

HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund

Report on the Distribution of Scholarships in the 2012/13 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 Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd), 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.

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. Starting from the 2012/13 academic year, up to ten targeted scholarships will be 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.

Additional injection of \$1 billion into the Fund

6. 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.

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

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

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

Distribution of scholarships in the 2012/13 academic year

8. In the 2012/13 academic year, around \$70.5 million was allocated to 2 837 awardees from the participating institutions. 2 037 awardees are students from full-time publicly-funded programmes at degree or above levels and 800 awardees are from sub-degree programmes. Among them, the number of local and non-local recipients are 2 260 and 577 respectively. Distribution by type of scholarships and awards are summarised below:

(a) Scholarships for outstanding performance

A total of 710 scholarships were awarded to degree or above students, 421 of whom were new recipients. For sub-degree students, 421 scholarships were awarded with 371 new recipients.

(b) Targeted Scholarship Scheme

Ten new targeted scholarships were awarded to recipients from targeted countries: 5 from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, 2 each from the Hong Kong Baptist University and the University of Hong Kong, 1 from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The origins of these recipients include Malaysia, Korea, the Philippines Singapore and Thailand. The targeted scholarships cover the tuition fee of the students, and each award is subject to a ceiling of \$120,000 per year.

(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 708 TDS recipients in 2012/13 academic year, 497 recipients are studying degree or above level programmes and 211 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. Asian University Championships, World University Games, etc.)	264 (37.3%)

Non-academic area	No. of recipients (%)
Culture, arts and design (e.g. The Youth Literary Award, Hong Kong Contemporary Art (Biennial) Award, etc.)	169 (23.8%)
Innovation, science and technology (e.g. World Robot Olympiad, ODYSSEY of the Mind (Regional/Finals), etc.)	145 (20.5%)
Music and performing arts (e.g. International Frederick Chopin Piano Competition, World Ballet Competition, etc.)	130 (18.4%)
Total	708 (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 1 174 ROA recipients in 2012/13 academic year, 939 recipients are studying degree or above level programmes and 254 are from sub-degree programmes. The largest category of the nominations received by the institutions is participation in participation in event/competition (44%), followed by attending courses (22%) and placement/internship (22%), and field/ study trip (12%).

On the destinations for ROA, a wide variety has been observed. Nearly half of the recipients choose to visit cities in Asia (including Mainland China, Taiwan and Macau) while some activities take place in Europe, America, Australasia and Africa. The duration of reaching out activities ranges from less than 2 weeks to more than 2 months and over 65% of them are within 4 weeks.

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HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund