

Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2011/12)

Information Sheet for Secondary School Graduates¹

Background

1. The Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers is set up by the Education Bureau (EDB), the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) as one of a series of measures to enhance the professionalism of English teachers in Hong Kong.

Aim of the Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers

2. The aim of the Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers is to attract persons proficient in English to pursue relevant local bachelor degree programmes and/or teacher training programmes which will qualify them to become English teachers on graduation.

Eligibility for Application

3. Both local² and non-local³ students may apply for the Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2011/12) (“the Scholarship”).
4. Application is open to students who
 - (a) have attained, in the period from 2009 to 2011, Grade B or above in Use of English (UE) of the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) or equivalent⁴; AND
 - (b) will start pursuing relevant degree programmes in local higher education institutions in the 2011/12 school year. A list of such programmes can be

¹ Applicants for the Early Admissions Scheme (EAS) are included.

² Local students are persons, regardless of their nationalities, who do not require a student visa/ entry permit issued by the Director of Immigration for the purpose of receiving education in Hong Kong.

³ Non-local students are persons, regardless of their nationalities, who require a student visa/ entry permit issued by the Director of Immigration for the purpose of receiving education in Hong Kong.

⁴ The following results are accepted for the purpose of applying for “the Scholarship”:

- Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) – Level 5* in English Language for local students admitted on the Early Admissions Scheme (EAS)
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – An overall score of Band 7 or above
- General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examinations – Grade B or above in AS Level English
- International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma programme – Grade 5 or better in Higher Level English Language (A1 or A2)
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) – A minimum score of 600 (Paper-based) or 250 (Computer-based) or 100 (Internet-based)
- National Joint College Entrance Examination (NJCEE) (全國普通高等學校統一考試)/Gaokao (高考) – A score of 130 or above in English

found on the website of EDB (<http://www.edb.gov.hk> > Teachers' Development > Training & Qualifications > Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers). Broadly speaking, applicants should pursue one of the following:

- (i) a full-time Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree programme in English Language; or
- (ii) a full-time Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education (BA & BEd) double degree programme in English Language; or
- (iii) a full-time Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree programme in English or a relevant subject (such as Linguistics, with English as the main language studied) followed immediately by a full-time/part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) programme majoring in English.

Scholarship Amounts

5. Each local student will be awarded HK\$50,000 per year and each non-local student, HK\$80,000 per year. The scholarship amounts are detailed in the following table.

Study programmes	Scholarship amounts	
	Local students	Non-local students
BEd	HK\$50,000 per year	HK\$80,000 per year
BA & BEd Double Degree	HK\$50,000 per year	HK\$80,000 per year
BA followed by full-time/part-time PGDE	HK\$50,000 per year (BA); and HK\$50,000 (for the whole PGDE programme)	HK\$80,000 per year (BA); and HK\$80,000 (for the whole PGDE programme)

“The Scholarship” is tenable for the normal duration of the study programmes. The overall annual performance of the awardees should satisfy the requirement for renewal of “the Scholarship”.

Application and Selection

- 6. Applications for “the Scholarship” will be accepted from the end of July to early August 2011.
- 7. To apply for “the Scholarship”, applicants should submit the completed application form and copies of supporting documents to the Professional

Development and Training Division, EDB. The application form will be posted on the website of EDB in June 2011.

8. Applicants will be shortlisted for an interview on the basis of public examination results attained. The interview is scheduled for the end of August 2011 and attendance is mandatory. “The Scholarship” will be awarded to applicants whose performance is the best in all aspects. When all factors being considered are equal, priority will be given to applicants who intend to teach in primary schools, as indicated by the choice of their study programmes.
9. Applicants will be informed of the selection results by October 2011.

Teaching Obligation

10. Awardees of “the Scholarship” should undertake to fulfill a teaching obligation by teaching English full-time in primary or secondary schools in Hong Kong (day schools offering a formal curriculum) immediately after graduation. The duration of the teaching obligation is three consecutive school years. In the case of a BA awardee who has chosen to pursue a recognized 2-year part-time PGDE programme upon completion of the BA programme, his/her full-time engagement as an English teacher in a school above while studying shall be counted towards the fulfilment of the teaching obligation, on condition that he/she completes the PGDE programme as required.

Undertaking and Deed of Indemnity

11. Awardees are required to sign an undertaking which delineates the terms and conditions that they should comply with. These include, but are not limited to, the requirements for awardees to:
 - (a) attain the academic standard required to complete the relevant study programmes;
 - (b) (for BA awardees) pursue a PGDE programme majoring in English immediately upon graduation from the degree programme; and
 - (c) fulfill the three-year teaching obligation.
12. At any point of time, when a breach of the Undertaking occurs,
 - (a) “the Scholarship” will cease to be paid for the remainder of a study programme; and
 - (b) awardees will be required to repay to the HKSAR Government the scholarship amounts received on a pro rata and interest-free basis.

13. A breach of the Undertaking include, but are not limited to, the following circumstances:

- (a) failing to meet the requirement for renewal of “the Scholarship” because of unsatisfactory academic performance;
- (b) dropping out of a programme;
- (c) changing to pursue another programme which is not included in “the Scholarship”;
- (d) not fulfilling the teaching obligation immediately after graduation; and
- (e) not pursuing a relevant PGDE programme immediately upon graduation from the degree programme (in the case of BA awardees).

However, these circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis and flexibility will be exercised for reasons of breaching the Undertaking not within the awardees’ control such as accidents, deaths, ill health, etc.

14. Each awardee has to nominate a person as his/her indemnifier. An indemnifier should be a person at or over 21 years of age who is gainfully employed, financially sound and able to provide a business/office address. The other qualifications of an indemnifier will be listed in the Undertaking and related documents. By signing the Deed of Indemnity, the indemnifier agrees to repay to the HKSAR Government the scholarship amount received by the awardee if the awardee fails to comply with the terms and conditions included in the Undertaking and is unable to repay the scholarship amount received.

15. The Undertaking and relevant documents will be made available on request by applicants when “the Scholarship” is open for application at the end of July 2011.

Enquiries

16. Please visit the websites of local higher education institutions for details about the relevant study programmes. Enquiries about “the Scholarship” can be sent to ltq@edb.gov.hk or directed to Mrs. Sonia KAN (Tel. 3150 8339) or Ms Gladys YU (Tel. 2186 7531) of the Professional Development and Training Division, Education Bureau.

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Education Bureau

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region