
INFORMATION NOTE

Government scholarship schemes in selected places

1. Introduction

1.1 At its meeting on 14 January 2008, the Panel on Education requested the Research and Library Services Division to provide information on the operation of government scholarship schemes in selected places. As such, the purpose of this information note is to study major government scholarship schemes provided by relevant government authorities in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore for the study of full-time programmes at degree or above levels, with special reference to those provided by the ministries of education in these places.

2. Government scholarship schemes in Hong Kong

2.1 The Education Bureau has proposed to establish a HK\$1 billion HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund to support the provision of government scholarships to outstanding local and non-local students undertaking publicly-funded full-time degree or above level programmes. It is proposed that the scholarship will be HK\$40,000 per year for local students and HK\$80,000 per year for non-local students. Scholarships will be awarded based on merits. There is no bond period attached to the scholarships requiring scholarship holders to stay and work in Hong Kong.

3. Overview of government scholarship schemes in selected places

3.1 The **Appendix** summarizes major government scholarship schemes provided by relevant government authorities in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. The key features of these schemes are discussed as follows:

Australia

Scholarship for both local and non-local students

3.2 In Australia, government scholarship schemes are generally available for either local or non-local students, but not both. Based on the information available, there are two schemes – Endeavour Malaysia Awards and Endeavour Awards for Turkey – which both local and non-local students are eligible to apply. However, these two schemes are not general scholarship schemes but have specific aims which are to provide scholarships for non-local postgraduate students from a designated country undertaking study at Australia and local postgraduate students undertaking study at a designated country outside Australia. For example, the Endeavour Malaysia Awards are offered to: (a) three postgraduate students from Malaysia to undertake a Masters or Doctorate degree in Australia, and (b) three postgraduate students from Australia to undertake a Masters or Doctorate degree in Malaysia.

Bond period

3.3 As at the publication of this information note, the Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations has not provided any information on whether local scholarship holders are required to stay and work in Australia after graduation. For non-local scholarship holders, they are required to return to their home country after completion of their study.

New Zealand

Scholarship for both local and non-local students

3.4 In New Zealand, government scholarship schemes are generally available for either local or non-local students, but not both. Based on the information available, there is only one government scholarship scheme – New Zealand Study Abroad Awards – which both local and non-local students are eligible to apply. However, the scholarship only sponsors a short period of study (up to six months) undertaken overseas as part of the study of Masters and Doctorate degree programmes in New Zealand.

Bond period

3.5 The New Zealand government only sets out bond period for local scholarship holders. Non-local scholarship holders are subject to different arrangements upon completion of their study. Some are required to return to their home country after graduation, while others are allowed to stay to apply for residency at the end of their programmes.

Singapore

Scholarship for both local and non-local students

3.6 In Singapore, government scholarship schemes are generally available for either local or non-local students, but not both. Based on the information available, there is only one government scholarship scheme – Ministry of Education Teaching Awards – which local and non-local students are eligible to apply. However, the scheme only provides scholarships for students pursuing a degree programme with teaching subjects (i.e. subjects in the curriculum of a secondary school/junior college in Singapore) as their choice of study.

Bond period

3.7 The Singapore government sets out bond period for local scholarship holders, as well as for non-local scholarship holders in some government scholarship programmes.

Appendix

Overview of government scholarship schemes in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore

	Australia	New Zealand	Singapore
For local students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth Scholarships Programme (see Table 1); and • Australian Postgraduate Awards (Table 2). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step Up Scholarships (Table 10); • Bonded Merit Scholarships (Table 11); and • Study Awards in Maori and Pasifika Education Research (Table 12). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singapore Government Scholarships (Foreign Service) (Table 17); and • Overseas Merit Scholarships (Foreign Service) (Table 18).
For non-local students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Development Scholarships (Table 3); • Australian Leadership Awards – Scholarships (Table 4); • Endeavour Postgraduate Awards (Table 5); • Endeavour Europe Awards (Table 6); and • Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (Table 7). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand International Undergraduates Fees Scholarships (Table 13); • New Zealand International Doctoral Research Scholarships (Table 14); • New Zealand Development Scholarships (Table 15); and • New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarships (Table 16). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN Undergraduate Scholarships (Table 19); • Singapore Government Undergraduate Scholarship for Hong Kong Students (Table 20); and • Singapore Scholarship Programme (Table 21).
For both local and non-local students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endeavour Malaysia Awards (Table 8); and • Endeavour Awards for Turkey (Table 9). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil.

Australia: Scholarships for local students
Table 1 – Commonwealth Scholarships Programme

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available for students from low socio-economic backgrounds, particularly for those from rural and regional areas and Indigenous students, to take up undergraduate degrees, associate degrees and approved enabling courses. • Comprising three types of scholarships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships (CECS); (b) Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships (CAS); and (c) Indigenous Access Scholarships (IAS).
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 8 500 to 12 000 awards a year for CECS and CAS. • 1 000 awards a year for IAS.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CECS provides AUS\$2,162 (HK\$14,161)⁽¹⁾ a year for up to four years; • CAS provides AUS\$4,324 (HK\$28,322) a year for up to four years; and • IAS provides a one-off payment of around AUS\$4,080 (HK\$26,724) to eligible Indigenous students.
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available.

Note: (1) Based on the average exchange rate of HK\$6.55 per Australian dollar in 2007.

Australia: Scholarships for local students (cont'd)
Table 2 – Australian Postgraduate Awards

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available for postgraduate students undertaking their higher degree by research in Australia.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined by participating higher education institutions⁽²⁾.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stipend rates for 2008 are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) AUS\$20,007 (HK\$131,046) for full-time students; and (b) AUS\$10,710 (HK\$70,151) for part-time students. Other benefits include relocation allowance and thesis allowance.
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not available.

Note: (2) The Australian government allocates funding to eligible higher education institutions to award the scholarships to students. As such, the number and value of the awards are determined by the participating higher education institutions.

Australia: Scholarships for non-local students
Table 3 – Australian Development Scholarships

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available for people from developing countries to undertake full-time undergraduate or postgraduate study in Australia.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 1 000 scholarships are awarded each year across 31 countries.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) return air travel; (b) establishment allowance; (c) full tuition fees; (d) contribution to living expenses; (e) Introductory Academic Programme; (f) Overseas Student Health Cover; (g) Pre-course English fees; (h) Supplementary Academic Support (Tutorial Assistance); and (i) fieldwork.
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil. Students are required to return to their home country for two years within 14 days of the completion of their study.

Australia: Scholarships for non-local students (cont'd)
Table 4 – Australian Leadership Awards – Scholarships

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available for high achievers from the Asia-Pacific region to undertake postgraduate study (Masters or Doctorate) and a leadership programme in Australia.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only a limited number of scholarships are awarded each year.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to AUS\$110,000 (HK\$720,500) for Masters degrees and AUS\$220,000 (HK\$1.4 million) for Doctorate programmes. Benefits received include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> return air travel; contribution to initial visa expenses; full tuition fees; contribution to living expenses; Introductory Academic Programme; and Overseas Student Health Cover.
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil. Students are required to return to their home country for two years within 14 days of the completion of their study.

Australia: Scholarships for non-local students (cont'd)
Table 5 – Endeavour Postgraduate Awards

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available for non-local students who undertake a Masters or PhD qualification either by coursework or research in Australia.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 65 awards.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to AUS\$160,000 (HK\$1.05 million), with a maximum duration of three years. • Benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) travel allowance of up to AUS\$5,000 (HK\$32,750); (b) establishment allowance of up to AUS\$5,000 (HK\$32,750); (c) a monthly stipend of AUS\$2,500 (HK\$16,375) up to three years; (d) tuition fees per semester of up to AUS\$10,000 (HK\$65,500) for up to three years; and (e) Overseas Student Health Cover.
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil. Award holders are expected to return to their home country at the completion of their programme.

Australia: Scholarships for non-local students (cont'd)
Table 6 – Endeavour Europe Awards

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available for postgraduate students from participating countries in Europe to undertake a Masters or PhD degree in Australia or research in Australia towards a higher degree in their home country.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 15 awards, with a maximum of four awards being offered to any participating country.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to AUS\$50,000 (HK\$327,500) with a maximum duration of 12 months. Benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) travel allowance of up to AUS\$5,000 (HK\$32,750); (b) establishment allowance of up to AUS\$5,000 (HK\$32,750); and (c) a monthly stipend of AUS\$3,333 (HK\$21,831) up to 12 months.
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil. Award holders are expected to return to their home country at the completion of their programme.

Australia: Scholarships for non-local students (cont'd)
Table 7 – Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarships

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available for non-local students to undertake postgraduate research for up to two years for a Masters degree or three years for a Doctorate degree.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined by participating higher education institutions⁽³⁾.
Value of the award	
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not available.

Note: (3) The Australian government allocates funding to eligible higher education institutions to award the scholarships to students. As such, the number and value of the award are determined by the participating higher education institutions.

Australia: Scholarships for both local and non-local students
Table 8 – Endeavour Malaysia Awards

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) postgraduate students from Malaysia to undertake a Masters or PhD degree in Australia or research in Australia towards a higher degree in Malaysia; or (b) postgraduate students from Australia to undertake a Masters or PhD degree in Malaysia or research in Malaysia towards a higher degree in Australia.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to three awards will be offered to applicants from Malaysia. • Up to three awards will be offered to go to Malaysia.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to AUS\$50,000 (HK\$327,500), with a maximum duration of 12 months for both Australian and Malaysian applicants. • Benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) travel allowance of up to AUS\$5,000 (HK\$32,750); (b) establishment allowance of up to AUS\$5,000 (HK\$32,750); and (c) a monthly stipend of AUS\$3,333 (HK\$21,831) up to 12 months.
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil. Award holders are expected to return to their home country at the completion of their programme.

Australia: Scholarships for both local and non-local students (cont'd)
Table 9 – Endeavour Awards for Turkey

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) postgraduate students from Turkey to undertake a Masters or PhD degree in Australia or research in Australia towards a higher degree in Turkey; and (b) postgraduate students from Australia to undertake a Masters or PhD degree in Turkey or research in Turkey towards a higher degree in Australia.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to four awards will be offered to applicants from Turkey. • Up to four awards will be offered to go to Turkey.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to AUS\$50,000 (HK\$327,500), with a maximum duration of 12 months for both Australian and Turkish applicants. • Benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) travel allowance of up to AUS\$5,000 (HK\$32,750); (b) establishment allowance of up to AUS\$5,000 (HK\$32,750); and (c) a monthly stipend of AUS\$3,333 (HK\$21,831) up to 12 months.
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil. Award holders are expected to return to their home country at the completion of their programme.

New Zealand: Scholarships for local students
Table 10 – Step Up Scholarships

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available for students under 25 eligible for Student Allowance⁽⁴⁾ intending to enter a full-time undergraduate degree programme.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 240 awards in 2006.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition fees.
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required to stay in New Zealand for a certain period of time after graduation.

Note: (4) Student Allowance is a weekly payment to help a New Zealand citizen, permanent resident or refugee with his/her living costs while studying full-time.

New Zealand: Scholarships for local students (cont'd)
Table 11 – Bonded Merit Scholarships

Programme nature	• Available for academically capable undergraduate students starting their second year of study.
Number of awards	• 1 000 awards in 2007.
Value of the award	• A maximum of NZ\$3,000 (HK\$18,000) ⁽⁵⁾ per year for course fees for up to four years, starting from second year of study.
Bond period	• Required to stay in New Zealand for a certain period of time after graduation.

Note: (5) Based on the average exchange rate of HK\$6.0 per New Zealand dollar in 2007.

New Zealand: Scholarships for local students (cont'd)**Table 12 – Study Awards in Maori and Pasifika Education Research**

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Available for education researchers undertaking a Masters or PhD degree in Maori or Pasifika education research.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two awards: one for Maori education research and one for Pasifika education research.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NZ\$5,000 (HK\$30,000) per annum for both awards.
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information not available.

New Zealand: Scholarships for non-local students**Table 13 – New Zealand International Undergraduate Fees Scholarships**

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Available for students from designated countries to undertake undergraduate study at New Zealand universities.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 28 awards.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full undergraduate tuition fees for six semesters or the completion of the undergraduate degree programme, whichever comes first.
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nil.

New Zealand: Scholarships for non-local students (cont'd)
Table 14 – New Zealand International Doctoral Research Scholarships

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available for non-local students undertaking Doctoral degrees by research in New Zealand universities.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 40 awards.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> full tuition fees for three years of full-time Doctoral study; a monthly living allowance of NZ\$1,500 (HK\$9,000); a travel allowance of NZ\$2,000 (HK\$12,000) across 3-year tenure; an annual health insurance of allowance up to NZ\$600 (HK\$3,600); a book and thesis allowance of NZ\$800 (HK\$4,800) across 3-year tenure; and a one-off establishment allowance of NZ\$500 (HK\$3,000).
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil.

New Zealand: Scholarships for non-local students (cont'd)
Table 15 – New Zealand Development Scholarships

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available for students from selected developing countries to undertake undergraduate or postgraduate development-related studies in New Zealand.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not available.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> tuition fees; contribution to visa application expenses; return air travel; establishment allowance; living allowance; medical insurance; and provision to meet course-related expenses (e.g. textbook/thesis allowance and tutorial assistance).
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil. Students are required to return to their home country for at least two years within 14 days of the completion date of their scholarship or study.

New Zealand: Scholarships for non-local students (cont'd)
Table 16 – New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarships

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available for students from some developing Commonwealth countries to undertake full-time postgraduate study or research at New Zealand universities.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around 10 awards each year.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> tuition fees; contribution to visa application expenses; return air travel; establishment allowance; living allowance; medical insurance; and provision to meet course-related expenses (e.g. textbook/thesis allowance and tutorial assistance).
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil. Students are required to return to their home country for at least two years within 14 days of the completion date of their scholarship or study.

Singapore: Scholarships for local students
Table 17 – Singapore Government Scholarships (Foreign Service)

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available for students to undertake degree programmes at overseas universities.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) tuition fees and other approved charges; (b) maintenance and other allowances e.g. book, clothing, computer; (c) return air travel; and (d) sponsorship of approved exchange programmes and Masters Degree.
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five to six years.

Singapore: Scholarships for local students (cont'd)
Table 18 – Overseas Merit Scholarships (Foreign Service)

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available for students to undertake degree programmes at overseas universities.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not available.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> tuition fees and other approved charges; maintenance and other allowances e.g. book, clothing and computer; return air travel; and sponsorship of approved exchange programmes and Masters Degree.
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five to six years.

Singapore: Scholarships for non-local students**Table 19 – ASEAN Undergraduate Scholarships**

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Available for citizens or permanent residents from ASEAN countries (excluding Singapore) for pursuing full-time undergraduate studies in Singapore.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information not available.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuition fees and an annual living allowance of S\$4,300 (HK\$22,274)⁽⁶⁾.
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nil.

Note: (6) Based on the average exchange rate of HK\$5.18 per Singaporean dollar in 2007.

Singapore: Scholarships for non-local students (cont'd)
Table 20 – Singapore Government Undergraduate Scholarship for Hong Kong Students

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available for academically promising Hong Kong students to pursue undergraduate study in Singapore.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not available.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> tuition fees; return air tickets at the beginning and end of the scholarship term; one-off settling-in allowance of S\$200 (HK\$1,036); an annual living allowance of S\$6,000 (HK\$31,080); and accommodation allowance.
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six years.

Singapore: Scholarships for non-local students (cont'd)
Table 21 – Singapore Scholarship Programme

Programme nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available for students who are citizens of ASEAN member countries (except Singapore) to pursue full-time undergraduate study in Singapore.
Number of awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not available.
Value of the award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> tuition fees; an annual living allowance of S\$4,300 (HK\$22,274); accommodation allowance; and one return air ticket.
Bond period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil. Award holders are expected to return home upon graduation.

Prepared by Michael YU
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Tel: 2869 9695

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New Zealand

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