

# **HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund**

## **Report on the Distribution of Scholarships in the 2018/19 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 institutions<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 institutions<sup>2</sup>. 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 countries<sup>3</sup>, India and Korea, who are enrolled in publicly-funded degree programmes in Hong Kong.

##### *(b) Belt and Road (B&R) Scholarships (Indonesia) / (Malaysia)*

6. Starting from 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. Starting from the 2018/19 academic year, B&R Scholarships have also been made available for outstanding students from Malaysia. All scholarships under the

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

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

Targeted Scholarship Scheme cover full tuition fees of the scholarship recipients and are tenable for the normal duration of the programmes concerned, and renewable annually subject to satisfactory academic performance.

*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 (SEN<sup>4</sup>) 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 2018/19 academic year*

10. In the 2018/19 academic year, around \$93.4 million was allocated to 4 557 awardees from the participating institutions. 3 506 awardees are students from full-time publicly-funded programmes at degree or above levels and 1 051 awardees are from sub-degree programmes. Among them, the number of local and non-local recipients are 3 654 and 903 respectively. Distribution by type of scholarships and awards are summarised below –

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<sup>4</sup> 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 751 scholarships were awarded to degree or above students, 371 of whom were new recipients. For sub-degree students, 478 scholarships were awarded with 450 new recipients.

(b) Targeted Scholarships

Eight new targeted scholarships were awarded to recipients from targeted countries, including 3 each from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the University of Hong Kong and 1 each from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and City University of Hong Kong. The origins of these recipients include Korea, India, Singapore and Vietnam.

(c) Belt and Road Scholarship (Indonesia)

Ten new scholarships were awarded to recipients from Indonesia, including 3 each from Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, 2 from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and 1 each from Hong Kong Baptist University and City University of Hong Kong.

(d) Belt and Road Scholarship (Malaysia)

Ten new scholarships were awarded to recipients from Malaysia, including 2 each from City University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong, 1 each from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong Baptist University and Lingnan University.

(e) 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 1 104 TDS recipients in the 2018/19 academic year, 891 recipients are studying degree or above level programmes and 213 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 –

<b>Non-academic area</b>	<b>No. of recipients (%)</b>
Sports and games (e.g. All China University Badminton Championship 2018, USFHK Tennis Competition 2019, etc.)	601 (54.4%)
Innovation, science and technology (e.g. International Biomolecular Competition, University Startup World Cup, etc.)	258 (23.4%)
Music and performing arts (e.g. The First Italy-Hong Kong International Music Competition, The 12th Asia Pacific Harmonica Festival, etc.)	130 (11.8%)
Culture, arts and design (e.g. Inter-University Putonghua Debating Competition, The 2nd International Chinese Debate Competition for University Students, etc.)	115 (10.4%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 104 (100%)</b>

(f) 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 2 003 ROA recipients in the 2018/19 academic year, 1 701 recipients are studying degree or above level programmes and 302 are from sub-degree programmes. The largest category of the nominations received by the institutions is attending courses (40.3%), followed by field/study trip (30.8%), placement/internship (17.5%), and participation in event/competition (11.4%).

On the destinations for ROA, a wide variety has been observed. Over two-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.

(g) 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 150 EMA recipients in the 2018/19 academic year, 92 awardees are studying degree or above programmes and 58 are from sub-degree programmes. The breakdown by types of special SEN of the recipients is as follows-

<b>Type of SEN</b>	<b>No. of recipients (%)</b>
Specific Learning Difficulties	23 (15.3%)
Mental Illness	22 (14.7%)
Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder	20 (13.3%)
Hearing Impairment	20 (13.3%)
Autism Spectrum Disorders	15 (10.0%)
Physical Disability	11 (7.3%)
Visual Impairment	9 (6.0%)
Speech and Language Impairment	7 (4.8%)
Others*	23 (15.3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>150 (100%)</b>

*\* including multiple types of disabilities, and visceral disabilities, etc.*

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