

**Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2017/18)**  
**Information Sheet**  
**for Secondary School Graduates and**  
**Undergraduates / Graduates of Universities of Non-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 language 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.

Details of the Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2017/18)

3. Both Hong Kong students and students from places outside Hong Kong may apply for the Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2017/18) (“the Scholarship”). Successful applicants will be awarded a scholarship for one year or five years, as determined by the study programmes pursued. Information about “the Scholarship” is detailed in Parts A, B and C below for non-local students. Local students should refer to the “Information Sheet for Secondary School Graduates of Local Student Status” and the “Information Sheet for Undergraduates / Graduates of Universities of Local Student Status” posted on the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>).

Non-local Student Status

4. 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. Applicants should check their student status with reference to the information from the Immigration Department of Hong Kong accordingly. For more information about applying for a visa/entry permit, please visit the webpage of the Immigration Department of Hong Kong (<http://www.immd.gov.hk> > Our Services > Visas > Students).

## **Part A: For Secondary School Graduates Interested in Applying for a 5-year Scholarship**

### Eligibility for Application

5. Secondary school graduates of non-local student status may apply for “the Scholarship” if they
  - (a) have attained, either Grade B or above in AS Level English of the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examinations, or Grade 5 or better in Higher Level English Language (A1 or A2) in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, or equivalent<sup>1</sup>; and
  - (b) will start pursuing year one study in relevant degree programmes in the higher education institutions in Hong Kong in the 2017/18 school year. A list of such programmes can be found on the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>).
  
6. Broadly speaking, applicants should pursue one of the following programmes provided by the higher education institutions in Hong Kong:
  - (a) a full-time Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree programme in English Language; or
  - (b) a full-time Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education (BA & BEd) double degree programme in English Language; or
  - (c) 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

7. Each awardee of non-local student status will be awarded HK\$80,000 per year. The scholarship amounts are detailed in the following table.

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<sup>1</sup> The following results are accepted for the purpose of applying for “the Scholarship”:

- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – An overall score of Band 7 or above in the Academic Module
- 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
- Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) – Grade B or above in Use of English (UE)
- Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination – Level 5 or above in English Language

<b>Study programme</b>	<b>Scholarship amounts for each awardee of non-local student status</b>
BEd	HK\$80,000 per year
BA & BEd double degree	HK\$80,000 per year
BA followed by full-time/part-time PGDE	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. For awardees pursuing these three kinds of study programmes lasting for more than one year, 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.

### **Part B: For Undergraduates / Graduates of Universities Interested in Applying for a 1-year Scholarship**

#### Eligibility for Application

8. Undergraduates / graduates of universities<sup>2</sup> of non-local student status may apply for “the Scholarship” if they
- have attained either Grade B or above in AS Level English of the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examinations, or Grade 5 or better in Higher Level English Language (A1 or A2) in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, or equivalent<sup>3</sup>; and
  - hold a recognized first degree majoring in English or a relevant subject with honours not lower than Second Class Upper Division or equivalent; and

<sup>2</sup> Persons who have graduated from degree programmes majoring in English and are employed in professions other than teaching, as well as those who are final year students graduating from relevant degree programmes in 2017 are included.

<sup>3</sup> The following results are accepted for the purpose of applying for “the Scholarship”:

- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – An overall score of Band 7 or above in the Academic Module
- 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
- Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) – Grade B or above in Use of English (UE)
- Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination – Level 5 or above in English Language

- (c) will start pursuing a full-time Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) programme majoring in English in the higher education institutions in Hong Kong in the 2017/18 school year. For information about such programmes and the list of institutions offering them, please visit the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>).

#### Scholarship Amounts

9. Each awardee of non-local student status will be awarded HK\$80,000 for the pursuit of a full-time PGDE programme majoring in English.

#### **Part C: For Applicants of Parts A and B**

#### Application and Selection

10. For non-local students applying for the Scholarship, application 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.
11. 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. Interviewees are expected to attend the interviews at their own expenses.
12. “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

13. 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 for awardees of the 5-year scholarship and one school year for awardees of the 1-year scholarship. In the case of a BA awardee of the 5-year scholarship 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

14. 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 teaching obligation of one year or three years in Hong Kong after graduation.

15. 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 / or
- (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.

16. 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

17. For details about the relevant study programmes offered, please visit the websites of the higher education institutions in Hong Kong. Information about the higher

education institutions can be found on the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk> > Education System and Policy > Post-secondary Education > Local Higher Education > Institutions).

18. Enquiries about “the Scholarship” can be sent to [ltq@edb.gov.hk](mailto:ltq@edb.gov.hk) or directed to Ms Louisa YUNG (Tel. 852-2892 5760) or Mr Eddie KWAN (Tel. 852-2892 5492) of the Professional Development and Training Division, Education Bureau.

Education Bureau

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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