

Scholarship for Teachers (Pursuit of Master’s Degree Programmes) (2025/26) 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 local curriculum³ at the time of application;
 - (c) have no less than five years (as at 31 August 2024) of full-time teaching experience⁴ in local primary or secondary day schools (including special schools) offering a local curriculum;
 - (d) adhere to the standards of professional conduct of teachers and have no records of professional misconduct and punishment imposed by EDB and/ or schools;
 - (e) have not been awarded this Scholarship before; and
 - (f) have been enrolled to start, in the 2025/26 school year, the first year of study in a local part-time master’s degree programme offered by a local higher education institution⁵

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 The curriculum developed by the Curriculum Development Council.

⁴ Applicants’ experience of secondment to Education Bureau is also counted.

⁵ 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) Hong Kong Metropolitan University, and (ix) The University of Hong Kong.

specialising in one of the following ten areas:

- (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 Life Planning Education, Counselling and Life Education)
- (vi) Information Technology in Education
- (vii) Language Education (Chinese or English)
- (viii) Parent Education and Home-school Co-operation
- (ix) STEAM⁶ Education
- (x) Values Education

5. The list of relevant study programmes is available on the website of the Education Bureau (https://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 (2025/26) is 20. A total amount of HK\$80,000 will be awarded to each awardee.

Application and Selection

7. The Scholarship for Teachers (2025/26) is open for applications from 16 May to 12 June 2025.
8. Teachers who are interested may submit an application together with the supporting documents through the on-line application system, including a copy of the offer letter⁷ from the institution concerned, to the Education Bureau on or before the deadline (12 June 2025). Applications should be supported by the Recommendation Form (Annex II) to be completed by the Principal of the applicant's serving school and submitted separately on or before the deadline. For details of application, please visit the EDB website at https://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship_teacher.
9. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview by email by the end of June 2025.

⁶ STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.

⁷ The copy of the offer letter submitted by applicants within two weeks after the application deadline (i.e. 13-26 June 2025) is also accepted if the applicants do not receive the offer letter on or before 12 June 2025.

The interview is scheduled for early to mid-July 2025. Please note that the interview is an essential part of the selection process. Rescheduling of interviews will not be entertained. Applicants who cannot attend the assigned interview will be regarded as self-withdrawal of their applications for the Scholarship for Teachers.

10. 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.
11. Applicants will be informed of the selection results in October 2025. The decision of the Education Bureau on the awardees shall be final and appeals are not accepted.

Teaching Obligations and Undertakings

12. Awardees have to undertake to fulfill the teaching obligations by continuing to serve for one year as full-time regular teachers in local secondary or primary day schools (including special schools) offering a local curriculum upon completion of the relevant study programme.
13. Awardees are required to sign the undertakings which delineate 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 local primary or secondary day schools (including special schools) offering a local curriculum during the study of the programme; and
 - (c) fulfill the one-year teaching obligations immediately after completion of the programme.
14. At any point of time, if a breach of the undertakings occurs, awardees will be required to repay to the Government the scholarship amounts received on an interest-free basis.

Enquiries

15. 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 Ms Constance CHOW (Tel. 2892 5786) of the Professional Development and Training Division, Education Bureau.

Education Bureau
February 2025