

HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund

Report on the Distribution of Scholarships in the 2020/21 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

5. Launched in the 2016/17 academic year, and starting from the 2019/20 academic year, Belt and Road Scholarship under TSS has been expanded via the following –

- (a) Belt and Road Scholarship (Designated Countries) – 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.

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).

6. 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.

7. Starting from the 2019/20 academic year, Targeted Scholarship (introduced in the 2012/13 academic year for students from ASEAN countries, India, and Korea) has ceased to be offered as this group of students can be well covered by the three sub-types of Belt and Road scholarship. Targeted Scholarship will continue to be provided to the recipients of previous cohorts subject to their successful renewals.

Additional injection of \$1 billion into the Fund

8. 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 in other non-academic fields.

9. 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

10. 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 (SEN³) 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.

³ 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.

Recent injection of \$800 million into the Fund

11. 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 2020/21 academic year

12. In the 2020/21 academic year, around \$96 million was allocated to 3 193 awardees from the participating institutions. 2 302 awardees were students from full-time publicly-funded programmes at degree or above levels and 891 awardees were from sub-degree programmes. Among them, the number of local and non-local recipients were 2 438 and 755 respectively. Distribution by type of scholarships and awards were summarised below –

(a) Scholarships for Outstanding Performance

A total of 841 scholarships were awarded to degree or above students, 344 of whom were new recipients. For sub-degree students, 583 scholarships were awarded with 540 new recipients.

(b) Belt and Road Scholarship

Summaries of the distribution of Belt and Road Scholarship by institution were listed as follows –

Belt and Road Scholarship - Number of awardees (2020/21 AY)							
Institution	Indonesia (10)	Malaysia (10)	Myanmar (10)	Thailand (10)	Other Countries (35)	Research Postgraduate (25)	Total (100)
CityU	-	1	-	2	3	4	10
HKBU	-	-	2	-	4	2	8
LU	-	-	-	-	2	4	6
CUHK	4	3	1	2	9	6	25
EdUHK	-	-	1	-	1	1	3
PolyU	1	1	-	-	3	4	9
HKUST	2	2	1	2	3	3	13
HKU	3	3	-	1	4	1	12
Total	10	10	5*	7	29	25	86*

Note: Quotas for individual scholarship schemes are shown in brackets.

* Includes four scholarship places funded by private donation.

(c) 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 1 224 TDS recipients in the 2020/21 academic year, 1 031 recipients were studying degree or above level programmes and 193 were from sub-degree programmes. The largest category of the nominations by the institutions was from sports and games. The breakdown by type of non-academic area was as follows –

Non-academic area	No. of recipients (%)
Sports and games (e.g. Asian Cycling Championship, Hong Kong Junior Judo Championships, etc.)	611 (49.9%)
Innovation, science and technology (e.g. International Blockchain Olympiad, Robofest Hong Kong, etc.)	327 (26.7%)
Music and performing arts (e.g. International Franz Schubert Choir Competition, Hong Kong Schools Drama Festival, etc.)	169 (13.8%)

Culture, arts and design (e.g. HKFA Students Poster Design Competition, RTHK College Cup Mandarin Debating Competition, etc.)	117 (9.6%)
Total	1 224 (100%)

(d) 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 122 ROA recipients in the 2020/21 academic year, 115 recipients were studying degree or above level programmes and 7 were from sub-degree programmes. The largest category of the nominations received by the institutions was attending courses (54.1%), followed by placement/internship (23.8%), field/study trip (18.9%), and participation in event/competition (3.2%).

On the destinations for ROA, a wide variety has been observed. Over half of the recipients chose to visit cities in Asia (including the Mainland and Macau), while some activities took place in Europe and America. The duration of reaching out activities ranged from less than 2 weeks to more than 2 months, and over half of them were more than 2 months.

(e) 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 250 EMA recipients in the 2020/21 academic year, 142 awardees were studying degree or above programmes and 108 were from sub-degree programmes. The breakdown by types of SEN was as follows –

Type of SEN	No. of recipients (%)
Specific Learning Difficulties	59 (23.6%)
Mental Illness	39 (15.6%)
Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder	31 (12.4%)
Physical Disability	27 (10.8%)
Autism Spectrum Disorders	25 (10.0%)
Hearing Impairment	24 (9.6%)
Speech and Language Impairment	10 (4.0%)
Visual Impairment	5 (2.0%)
Others*	30 (12.0%)
Total	250 (100%)

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

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