

Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 199/2017

From: Secretary for Education
Ref.: EDB(SLPD)/PNLS/GEN/1
Date: 27 November 2017

To: Supervisors / Heads / Teachers of
Government, Aided (including Special
Schools), Caput and Direct Subsidy Scheme
(DSS) Secondary schools

'i – Journey'

Paid Non-local Study Leave Scheme for Secondary School Teachers (2017/18) Programme on STEM Education Opens for Application

Summary

This circular memorandum invites teachers of secondary schools to participate in the third programme of ***'i – Journey'***¹ Paid Non-local Study Leave Scheme for Secondary School Teachers (2017/18) (the Scheme) to be held from April to June 2018. This circular memorandum should be circulated for information of teachers and read in conjunction with EDB Circular Memorandum No. 134/2017 issued on 1 August 2017.

Background

2. The first two customised programmes under the three-year pilot Scheme, namely Interdisciplinary Learning & Entrepreneurship Education and Catering for Students with Special Education Needs, have been rolled out via EDBCM No. 134/2017. A new programme on STEM Education has been developed to provide more opportunities for serving secondary school teachers to broaden their perspectives and enrich their experience.

Details

3. Similar to the first two programmes, the new programme will also include structured learning courses and school attachment overseas and comprise three major components – pre-trip preparation (pre-trip), overseas experience and post-trip consolidation (post-trip). Selected teachers will first research the theme of STEM Education. They will then take part in structured training abroad along with school attachment to observe the dissemination of good practices. Upon completion of the overseas experience, teachers will consolidate their learning and finalise their school-based initiative/ research project. Subsequently, they should try it out in their own school with a view to bringing positive

¹ The Scheme aims to create a learning journey for participants with unique learning experience, where participants will start with an inquiry, get inspired in the process, and most importantly, bring an impact on their teaching/ student learning/ school development upon returning to school. “*i*” refers to the 3 crucial elements of this Scheme – *inquire*, *inspire* and *impact*, and together they make a fruitful learning journey for participants.

changes. Good practices of any school-based initiative/ research may be shared with a larger professional community afterwards.

4. Details of the third customised programme on STEM Education are as below:

Programme	Location	Programme Dates (tentative)	No. of Places
A(3) STEM Education	Exeter, United Kingdom	Mid April – early June 2018 (7 weeks)	15

The programme will include the following major components:

- i. **Pre-trip:** a one-week period in Hong Kong for research and development of a school-based initiative/ research proposal
- ii. **Overseas experience:** four weeks of structured learning and school attachment abroad, during which participants further develop and finalise their proposals with the knowledge and experience gained and coaching by a mentor
- iii. **Post-trip:** a two-week period upon returning to Hong Kong for consolidation and write-up of a detailed implementation plan for the school-based initiative/ research, with professional advice from the mentor through emails/ an online platform

For more detailed information of the customised programme, please refer to the Programme Brief at **Appendix A(3)** and Information Notes to Applicants at **Appendix B**.

5. Participating teachers will be granted full-pay study leave for the whole period i.e. pre-trip, overseas experience and post-trip. Air passage and course fees will also be fully sponsored by the EDB. Funding for employment of supply teachers covering participants' whole study leave period will be provided for their schools.

6. Participating teachers have to undertake to teach full-time in public-sector secondary schools² in Hong Kong **for two years** upon completion of the Programme. For details of the teaching obligation and undertaking, eligibility for application, application procedures, etc., please refer to the Information Notes to Applicants at **Appendix B** and Application Form at **Appendix C(i)**.

7. Application is open to regular full-time teachers serving in government, aided (including Special Schools), caput and DSS secondary schools. Teachers who are interested should apply on or before **2 January 2018**. For submission of the completed forms and

² Types of secondary schools include government, aided (including Special Schools), caput and DSS schools.

supporting documents, please refer to the submission procedures on p.1 of the Application Form. Applications should be supported by the Principal's Recommendation Forms at **Appendix D**, to be completed by the principal of the applicant's school and submitted separately by the above deadline. The above information, relevant appendices as well as the claim form for reimbursement of the salaries of supply teachers have also been uploaded onto Education Bureau website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/i-journey>) and the Training Calendar System (TCS) (Course ID: PDT020170156 for Secondary Schools and Special Schools).

8. Vetting committee(s) will be formed for selection purposes. The selection criteria include applicants' experience, their personal statement, relevance of their proposal to the programme and principal's recommendation, etc.

Enquiries

9. For further information about the Scheme, please contact Miss Ingrid TO (Tel: 3509 8742) or Mr Ivan LOE (Tel: 3509 8774) of the School Leadership & Professional Development Section, Education Bureau.

Benjamin YUNG
For Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections --- for information