

Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 173/2016

From: Secretary for Education
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Date: 30 November 2016

To: Heads of all secondary schools

Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2017/18)

Summary

The purpose of this circular memorandum is to provide secondary schools with information on the Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2017/18) (“the Scholarship”). Heads of secondary schools are requested to bring the following information to the attention of careers guidance teachers and students who are applying for admission to local higher education institutions in the 2017/18 school year.

Details

2. The Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers is one of a series of measures to enhance the professionalism of English teachers in Hong Kong. It aims 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. The Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers is tenable for the normal duration of the intended study programmes. Upon graduation, awardees have to undertake to teach English full-time in primary or secondary schools in Hong Kong (day schools offering a formal curriculum). For awardees on undergraduate degree programmes, the duration of teaching obligation is three years.

3. “The Scholarship” will be open for application in August 2017. Students who are interested in “the Scholarship” have to choose a relevant study programme when applying for admission to local higher education institutions in the 2017/18 school year. In this connection, please draw the attention of your students who will graduate from secondary school in 2017 to “the Scholarship” and kindly distribute to them copies of the attached letter and the Information Sheet (Annex).

Enquiries

4. For further information about “the Scholarship”, please contact Ms Louisa YUNG (Tel. 2892 5760) or Mr Eddie KWAN (Tel. 2892 5492) of the Professional Development and Training Division, Education Bureau.

Benjamin YUNG
for Secretary for Education

30 November 2016

Dear Student,

Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2017/18)

I would like to introduce to you the Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2017/18) (“the Scholarship”) and provide you with its details.

The Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers is one of a series of measures to enhance the professionalism of English teachers in Hong Kong. It aims to attract persons who are 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.

The Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers is tenable for the normal duration of the intended study programmes. Upon graduation, awardees will have to undertake to teach English full-time in primary or secondary schools in Hong Kong (day schools offering a formal curriculum). For awardees on undergraduate degree programmes, the duration of teaching obligation is three years.

Application for “the Scholarship” will be open in August 2017. Only applicants who will pursue year one study in relevant study programmes starting from the 2017/18 school year are eligible to apply for “the Scholarship”. Hence, if you are interested in “the Scholarship”, it is important that you take note of this requirement and choose a relevant study programme when applying for admission to local higher education institutions in the 2017/18 school year.

For details of “the Scholarship”, please refer to the Information Sheet. The list of relevant study programmes can be found on the website of the Education Bureau (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>).

If you need more information on “the Scholarship”, please contact Ms Louisa YUNG (Tel. 2892 5760) or Mr Eddie KWAN (Tel. 2892 5492).

Benjamin YUNG
for Secretary for Education

Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2017/18)
Information Sheet
for Secondary School Graduates of Local Student Status

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 local¹ and non-local² students may apply for the Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2017/18) (“the Scholarship”). Information for local students interested in applying for a 5-year scholarship is provided in the following paragraphs. Non-local students should refer to the “Information Sheet for Secondary School Graduates and Undergraduates / Graduates of Universities of Non-local Student Status” posted on the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>).
4. Application is open to secondary school graduates who
 - (a) have attained Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination, or equivalent³; and

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ The following results are accepted for applying for “the Scholarship”:

- Hong Kong Advanced Level Examinations (HKALE) – Grade B or above in Use of English (UE)
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – An overall score of Band 7 or above in the Academic Module
- 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) (also known as Gaokao 高考) – A score of 130 or above in English

- (b) will start pursuing year one study in relevant degree programmes in local higher education institutions in the 2017/18 school year. The list of such programmes can be found on the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>).
5. Broadly speaking, applicants should pursue one of the following programmes in a higher education institution in Hong Kong:
- a full-time Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree programme in English Language; or
 - a full-time Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education (BA & BEd) double degree programme in English Language; or
 - a full-time Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree programme in English or a relevant subject (such as Linguistics, with English as the main language of study) followed immediately by a full-time/part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) programme majoring in English.

Scholarship Amounts

6. Each local student will be awarded HK\$50,000 per year. The scholarship amounts are detailed in the following table.

Study programme	Scholarship amounts for each awardee of local student status
BEd	HK\$50,000 per year
BA & BEd double degree	HK\$50,000 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)

“The Scholarship” is tenable for the normal duration of the study programmes. For awardees pursuing the three kinds of study programmes lasting for more than one year listed above, a renewal exercise is conducted every year. To have the scholarship renewed, awardees are obliged to put forward good conduct and academic performance while complying with the terms and conditions of the Undertaking which they sign when they accept the award of scholarship.

Application and Selection

7. Application for “the Scholarship” will be accepted in August 2017. Details about the application procedure will be posted on the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>) in June 2017.

8. Applicants will be shortlisted for an interview on the basis of public examination results attained. The interviews are scheduled for late August 2017. Attendance is mandatory.
9. “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. Applicants will be informed of the selection results by the end of November 2017.

Teaching Obligation

10. Awardees of “the Scholarship” should undertake to fulfil 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 mentioned 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 good conduct and academic standards required by the higher education institution concerned 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) fulfil the three-year teaching obligation after graduation.
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 an interest-free and, if applicable, pro rata basis.

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.

13. 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. Details of the qualifications of an indemnifier can be found in the Undertaking and the Deed of Indemnity. By signing the Deed of Indemnity, the indemnifier agrees to repay to the HKSAR Government the scholarship amount received by an 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.

Enquiries

14. 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 Ms Louisa YUNG (Tel. 2892 5760) or Mr Eddie KWAN (Tel. 2892 5492) of the Professional Development and Training Division, Education Bureau.

Education Bureau

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

November 2016