

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) cycle, 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 cycle, 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 cycle, 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 \(ACL\)*](#)", 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.

Details of Arrangement

- 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) pursuing the local curriculum and participating in JUPAS must meet either of the following specified circumstances (eligible NCS applicants) before consideration will be given to the ACL attained:
 - 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 wish to apply for admission to programmes offered under JUPAS and take GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examinations (Summer Series) in the same cycle year will **NOT** be able to meet JUPAS’s deadline for submission of these alternative qualifications in Chinese Language for the same cycle year. In other words, they should take the aforementioned examinations at least one year in advance.
- 3.2 The final decision on admission will be subject to the authenticity of these qualifications as listed in applicants’ applications. Please note that applicants may be disqualified, or the Institutions have the right to withdraw or amend any of their offers, cancel the registration, or terminate the studies of those applicants if they are not able to present such copies of certificates.

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) **NEED NOT** enter their ApL(C) results in the JUPAS online application system (the System) or submit them to the JUPAS Office. To enable the JUPAS Office and the Institutions to obtain their ApL(C) results from the HKEAA, such applicants should ensure that the HKID card numbers which they have used to register their JUPAS accounts **MUST BE IDENTICAL** to those used to register for their HKDSE Examination at the HKEAA.

Verification and Certification

- 4.2 Eligible NCS school applicants with ApL(C) results registered at the HKEAA
- 4.2.1 **NEED NOT** submit copies of their ApL(C) results to the JUPAS Office or their current schools for verification; and
- 4.2.2 **NEED NOT** apply to their current schools for certification of their specified circumstances.
- 4.3 School principals or teachers who are authorised by school principals are required to confirm and submit their school applicants' ACL via the System **on or before the VERIFICATION and CERTIFICATION deadline of 24 April 2024 (11:59 pm)**.

With GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination Results only

Submission

- 4.4 Eligible NCS school applicants who wish to submit their GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination results as ACL, are required to complete the information below via their JUPAS accounts **on or before the SUBMISSION deadline of 17 April 2024 (11:59 pm)** by
- 4.4.1 entering the highest subject level / score attained for their Chinese Language subjects in GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examinations under “*Other Academic Results (Language Subjects)*”; **AND**
 - 4.4.2 indicating the qualifications concerned as ACL under “*Alternative Qualification(s) in Chinese Language (ACL)*”.
- 4.5 Such applicants are reminded that in the consideration of the above examination results as ACL, the following will **NOT** be accepted:
- 4.5.1 “equivalent” qualifications;
 - 4.5.2 qualifications not shown on the “[List of ACL](#)”;
 - 4.5.3 online results / reports; and
 - 4.5.4 provisional results.
- 4.6 **Please note that late submission of ACL will NOT be accepted after the deadline of 17 April 2024.**

Verification and Certification

- 4.7 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 and certification of their specified circumstances. They should
- 4.7.1 submit the completed form in **Annex A** to their schools. They **NEED NOT** submit it to the JUPAS Office; and
 - 4.7.2 present original certificates with subject grades to their schools for verification.
- 4.8 Thereafter, school principals or teachers who are authorised by school principals are required to
- 4.8.1 verify the Chinese Language results under GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examinations of their school applicants;
 - 4.8.2 certify the specified circumstances of their school applicants;
 - 4.8.3 upload copies of GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination results, which **MUST** contain the subject grades their school applicants have attained; and
 - 4.8.4 confirm and submit their ACL
- via the System **on or before the VERIFICATION and CERTIFICATION deadline of 24 April 2024 (11:59 pm)**.
- 4.9 **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

- 4.10 Eligible NCS school applicants who wish to submit their GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination results as ACL, are required to complete the information below via their JUPAS accounts **on or before the SUBMISSION deadline of 17 April 2024 (11:59 pm)** by
- 4.10.1 entering the highest subject level / score attained for their Chinese Language subjects in GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examinations under “*Other Academic Results (Language Subjects)*”; **AND**
 - 4.10.2 indicating the qualifications concerned as ACL under “*Alternative Qualification(s) in Chinese Language (ACL)*”.
- 4.11 Such applicants are reminded that in the consideration of the above examination results as ACL, the following will **NOT** be accepted:
- 4.11.1 “equivalent” qualifications;
 - 4.11.2 qualifications not shown on the “[List of ACL](#)”;
 - 4.11.3 online results / reports; and
 - 4.11.4 provisional results.
- 4.12 **Please note that late submission of ACL will NOT be accepted after the deadline of 17 April 2024.**
- 4.13 Eligible NCS school applicants with ApL(C) results registered at the HKEAA **NEED NOT** enter their ApL(C) results in the System or submit them to the JUPAS Office. To enable the JUPAS Office and the Institutions to obtain their ApL(C) results from the HKEAA, such applicants should ensure that the HKID card numbers which they have used to register their JUPAS accounts **MUST BE IDENTICAL** to those used to register for their HKDSE Examination at the HKEAA.

Verification and Certification

- 4.14 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 with subject grades to their schools for verification.
- 4.15 School principals or teachers who are authorised by school principals are required to
- 4.15.1 verify the Chinese Language results under GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examinations of their school applicants;
 - 4.15.2 upload copies of GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination results, which **MUST** contain the subject grades their school applicants have attained; and
 - 4.15.3 confirm and submit their ACL (both GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination and ApL(C) results)
- via the System **on or before the VERIFICATION deadline of 24 April 2024 (11:59 pm)**.

Details of Arrangement

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

ELIGIBLE NCS NON-SCHOOL APPLICANTS

With ApL(C) Results only

Submission

4.18 Eligible NCS non-school applicants with ApL(C) results registered at the HKEAA **NEED NOT** enter their ApL(C) results in the System or submit them to the JUPAS Office. To enable that the JUPAS Office and the Institutions to obtain their ApL(C) results from the HKEAA, such applicants should ensure that the HKID card numbers which they have used to register their JUPAS accounts **MUST BE IDENTICAL** to those used to register for their HKDSE Examination at the HKEAA.

Verification and Certification

4.19 Eligible NCS non-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 for verification;

4.19.2 **NEED NOT** apply to their last schools attended for certification of their specified circumstances; and

4.19.3 **NEED NOT** complete and submit **Annex C** (Principal's Certification) to the JUPAS Office.

With GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination Results only

Submission

- 4.20 Eligible NCS non-school applicants who wish to submit their GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination results as ACL, are required to complete the information below via their JUPAS accounts **on or before the SUBMISSION deadline of 17 April 2024 (11:59 pm)** by
- 4.20.1 entering the highest subject level / score attained for their Chinese Language subjects in GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examinations under “*Other Academic Results (Language Subjects)*”; **AND**
 - 4.20.2 indicating the qualifications concerned as ACL under “*Alternative Qualification(s) in Chinese Language (ACL)*”.
- 4.21 Such applicants are also reminded that in the consideration of the above examination results as ACL, the following will **NOT** be accepted:
- 4.21.1 “equivalent” qualifications;
 - 4.21.2 qualifications not shown on the “[List of ACL](#)”;
 - 4.21.3 online results / reports; and
 - 4.21.4 provisional results.
- 4.22 **Please note that late submission of ACL will NOT be accepted after the deadline of 17 April 2024.**

Verification and Certification

- 4.23 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
- 4.23.1 submit the completed form in **Annex A** to their last schools attended. They **NEED NOT** submit it to the JUPAS Office; and
 - 4.23.2 obtain reference letter(s) (sample letter in **Annex B**), which is not required to be submitted to the JUPAS Office. School principals may require the applicants to provide other documents such as student report cards showing the history of schooling to facilitate their certification.
- 4.24 School principals are required to
- 4.24.1 certify the specified circumstances of the non-school applicants by completing **Annex C**; and
 - 4.24.2 return the completed **Annex C** to the non-school applicants for submission to the JUPAS Office **on or before 24 April 2024 (11:59 pm)**.
- 4.25 Non-school applicants are required to submit the completed **Annex C** **AND** the copies of the certificates of the GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination results, which **MUST** contain the subject grades they have attained, to the JUPAS Office **on or before 24 April 2024 (11:59 pm)** for verification.
- 4.26 **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

- 4.27 Eligible NCS non-school applicants who wish to submit their GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination results as ACL, are required to complete the information below via their JUPAS accounts **on or before the SUBMISSION deadline of 17 April 2024 (11:59 pm)** by
- 4.27.1 entering the highest subject level / score attained for their Chinese Language subjects in GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examinations under “*Other Academic Results (Language Subjects)*”; **AND**
 - 4.27.2 indicating the qualifications concerned as ACL under “*Alternative Qualification(s) in Chinese Language (ACL)*”.
- 4.28 Such applicants are reminded that in the consideration of the above examination results as ACL, the following will **NOT** be accepted:
- 4.28.1 “equivalent” qualifications;
 - 4.28.2 qualifications not shown on the “[List of ACL](#)”;
 - 4.28.3 online results / reports; and
 - 4.28.4 provisional results.
- 4.29 **Please note that late submission of ACL will NOT be accepted after the deadline of 17 April 2024.**
- 4.30 Eligible NCS non-school applicants with ApL(C) results registered at the HKEAA **NEED NOT** enter their ApL(C) results in the System or submit them to the JUPAS Office. To enable the JUPAS Office and the Institutions to obtain their ApL(C) results from the HKEAA, such applicants should ensure that the HKID card numbers which they have used to register their JUPAS accounts **MUST BE IDENTICAL** to those used to register for their HKDSE Examination at the HKEAA.

Verification and Certification

- 4.31 Eligible NCS non-school applicants who have indicated GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination Chinese Language results as their ACL have to submit the copies of the certificates, which **MUST** contain the subject grades they have attained, to the JUPAS Office **on or before 24 April 2024 (11:59 pm)** for verification.
- 4.32 **Please note that ACL without verification will NOT be considered by the Institutions.**
- 4.33 Eligible NCS non-school applicants with ApL(C) results registered at the HKEAA
- 4.33.1 **NEED NOT** submit copies of their ApL(C) results to the JUPAS Office for verification;
 - 4.33.2 **NEED NOT** apply to their last schools attended for certification of their specified circumstances; and
 - 4.33.3 **NEED NOT** complete and submit **Annex C** (Principal’s Certification) to the JUPAS Office.

5. Further Information

- 5.1 For further information on the submission of alternative qualifications in Chinese Language, please visit the section on “[*Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language \(ACL\)*](#)” 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 the alternative qualifications in Chinese Language, please contact the JUPAS Office at (852) 2334 2929 / 2233 2929 or email info@jupas.edu.hk.
- 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.