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Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
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Subcommittee on Poverty
Follow-up to meeting on 17 June 2013

Thank you for your letter by fax dated 18 June 2013, in relation to the following-up of suggestions raised in the Sub-committee on Poverty meeting on 17 June 2013. Our response to Members' suggestions is set out below:

- (a) Under the existing arrangement, students who have completed their secondary education would not receive assistance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme. Post-secondary students who are from CSSA families may apply for assistance from the Student Financial Assistance Agency (SFAA). This arrangement is in line with the objective of CSSA as a safety net of the last resort.

The SFAA currently provides financial assistance to eligible students pursuing full-time publicly-funded, and full-time locally-accredited, self-financing sub-degree or degree programmes under the "Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes" (TSFS) and "Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students" (FASP) respectively. Post-secondary students who have passed the income and asset tests are provided with grants to cover tuition fees and academic expenses, and low-interest loans to meet living expenses.

The SFAA will give priority to the applications submitted by students from CSSA families so as to enable them to receive financial assistance as early as possible to tide over financial hardship.

In general, post-secondary students from CSSA families would be granted full level of assistance. In the 2011/12 academic year, over 11 000 post-secondary students from CSSA families, including those pursuing publicly-funded and self-financing programmes, were granted full level of assistance, and of them, 4 600 accepted the low-interest loans. The SFAA has put in place a mechanism to assist students with difficulties in nominating a qualified indemnifier, so that they can receive loans to meet living expenses as soon as possible. On the other hand, the Social Welfare Department will not count the grants and loans obtained from SFAA towards the total income of the students' families for the purpose of CSSA.

We are aware of the view that the Government should strengthen the support for post-secondary students from CSSA families, especially in classifying them as family members for the provision of rent allowance. The Social Security and Retirement Protection Task Force of the Commission on Poverty (CoP) has discussed this issue recently, with some members expressing similar concerns. Relevant government departments will study these opinions carefully.

- (b) The CoP is now setting the "Poverty Line". "Poverty Line" is a tool for analysis which will enable us to identify the various groups of people in need, formulate poverty alleviation initiatives targeted at the specific characteristics and needs of the identified groups, and analyse and monitor the effectiveness of the initiatives through comparison of changes in the population below the "Poverty Line" before and after the implementation of the various poverty alleviation initiatives. "Poverty Line" is not a "Poverty Alleviation Line", and it is not meant to be linked directly to various government welfare measures or the eligibility criteria of various means-tested assistance schemes.

The Government's policy on student finance is to ensure that no student will be denied access to education due to lack of means. Currently, the SFAA provides assistance to needy students through various means-tested financial assistance schemes. These schemes adopt a standard income assessment mechanism, which takes into account the gross annual income of the family and the number of family members in determining the eligibility and level of assistance for the applicants. In the 2011/12 academic year, the Government reviewed the means test mechanism, and relaxed the income ceiling for full level of assistance. Adjustment was also made to the tiers of assistance for students pursuing publicly-funded and self-financing post-secondary programmes to enable eligible students to receive a higher level of assistance. With the implementation of the improvement measures, the percentage of students (from pre-primary to post-secondary levels) receiving full level of assistance increased significantly from about 30% in previous academic years to about 59% of all student-beneficiaries in the 2011/12 academic year. Generally speaking, students from families with monthly income at around the monthly median household income are eligible for financial assistance while those from families with monthly income at about 50% to 60% of the monthly median household income are eligible for full level of assistance.

The SFAA will continue to keep in view the operation of the means test mechanism, and

conduct reviews when necessary, so as to ensure that no students will be denied access to education due to lack of means.

- (c) The Education Bureau (EDB) attaches great importance to whole-person development, and actively encourages schools to promote life-wide learning (LWL). To assist students of low-income families in joining LWL activities held in schools or outside schools, including various extra-curricular activities, and to provide after-school care to needy students, including tutorial services, EDB has disbursed funding to both schools and non-government organisations (NGO) through a number of funding schemes, so that schools and NGOs can implement LWL activities and provide after-school care.

Regarding the current arrangements of the Government in this aspect, we have received views and suggestions from different groups and people. The Education, Employment and Training Task Force of the CoP has also voiced their concerns about this issue, and expressed their opinions to EDB in a recent meeting. We are now actively considering how the current arrangement can be further improved, and we plan to consult the Sub-committee on Poverty of the Legislative Council in October this year.

- (d) At present, students pursuing full-time publicly-funded and full-time locally-accredited, self-financing sub-degree programmes can apply for grants and low-interest loans through TSFS and FASP administered by the SFAA. In the 2011/12 academic year, the Government has implemented a series of improvement measures on the means-tested assistance schemes, including relaxation of the income ceiling for full level of assistance, adjustment of the tiers of assistance, and provision of a maximum additional amount of academic expenses grant of \$1,000 for eligible post-secondary students. Eligible students pursuing full-time sub-degree programmes, including publicly-funded and locally-accredited, self-financing sub-degree programmes, are eligible for assistance under the TSFS and FASP.

To alleviate the financial burden of student loan borrowers, the Government has completed a review on the interest rate and repayment period of the student loan schemes in 2012. On means-tested loans, the interest rate has been lowered from 2.5% to 1% per annum while the standard repayment period has been extended from five years to 15 years. Based on the median living expenses loan of \$37,250 borrowed by graduates who commenced repayment in the 2011/12 academic year, after lowering the interest rate and extending the repayment period, the monthly repayment amount of loan borrowers has been significantly reduced by 66% from \$662 to \$223.

On non-means-tested loans, the risk-adjusted-factor rate has been reduced from 1.5% to 0% per annum (subject to review in three years after implementation) while the standard repayment period has also been extended from ten years to 15 years. Taking a student pursuing a four-year post-secondary programme and obtaining a total loan amount of \$100,000 as an example, his monthly repayment amount has been reduced by nearly 40% from \$1,040 to \$650.

The current interest rate which has taken effect since 1 June 2013 is 1.395% per annum.

- (e) We understand there are views that the Government should strengthen the support for students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level. Therefore, we plan to propose to the CoP to seek funding from the Community Care Fund to enhance support for needy students pursuing programmes below the sub-degree level in two aspects, namely, setting up a tuition fee reimbursement mechanism for eligible students and disbursing flat rate grants to eligible students to meet their academic expenses. Furthermore, we suggest enhancing the flat rate grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme for needy primary and secondary school students.

The Education, Employment and Training Task Force and Community Care Fund Task Force under the CoP supported and endorsed the above proposed measures, and suggested some refinements to the implementation details. Having regard to the suggestions raised by the two task forces, EDB will submit a proposal to the CoP for consideration in the meeting held in late July. If the proposals are endorsed, they will be implemented in the 2013/14 academic year. Please refer to the relevant documents in Annex 1 and Annex 2 for the preliminary details of the two proposed measures mentioned above.



(David CK LEUNG)
for Secretary for Education

Enhancing the Flat Rate Grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme

Background

Flat Rate Grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme

1. The School Textbook Assistance Scheme (STAS) administered by the Student Financial Assistance Agency (SFAA) provides assistance to needy Primary 1 to Secondary 6 students attending primary and secondary schools. Apart from a textbook grant for students to purchase essential textbooks¹, the Scheme also provides a flat rate grant for students to cover miscellaneous school-related expenses, including stationery and miscellaneous expenses, etc. In the 2012/13 school year, each full-grant student will receive a flat rate grant of \$1,054 whilst each half-grant student will receive a flat rate grant of \$527². The flat rate grant is revised annually according to the movement of the Composite Consumer Price Index (CCPI). The grant rate for the 2013/14 school year will be determined in around September 2013.

School-related Expenses for Primary and Secondary Students

2. Every year, primary and secondary students have to pay out for a number of miscellaneous school-related expenses, on top of the textbook expenses, including school uniforms, stationery, club fees, Tong Fai and air-conditioning charges, etc. Besides, in response to the needs of students and to facilitate the participation of students in co-curricular/extra-curricular activities, some schools have made available more comfortable casual wears and windstoppers for parents to purchase in addition to the regular school uniforms and sportswears. To parents, these are extra expenses and impose certain financial burden on low income families. There are views from the community that the flat rate grant under the STAS is insufficient to cover various miscellaneous expenses and hence there is the need to enhance the support for these students.

¹ The textbook grant rates for students at various levels of studies are determined on the basis of the results of the Textbook Expenditure Survey conducted by the Consumer Council every year before the start of the school term. The textbook grant rate in the 2012/13 school year ranges from \$926 to \$2,686, depending on the study level of the student.

² The Government increased the flat rate grant under the STAS in the 2011/12 school year from \$408 in the 2010/11 school year to \$1,000 in the 2011/12 school year for each full-grant student, and from \$204 to \$500 for each half-grant student. In subsequent school years, the Government continues to adjust the flat rate grant with reference to the movement of the CCPI.

Proposals

Target Beneficiaries in Primary and Secondary Schools and the Subsidy Amount

3. We propose that funding be allocated from the Community Care Fund (CCF) for enhancing the support for eligible primary and secondary students under the STAS in the 2013/14 school year. Under the proposal, in addition to the regular textbook assistance for each eligible primary and secondary student under the STAS in the school year, each eligible full-grant primary and secondary student will receive an additional subsidy of \$1,000 while each half-grant student will receive an additional subsidy of \$500³. The mechanism for disbursing the additional subsidy, the target beneficiaries and the means test mechanism are in line with those of the existing STAS.

4. Subject to the endorsement of the proposal by the Commission on Poverty, the subsidies for full-grant students under the STAS in the 2013/14 school year will be as follows:

Level of Study (Full-time)	Textbook grant	Flat rate grant	Additional flat rate grant to be sought from the CCF	Total amount of grant
Primary 1 to Primary 6	\$2,220	\$1,054	\$1,000	\$4,274
Secondary 1 to Secondary 3	\$2,390	\$1,054	\$1,000	\$4,444
Secondary 4	\$2,686	\$1,054	\$1,000	\$4,740
Secondary 5	\$2,342	\$1,054	\$1,000	\$4,396
Secondary 6	\$926	\$1,054	\$1,000	\$2,980

5. It should be noted that the textbook grant rates and the flat rate grant as shown in the above table correspond to the rates of subsidy in the 2012/13 school year. These have not taken into account any adjustment to be made in the 2013/14 school year. The textbook grant rates are based on the results of the Textbook Expenditure Survey conducted by the Consumer Council every year before the start of the school term

³ Computing on the basis of the flat rate grant under the STAS for the 2012/13 school year, each full-grant student will receive a flat rate grant totalling \$2,054 and half-grant student \$1,027 in the 2013/14 school year. This has not taken into account the adjustment of the flat rate grant (if any) for the 2013/14 school year.

while the flat rate grant is adjusted according to the movement of the CCPI.

Students on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and the Subsidy Amount

6. Under the CSSA Scheme, a student at or below the senior secondary level (including full-time Yi Jin Diploma (YJD) programme and full-time programmes at Secondary 6 level or below offered by the Vocational Training Council (VTC)) may receive a flat rate grant for selected items of school-related expenses⁴ from the Social Welfare Department (SWD) according to the study level of the student. Same as other students, students on CSSA have to meet various miscellaneous expenses in the course of study. To support these students, SWD proposes that funding be sought from the CCF for disbursing an additional subsidy (i.e. \$1,000) to these students, equivalent to the amount a full-grant student under STAS may receive, in the 2013/14 school year. SWD will disburse the subsidy to these students in accordance with the existing mechanism.

Implementation

7. The Government is actively reviewing the assistance for needy students. We propose that the programme be implemented in the 2013/14 school year, tentatively for one year.

Estimated Provision

8. According to the above proposal, we estimate that about 268 000 primary and secondary students eligible for STAS will benefit from this programme in the 2013/14 school year and the funding required is \$212 million.

9. As for students on CSSA, SWD estimates that about 80 000 students will benefit

⁴ In the 2013/14 school year, the amounts of the flat rate grant for selected items of school-related expenses for primary and secondary students on CSSA are as follows:

<u>Level of Study</u>	<u>Full grant per student per school year</u>
Primary	\$3,450
Junior Secondary	\$4,905
Senior Secondary (including full-time programmes at Secondary 6 or below level offered by VTC and full-time YJD programme)	\$4,235

from this programme and the funding required is \$80 million.

Administrative Expenses

10. For this proposal, SFAA anticipates that there may be a need for additional manpower for processing applications during the peak period. The additional administrative expenses to be incurred will be borne by SFAA. SWD will require an additional provision of \$0.36 million to cover the administrative expenses, in the form of payment of overtime allowance, for processing applications from students on CSSA. Together with the administrative expenses, the total funding required for this programme is \$292.36 million. The breakdown is as follows:

Category	Estimated Expenditure	Number of Beneficiaries
Full-time primary and secondary students	\$212 million	268 000
Students on CSSA	\$80 million	80 000
Administrative expenses of SWD	\$0.36 million	
Total	\$292.36 million	348 000

Education Bureau

July 2013

Enhancing the Financial Assistance for Needy Students

Pursuing Programmes below Sub-degree Level

Background

1. Currently, the financial assistance schemes provided by the Student Financial Assistance Agency (SFAA) target mainly primary and secondary students, as well as students pursuing programmes at or above sub-degree level. For primary and secondary students, they are currently provided with subsidies under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme (STAS), Student Travel Subsidy Scheme and Subsidy Scheme for Internet Access Charges. For students pursuing programmes at sub-degree level or above, they are provided with grants to cover tuition fees and academic expenses, as well as low-interest loans to meet living expenses.
2. In recent years, there is a steady increase in the number of students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level, such as the Yi Jin Diploma (YJD) programme¹, the Foundation Diploma programme of the Vocational Training Council (VTC) and programmes offered by its Chinese Cuisine Training Institute. With the exception of students pursuing YJD programme who are provided with tuition fee reimbursement² by the SFAA, these students are only eligible for Student Travel Subsidy Scheme, Subsidy Scheme for Internet Access Charges and the Non-means-tested Loans administered by the SFAA. The Government is now actively reviewing the financial assistance provided to needy students pursuing these programmes. In the meantime, we consider that the Community

¹ Launched in the 2012/13 academic year, the YJD programme provides an alternative articulation pathway for Secondary 6 school leavers as well as learners aged 21 or above to obtain formal qualifications for the purposes of employment and further studies. The YJD programme is offered by member institutions of the Federation of Self-financing Tertiary Education which include the School of Business and Information Systems of the Vocational Training Council, School of Continuing Education of the Hong Kong Baptist University, Lingnan Institute of Further Education, Caritas Community and Higher Education Service, Hong Kong Institute of Technology, Hong Kong College of Technology and Li Ka Shing Institute of Professional and Continuing Education of the Open University of Hong Kong.

² Eligible students meeting the prescribed criteria will receive a non-means-tested reimbursement of 30% of the tuition fees paid while students assessed to be eligible for half or full level of assistance under the means test will receive half or full reimbursement of the tuition fees paid.

Care Fund (CCF) may provide timely support to them, and hence the following two proposals are submitted for Members' consideration.

Proposal on Tuition Fee Reimbursement Mechanism

3. Since programmes below sub-degree level are generally pitched at levels from Secondary 3 to Secondary 6, we consider it more appropriate to put in place a tuition fee reimbursement mechanism for students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level, instead of grant/loan schemes applicable to post-secondary students. As a matter of fact, the SFAA has already set up a tuition fee reimbursement mechanism for students pursuing YJD programme which is below sub-degree level. The VTC has also launched a similar tuition fee reimbursement scheme on a smaller scale with its limited resources for this purpose. We propose adopting this model to strengthen the support to students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level.
4. The Education Bureau (EDB) proposes that funding approval be sought from the CCF for introducing a Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme for eligible students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level in the 2013/14 academic year. Students assessed to be eligible for full or half level of assistance under the SFAA's means-test mechanism will receive full or half reimbursement of the tuition fees paid.

Proposal to Provide a Flat Rate Grant for Academic Expenses

5. The STAS under the SFAA provides assistance to needy Primary 1 to Secondary 6 students. Through the STAS, a textbook grant is provided for students to purchase essential textbooks³, as well as a flat rate grant to cover miscellaneous school-related expenses, including stationery costs and miscellaneous fees. In the 2012/13 academic year, students eligible for a full-grant are entitled to a flat rate grant of \$1,054, while those eligible for a half-grant a flat rate grant of \$527⁴. The amount of the flat rate grant is

³ The textbook grants for students at various levels of study are determined based on the results of the Textbook Expenditure Survey conducted by the Consumer Council every year before the start of the school term. The textbook grant in the 2012/13 academic year ranges from \$926 to \$2,686 depending on level of study of the students.

⁴ The Government increased the flat rate grant under the STAS in the 2011/12 academic year. The flat rate grant was increased from \$408 in the 2010/11 academic year to \$1,000 in the 2011/12

adjusted annually according to the movement of the Composite Consumer Price Index (CCPI), and the rate of grant for the 2013/14 academic year will be determined around September 2013.

6. Unlike primary and secondary students, students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level are not normally given specified booklist or textbook requirements to determine for them the rate of textbook grant under the STAS. That said, they still have to bear certain academic expenses. Taking VTC Youth College as an example, apart from purchasing reference books, students have to pay student union fees, graduation-related fees and application fees for certificates, etc. Students of certain disciplines are required to purchase workshop uniforms and safety shoes as well as relevant tools for practical training. Students pursuing YJD programme also have to bear similar expenses, such as reference books and stationery costs, photocopy charges and application fees for certificates etc. At present, these expenses are neither covered by the Government's subsidy nor reimbursement schemes.

7. To relieve the financial burden of needy students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level in meeting academic expenses, the EDB proposes that funding approval be sought from the CCF for providing a flat rate grant to these students in the 2013/14 academic year, the level of which being comparable to the enhanced flat-rate grant for primary and secondary students. Under the proposal, in addition to the flat rate grant entitlement under the STAS for the academic year concerned, each eligible full-grant student may be entitled to an additional subsidy of \$1,000 (i.e. \$2,054) while half-grant students \$500 (i.e. \$1,027)⁵.

Target Beneficiaries

8. Proposed target beneficiaries must meet all of the following criteria:
 - A. students who are pursuing full-time programmes below sub-degree level;

academic year for each full-grant student and from \$204 to \$500 for each half-grant student. In subsequent academic years, the Government would continue to adjust the flat rate grant with reference to the movement of the CCPI.

⁵ Subject to possible adjustments following the determination of the amount of grant for the 2013/14 academic year.

- B. students who are pursuing subvented programmes; as for students pursuing self-financing programmes, the following conditions must be satisfied:
- i) the programmes are accredited by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications;
 - ii) the tuition fee levels are approved by the EDB; and
 - iii) the programmes are accepted by the Civil Service Bureau as meeting the entry qualification of civil service grades requiring Level 2 in five subjects, including Chinese Language and English Language, in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination;
- C) students who are assessed to be eligible for full or half grant under the means-test mechanism of the SFAA; and
- D) students whose families are not recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) since “school fees and school-related expenses”⁶ of the students concerned are already covered by the “special grants” under the CSSA Scheme.

9. According to the information of EDB, students meeting the above criteria are those pursuing YJD programme and subvented programmes below sub-degree level offered by the VTC. These include students pursuing the Diploma in Vocational Education programme, the subvented Foundation Diploma (Level 3) programme, as well as programmes offered by the Hospitality Industry Training and Development Centre, the Chinese Cuisine Training Institute and the Maritime Services Training Institute. Students pursuing the self-financed Foundation Diploma (Level 3) programme offered by the VTC are also eligible. Please refer to **Annex** for relevant programmes offered by the VTC.

Mode and Level of Financial Assistance

⁶ The SWD has proposed to seek funding approval from the CCF for providing additional flat rate grant to students on CSSA in the 2013/14 academic year, the level of which being comparable to the enhanced flat rate grant for full-grant primary and secondary students (i.e. \$1,000).

10. Since students pursuing YJD programme are already entitled to tuition fee reimbursement under the existing student financial assistance mechanism, it is not necessary for the CCF to put in place such a mechanism for this purpose. As for students pursuing full-time subvented programmes below sub-degree level offered by the VTC, they are not required to pay tuition fees under the Government's policy of 12-year free education. However, for students who fail to complete the programmes within the 12-year timeframe (for example due to the need to retake certain professional modules or those who have completed the 12-year free education in mainstream schools), they will be required to pay tuition fees for the uncompleted part of the programmes. Students pursuing self-financed VTC programmes are also required to pay tuition fees. Tuition fees for these programmes range from \$3,500 to \$23,300 in the 2013/14 academic year.
11. In the 2013/14 academic year, the EDB estimates that number of beneficiaries under the proposed Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme is about 3 600, who are all full-time students pursuing VTC programmes below sub-degree level, out of which about 2 100 and 1 500 are expected to be eligible for full and half grant respectively. The funding required for implementing the tuition fee reimbursement scheme in the 2013/14 academic year is estimated to be about \$52.59 million. The number of beneficiaries under the proposed flat rate grant for academic expenses is estimated to be about 7 880, of which 2 400 are full-time students pursuing YJD programme while 5 480 full time students pursuing VTC programmes below sub-degree level. The funding required for this proposal is estimated to be \$12.92 million. Total funding required for these two proposals is \$65.51 million.
12. Since the SFAA is currently responsible for reimbursement of tuition fees for students pursuing YJD programme, the EDB proposes that the SFAA should be tasked with the disbursement of the new flat rate grant for academic expenses for eligible YJD students. Regarding students pursuing VTC programmes, the EDB proposes that the VTC should be responsible for processing applications and disbursing tuition fees as well as the flat rate grant for academic expenses by drawing reference from the means-test mechanism of the SFAA. At present, the VTC is providing partial fee remission for needy students with its limited resources, in a way modelled on the SFAA's means-test mechanism. However, due to limited resources, the VTC can only provide financial assistance mainly for partial subsidy purpose rather than full fee remission for eligible students. Students will not be granted full remission, even though they are assessed to be

eligible for full grant. The financial assistance provided by the VTC is about \$33 million per annum. The EDB proposes that the CCF to fund the full reimbursement of tuition fees to eligible students so that the current expenditure committed by the VTC on reimbursement of tuition fees can be deployed for other meaningful purposes, such as providing additional tutorial classes, enriching the programmes and providing more learning guidance; enhancing teaching and learning support to students; and offering more development programmes to students for further whole-person development, etc. In other words, the fee remission for eligible students will be fully subsidised by the CCF.

Administrative Expenses

13. Regarding the above proposals, the VTC may require extra manpower for processing applications during the peak period. The additional administrative expenses to be incurred will be borne by the VTC.

Implementation Timetable

14. The Government is now actively reviewing the support for needy students. We propose to implement the programme in the 2013/14 academic year, tentatively for one year.

Education Bureau

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Annex

List of VTC Full Time Programmes Below Sub-degree Level

Programme	Planned Places in 2013/14 Academic Year	Funding Mode*	Entry Level	Programme Title	Study Duration	Tuition Fee in 2013/14 Academic Year (HK Dollar)
Foundation Diploma (Level 3)	2,490	SV	Secondary 6	Foundation Diploma (Level 3) – Applied Science	1 year	\$19,600
				Foundation Diploma (Level 3) – Community Services	1 year	
				Foundation Diploma (Level 3) – Design	1 year	
				Foundation Diploma (Level 3) – Engineering	1 year	
				Foundation Diploma (Level 3) – Hospitality	1 year	
Foundation Diploma (Level 3)	1,800	SF	Secondary 6	Foundation Diploma (Level 3) – Business	1 year	\$23,300
				Foundation Diploma (Level 3) – Computing	1 year	
Diploma in Vocational Education (Secondary 6)	2,000	SV	Secondary 6	Diploma in Vocational Education (Business)	1 year	\$19,600
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Hairdressing)	1 year	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Computer-aided Product Engineering)	1 year	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Mechanical Engineering)	1 year	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Print Media)	1 year	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Digital Electronics Technology)	1 year	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Building Services Engineering)	1 year	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Fashion Textile Design and Merchandising)	1 year	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Automotive Technology)	1 year	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Beauty Care)	1 year	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Jewellery Arts and Design)	1 year	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Information Technology)	1 year	

				Diploma in Vocational Education (Aircraft Maintenance)	1 year	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Electrical Engineering)	1 year	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Construction)	1 year	
Diploma in Vocational Education (Secondary 3)	4,110	SV	Secondary 3	Diploma in Vocational Education (Business)	3 years	For students who have fully utilised the free credits, the tuition fee for each credit is \$110 (Note 1)
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Hairdressing)	3 years	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Computer-aided Product Engineering)	3 years	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Mechanical Engineering)	3 years	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Print Media)	3 years	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Digital Electronics Technology)	3 years	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Building Services Engineering)	3 years	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Fashion Textile Design and Merchandising)	3 years	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Automotive Technology)	3 years	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Beauty Care)	3 years	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Jewellery Arts and Design)	3 years	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Information Technology)	3 years	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Aircraft Maintenance)	3 years	
				Diploma in Vocational Education (Electrical Engineering)	3 years	
Diploma in Vocational Education (Construction)	3 years					
Hospitality Industry Training and Development Centre (HITDC) / Chinese	1,400	SV	Secondary 6	Diploma in European Cuisine	2 years	
				Diploma in Bakery, Pastry and Confectionery	2 years	\$16,000
				Diploma in Western Raw Food Processing	2 years	\$10,500
				Diploma in Elementary Chinese Cuisine	2 years	
				Diploma in Food and Beverage Operations	1 year	\$16,000
				Diploma in Hotel Operations	1 year	
				Advanced Certificate in Hotel Spa Body Therapies	23 weeks	\$10,500

Cuisine Training Institute (CCTI) programmes				Advanced Certificate in Hotel Spa Beauty Therapies	23 weeks	\$7,000
				Advanced Certificate in Hotel Spa Concierge	16 weeks	
				Advanced Certificate in Wine and Bartending Service	16 weeks	
				Advanced Certificate in Food and Beverage Operations	16 weeks	
				Advanced Certificate in Hotel Event Operations	16 weeks	
				Advanced Certificate in European Pastry	16 weeks	
				Advanced Certificate in Front Office Operations	16 weeks	
				Advanced Certificate in Housekeeping Operations	16 weeks	
				Advanced Certificate in Air Ticketing and Tour Escorting Service	16 weeks	
				Advanced Certificate in Tour Guide and Service Culture	16 weeks	
				Advanced Certificate in Travel Consultancy Service	16 weeks	
				Advanced Certificate in Guangdong Cuisine	16 weeks	
				Advanced Certificate in Cruise Cuisine	8 weeks	\$3,500
				Advanced Certificate in Bakery	8 weeks	
Advanced Certificate in Japanese Cuisine	8 weeks					
Advanced Certificate in Asian Cuisine	8 weeks					
Advanced Certificate in Guangdong Barbecue Preparation	8 weeks					
Hospitality Industry Training and Development Centre (HITDC) / Chinese Cuisine Training Institute (CCTI) programmes	880	SV	Secondary 3	Elementary Diploma in Chinese Cuisine	3 years	\$3,500 - \$16,000 (Note 2)
				Certificate in Hotel Operations	2 years	
				Certificate in Food and Beverage Service	16 weeks	
				Certificate in Chinese Restaurant Operations for Hotels	16 weeks	
				Certificate in Housekeeping Service	12 weeks	
				Certificate in Sushi Preparation	8 weeks	
				Certificate in Teppanyaki Cooking	8 weeks	
Maritime Services Training	60	SV	Secondary 3	Junior General Purposes Rating	23 weeks	Free under the Government's 12-year free

Institute						education policy
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Funding mode: SV (subvented); SF (self-financing)

Note 1: Generally speaking, under the Government's 12-year free education policy, the free credits provided to Secondary 3 leavers are sufficient to cover the tuition fees for the entire programme. As the Secondary 4 and Secondary 5 leavers have already enjoyed part of the free education, their entitlement of free credits will be reduced by proportion accordingly. As such, they may be required to pay the tuition fees for the credits of the remaining programme.

Note 2: Generally speaking, under the Government's 12-year free education policy, Secondary 3 leavers are not required to pay tuition fees. As for the Secondary 4 and Secondary 5 leavers, they may have to pay the tuition fees according to the number of years of free education they enjoyed.