

HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund

Report on the Distribution of Scholarships in the 2015/16 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.

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 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.

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, EdUHK, HKAPA and Vocational Training Council (VTC).

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

Further injection of \$20 million into the Fund

8. 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 2015/16 academic year

9. In the 2015/16 academic year, around \$98 million was allocated to 4 761 awardees from the participating institutions. 3 687 awardees are students from full-time publicly-funded programmes at degree or above levels and 1 074 awardees are from sub-degree programmes. Among them, the number of local and non-local recipients are 3 821 and 940 respectively. Distribution by type of scholarships and awards are summarised below:

(a) Scholarships for Outstanding Performance

A total of 865 scholarships were awarded to degree or above students, 375 of whom were new recipients. For sub-degree students, 568 scholarships were awarded with 441 new recipients.

(b) Targeted Scholarship Scheme

Ten new targeted scholarships were awarded to recipients from targeted countries: 3 each from the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. 2 from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and 1 each from City University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The origins of these recipients include Malaysia, India and Singapore. 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

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

demonstrated achievements or talent in non-academic areas. Among the 955 TDS recipients in 2015/16 academic year, 743 recipients are studying degree or above level programmes and 212 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. 10th East Asian Squash Championships 2015 & Hong Kong Inter-school Chess Championship, etc.)	477 (49.9%)
Innovation, science and technology (e.g. International Aerial Robotics Competition, Healthcare Designathon, etc.)	206 (21.6%)
Culture, arts and design (e.g. UNICEF INCLUSIVE PLAY SPACE DESIGN IDEAS COMPETITION, ECLAT Short Film Exchange Program, etc.)	146 (15.3%)
Music and performing arts (e.g. AGBU Sayat Nova International Composition Competition, World Youth and Children's Choir Festival, etc.)	126 (13.2%)
Total	955 (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 2 512 ROA recipients in 2015/16 academic year, 2 152 recipients are studying degree or above level programmes and 360 are from sub-degree programmes. The largest category of the nominations received by the institutions is attending courses (40.8%), followed by field/study trip (31.3%), placement/ internship (16.1%), and participation in event/competition (11.8%).

On the destinations for ROA, a wide variety has been observed. Over one-third 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 almost half of them are within 4 weeks.

(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 97 EMA recipients in 2015/16 academic year, 60 awardees are studying degree or above programmes and 37 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	24 (24.7%)
Physical Disability	14 (14.4%)
Specific Learning Disabilities	9 (9.3%)
Autism Spectrum Disorders	6 (6.2%)
Visual Impairment	6 (6.2%)
Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder	5 (5.2%)
Speech and Language Impairment	3 (3.1%)
Others*	30 (30.9%)
Total	97 (100%)

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

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