

For discussion  
on 8 May 2008

## **Legislative Council Panel on Education**

### **Provision of Student Hostels in the University Grants Committee-funded Institutions**

#### **Purpose**

This paper sets out the current policy on the provision of publicly-funded student hostels in the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions, the allocation criteria for hostel places, the present situation on the demand and supply of hostel places, and the measures taken to address the increasing demand for boarding facilities.

#### **Existing Hostel Policy**

2. In view of the educational value of hostel life, the then Executive Council approved in 1996 a set of criteria<sup>1</sup> for calculating the level of publicly-funded student hostel provision at the UGC-funded institutions. Pursuant to these criteria, all undergraduate students should be given the opportunity to stay in student hostels for at least one year of their studies. Furthermore, all non-local students<sup>2</sup> undertaking UGC-funded programmes, all research postgraduate students, as well as all undergraduate students whose daily travelling time exceeds four hours, should be provided with student hostel places.

3. In addition to the above-mentioned standard hostel provision, the Administration decided in February 2006 to provide the UGC-funded sector with an additional 1 840 publicly-funded student hostel places to support institutions' increasing student exchange activities.

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<sup>1</sup> The criteria are applied to all UGC-funded institutions, except for the Lingnan University (which has been provided with hostel places for 50% of its full-time degree student population having regard to its remote location in Tuen Mun and its aspirations to develop itself into a relatively small, fully residential liberal arts institution) and the Hong Kong Institute of Education (which was provided with hostel places for 50% of its full-time degree student population projected at the time of establishment of the Institute having regard to the potential benefits that hostel life would bring to the quality of pre-service teacher education).

<sup>2</sup> These refer to non-local students who are undertaking full-time programmes in the UGC-funded institutions leading to qualifications awarded by the institutions themselves. They do not include exchange students.

4. Under the existing hostel policy, the Government will fund up to 75% of the capital cost of the approved level of publicly-funded student hostel provision, with the remainder to be met by the respective institutions using non-government funds.

### Allocation Criteria of Student Hostel Places

5. Whilst the above policy and criteria basically determine the way in which the Government calculates the approved level of publicly-funded student hostel provision, and the amount of capital subvention that should in consequence be provided, allocation of individual student hostel places to individual students is a matter within institutional autonomy. Each UGC-funded institution has devised its own set of admission and allocation criteria. The criteria adopted by each institution in allocating hostel places as advised by the institutions are at **Annex**.

6. According to information provided by the eight UGC-funded institutions, the allocation of hostel bed spaces as in September 2007 is as follows –

Institution	Occupancy of hostel bed spaces as in September 2007					
	Local Students enrolled in		Non-local students enrolled in		Exchange students	Total
	UGC-funded programme	Non-UGC-funded programme	UGC-funded programme	Non-UGC-funded programme		
City University of Hong Kong	1 357	15	755	496	296	2 919
Hong Kong Baptist University	926	-	427	240	182	1 775
Lingnan University	1 283	-	106	31	80	1 500
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	3 565	-	1 782	13	367	5 727
The Hong Kong Institute of Education	1 136	8	182	303	69	1 698
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	1 551	-	896	278	279	3 004
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	1 637	22	1 195	484	368	3 706
The University of Hong Kong	2 704	2	1 131	-	486	4 323
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 159</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>6 474</b>	<b>1 845</b>	<b>2 127</b>	<b>24 652</b>

The above figures comprise hostel places funded by the Government and some 5 400 places built by the institutions using their own sources of funding. The hostel places which are not available for occupancy by students in the 2007/08 academic year such as those under renovation are not included.

### **Current Demand and Supply of Student Hostels**

7. Based on the existing criteria for calculating the level of publicly-funded student hostel provision and taking into account the additional hostel places for exchange activities, the UGC-funded sector should be provided with about 30 500 publicly-funded hostel places by the 2007/08 academic year. In addition, to cater for the knock on implications of the additional year of undergraduate studies starting from the 2012/13 academic year, an additional 2 100 hostel places will be needed. Moreover, as a result of the increased quota for non-local students in publicly-funded programmes, the accommodation requirement in the UGC-funded sector would increase by around another 6 500 hostel places. Hence, the total requirement for publicly-funded hostel places in the UGC-funded sector is estimated to be some 39 100 in the longer term.

8. Taking into account the hostel projects which are now under construction, and projects of which funding from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council has been approved, there will be about 24 700 publicly-funded hostel places<sup>3</sup> available at the UGC-funded institutions upon completion of these hostel projects. To meet the student hostel shortfall, the UGC-funded institutions have been actively planning for construction of new hostels. There are currently four new projects under planning, which will provide an additional 3 400 publicly-funded hostel places. This will increase the total number of publicly-funded hostel places for the UGC-funded sector to a total of 28 100 places. Hence, we estimate that the UGC-funded sector will have a shortfall of about 11 000 publicly-funded hostel places.

### **Measures to address hostel shortfall**

9. We are mindful of the keen demand for hostels from local and non-local students in the UGC-funded sector. Nonetheless, Hong Kong faces a

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<sup>3</sup> Under the existing hostel policy, each place in the wholly-privately-funded student hostels should be counted as one quarter of a place for the purpose of assessing the provision of publicly-funded hostel places for each UGC-funded institution (except for Lingnan University and the Hong Kong Institute of Education which are subject to institution-specific hostel policy as explained in footnote 1). The figure of 24 700 publicly-funded hostel places set out above is thus derived from the figures of 22 900 publicly-funded hostel places and 6 200 wholly-privately-funded hostel places.

problem of limited land supply for the construction of hostels (and other facilities), particularly for institutions situated in the urban areas. To ensure the most effective use of scarce land and public resources, institutions are encouraged to, wherever possible, identify suitable sites within campus for hostel developments, or redevelop existing campus buildings/facilities into hostels so as to maximize the development and utilization of their own campus sites. Furthermore, the Government has been encouraging the UGC-funded institutions to explore all possible options, both interim and long-term, to meet the increasing demand for student hostels.

10. An alternative to the current model of building institution-specific student hostels is the construction of “joint-hostels” for shared use by the UGC-funded institutions. We are liaising with the UGC-funded institutions and relevant bureaux and departments on the development of joint-hostels, and will seek the funding approval of the Finance Committee in due course.

Education Bureau in consultation with the UGC Secretariat  
April 2008

**Allocation Criteria of Student Hostel Places  
to be adopted by University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded Institutions in the 2008/09 academic year**

Institutions	Eligibility	Allocation criteria	Remarks
City University of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full-time local and non-local students in UGC-funded undergraduate (Ug), taught postgraduate (TPg) and research postgraduate (RPg) programmes</li> <li>- Full-time incoming exchange students in UGC-funded programmes</li> <li>- Foundation year students</li> <li>- Students admitted through the “Student Athletes Admission and Residence Scholarship Scheme (SAAS)”</li> </ul>	<p><u>For Non-local Students:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Places would be reserved for non-local students upon receipt of their applications before the deadlines.</li> <li>(b) Allocation of hostel places only guaranteed in the first two years of their entire period of study.</li> </ul> <p><u>For Local Students:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Places would be reserved for students under the “Student Athletes Admission and Residence Scholarship Scheme” or with special needs and conditions (e.g. long commuting time, disability or health issues, home environment, special family circumstances).</li> <li>(b) Allocation to students without hall experience will be based on a scoring system reflecting students’ need and merit (including home size, commuting time, students’ leadership positions, special achievements, exchange experience and contribution to campus/residence life).</li> <li>(c) Allocation to students with hall experience will be based on the recommendations of the respective Residence Master considering (1) the scores reflecting the merit; (2) the inputs from respective Residents’ Association and Residence Tutors; (3) previous disciplinary records with the halls if any.</li> </ul>	<p>Separate allocation system is applicable to postgraduate students.</p>
Hong Kong Baptist University	<p>All UGC-funded full-time Ug, RPg and TPg students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Assessment/selection administered by individual Halls but based on central allocation criteria and quota prescribed for different groups of students.</li> <li>(b) Ug applicants in the graduating class who have never resided in the Halls before will be admitted to fulfil “at least 1 year stay” policy.</li> <li>(c) Non-local Ug students (mainland, overseas and exchange - study abroad / independent students) will be provided with hall places in the first two years of their studies.</li> <li>(d) Local Ug with daily commuting time of more than 4 hours will be admitted.</li> <li>(e) Non-local postgraduates in the first year of study and local postgraduates with housing needs.</li> <li>(f) Returning residents with contribution to the Hall in the previous year or active in hall and/or campus activities.</li> <li>(g) Students with substantiated physical, hearing or visual impairment, or other special needs, e.g. difficult home environment, distant home locations (daily travelling time within 4 hours), or as referred by university counsellors.</li> <li>(h) Students who need hall residence out of academic reasons.</li> <li>(i) Students not in the graduating class and have never resided in the Halls before.</li> </ul>	

Institutions	Eligibility	Allocation criteria	Remarks
Lingnan University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full-time UGC-funded Ug and RPg students</li> <li>- Full-time non-local Ug students within UGC approved quota</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) All UGC-funded Ug students and non-local Ug students of UGC approved quota are required to stay at student hostels on campus during their first year of study at the University.</li> <li>(b) UGC-funded RPg students during their first year of study at the University are guaranteed hostel places.</li> <li>(c) Other non-local Ug students of UGC approved quota and non-local UGC-funded RPg students are guaranteed hostel places.</li> <li>(d) Other local UGC-funded RPg students are normally allocated hostel places.</li> <li>(e) Other UGC-funded Ug students can apply for hostel places according to established hostel allocation system and criteria, subject to a scoring system as follows:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- home location and travelling time (60%)</li> <li>- student activities participation (15%)</li> <li>- academic achievement (15%)</li> <li>- final year students (10%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local and non-local full-time Ug students on UGC-funded programmes</li> <li>- Local and non-local full-time RPg and TPg students on UGC-funded programmes</li> <li>- Exchange students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) All Ug students are given the opportunity to stay in student hostels for at least one year of their courses.</li> <li>(b) The scoring system takes into consideration the students' travelling time, home environment and participation in student activities, with slight deviation in scoring for each College. In addition, there is a well-established appeal system under which students with family issues and health problems will be given special considerations.</li> <li>(c) Reservation for specific group of students including committee members of the Student Union &amp; College Resident Associations, etc.</li> <li>(d) An effective waiting list system is in place.</li> <li>(e) Guaranteed residence for non-local students, exchange students and RPg students.</li> </ul>	
The Hong Kong Institute of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UGC-funded full-time Ug and sub-degree students (local and non-local)</li> <li>- UGC-funded full-time postgraduate students (local and non-local)</li> <li>- Subject to availability, other students may have places offered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) First year students of full-time Bachelor of Education programmes are required to reside on campus.</li> <li>(b) Guaranteed residence for non-local students.</li> <li>(c) Students who need to fulfil residential requirement, non-local students and students with special needs have preference for place allocation. The remaining places will be allocated in accordance with a centralized point system including :               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- average travelling time from home (40%)</li> <li>- participation in student organizations and representation in Institute (40%)</li> <li>- type of accommodation and household area (20%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	The point system has not been activated since places available could meet students' demand in full.

Institutions	Eligibility	Allocation criteria	Remarks
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full-time UGC-funded degree and RPg students</li> <li>- The University will give proper consideration to other full-time students with exceptional needs for accommodation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Hall residence is provided for all research postgraduate students throughout their studies; all UGC-funded non-local students throughout their studies; Ug students whose daily travelling time exceeds 4 hours throughout their studies; and all final year Ug students without any experience in hall life.</li> <li>(b) Other students with hardship and special needs will be given exceptional consideration and offered hall residential places on a case by case discretionary basis.</li> <li>(c) Students recommended by hall wardens for their possessing special traits, or having made significant contributions to the promotion of Hall life and in the cultivation of Hall culture will be given exceptional consideration and offered hall residential places on a case by case basis.</li> <li>(d) Non-final year Ug students without hall experience will be offered hall places in sequence as determined by Point Scoring Mechanism.</li> <li>(e) Ug students with hall experience will be offered hall places in sequence as determined by Point Scoring Mechanism.</li> <li>(f) Point Scoring Mechanism includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- living district (36%)</li> <li>- home environment (24%)</li> <li>- contribution to campus and hall life (e.g. leadership, PolyU sports team members, outstanding achievements) (40%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	All full-time students (including Ug, RPg and TPg students and exchange-in students)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) First year Ug students are guaranteed at least one-semester hall residence in their first year of study.</li> <li>(b) Students living in 5 distant areas (namely Yuen Long; Tuen Mun; HK Southern; Islands and NT North areas not along MTR routes) and non-local students will be admitted.</li> <li>(c) Students with exceptional personal needs.</li> <li>(d) Students admitted through special academic programs, e.g. Early Admission Scheme.</li> <li>(e) Students admitted based on academic achievements in the current residential year will be re-admitted subject to profound academic achievements.</li> <li>(f) Students with proven record of contribution to hall and campus life will have priority for admission.</li> <li>(g) Warden's discretion.</li> </ul>	Separate allocation system is applicable to postgraduate students.

Institutions	Eligibility	Allocation criteria	Remarks
The University of Hong Kong	Full-time Ug, RPg and TPg students	<p>(a) Two admission systems for hostels. Joint Hall Admission Scheme (JHAS) applies to the nine halls in existence before 2005.</p> <p>(b) Non-local Ug students will be admitted to halls or other non-hall housing.</p> <p>(c) RPg students will be given priority in postgraduate halls and also other non-hall housing. In addition, all Ug halls have set aside 2% of their total places for admission of postgraduate students.</p> <p><u>For the nine halls which are in existence before 2005 - JHAS</u></p> <p>(a) Each hall reserves at least 10% of its places for non-local Ug and up to 2% for postgraduate students.</p> <p>(b) Other places for allocation to local Ug are divided into Need quota (70%) (e.g. travelling time, home environment, exceptional needs such as physical and psychological problems) and Warden's Discretionary quota (30%) (e.g. contribution to hall life). After their first year, students in these halls have to apply for re-admission (i.e. continuation of their residence) every year.</p> <p><u>For the three halls in Jockey Club Student Village II which were completed in 2005</u></p> <p>(a) Non-local Ug students (both regular and exchange) who would like to stay in hall, with limits on the number of non-local students in each residence, so that this number does not exceed 50% of the hostel places of the hall.</p> <p>(b) A score computed on the basis of distance away from home and living conditions (same as the scores for the Need quota in JHPS) and possibly together with interview performance to prioritize their application.</p> <p>(c) Local Ug students in the first year of their study who would like to stay in hall will be given priority and admission of some senior students without prior hall experience will also be given preference.</p> <p>(d) To help the development of an appropriate culture for the new intakes, a number of local students should be allowed to stay on for the subsequent year. However, where the University cannot accommodate categories (a) and (b) above, a restriction on this number would have to be made.</p> <p>(e) For RPg students, priority should be given to newly arrived non-local students.</p>	