

# Applied Learning Courses

Applied Learning Section  
Curriculum Development Institute  
Education Bureau



# ApL — A Valued Senior Secondary Elective Subject

- Focus on practical learning elements linked to **broad professional and vocational fields with dual emphasis on theory and practice**
- Develop students' **knowledge, generic skills, positive values and attitudes** through providing simulated or authentic contexts, as well as deepen students' understanding of vocational and professional education and training (VPET), preparing them for further studies and work in future
- **ApL is NOT pre-vocational training**



# ApL — A Valued Senior Secondary Elective Subject

- **Complements other senior secondary subjects** to form a flexible subject combination that helps enrich students' subject choices to cater for learner diversity
- **Category B subjects** of HKDSE Examination
- ApL courses are **developed by course providers and delivered by tutors** recognised by the course providers



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There is **no public examination** for ApL subjects. Assessments are conducted by course providers while HKEAA is responsible for moderation of assessment results

# ApL Courses

## 58 courses in 2023–25 cohort; 2025 HKDSE

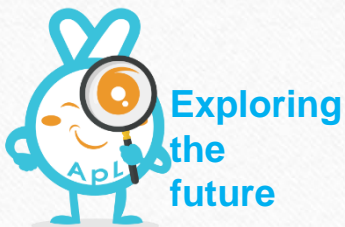
### *Six Areas of Studies*

- Creative Studies
- Media and Communication

- Business, Management and Law
- Services

- Applied Science
- Engineering and Production

- Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students)



Applied Learning – course duration : 180 contact hours

Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) – course duration : 270 contact hours



# Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) [ApL(C)]

## Aims

To provide an additional channel exclusively for **non-Chinese speaking students** meeting the specified circumstances<sup>#</sup> to obtain an alternative Chinese language qualification to **prepare them for further studies and career pursuits**

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<sup>#</sup> Students who have learned Chinese Language for

- (1) less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education; or
- (2) six years or more in schools, but have been taught an adapted and simpler Chinese Language curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in local schools.

# ApL(C)

## Features

- ApL(C), which is designed from the perspective of **second language learners**, provides a **simulated applied learning context** to help NCS students build a foundation for using Chinese in the workplace and obtain **an alternative Chinese language qualification** to prepare them for further studies and career pursuits



# ApL(C)

3 courses are available:

Course	Course Provider
ApL(C) – Chinese in Business Service	School of Professional Education and Executive Development, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
ApL(C) – Chinese in Practical Context	School of Continuing Education, Hong Kong Baptist University
ApL(C) – Practical Chinese	Hong Kong College of Technology

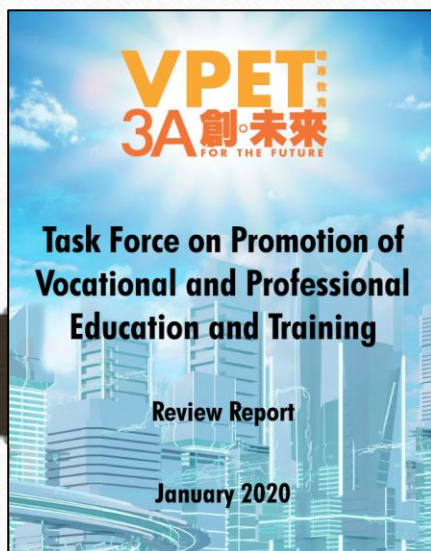


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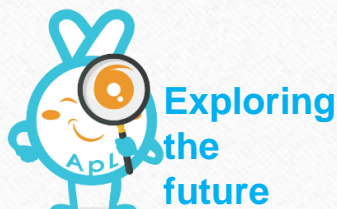
# Promotion of Applied Learning

## Task Force on Promotion of Vocational and Professional Education and Training

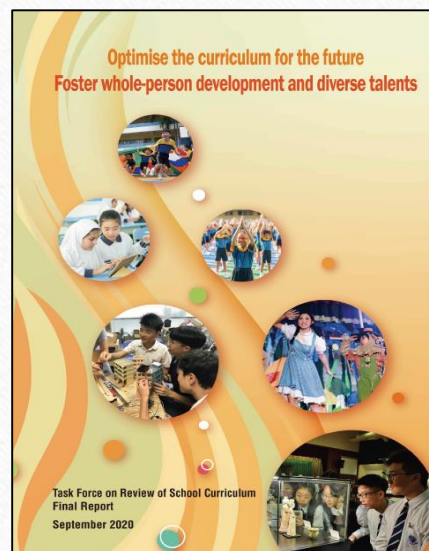


**Applied Learning** in secondary schools  
中學應用學習

- ↑ Workplace experience 職場體驗
- ↑ Industry participation 業界參與
- ↑ Articulation pathways 升學階梯



## Task Force on Review of School Curriculum



## 2022 Policy Address

### Vocational and Professional Education and Training

122. ...

- (v) enrich applied learning and workplace experience of secondary students – We will **enhance the senior secondary applied learning courses by offering more course options and support...**

## 2020 Policy Address

### Promoting ApL

155. In line with the goals of promoting whole-person development and catering for student diversity, we will **further promote Applied Learning as a senior secondary elective subject**, and provide students with subsidies and more diversified courses to broaden their studies and learning experience to facilitate their diversified development.

## 2021 Policy Address

### Diversified Progression Pathway

142. ...On vocational and professional education and training, we will **continue to promote Applied Learning as a valued senior secondary elective subject** by developing more diversified and up-to-date courses, as well as placing equal emphasis on practice and theory to cater for the diverse interests of students and facilitate their exploration of multiple pathways for further study and career pursuits.



# ApL — Diversified Courses

## New courses in the 2023–25 cohort; 2025 HKDSE

- Creative English – Biz and Media
- Creative English – PR and Marketing
- Applied Japanese and Japanese Culture
- Everyday Japanese and Japanese Culture
- Introduction to Fintech
- Digital Construction

Cohort	No. of ApL Courses
2021–23	45
2022–24	52
2023–25	58

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For details, please refer to  
the ApL webpage



# ApL — Subject Combination

For diversified learning, **a flexible combination of ApL with core subjects, elective subjects** and Other Learning Experiences helps provide theoretical and applied learning opportunities to cater for students' **diverse learning needs**.

## Category A: Elective Subjects

- Economics + Visual Arts
- Tourism and Hospitality Studies
- Chemistry + Biology
- Information and Communication Technology



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## ApL Courses

Computer Game & Animation Design  
Modern Southeast Asian Cuisine  
Medical Laboratory Science  
AI and Robotics

# Possible Matching of ApL Courses with Programmes in Tertiary Institutions

## Some Examples of ApL Courses

Computer Game and Animation Design  
Digital Comic Design and Production

Foundation in Chinese Medicine  
Health Care Practice

Accounting for e-Business  
Marketing and Online Promotion

Film and Transmedia  
PR and Multimedia Communication

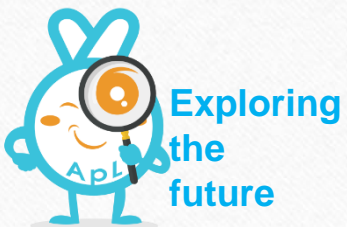
## Relevant Faculties / Courses in Tertiary Institutions

Design  
Computer Science

Chinese Medicine  
Nursing

Business Administration  
Marketing

Film and Television  
Advertising and Public Relations



# ApL — Promotion of Multiple Pathways

Student	ApL Course	HKDSE Cat. A Elective Subjects	Further Studies
1	Computer Game and Animation Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economics</li> <li>Information and Communication Technology</li> <li>Mathematics Extended Part Module 2 (Algebra and Calculus)</li> </ul>	Bachelor of Engineering
2	Foundation in Chinese Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physics</li> <li>Chemistry</li> <li>Biology</li> </ul>	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery
3	Marketing and Online Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economics</li> <li>Tourism and Hospitality Studies</li> </ul>	Bachelor of Business Administration
4	Computer Forensic Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology</li> <li>Information and Communication Technology</li> </ul>	Higher Diploma in Electronic and Information Engineering
5	Child Care and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chinese History</li> <li>Geography</li> </ul>	Higher Diploma in Child Care and Education
6	Health Care Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology</li> <li>Economics</li> <li>Mathematics Extended Part Module 2 (Algebra and Calculus)</li> </ul>	Bachelor of Nursing





# ApL — Recognition

- The reporting of students' performance in ApL subjects is by three levels

## Attained with Distinction (II)

(deemed comparable to **Level 4 or above** of Category A subjects of the HKDSE Examination)

## Attained with Distinction (I)

(deemed comparable to **Level 3** of Category A subjects of the HKDSE Examination)

## Attained

- For ApL(C), students' performance is reported as “Attained” and “Attained with Distinction”.

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# ApL — Recognition

## Qualifications Framework (QF)

Cohort	No. of ApL courses recognised under QF	Total no. of courses
2021-23	45	45
2022-24	52	52
2023-25	58	58

- In addition to the HKDSE qualification, students who have successfully completed ApL courses that are registered in the Qualifications Register as certificate programmes at Qualifications Framework (QF) Level 3 will obtain a **QF Level 3 certificate** to be issued by the course providers.



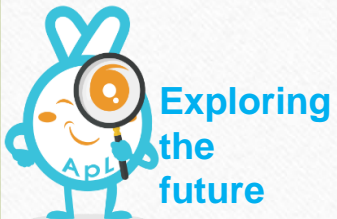
# ApL — Further Studies

## Undergraduate programmes

- All along, student admission in tertiary institutions has followed the principle of institutional autonomy. Tertiary institutions in general value the learning experiences that students acquire in ApL
- ApL subjects are recognised as **elective subjects, or considered for award of extra bonus or additional information**, varying by individual institutions, faculties or programmes

## Sub-degree programmes

- Students with **level 2 or above in five HKDSE subjects (including Chinese Language and English Language)** are eligible to apply for admission to Associate Degree / Higher Diploma programmes. In general, each student is allowed to use up to two ApL subjects in the application



# ApL — Further Studies

## ApL(C)

- ApL(C) provides NCS students with an additional channel to obtain an alternative Chinese Language qualification
- For the purpose of admission to post-secondary education programmes, **ApL(C) is in general accepted as an alternative Chinese Language qualification, but it is not considered an elective subject**
- Currently, University Grants Committee-funded universities and most post-secondary institutions accept ApL(C) as an alternative qualification in Chinese Language for the admission of NCS students with “**Attained**” as the minimum grade required



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# ApL — For Work

## The Civil Service Bureau

- accepts students' ApL results in the HKDSE Examination (including “Attained” and “Attained with Distinction”, **up to a maximum of 2 ApL subjects**) for civil service appointments
- accepts “Attained” and “Attained with Distinction” in **ApL(C) as meeting the Chinese language proficiency requirements** of relevant civil service ranks

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# ApL — Course Arrangement

How long does an ApL course last? Which year level of students can apply for the ApL courses?

- In general, each course spans two years at the senior secondary level
  - ✓ Application at S3: Commencing at S4 (to be completed at S5)
  - ✓ Application at S4: Commencing at S5 (to be completed at S6)

How ApL lessons are arranged?

- Schools may adopt the following two non-exclusive modes in implementing ApL courses to suit their school contexts:
  - ✓ **Mode 1:** Lessons are held mainly at the venues of course providers on Saturdays and are taught by the tutors who are recognised by the course providers
  - ✓ **Mode 2:** Schools offering ApL courses on their own. Lessons can be held on weekdays or Saturdays and are taught by the tutors who are recognised by the course providers. Subject to facilities and equipment required for the individual courses, lessons can be held in schools offering ApL courses and/or at the venues of the course providers



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Remarks: The ApL courses and year levels to be offered are subject to school's decision.

# ApL Courses — Informed Choice

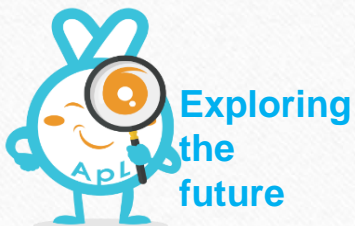
## How do students choose ApL courses?

- Understand ApL courses and study arrangements before choosing elective subjects
- Enable students to choose ApL courses according to their **interests and aspirations**

*Remarks: Each student can take a maximum of TWO ApL courses as elective subjects  
(NCS students meeting specified circumstances can also take one ApL(C) course)*

## Do students need to pay the course fees for ApL courses?

- Students in aided, government and caput schools, schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme and special schools with senior secondary classes studying the senior secondary curriculum prepared by the Curriculum Development Council and published for use in schools by the EDB will be fully subsidised by the EDB to take ApL courses



# ApL Taster Programmes

- Course introduction, demonstration and workshops will be provided by course providers to enable students to experience the learning of ApL courses and ApL(C) courses, and provide them with early exposure to different industries/professions
- For details, please refer to the ApL website



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# Promotional Materials and Activities

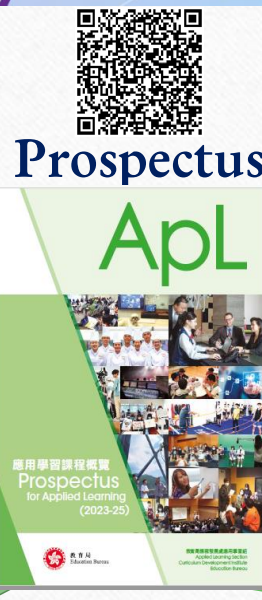
## Virtual Exhibition



## ApL graduates' success story



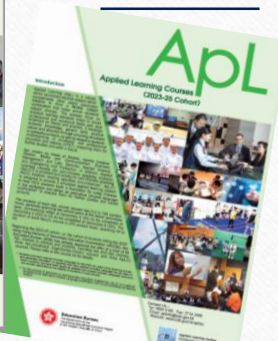
## Posters



## Prospectus



## Leaflet



## ApL Stickers

