

**Memorandum of Understanding
between the Mainland and Hong Kong
on Mutual Recognition of Academic Degrees in Higher Education**

(Translation of the official Chinese text, for reference only)

To facilitate the mutual recognition of academic degrees legally awarded by higher education institutions in the Mainland and Hong Kong (“higher education institutions” here and hereinafter include scientific research institutions in the Mainland which are authorized to provide post-graduate education), to strengthen the co-operation in education and to promote the exchange of students between both places, the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China and the Education and Manpower Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (hereinafter referred to as “both sides”) have, based on the “One Country, Two Systems” principle, reached a consensus on the mutual recognition of academic degrees in higher education, as follows –

I Operating mechanism

1. Both sides will designate an appropriate body to provide information on mutual recognition, and to provide professional advice on academic degrees with reference to the prevailing legislation and the practices of the relevant education systems. Both sides will inform one another of the designated body on their respective sides.
2. Both designated bodies can provide professional advice to higher education institutions in both places on the comparability of systems and academic degrees in higher education in both places with the aim of facilitating academic exchange and co-operation.
3. Both designated bodies will make available to each other information on currently recognized higher education institutions in their respective places.
4. With regard to paragraph 3 of this section, the recognized higher education institutions are higher education institutions with the powers to award degrees at Bachelors or above levels in the respective places. The lists of the currently recognized higher education institutions in both places are attached as Annex to this MoU. This information will be maintained and updated regularly by the designated bodies. Both designated bodies will inform each other of the updated information.

II Application

1. This MoU relates to all the recognized higher education institutions with powers to award degrees at Bachelors or above levels, but does not cover academic awards below Bachelors degree level awarded by education institutions in both places.
2. Both sides encourage and support the co-operation of higher education institutions in both places in the recognition of course credits.

III Degrees and Admission

1. Holders of Bachelors degrees from recognized higher education institutions in the Mainland can apply for admission to postgraduate or professional studies in higher education institutions in Hong Kong.
2. Holders of Masters degrees from recognized higher education institutions in the Mainland can apply for admission to doctorate studies in the higher education institutions in Hong Kong.
3. Holders of Bachelors degrees from recognized higher education institutions in the Mainland who have achieved outstanding academic results and completed excellent research work or dissertations can apply directly for admission to doctorate studies in the higher education institutions in Hong Kong.
4. Holders of Bachelors degrees from recognized higher education institutions in Hong Kong can apply for admission to Masters degrees studies in the higher education institutions in the Mainland.
5. Holders of Masters degrees from recognized higher education institutions in Hong Kong can apply for admission to doctorate studies in the higher education institutions in the Mainland.
6. Holders of Bachelor (Honours) degrees from recognized higher education institutions in the HKSAR with outstanding academic results can apply directly for admission to doctorate studies in the higher education institutions in the Mainland.

7. Both sides respect the autonomy of higher education institutions in both places in the admission of students in accordance with their relevant regulations.

IV Follow-up

1. Both sides will maintain close contact with one another, and will encourage and facilitate the co-operation between the designated bodies and other relevant organizations.
2. The designated bodies will maintain close contact with one another, and exchange professional views directly on mutual recognition of academic degrees.
3. Subject to the agreement of both sides, meetings will be arranged to discuss relevant issues as appropriate.

V Validity Period

The MoU will come into effect on the date of signature by both sides. It may be terminated at any time by either side by giving three months' notice in writing.

Signed in Beijing on 11th July 2004 in duplicate.

For the Ministry of Education
of the Government of
the People's Republic of China

For the Education and Manpower Bureau
of the Government of
the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region

Zhou Ji
(Minister of Education)

Arthur K C Li
(Secretary for Education and Manpower)

Annexes :

1. Higher education institutions in the Mainland with powers to award degrees at Bachelors or above levels
2. Higher education institutions in Hong Kong with powers to award degrees at Bachelors or above levels