



Introduction to **English-related** Applied Learning Courses

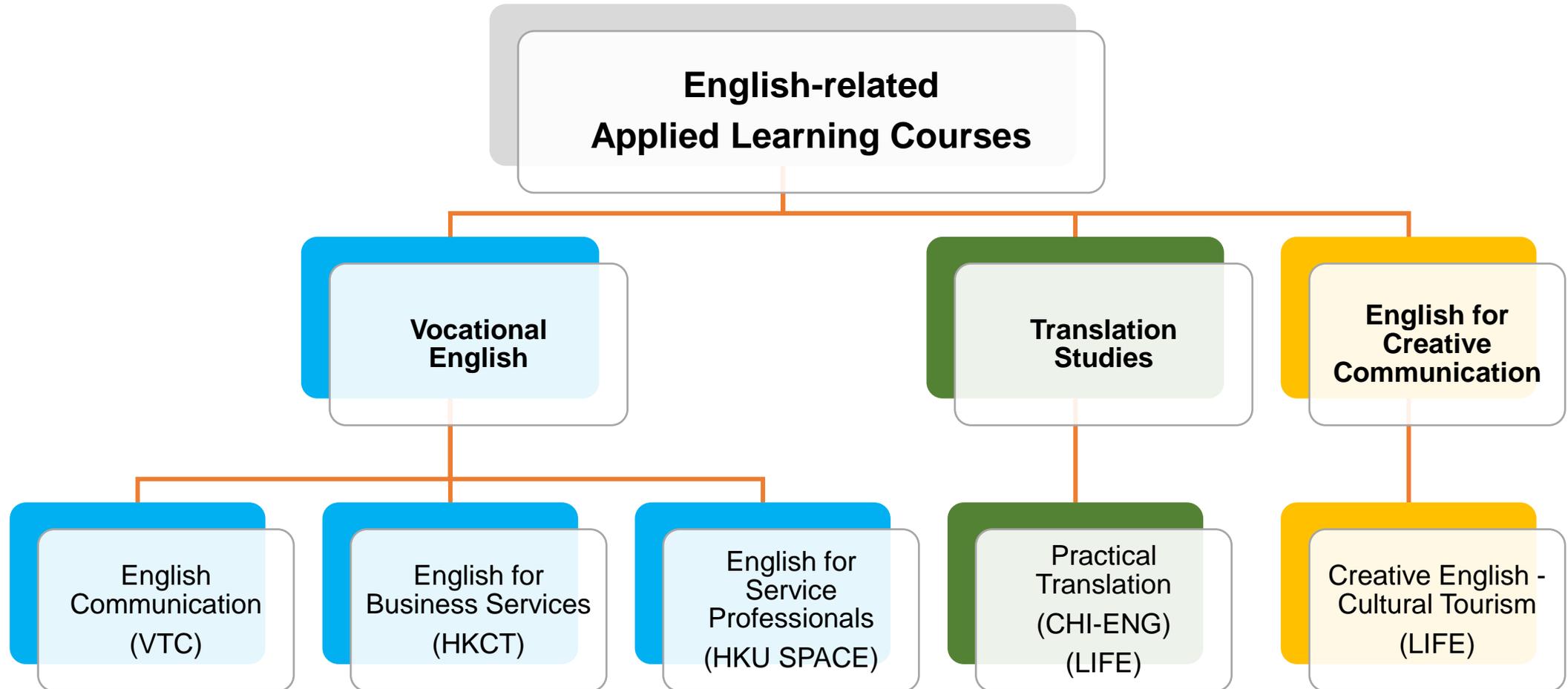
10 February 2026

Time	Programme	Course Provider #
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.	Registration	
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Overview of English-related Applied Learning Courses	
2:45 – 3:30 p.m.	Applied Learning (Vocational English) - English Communication - English for Business Services - English for Services Professionals	VTC HKCT HKU SPACE
3:30 – 3:45 p.m.	Practical Translation (CHI-ENG)	LIFE
3:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Creative English – Cultural Tourism	LIFE
4:00 – 4:20 p.m.	Experience sharing by Buddhist Fat Ho Memorial College	
4:20 – 4:30 p.m.	Q&A session	ALL

**# Course Providers
(2026-28 Cohort):**

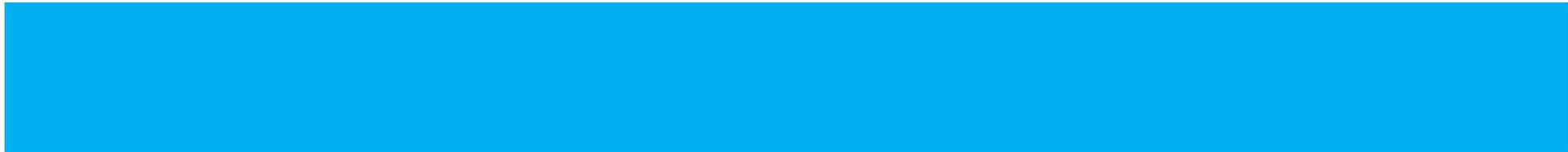
HKCT	Hong Kong College of Technology
HKU SPACE	School of Professional and Continuing Education, The University of Hong Kong
LIFE	Lingnan Institute of Further Education
VTC	Vocational Training Council

English-related Applied Learning Courses (2026-28 Cohort; 2028 HKDSE)





Applied Learning (Vocational English)



Applied Learning (Vocational English) – Curriculum Aims

MOI:
English

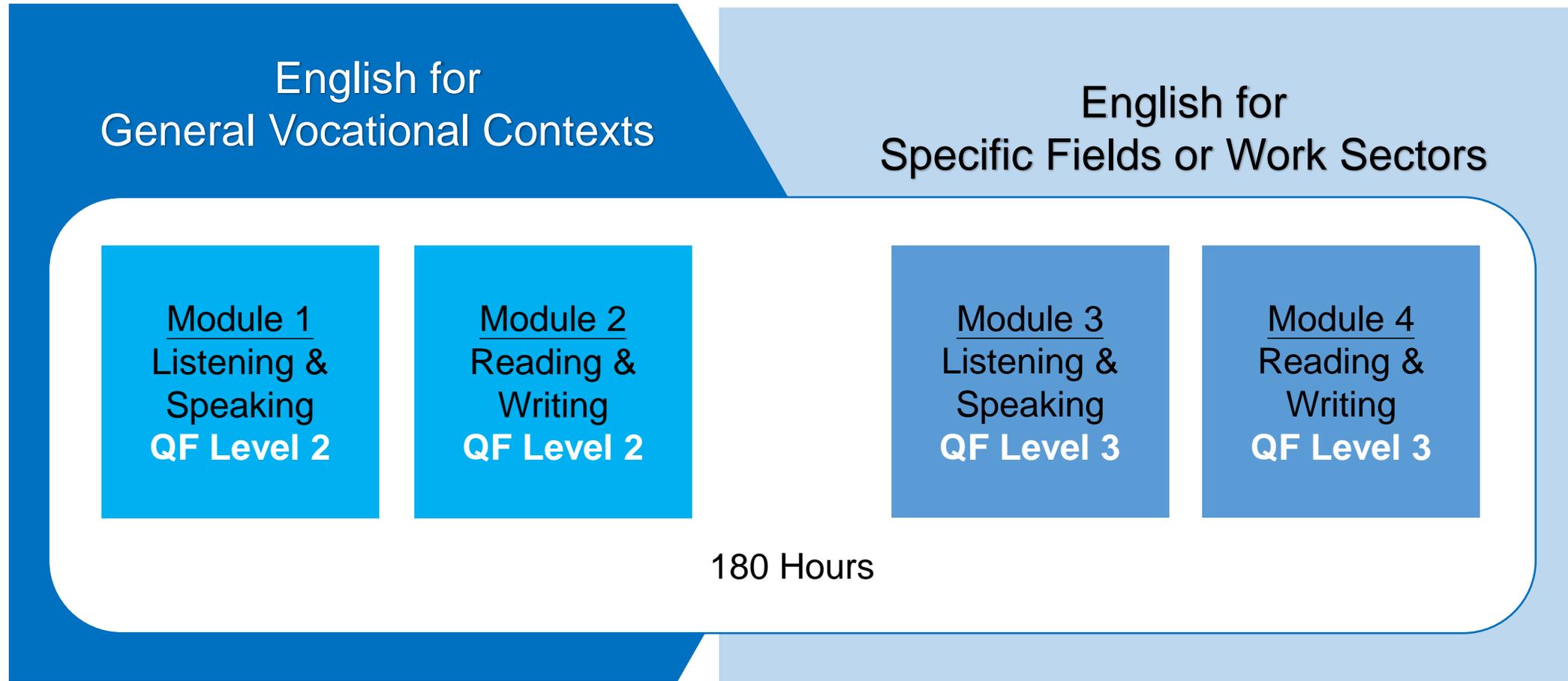
To develop students' **English proficiency and generic skills** through practice and application in simulated or near authentic vocational contexts

To enhance students' **awareness of the role of English** in authentic work environments

To develop students' **career-related competencies, foundation skills (notably communication skills), thinking skills and people skills** as well as nurture students' **generic skills, positive values and attitudes** as in ApL curriculum pillars through application and practice

To enable students to lay a **good English foundation** for further studies and career pursuits

Applied Learning (Vocational English) – Curriculum Structure



Applied Learning (Vocational English) – Recognition



HKDSE Elective Subject*

Attained with
Distinction (II)

Attained with
Distinction (I)

Attained

Unattained
(will not be shown on the diploma)



Qualifications Framework

Terminal Exit

QF Level 3
certificate upon
satisfactory
completion of
the whole
course



Intermediate Exit

Module
certificates upon
satisfactory
completion of
individual
modules



- * The result in ApL(VocE) is **NOT** equivalent to any level in the HKDSE English Language Examination, nor can it be used as an alternative qualification for English Language.





Translation Studies

翻譯學



Translation Studies – Curriculum Aims

MOI:
Chinese and English

To lay in students a foundation in the **basic principles and practice of translation** through applied learning contexts related to professional and vocational fields

To develop in students **fundamental language and cultural awareness** of a variety of texts in **Chinese and English**

To develop students' **career-related competencies, foundation skills, thinking skills and people skills** as well as nurture students' **generic skills, positive values and attitudes** as in ApL curriculum pillars through application and practice

To develop in students essential language knowledge and skills for further studies and career pursuits in a range of professions requiring **bilingual competency**



English for Creative Communication



English for Creative Communication – Curriculum Aims

MOI:
English

To lay in students a foundation in the basic skills and knowledge in **creative use of English** through applied learning contexts related to professional and vocational fields

To develop in students a set of **writing, presentation, critical analysis and cultural literacy skills** essential for effective communication in **different genres, forms/modes and contexts**

To develop students' **career-related competencies, foundation skills, thinking skills and people skills** as well as nurture students' **generic skills, positive values and attitudes** as in Applied Learning curriculum pillars through application and practice

To develop in students essential language knowledge and skills for further studies and career pursuits in a range of professions requiring **strong language and communication skills**

Comparison of the Three English-related ApL Courses – Key Features

Applied Learning (Vocational English)

Practical English related to work and social situations (e.g. common text types in different business industries)

Translation Studies

Language and cultural awareness in English and Chinese through a contrastive linguistic approach

English for Creative Communication

Creative use of English (e.g. creating impact through the use of different language techniques)

Course Introduction – Applied Learning (Vocational English)



Applied Learning (Vocational English) – English Communication

Course Provider: Vocational Training Council (VTC)

Speaker: Ms Sylvian CHAN



Applied Learning (Vocational English) – English for Business Services

Course Provider: Hong Kong College of Technology (HKCT)

Speaker: Ms Yvonne YIP



Applied Learning (Vocational English) – English for Service Professionals

Course Provider: School of Professional and Continuing Education,
The University of Hong Kong (HKU SPACE)

Speaker: Mr Matthew TSIONIS



Course Introduction – Translation Studies



Practical Translation (CHI-ENG) 實用翻譯（漢英）

Course Provider:	Lingnan Institute of Further Education (LIFE)
Speaker:	Mr Honcin CHOW

Course Introduction – English for Creative Communication



Creative English – Cultural Tourism

Course Provider:	Lingnan Institute of Further Education (LIFE)
Speaker:	Mr Honcin CHOW



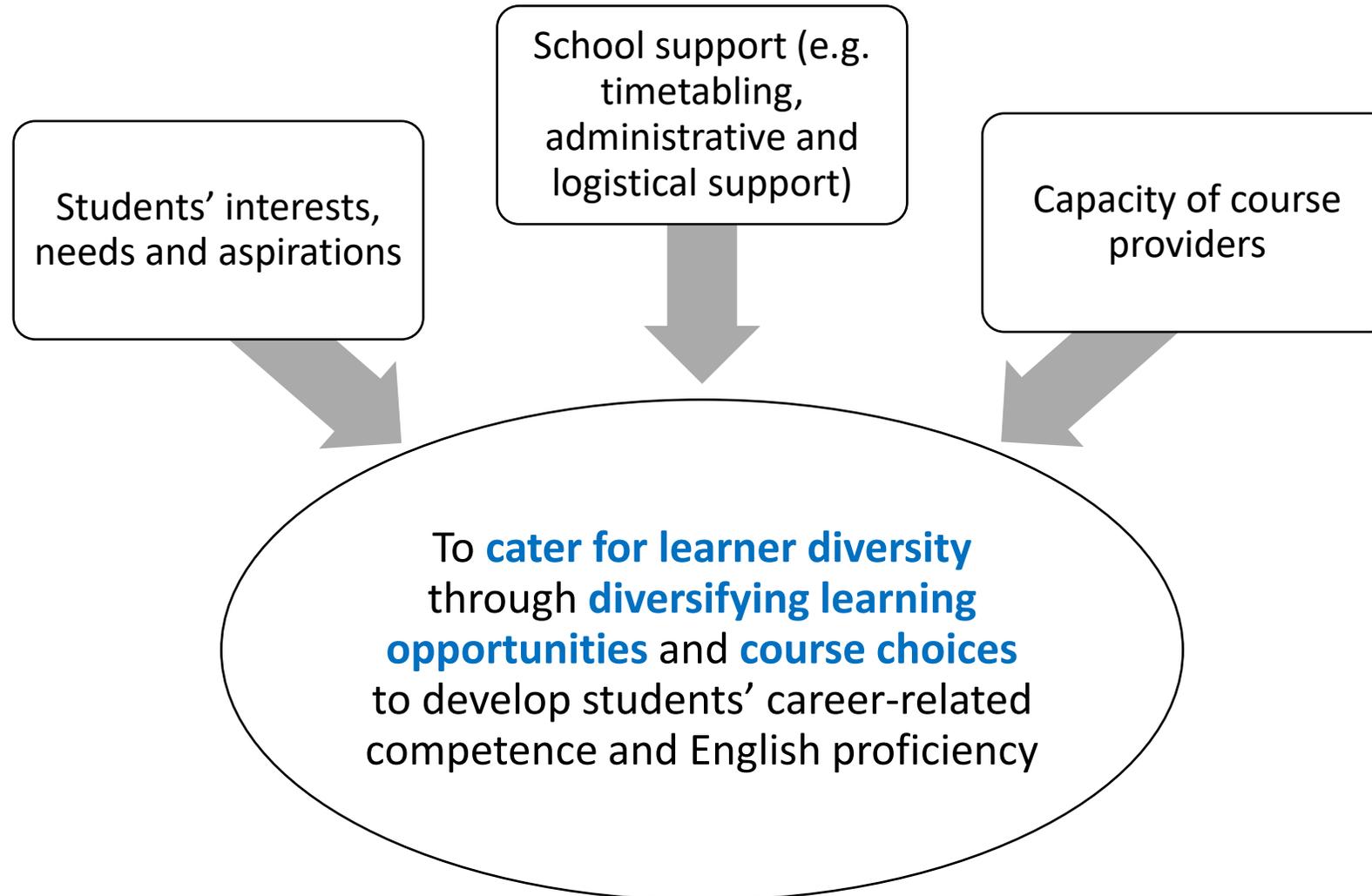
佛教筏可紀念中學
Buddhist Fat Ho Memorial College



Introduction to English-related Applied Learning (ApL) Courses

Experience Sharing by
Buddhist Fat Ho Memorial College

School-level Planning for English-related ApL Courses – Key Considerations



Applied Learning Courses (2026-28 Cohort)

ApL

Introduction

Applied Learning (ApL) is a valued senior secondary elective subject which complements other senior secondary subjects 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. ApL 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 (VFET), preparing them for further studies and work in future.

ApL 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 (NCS) students meeting specified circumstances¹. ApL(C) is designed to provide a simulated applied learning context to help NCS students build a foundation for using Chinese in the workplace and obtain an alternative Chinese language qualification² to prepare them for further studies and career pursuits.

The duration of each ApL 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 S5 (complete at Secondary 6 (S6)). The duration of each ApL(C) course is 270 contact hours, spanning S4 to S6.

Regarding the 2026-28 cohort, i.e. the cohort of students sitting the 2028 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE), Education Bureau (EDB) has already approved the offer of a total of 59 ApL courses to schools and students, including one pilot ApL course, three ApL(Vocational English)/ApL(VocE) courses and three ApL(C) courses. Please refer to the course list for details.

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. 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.



Application for ApL Courses

All students must apply through their schools. In general, each student can take a maximum of TWO ApL courses throughout his/ her studies at the senior secondary level (NCS students meeting specified circumstances can in addition take one ApL(C) course). For the implementation details of ApL courses (2026-28 cohort, 2028 HKDSE), please refer to EDBCM No. 48/2025. Teachers, students and parents may also visit the EDB website (www.edb.gov.hk/apl/en) to obtain relevant information of ApL.

Quality Assurance

The EDB has institutionalised an ApL quality assurance mechanism involving the Curriculum Development Council Committee on ApL, the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) to ensure that courses are developed according to the design principles; the curriculum is delivered as designed; and the learning outcomes of students can meet the set standards.



Assessment and Attendance Requirement

ApL courses are Category B subjects of the HKDSE and there is no public examination for ApL subjects. The assessment of each ApL subject comprises six to ten tasks undertaken within the period of study. Course providers will conduct the assessments of their respective ApL subjects while the HKEAA is responsible for moderation of the assessment results submitted by the course providers. After moderation, the results of "Attained" or above will be recorded on the HKDSE certificate. Students taking ApL courses are required to attend lessons (e.g. lecture and e-learning) and other learning activities (e.g. application and practice activities, site visits and project learning) arranged by the course providers. The attendance rate of ApL courses has to reach at least 80% of the total contact hours.

Reporting of Performance and Recognition

The reporting of students' performance in ApL subjects (except for ApL(C)) is by three levels, namely, "Attained", "Attained with Distinction (I)" and "Attained with Distinction (II)". Performance of "Attained with Distinction (I)" is deemed comparable to Level 3 of Category A subjects of the HKDSE; and "Attained with Distinction (II)" is deemed comparable to Level 4 or above of Category A subjects of the HKDSE. As for

ApL(C), students' performance is reported as "Attained" and "Attained with Distinction". For all ApL subjects, candidates with performance below the standard of "Attained", or whose attendance rates are below 80%, will be designated as "Unattained" and the results will not be reported on the HKDSE certificate.

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 QF certificates issued by the course providers. Details are available at the Qualifications Register website (www.hkqr.gov.hk).



Further Studies and Employment

All along, student admission in tertiary institutions has followed the principle of institutional autonomy. For further studies in undergraduate programmes, tertiary institutions 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. For further studies in sub-degree programmes, the minimum entrance requirements for Associate Degree or Higher Diploma Programmes are Level 2 in five HKDSE subjects (including Chinese Language and English Language). Applicants are allowed to use ApL subjects. As for ApL(C), 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. For details, please refer to the relevant websites of individual institutions or the EDB website (www.edb.gov.hk/apl/en/quality-assurance-and-recognition).



The Civil Service Bureau (CSB) accepts students' ApL results in the HKDSE (including "Attained" and "Attained with Distinction", up to a maximum of two ApL subjects) in civil service appointments. For details, please refer to the CSB website (www.csb.gov.hk/english/info/2170.html).

The CSB also accepts "Attained" and "Attained with Distinction" in ApL(C) as meeting the Chinese language proficiency requirements of relevant civil service ranks. For details, please also refer to the CSB website (www.csb.gov.hk/english/admin/appoint/35.html).



Education Bureau
The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China

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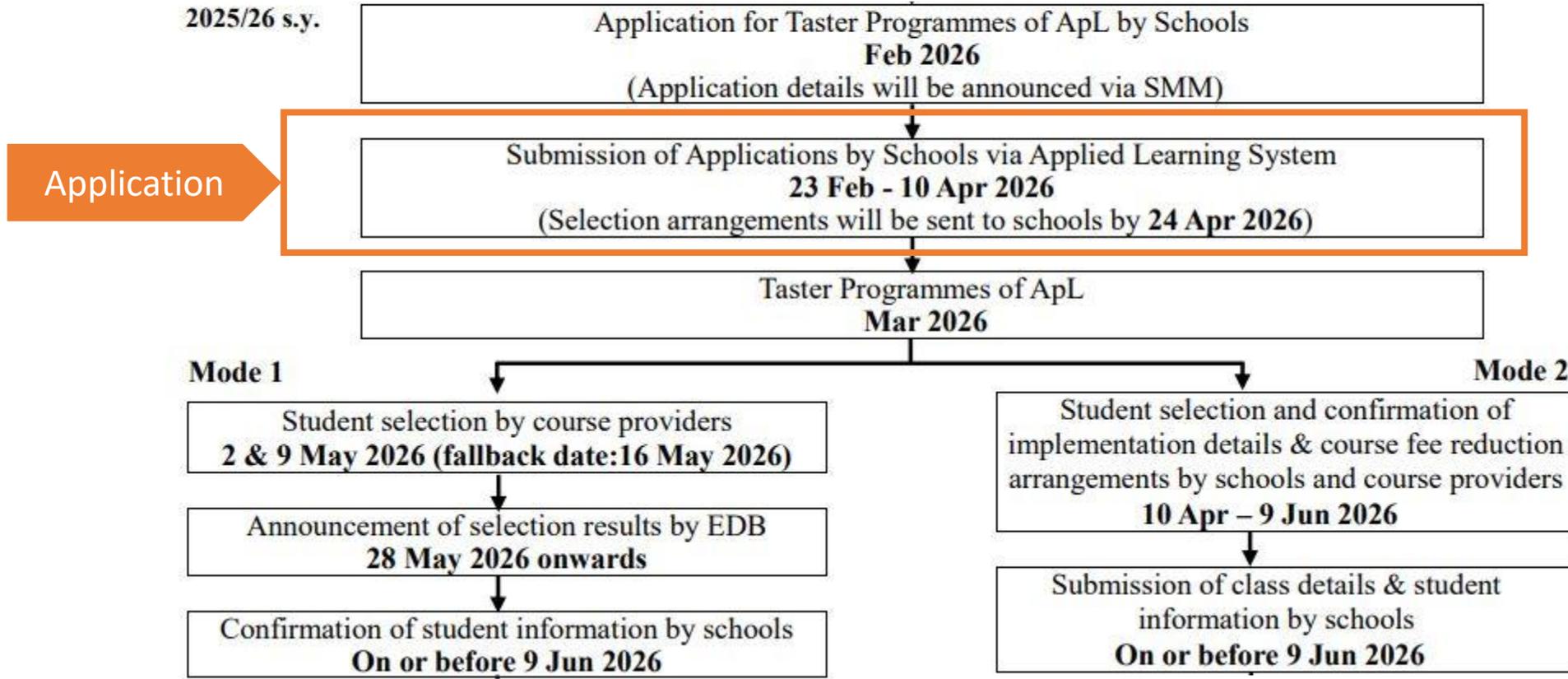


Applied Learning Section
Curriculum Development Institute
Education Bureau

Important Dates for Course Commencement at Secondary 5 in the 2026/27 school year



EDBCM
No. 48/2025





ENGLISH-RELATED APPLIED LEARNING COURSES

<http://edb.gov.hk/ele>



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