 __		
Study SSC3319 JRP with Service-Learning option?	Yes, I have contacted colleague from the OSL and confirmed that I will study JRP with Service-Learning option. Signature of OSL Colleague : _____		
	No		

Proposed Junior Research Project Topic (with a brief description)

Name of Supervisor:	
Signature of Supervisor:	
Date:	

SSC 4319 SENIOR THESIS

SSC 4319 SENIOR THESIS

- Pre-requisite : SSC3319 Junior Research Project
- An OPTIONAL and personalized research project, conducted in your third/fourth year
- One-to-one consultation/supervision
- Allows you to build upon/modify the research topic and design that you have worked on in SSC 3319 Junior Research Project
- Provides the opportunity to apply theories, research tools and techniques to implement the research for an independent thesis on your chosen topic

TEACHING METHOD AND ASSESSMENT

- No lectures and tutorials
- Find an academic staff to be your supervisor and work on one-to-one basis to produce an independent research report
- Final Thesis Report : 100%

ASSESSMENT RUBRICS

FINAL REPORT (100%)

	Good (25-17)	Average (9-16)	Poor (0-8)
1) Research Questions and Theoretical Framework/Conceptualization	Well-defined and justified research question with good potential contribution to the field. Theoretical framework/conceptualisation is clearly stated, and strongly relevant to the research question	Adequate definition and justification of the research question and some potential contribution to the field. Theoretical framework/conceptualisation is adequately stated, and relevant to the research question	Poor definition and justification of the research question and little potential contribution to the field. Theoretical framework/conceptualisation is not clearly articulated, and is only marginally relevant to the research question
2) Methodology, Organization of Materials and data handling/collection	Methodology used is appropriate, data handling/collection is well-executed	Methodology used is adequate, data handling/collection is adequately executed	Methodology used is ill-fitting, data-handling/collection is poorly executed
3) Analysis, Interpretation and Logical Consistency	Analysis is well-done, interpretation of findings follows logically and there is evidence of good insight	Analysis is adequately done, interpretation of findings mostly follow logically	Analysis is poorly done, interpretation of findings often does not follow logically
4) Presentation and Report Writing Skills	Comprehensive, focused, well-organized and consistent in style	Adequate, reasonably organized but not completely consistent in style	Insufficient, unfocused, poorly organized and inconsistent in style

BEST SENIOR THESIS AWARD



2019-20



2020-21



2021-22



2022-23

PROCEDURES (TERM 1 & TERM 2)

- Check email from the Office of the Faculty of Social Sciences in July/August (Senior Thesis Form and list of available supervisors attached)
- Decide your Senior Thesis topic with a brief description
- Discuss the topic and proposal with your Senior Thesis supervisor
- All Senior Thesis students in Term 1 and Term 2 need to submit the completed form to your Department Office by the last day of 1st Term add-drop period in September 2024

SSC4319 Senior Thesis Form (2023-24)

Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons) Programme

SENIOR THESIS APPLICATION FORM

1. Students who have enrolled in SSC4319 Senior Thesis are required to invite one teacher from their Major to be their individual supervisor.
2. Students are required to complete the **pre-requisite** (*SSC3319 Junior Research Project*) before the enrollment in SSC4319 Senior Thesis.
3. Students are required to complete the form below and approach individual supervisor themselves. The supervisor will sign the form below if he/she has agreed to supervise the student. Students are required to submit the completed form to the department **on or before 7 September 2023**.

Name of Student:			
Student ID:		Year of Study in 2023-24:	
Major:		Study Term:	Term 1/ Term 2
Fulfillment of pre-requisite SSC3319:	Completed SSC3319 Junior Research Project by Term ____, 20 __		

Proposed Senior Thesis Topic (with a brief description)

Name of Supervisor:	
Signature of Supervisor:	
Date:	

Q & A