

Applied Learning Course Provision
[File Reference: EDB 1125-2010-8060-9015-00029]

Invitation to Expression of Interest

The purpose of this Expression of Interest exercise is to invite institutions to express their interest in developing Applied Learning courses for the cohorts of students sitting the 2029, 2030 and 2031 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE).

Applied Learning Curriculum

There are three categories of subjects under the HKDSE: Category A (subjects under the Key Learning Areas), Category B (Applied Learning), and Category C (Other Languages). In addition to the four Category A core subjects (i.e. Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics, and Citizenship and Social Development), students may study elective subjects under Category A, Category B, and Category C, in accordance with their interests, aspirations and abilities, so as to facilitate their diversified development.

The *Applied Learning Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Senior Secondary Level)* (Curriculum Development Council and Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, 2009, with updates in 2017) provides a framework for Applied Learning and its six Areas of Studies.

All Applied Learning courses are to be developed and delivered in accordance with the guiding principles, curriculum aims and objectives as set out in the curriculum guides (e.g. *Applied Learning Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Senior Secondary Level)*), circulars, guidelines and other relevant documents from the Education Bureau. More specifically, Applied Learning courses are designed according to the principles of balance, coherence, articulation and responsiveness to provide a sound learning platform for students.

Applied Learning is a valued senior secondary elective subject which complements subjects under the other two categories to form a flexible subject combination that helps enrich students' subject choices and cater for learner diversity, providing broad and balanced learning experiences for students. Applied Learning focuses on practical learning elements linked to broad vocational and professional fields with dual emphasis on theory and practice. It develops students' knowledge, generic skills, proper values and attitudes through simulated or authentic contexts, as well as enhances students' understanding of vocational and professional education and training (VPET), preparing them for further studies and work in future.

Applied Learning courses are developed to provide a balanced portfolio of courses matching stakeholders' expectations. Applied Learning covers six Areas of Studies,

namely, Creative Studies; Media and Communication; Business, Management and Law; Services; Applied Science; and Engineering and Production. In addition, Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (ApL(C)) is provided exclusively for non-Chinese speaking students meeting specified circumstances¹.

Implementation Arrangements

Applied Learning courses are Category B subjects of the HKDSE. All senior secondary students studying the curriculum prepared by the Curriculum Development Council and published for use in schools by the Education Bureau can take a maximum of two Applied Learning courses as elective subjects² in accordance with their interests and aspirations. Non-Chinese speaking students meeting specified circumstances can in addition take one ApL(C) course. The duration of each Applied Learning course (except ApL(C)) is 180 contact hours, generally spanning two school years at the senior secondary level, commencing either at Secondary 4 (S4) (complete at Secondary 5 (S5)) or at S5 (complete at Secondary 6 (S6)). The duration of each ApL(C) course is 270 contact hours, spanning S4 to S6.

Schools may adopt the following two non-exclusive modes in implementing Applied Learning courses to suit their school contexts. Details of the implementation modes are as follows:

Mode 1	Lessons to be held mainly on Saturdays at the venues of the course providers and delivered by tutors recognised by the course providers. Schools should arrange their students to attend the lessons according to the timetables set by the course providers.
Mode 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classes are open only to students from eligible schools having entered into special agreements with the relevant course providers. Lessons can be held on weekdays or Saturdays and are taught by tutors recognised by the course providers. Subject to the facilities and equipment required for the individual courses, lessons can be held in schools and/or at the venues of the course providers. Schools have to reach an initial agreement and formulate the implementation details with the course providers, including the timetables, class venues and provision of facilities, etc. Schools may also consider collaborating with other schools to offer Applied Learning courses with the support of the course providers.

¹ Students who have learned Chinese Language for less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education; or students who have learned Chinese Language for 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.

² In general, each student can take a maximum of two Applied Learning courses (except ApL(C)) as elective subjects throughout his/her studies at the senior secondary level.

Expression of Interest

This invitation to Expression of Interest is to enhance the course provision of Applied Learning courses.

Each interested institution can submit at most six proposals. These do not include proposals on Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students), for which at most one proposal could be submitted for Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students).

The eligibility requirements for institutions to develop Applied Learning courses are at **Appendix I**.

If your institution is interested in submitting an Expression of Interest for the Government's consideration, please:

- Observe the Eligibility Requirements (**Appendix I**)
- Read the Guidance Notes for Completing Initial Course Proposal (**Appendix II**)
- Read the Personal Information Collection Statement (**Appendix II**)
- Complete the Expression of Interest (**Appendix II**)
- Read the Disclaimer (**Appendix III**).

The Expression of Interest can be completed in English or Chinese, except for parts specified to be in bilingual format. A separate Initial Course Proposal must be submitted for each proposed course. Please provide both hard and soft (in “Word” format saved on a USB flash drive or CD-ROM) copies.

Please send your Expression of Interest in a **sealed envelope** addressed to Executive Officer (Curriculum Development)³, Administration Section of Curriculum Development Institute; File Reference: EDB 1125-2010-8060-9015-00029; Title: ***“Invitation to Expression of Interest – Applied Learning Course Provision”***. The Label at **Appendix IV** must be affixed on the envelope.

The sealed envelope containing the Expression of Interest must reach the **Administration Section of Curriculum Development Institute, Education Bureau at Room W130, 1/F, West Block, EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong** AT or BEFORE **4:00 p.m. (Hong Kong time) on 10 July 2025 (Thursday)** (the “Closing Date”). Please **DO NOT** send your submissions by email or fax. In case Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 or above is hoisted, or Black Rainstorm Warning Signal or “extreme conditions” announced by the Government is/are in force for any duration between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the closing date, the closing date and time will be extended to 4:00 p.m. on the next working day (Working day means Monday to Friday, other than a public holiday, or a day on which (i) Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 or above is hoisted, or (ii) Black Rainstorm Warning Signal or “extreme conditions” announced by the Government is/are in force, for any time

during the normal business hours; and normal business hours mean 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Hong Kong time)). **Late submissions will not be considered under any circumstances.**

Upon the Closing Date of submission, the Government will consider the Expression of Interest submitted by all institutions and decide if any follow-up action is required. If necessary, the Government would request institutions concerned to submit detailed course proposal for further consideration. This invitation does not constitute an offer or suggestion to offer Applied Learning courses, nor does it constitute the basis of any contract which may be concluded in relation to the course provision of Applied Learning courses. The Government reserves the right to refuse or terminate any institutions to offer Applied Learning courses, as appropriate. Related disclaimer is at **Appendix III**.

Important Dates for Reference

Invitation to expression of interest	11 June 2025
Submission deadline of expression of interest	10 July 2025
The Government to request shortlisted institution(s) to submit detailed proposal(s) for further consideration	November 2025, or as advised by the Government
For institution(s) who are requested by the Government, deadline of submission of detailed proposal(s)	December 2025, or as advised by the Government

Enquiries

For enquiries, please contact Executive Officer (Applied Learning) at 3698 3185.

For further information of Applied Learning, please visit the following website:
www.edb.gov.hk/apl/en

Education Bureau
11 June 2025