

Scholarship for Teachers (Pursuit of Master’s Degree Programmes) (2021/22) Information Sheet

Background

1. Since its inception in June 2013, the Committee on Professional Development of Teachers and Principals (COTAP) has been working towards building shared vision, mission and objectives for enhancing the professional development of teachers and school leaders in Hong Kong. To achieve these goals, COTAP has launched T-excel@hk, an overarching project which comprises eight areas of focus¹.
2. The Scholarship for Teachers (Pursuit of Master’s Degree Programmes) (“the Scholarship for Teachers”) is a scheme under T-applause, which is one of the focus areas under T-excel@hk.

Aim

3. The Scholarship for Teachers aims to recognise achievements of high-performing teachers and to encourage teachers’ pursuit of higher qualifications as well as to enhance their professionalism.

Eligibility for Application

4. Application is open to full-time serving teachers who -
 - (a) are permanent residents of Hong Kong;
 - (b) are regular teachers² in local primary or secondary day schools (including special schools) offering a formal curriculum at the time of application;
 - (c) have no less than five years (as at 31 August 2020) of full-time teaching experience³ in local primary or secondary day schools (including special schools) offering a formal curriculum;
 - (d) have not been awarded this Scholarship before; and
 - (e) have enrolled to start, in the 2021/22 school year, a local part-time master’s degree programme offered by a local higher education institution⁴ specialising in one of the following ten areas:

¹ The eight areas of focus are T-standard⁺, T-dataset^{PD}, T-train^B, T-surf^{24/7}, T-craft³, T-share, T-applause and T-bridge.

² In the context of Direct Subsidy Scheme schools and private schools, “regular teachers” refers to regular members of the teaching staff in school. Teachers employed under the Native-speaking English Teacher Scheme in public sector are not included.

³ Applicants’ experience of secondment to Education Bureau is also counted.

⁴ The higher education institutions accepted for this scholarship are: (i) City University of Hong Kong, (ii) Hong Kong Baptist University, (iii) Lingnan University, (iv) The Chinese University of Hong Kong, (v) The Education University of Hong Kong, (vi) The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, (vii) The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, (viii) The Open University of Hong Kong, and (ix) The University of Hong Kong.

- (i) Catering for Learner Diversity (including Special Educational Needs, Gifted Education and Inclusive Education)
 - (ii) Chinese Culture
 - (iii) Chinese History and History
 - (iv) Educational Leadership
 - (v) Guidance and Counselling (including Career Guidance, Counselling and Life Education)
 - (vi) Information Technology in Education
 - (vii) Language Education (Chinese or English)
 - (viii) Parent Education and Home-school Co-operation
 - (ix) STEM⁵ Education
 - (x) Values Education
5. The list of relevant study programmes is available on the website of the Education Bureau (http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship_teacher) for applicants' reference. Latest update of the relevant study programmes could be found on the websites of the respective institutions. For study programmes not on the list, their relevance to the areas mentioned above will be considered on the basis of the programme contents, objectives and target participants.

Quota and Scholarship Amount

6. The quota for the Scholarship for Teachers (2021/22) is 20. A total amount of HK\$80,000 will be awarded to each awardee.

Application and Selection

7. The Scholarship for Teachers (2021/22) is open for applications from 17 May to 15 June 2021.
8. Teachers who are interested may submit an application together with the supporting documents, including a copy of the offer letter⁶ from the institution concerned, to the Education Bureau on or before the deadline (15 June 2021). Applications should be supported by the Recommendation Form to be completed by the Principal of the applicant's serving school and submitted separately on or before the deadline. The Application Form and the Recommendation Form can be found at Annex II and Annex III respectively.

⁵ STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

⁶ The copy of the offer letter submitted by applicants within two weeks after the application deadline (i.e. 16-29 June 2021) is also accepted if the applicants do not receive the offer letter on or before 15 June 2021.

9. The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of merit. Selection will be based on the attributes that applicants demonstrate as teachers, performance in school as well as contribution to their serving school and to the education community outside the school.
10. Applicants will be informed of the selection results in August 2021. The decision of the Education Bureau on the awardees shall be final and appeals are not accepted.

Teaching Obligation and Undertaking

11. Awardees have to undertake to fulfill the teaching obligation by continuing to serve for one year as full-time regular teachers in local secondary or primary day schools (including special schools) offering a formal curriculum upon completion of the relevant study programme.
12. Awardees are required to sign an undertaking which delineates the terms and conditions that they should comply with. These include, but are not limited to, the requirements for awardees to:
 - (a) complete the specified programme in not more than four years;
 - (b) continue serving in a local day school during the study of the programme; and
 - (c) fulfill the one-year teaching obligation immediately after completion of the programme.
13. At any point of time, if a breach of the undertaking occurs, awardees will be required to repay to the Government the scholarship amounts received on an interest-free basis. However, the circumstance will be considered on a case-by-case basis for reasons of breaching the undertaking not within the awardees' control such as accidents, ill health, etc.

Enquiries

14. Details about the relevant study programmes could be found on the websites of the respective institutions. For enquiries about the Scholarship for Teachers, please send an email to ltq@edb.gov.hk or contact Mr Eason CHAN (Tel. 2892 5763) of the Professional Development and Training Division, Education Bureau.

Education Bureau
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