

Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 134/2017

From: Secretary for Education
Ref.: EDB(SLPD)/PNLSL/GEN/1
Date: 1 August 2017

To: Supervisors / Heads / Teachers of
Government, Aided (including Special
Schools), Caput and Direct Subsidy Scheme
(DSS) Secondary schools

'i – Journey'

Paid Non-local Study Leave Scheme for Secondary School Teachers (2017/18)

Summary

This circular memorandum invites teachers of secondary schools to participate in the ***'i – Journey'***¹ Paid Non-local Study Leave Scheme for Secondary School Teachers (2017/18) (the Scheme) to be held from April to June 2018. This circular memorandum should be circulated for information of teachers.

Background

2. As announced in Policy Address 2017, the Government will introduce a paid non-local study leave scheme on a three-year pilot basis for serving secondary school teachers to broaden their perspectives and enrich their experience. The Scheme has been developed for this purpose by allowing teachers to take part in structured learning courses and school attachment overseas.

Details

3. Through providing overseas professional development activities of a longer duration, with study leave for teachers and funding support for employment of supply teachers for schools, the Scheme aims to –

- enhance teachers' professional capacity and inspire them with the latest global education developments;
- promote a culture of research and inquiry in schools that brings positive changes and impact on learning and teaching; and
- create space for teachers to undertake professional development activities on a full-time basis.

¹ The Scheme aims to create a learning journey for participants with unique learning experience, where participants will start with an inquiry, get inspired in the process, and most importantly, bring an impact on their teaching/ student learning/ school development upon returning to school. "*i*" refers to the 3 crucial elements of this Scheme – *inquire*, *inspire* and *impact*, and together they make a fruitful learning journey for participants.

4. The programmes devised under the Scheme in the first batch comprises three major components – pre-trip preparation (pre-trip), overseas experience and post-trip consolidation (post-trip). Selected teachers will first research the specific theme of the programme they participate in. They will then take part in structured training abroad along with school attachment to observe the dissemination of good practices. Upon completion of the overseas experience, teachers will consolidate their learning and draw up their concrete school-based initiative/ research. Subsequently, they should try it out in their own school with a view to bringing positive changes. Good practices of any school-based initiative/ research may be shared with a larger professional community afterwards.

5. The first batch of programmes in 2018 includes two customised programmes on different themes to cater for teachers' needs. Details are as below:

	Programme	Location	Programme Dates (tentative)	No. of Places
A(1)	Interdisciplinary Learning & Entrepreneurship Education	Helsinki & Jyväskylä, Finland	Early April – late May 2018 (8 weeks)	15
A(2)	Catering for Students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)²	Melbourne, Australia	Mid-April – mid-June 2018 (9 weeks)	20

Each of these two customised programmes will include the following major components:

- i. **Pre-trip:** a one-week period in Hong Kong for research and development of a school-based initiative/ research proposal
- ii. **Overseas experience:** five to six weeks of structured learning and school attachment abroad, during which participants further develop and finalise their proposals with the knowledge and experience gained and coaching by a mentor
- iii. **Post-trip:** a two-week period upon returning to Hong Kong for consolidation and write-up of a detailed implementation plan for the school-based initiative/ research, with professional advice from the mentor through emails/ an online platform

For more detailed information of each customised programme, please refer to the respective Programme Briefs at **Appendix A(1) & A(2)** and Information Notes to Applicants at **Appendix B**.

² Students with SEN refer to students with Specific Learning Difficulties (dyslexia), Intellectual Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD), Physical Disability, Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment, Speech and Language Impairment (SLI), as well as students with mental illness.

6. Participating teachers will be granted full-pay study leave for the whole period i.e. pre-trip, overseas experience and post-trip. Air passage and course fees will also be fully sponsored by the EDB. Funding for employment of supply teachers covering participants' whole study leave period will be provided for their schools.

7. Participating teachers have to undertake to teach full-time in public-sector secondary schools³ in Hong Kong **for two years** upon completion of the Programme. For details of the teaching obligation and undertaking, eligibility for application, application procedures, etc., please refer to the Information Notes to Applicants at **Appendix B** and Application Form at **Appendix C**.

8. Application is open to regular full-time teachers serving in government, aided (including Special Schools), caput and DSS secondary schools. Teachers who are interested may submit their applications using the form at **Appendix C** together with supporting documents by post on or before **6 October 2017**. Applications should be supported by the Principal's Recommendation Forms at **Appendix D**, to be completed by the principal of the applicant's school and submitted separately by the above deadline. The above information and relevant Appendices have also been uploaded onto Education Bureau website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/i-journey>) and the Training Calendar System (TCS) (Course ID: PDT020170154 & PDT020170155 for Secondary Schools and Special Schools).

9. Applicants should apply for **one** programme only. Vetting committee(s) will be formed for selection purposes. The selection criteria include applicants' experience, their personal statement, relevance of their proposal to the programme applied for and principal's recommendation, etc.

Enquiries

10. For further information about the Scheme, please contact Miss Ingrid TO (Tel: 3509 8742) or Mr Ivan LOE (Tel: 3509 8774) of the School Leadership & Professional Development Section, Education Bureau.

Mrs Anissa WONG
For Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections --- for information

³ Types of secondary schools include government, aided (including Special Schools), caput and DSS schools.