

# **HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund**

## **Report on the Distribution of Scholarships in the 2019/20 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.

---

<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 Scholarship*

5. Starting from the 2012/13 academic year, up to ten Targeted Scholarship places 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. Starting from the 2019/20 academic year, Targeted Scholarship is no longer available to new applicants as the students from these countries are well covered by relevant Belt and Road Scholarship, but will continue to be provided to the recipients of previous cohorts, subject to their successful renewals.

---

<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.

*(b) Belt and Road Scholarship*

6. Starting from the 2016/17 academic year, up to ten Belt and Road Scholarship places 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, Belt and Road Scholarship has also been made available for outstanding students from Malaysia.

7. To attract more non-local outstanding students to further their studies in Hong Kong, Belt and Road Scholarship has been further expanded to cover all regions along the Belt and Road in the 2019/20 academic year via the following –

(a) Belt and Road Scholarship (Designated Countries)<sup>4</sup> – for students from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Myanmar;

(b) Belt and Road Scholarship (Other Countries) – for students from Belt and Road countries other than Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Myanmar; and

(c) Belt and Road Scholarship (Research Postgraduate) – for research postgraduate students from Belt and Road countries.

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

*Additional injection of \$1 billion into the Fund*

9. 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 the 2012/13 academic year to benefit a wider range of students not only with outstanding academic performance, but also achievements and talents

---

<sup>4</sup> Belt and Road Scholarship (Myanmar) and Belt and Road Scholarship (Thailand) are funded by private donation.

in other non-academic fields.

10. 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*

11. 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>5</sup>) in the pursuit of excellence in academic and other areas. Starting from the 2019/20 academic year, the award amount has been adjusted to \$15,000 for both local and non-local students at all levels.

*Recent injection of \$800 million into the Fund*

12. A further injection of \$800 million was approved by the Legislative Council in 2018 for awarding more scholarships from the 2019/20 academic year onwards, with a view to further encouraging students to pursue excellence in academic and non-academic fields.

*Distribution of scholarships in the 2019/20 academic year*

13. In the 2019/20 academic year, around \$103 million was allocated to 4 406 awardees from the participating institutions. 3 491 awardees are students from full-time publicly-funded programmes at degree or above levels and 915 awardees are from sub-degree programmes. Among them, the number of local and non-local recipients are 3 465 and 941 respectively. Distribution by type of scholarships and awards are summarised below –

(a) Scholarships for Outstanding Performance

A total of 856 scholarships were awarded to degree or above students, 397 of whom were new recipients. For sub-degree students, 583

---

<sup>5</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.

scholarships were awarded with 520 new recipients.

(b) Belt and Road Scholarship (Indonesia)

Ten new scholarships were awarded to recipients from Indonesia. Details of the finalised new awardees of the Scholarship are as follows –

<b>Institution</b>	<b>No. of awardees</b>	<b>Scholarship allocation (\$)</b>
CityU	1	140,000
CUHK	2	290,000
PolyU	1	140,000
HKUST	3	350,000
HKU	3	492,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,412,000</b>

(c) Belt and Road Scholarship (Malaysia)

Ten new scholarships were awarded to recipients from Malaysia. Details of the finalised new awardees of the Scholarship are as follows –

<b>Institution</b>	<b>No. of awardees</b>	<b>Scholarship allocation (\$)</b>
CUHK	3	435,000
HKUST	2	280,000
HKU	5	738,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,453,000</b>

(d) Belt and Road Scholarship (Other Countries)

20 new scholarships were awarded to recipients from Belt and Road countries other than Indonesia and Malaysia. Details of the finalised new awardees of the Scholarship are as follows –

<b>Institution</b>	<b>No. of awardees</b>	<b>Scholarship allocation (\$)</b>
CityU	2	280,000
HKBU	2	280,000
LU	1	140,000
CUHK	4	580,000
EdUHK	1	140,000
PolyU	4	560,000
HKUST	5	700,000
HKU	1	164,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2,844,000</b>

(e) Belt and Road Scholarship (Research Postgraduate)

20 new scholarships were awarded to research postgraduate students from Belt and Road countries. Details of the finalised new awardees of the Scholarship are as follows –

<b>Institution</b>	<b>No. of awardees</b>	<b>Scholarship allocation (\$)</b>
CityU	6	252,576
HKBU	2	84,200
LU	2	84,200
CUHK	3	126,300
EdUHK	1	42,100
PolyU	3	105,250
HKUST	1	42,100
HKU	2	84,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>820,926</b>

(f) 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 1 219 TDS recipients in the 2019/20 academic year, 1 033 recipients are studying degree or above level programmes and 186 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. Asian Junior Team Squash Championships, Winter Deep Water Polo Championships, etc.)	673 (55.2%)
Innovation, science and technology (e.g. MATE International Remote Operated Vehicle Competition, Robocon Hong Kong Contest, etc.)	310 (25.4%)
Music and performing arts (e.g. Asian Cup International Music Competition, Intra-varsity Dance Competition, etc.)	119 (9.8%)
Culture, arts and design (e.g. Space Settlement Design Contest, RTHK College Cup Mandarin Debating Competition, etc.)	117 (9.6%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 219 (100%)</b>

(g) 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.

Number of ROA recipients in the 2019/20 academic year is being collated and will be provided at a later stage.

(h) 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 194 EMA recipients in the 2019/20 academic year, 118 awardees are studying degree or above programmes and 76 are from sub-degree programmes. The breakdown by types of SEN is as

follows –

<b>Type of SEN</b>	<b>No. of recipients (%)</b>
Specific Learning Disabilities	41 (21.1%)
Hearing Impairment	30 (15.5%)
Mental Illness	29 (14.9%)
Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder	19 (9.8%)
Autism Spectrum Disorders	19 (9.8%)
Physical Disability	14 (7.2%)
Visual Impairment	9 (4.6%)
Speech and Language Impairment	8 (4.1%)
Others*	25 (13.0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>194 (100%)</b>

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

Secretariat,  
HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund