

**Acceptance of Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language (ACL)
for Admission to the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded Institutions
and Undergraduate Programmes Offered under
the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions / Sectors (SSSDP)
(for Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) Applicants only)**

1. **Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language (ACL) (for NCS Applicants only)**
 - 1.1 Starting from the 2008 Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) Admissions Exercise, the UGC-funded institutions considered, for the purpose of satisfying their entrance requirements, ACL under specified circumstances, in lieu of the general Chinese Language requirement for JUPAS applicants seeking admission based on the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination.
 - 1.2 From the 2012 JUPAS Admissions Exercise, under the New Academic Structure, all UGC-funded institutions continue to accept ACL in lieu of the general Chinese Language requirement in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination.
 - 1.3 Starting from the 2015/16 academic year, under the SSSDP, the Government subsidises students in pursuing the designated full-time locally-accredited self-financing undergraduate programmes in selected disciplines to meet Hong Kong's social and economic needs. Students for the subsidised places under the SSSDP mainly apply through JUPAS. The SSSDP institutions also accept NCS students¹ ACL under specified circumstances.
 - 1.4 Starting from the 2017 JUPAS Admissions Exercise, the HKDSE Examination Category B: Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (ApL(C)) results are also accepted for the purpose of meeting the general entrance requirements in respect of Chinese Language of the 9 JUPAS participating-institutions and the SSSDP institutions (the Institutions) as ACL, in addition to those under the General Certificate of Education (GCE), General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) Examinations.
 - 1.5 The ACL to be accepted by the individual Institutions and the minimum grade required, as well as the specific requirements of individual programmes are available on the JUPAS website under "[*Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language \(ACL\) for Non-Chinese Speaking \(NCS\) Applicants*](#)", the relevant links of which are as follows:

For the 9 JUPAS participating-institutions:

<https://www.jupas.edu.hk/en/page/detail/547/>

For the SSSDP institutions:

<https://www.jupas.edu.hk/en/page/detail/548/>

¹ For the planning of educational support measures, students whose spoken language at home is not Chinese are broadly categorised as non-Chinese speaking students.

- 1.6 The flexibility as set out in 1.5 above is in addition to other forms of flexibility being offered, which include the following:
- 1.6.1 the Institutions may relax the Chinese Language requirement and admit students on the basis of their outstanding performance in other academic subjects;
 - 1.6.2 in exceptional cases, the Chinese Language requirement may be waived in consideration of individual circumstances; and
 - 1.6.3 students who pursue a non-local curriculum may apply for admission to the UGC-funded institutions directly by using results other than those in the HKDSE Examination under the “non-JUPAS route”. Individual institutions will continue to accept ACL for non-JUPAS applicants.

2. Specified Circumstances

- 2.1 NCS students (both school and non-school) who are pursuing the local curriculum and applying through JUPAS must meet one of the following specified circumstances (eligible NCS applicants) for their ACL being considered:
- 2.1.1 the applicant has learnt Chinese Language for less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education; or
 - 2.1.2 the applicant has learnt Chinese Language for six years or more in schools, but has been taught an adapted and simpler curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in local schools.

3. Applications via JUPAS

- 3.1 Please note that eligible NCS applicants who intend to take the GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examinations (May / June Summer Series) will **NOT** be able to meet JUPAS’s submission deadline for ACL for the same Admissions Exercise.
- 3.2 The final admission decision is subject to the authenticity of the qualifications listed in applicants’ submission. Applicants may be requested to present original copies of the certificates. Failure to do so may result in disqualification of the JUPAS applications, withdrawal or amendment of offers, cancellation of registration / enrolment, or termination of studies by the Institutions.

FOR JUPAS APPLICANTS

4. Submission of Relevant Documents and Certification of Specified Circumstances

ELIGIBLE NCS SCHOOL APPLICANTS

With ApL(C) Results only

Submission

- 4.1 Eligible NCS school applicants with ApL(C) results registered at the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA)
 - 4.1.1 **NEED NOT** enter their ApL(C) results or indicate such results as ACL in their JUPAS accounts; and
 - 4.1.2 **NEED NOT** submit these results to the JUPAS Office.
- 4.2 To enable the JUPAS Office and the Institutions to obtain their ApL(C) results from the HKEAA, applicants must ensure that the HKID card number which they have used to register their JUPAS accounts **MUST BE IDENTICAL** to the one registered for their HKDSE Examination at the HKEAA.

Verification and Certification

- 4.3 Eligible NCS school applicants with ApL(C) results registered at the HKEAA
 - 4.3.1 **NEED NOT** submit copies of their ApL(C) results to the JUPAS Office or their current schools for verification; and
 - 4.3.2 **NEED NOT** apply to their current schools for certification of their specified circumstances.
- 4.4 School principals or teachers who are authorised by school principals are required to confirm and submit their school applicants' ACL via the JUPAS Online Application System by **29 April 2026 (5:00 pm)**.

With GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination Results only

Submission

- 4.5 Eligible NCS school applicants who wish to submit their GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination Chinese Language results as ACL, must complete the following steps via their JUPAS accounts by **22 April 2026 (5:00 pm)**:
 - 4.5.1 enter the highest subject level / score for their Chinese Language subjects in GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examinations under “*Other Academic Results (Language Subjects)*”; **AND**
 - 4.5.2 indicate the relevant qualifications as ACL under “*Alternative Qualification(s) in Chinese Language (ACL)*”.
- 4.6 Applicants are reminded that the following will **NOT** be accepted for consideration as ACL:
 - 4.6.1 “equivalent” qualifications;
 - 4.6.2 qualifications not listed in the “[List of ACL](#)”;
 - 4.6.3 screenshots showing results from webpages / emails; and
 - 4.6.4 provisional results / statement of results.
- 4.7 **Please note that late submission of ACL is NOT accepted after the deadline of 22 April 2026 (5:00 pm).**

Verification and Certification

- 4.8 Eligible NCS school applicants who have indicated GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination Chinese Language results as their ACL should submit the following to their **current schools** for verification of such results and certification of their specified circumstances:
 - 4.8.1 a completed **Annex A**. Submission to the JUPAS Office is **NOT** required; and
 - 4.8.2 original certificates showing subject grades.
- 4.9 Thereafter, school principals or teachers who are authorised by school principals are required to
 - 4.9.1 verify the Chinese Language results under GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examinations of the applicants;
 - 4.9.2 certify the specified circumstances of the applicants;
 - 4.9.3 upload copies of certificates of GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination results, which **MUST** clearly show the subject grades the applicants have attained; and
 - 4.9.4 confirm and submit their ACL
via the JUPAS Online Application System by **29 April 2026 (5:00 pm)**.
- 4.10 **Please note that ACL without verification and certification of specified circumstances will NOT be considered by the Institutions.**

With GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination AND ApL(C) Results

Submission

- 4.11 Eligible NCS school applicants who wish to submit their GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination Chinese Language results as ACL, must complete the following steps via their JUPAS accounts by **22 April 2026 (5:00 pm)**:
- 4.11.1 enter the highest subject level / score for their Chinese Language subjects in GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examinations under “*Other Academic Results (Language Subjects)*”; **AND**
- 4.11.2 indicate the relevant qualifications as ACL under “*Alternative Qualification(s) in Chinese Language (ACL)*”.
- 4.12 Applicants are reminded that the following will **NOT** be accepted for consideration as ACL:
- 4.12.1 “equivalent” qualifications;
- 4.12.2 qualifications not listed in the “[List of ACL](#)”;
- 4.12.3 screenshots showing results from webpages / emails; and
- 4.12.4 provisional results / statement of results.
- 4.13 **Please note that late submission of ACL is NOT accepted after the deadline of 22 April 2026 (5:00 pm).**
- 4.14 Eligible NCS school applicants with ApL(C) results registered at the HKEAA
- 4.14.1 **NEED NOT** enter their ApL(C) results or indicate such results as ACL in their JUPAS accounts; and
- 4.14.2 **NEED NOT** submit these results to the JUPAS Office.
- 4.15 To enable the JUPAS Office and the Institutions to obtain their ApL(C) results from the HKEAA, applicants must ensure that the HKID card number which they have used to register their JUPAS accounts **MUST BE IDENTICAL** to the one registered for their HKDSE Examination at the HKEAA.

Verification and Certification

- 4.16 Eligible NCS school applicants who have indicated GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination Chinese Language results as their ACL should apply to their **current schools** for verification of such results. They should present original certificates showing subject grades to their schools for verification.
- 4.17 School principals or teachers who are authorised by school principals are required to
- 4.17.1 verify the Chinese Language results under GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examinations of the applicants;
- 4.17.2 upload copies of certificates of GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination results, which **MUST** clearly show the subject grades the applicants have attained; and
- 4.17.3 confirm and submit the ACL (including both GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination and ApL(C) results)
- via the JUPAS Online Application System by **29 April 2026 (5:00 pm)**.

- 4.18 **Please note that ACL without verification will NOT be considered by the Institutions.**
- 4.19 Eligible NCS school applicants with ApL(C) results registered at the HKEAA
 - 4.19.1 **NEED NOT** submit copies of their ApL(C) results to the JUPAS Office or their current schools for verification; and
 - 4.19.2 **NEED NOT** apply to their current schools for certification of specified circumstances.

ELIGIBLE NCS NON-SCHOOL APPLICANTS

With ApL(C) Results only

Submission

- 4.20 Eligible NCS non-school applicants with ApL(C) results registered at the HKEAA
- 4.20.1 **NEED NOT** enter their ApL(C) results or indicate such results as ACL in their JUPAS accounts; and
 - 4.20.2 **NEED NOT** submit these results to the JUPAS Office.
- 4.21 To enable that the JUPAS Office and the Institutions to obtain their ApL(C) results from the HKEAA, applicants must ensure that the HKID card number which they have used to register their JUPAS accounts **MUST BE IDENTICAL** to the one registered for their HKDSE Examination at the HKEAA.

Verification and Certification

- 4.22 Eligible NCS non-school applicants with ApL(C) results registered at the HKEAA
- 4.22.1 **NEED NOT** submit copies of their ApL(C) results to the JUPAS Office for verification;
 - 4.22.2 **NEED NOT** apply to their last schools attended for certification of their specified circumstances; and
 - 4.22.3 **NEED NOT** complete nor submit Annex C to the JUPAS Office.

With GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination Results only

Submission

- 4.23 Eligible NCS non-school applicants who wish to submit their GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination Chinese Language results as ACL, must complete the following steps via their JUPAS accounts by **22 April 2026 (5:00 pm)**:
- 4.23.1 enter the highest subject level / score for their Chinese Language subjects in GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examinations under “*Other Academic Results (Language Subjects)*”; **AND**
- 4.23.2 indicate the relevant qualifications as ACL under “*Alternative Qualification(s) in Chinese Language (ACL)*”.
- 4.24 Applicants are reminded that the following will **NOT** be accepted for consideration as ACL:
- 4.24.1 “equivalent” qualifications;
- 4.24.2 qualifications not listed in the “[List of ACL](#)”;
- 4.24.3 screenshots showing results from webpages / emails; and
- 4.24.4 provisional results / statement of results.
- 4.25 **Please note that late submission of ACL is NOT accepted after the deadline of 22 April 2026 (5:00 pm).**

Verification and Certification

- 4.26 Eligible NCS non-school applicants who have indicated GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination Chinese Language results as their ACL should approach their **last schools attended** for certification of their specified circumstances. They should
- 4.26.1 submit the completed **Annex A** to their last schools attended. Submission to the JUPAS Office is **NOT** required; and
- 4.26.2 obtain **Annex B** from their last schools attended. Submission to the JUPAS Office is **NOT** required. School principals may request the applicants to provide additional documents, such as student report cards, to support the certification process.
- 4.27 School principals are required to
- 4.27.1 certify the specified circumstances of the non-school applicants by completing **Annex C**; and
- 4.27.2 return the completed **Annex C** to the applicants for submission to the JUPAS Office.
- 4.28 Non-school applicants must then submit the following to the JUPAS Office by **email** as email attachment by **29 April 2026 (5:00 pm)**:
- 4.28.1 the completed **Annex C**; **AND**
- 4.28.2 the copies of certificates of GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination results, which **MUST** clearly show the subject grades they have attained.
- 4.29 **Please note that ACL without verification and certification of specified circumstances will NOT be considered by the Institutions.**

With GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination AND ApL(C) Results

Submission

- 4.30 Eligible NCS non-school applicants who wish to submit their GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Chinese Language Examination results as ACL, must complete the following steps via their JUPAS accounts by **22 April 2026 (5:00 pm)**:
- 4.30.1 enter the highest subject level / score for their Chinese Language subjects in GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examinations under “*Other Academic Results (Language Subjects)*”; **AND**
 - 4.30.2 indicate the relevant qualifications as ACL under “*Alternative Qualification(s) in Chinese Language (ACL)*”.
- 4.31 Applicants are reminded that the following will **NOT** be accepted for consideration as ACL:
- 4.31.1 “equivalent” qualifications;
 - 4.31.2 qualifications not listed in the “[List of ACL](#)”;
 - 4.31.3 screenshots showing results from webpages / emails; and
 - 4.31.4 provisional results / statement of results.
- 4.32 **Please note that late submission of ACL is NOT accepted after the deadline of 22 April 2026 (5:00 pm).**
- 4.33 Eligible NCS non-school applicants with ApL(C) results registered at the HKEAA
- 4.33.1 **NEED NOT** enter their ApL(C) results or indicate such results as ACL in their JUPAS accounts; and
 - 4.33.2 **NEED NOT** submit these results to the JUPAS Office.
- 4.34 To enable the JUPAS Office and the Institutions to obtain their ApL(C) results from the HKEAA, applicants must ensure that the HKID card number which they have used to register their JUPAS accounts **MUST BE IDENTICAL** to the one registered for their HKDSE Examination at the HKEAA.

Verification and Certification

- 4.35 Eligible NCS non-school applicants who have indicated GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination Chinese Language results as their ACL must submit the copies of certificates, which **MUST** clearly show the subject grades they have attained, to the JUPAS Office **by email** as email attachment by **29 April 2026 (5:00 pm)** for verification.
- 4.36 **Please note that ACL without verification will NOT be considered by the Institutions.**
- 4.37 Eligible NCS non-school applicants with ApL(C) results registered at the HKEAA
- 4.37.1 **NEED NOT** submit copies of their ApL(C) results to the JUPAS Office for verification;
 - 4.37.2 **NEED NOT** apply to their last schools attended for certification of their specified circumstances; and
 - 4.37.3 **NEED NOT** complete nor submit **Annex C** to the JUPAS Office.

5. Further Information

- 5.1 For further information on submission of ACL, please visit the section on "[*Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language \(ACL\) for Non-Chinese Speaking \(NCS\) Applicants*](#)" on the JUPAS website. The link is as follows:

<https://www.jupas.edu.hk/en/application-procedures-information/application-information/alternative-qualifications-in-chinese-language-acl>

6. Enquiry

- 6.1 For enquiries on submission of ACL, please contact the JUPAS Office via email at info@jupas.edu.hk or call at (852) 2334 2929 / 2233 2929.
- 6.2 For enquiries about the specified circumstances and certification by schools of the specified circumstances for applicants, please contact the Education Bureau at (852) 3540 7447.