

HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund

Report on the Distribution of Scholarships in the 2016/17 Academic Year

Establishment of the HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund

In order to further develop Hong Kong into a regional education hub, the Government established the \$1 billion HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund in March 2008 to provide government scholarships to outstanding local and non-local students, so as to –

- (a) attract outstanding non-local students to study in publicly-funded degree or above level programmes in Hong Kong;
- (b) reward outstanding local students who choose to pursue their studies in such programmes in Hong Kong;
- (c) recognise the achievements of outstanding local and non-local students, with a view to attracting them to stay in Hong Kong after graduation; and
- (d) promote the further development of Hong Kong as a regional education hub and enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness in the long run.

2. Participating institutions¹ distributed scholarships to outstanding local and non-local students enrolled in their publicly-funded full-time degree or above level programmes, with selection made having regard to the following considerations –

- (a) excellent performance in academic studies;
- (b) recognised contribution to the institution/society;
- (c) demonstrated leadership and good communication skills; and/or
- (d) strong commitment to the Hong Kong community.

¹ Participating institutions are the eight University Grants Committee-funded institutions (i.e. City University of Hong Kong (CityU), Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU), Lingnan University (LU), the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), the Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), and the University of Hong Kong (HKU)) and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA).

3. Both local and non-local students are eligible for scholarships under the Fund, with \$40,000 per year for local students and \$80,000 per year for non-local students.

Injection of \$250 million into the Fund

4. In 2011, the Government injected another \$250 million into the Fund to extend the benefits to students of full-time publicly-funded sub-degree programmes offered by five institutions². The following selection criteria are adopted for awarding scholarships –

- (a) high standard of academic performance;
- (b) demonstration of leadership and good communication skills;
- (c) valuable contribution to the institution/community; and/or
- (d) strong commitment to the Hong Kong community.

The scholarship award for the sub-degree students is between \$20,000 and \$30,000 for both local and non-local students.

Targeted Scholarship Scheme

(a) Targeted Scholarships

5. Starting from the 2012/13 academic year, up to ten targeted scholarships have been offered to first-year non-local full-time students from ASEAN countries³, India and Korea, who are enrolled in publicly-funded degree programmes in Hong Kong. The targeted scholarships cover the tuition fee of the students, and each award is subject to a ceiling of \$120,000 per year.

(b) Belt and Road (B&R) Scholarship (Indonesia)

6. In 2016/17 academic year, up to ten B & R scholarships have been offered to first-year Indonesian students to pursue full-time publicly-funded degree programmes in Hong Kong. The scholarship

² There are currently five institutions offering full-time publicly-funded sub-degree programmes, i.e. CityU, PolyU, EdUHK, HKAPA and Vocational Training Council (VTC).

³ ASEAN countries comprise Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

covers the tuition fee of the students, and each award is subject to a ceiling of \$120,000 per year. In addition, financially needy students are provided with a fixed amount of bursary (\$ 50,000 per annum) by private donations.

Additional injection of \$1 billion into the Fund

7. An additional \$1 billion was injected into the Fund in 2012, and two new scholarships and awards, namely the Talent Development Scholarship (TDS) and Reaching Out Award (ROA) have been established in 2012/13 academic year to benefit a wider range of students not only with outstanding academic performance, but also achievements and talents in other non-academic fields.

8. The scholarship amount for each awardee in TDS and ROA is \$10,000 for both local and non-local students at all levels.

Further injection of \$20 million into the Fund

9. Another \$20 million was injected into the Fund in 2013 to set up the Endeavour Merit Award (EMA) to give recognition to deserving publicly-funded post-secondary students with special educational needs (SEN⁴) in the pursuit of excellence in academic and other areas. The award amount is \$10,000 for both local and non-local students at all levels.

Distribution of scholarships in the 2016/17 academic year

10. In the 2016/17 academic year, around \$101 million was allocated to 5 293 awardees from the participating institutions. 3 972 awardees are students from full-time publicly-funded programmes at degree or above levels and 1 321 awardees are from sub-degree programmes. Among them, the number of local and non-local recipients are 4 272 and 1 021 respectively. Distribution by type of scholarships and awards are summarised below –

⁴ SEN includes specific learning difficulties, intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder, physical disability, visual impairment, hearing impairment, speech and language impairment, and others.

(a) Scholarships for Outstanding Performance

A total of 869 scholarships were awarded to degree or above students, 388 of whom were new recipients. For sub-degree students, 570 scholarships were awarded with 433 new recipients.

(b) Targeted Scholarships

Ten new targeted scholarships were awarded to recipients from targeted countries, including 4 from the University of Hong Kong and 3 from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, 1 each from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The origins of these recipients include Malaysia, India and Korea. The targeted scholarships cover the tuition fee of the students, and each award is subject to a ceiling of \$120,000 per year.

(c) Belt and Road Scholarship (Indonesia)

Ten new scholarships were awarded to recipients from Indonesia, including 3 each from City University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, 2 each from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. The scholarship covers the tuition fee of the students, and each award is subject to a ceiling of \$120,000 per year.

(d) Talent Development Scholarship

The Talent Development Scholarship (TDS) has been introduced since the 2012/13 academic year to recognise students who have demonstrated achievements or talent in non-academic areas. Among the 949 TDS recipients in 2016/17 academic year, 762 recipients are studying degree or above level programmes and 187 are from sub-degree programmes. The largest category of the nominations by the institutions is from sports and games. The breakdown by type of non-academic area is as follows –

Non-academic area	No. of recipients (%)
Sports and games (e.g. AFC Women's Futsal Championship, FEI World Dressage Challenge 2016 Hong Kong, etc.)	466 (49.1%)
Innovation, science and technology (e.g. Asian Physics Olympiad, Microsoft Imagine Cup 2016, etc.)	214 (22.6%)
Culture, arts and design (e.g. National Creative English Contest, HK's Top Story 2016 Competition, etc.)	146 (15.4%)
Music and performing arts (e.g. World Choreography Competition, 8 th Winter Band Festival, etc.)	123 (12.9%)
Total	949 (100%)

(e) Reaching Out Award

The Reaching Out Award (ROA) has been introduced since the 2012/13 academic year to support meritorious students who are nominated by institutions to participate in learning, internship or service programmes, as well as national, regional and international events and competitions that are conducted outside Hong Kong. Among the 2 760 ROA recipients in 2016/17 academic year, 2 234 recipients are studying degree or above level programmes and 526 are from sub-degree programmes. The largest category of the nominations received by the institutions is attending courses (40.9%), followed by field/study trip (33.2%), placement/internship (15.7%), and participation in event/competition (10.2%).

On the destinations for ROA, a wide variety has been observed. Over one-third of the recipients choose to visit cities in Asia (including the Mainland and Macau) and Europe while some activities take place in America, Australasia, Africa. The duration of reaching out activities ranges from less than 2 weeks to more than 2 months and about half of them are within 4 weeks.

(f) Endeavour Merit Award

To underline the importance in giving recognition to deserving post-secondary students with special educational needs (SEN), the Endeavour Merit Award (EMA) has been introduced since the 2013/14 academic year. Among the 99 EMA recipients in 2016/17 academic year, 61 awardees are studying degree or above programmes and 38 are from sub-degree programmes. The breakdown by types of special SEN of the recipients is as follows –

Type of SEN	No. of recipients (%)
Hearing Impairment	23 (23.2%)
Specific Learning Difficulties	17 (17.1%)
Physical Disability	11 (11.1%)
Autism Spectrum Disorders	10 (10.1%)
Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder	8 (8.1%)
Visual Impairment	6 (6.1%)
Speech and Language Impairment	6 (6.1%)
Others*	18 (18.2%)
Total	99 (100%)

** including multiple types of disabilities, mental illness, myasthenia gravis, scoliosis, psychosis, etc.*

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