



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

本局檔號 Our Ref. : EDB(HE)CR 4/2041/04
來函檔號 Your Ref. :

電話 Telephone : 3509 8501
傳真 Fax Line : 2804 6499

16 January 2013

Clerk to Panel on Education
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Polly YEUNG)

Dear Miss YEUNG,

**Panel on Education
Meeting on 11 December 2012
Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong Students to
Mainland Higher Education Institutions**

Regarding Member's proposal raised at the captioned meeting that the HKSAR Government should consider the feasibility of publishing a list of recognised qualifications awarded by Mainland higher education institutions, our reply is set out below.

In relation to further study, the HKSAR Government and the Ministry of Education signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Mainland and Hong Kong on Mutual Recognition of Academic Degrees in Higher Education (MoU) in July 2004. The MoU facilitates the mutual recognition of academic qualifications for the purpose of further study in recognised Mainland and Hong Kong higher education institutions with powers to award degrees at undergraduate or above levels by simplifying the procedures involved. All the 70 Mainland higher education institutions joining the Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong Students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions in 2013 are included in the list of recognised higher education institutions in both places under the MoU. As such, degrees at undergraduate or above levels awarded by these institutions are recognised by Hong

Kong higher education institutions for the purpose of further study, while degrees at undergraduate or above levels awarded by Hong Kong higher education institutions covered by the MoU are recognised by Mainland higher education institutions for the same purpose.

In terms of employment, recognition of a particular qualification is essentially a matter for the user to decide. In general, it is up to individual employers (both public and private organisations) or professional bodies to decide whether a particular qualification obtained by an applicant should be regarded as meeting the requirements for filling the relevant job position or membership registration. As regards academic qualifications awarded by bodies outside Hong Kong (including those in the Mainland and overseas), the applicants holding these qualifications would normally seek the assessment of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ). This notwithstanding, decisions as to whether or not to accept a particular qualification for employment or registration purposes still rest with the employer or body concerned.

As for civil service appointments, under the existing policy of the Civil Service Bureau (CSB), qualification requirements for civil service posts are normally set with reference to qualifications obtainable under the local education system or from local institutions. Candidates holding non-local qualifications, including those awarded by Mainland education institutions, may also apply for civil service posts. As the programmes offered by local and non-local institutions are different in content, these candidates' overall qualifications will be subject to assessment to decide whether they meet the qualification requirements of the posts being applied for. If their qualifications are assessed as comparable in standard to the entry qualification requirements, they will be considered for appointment. Under the existing mechanism, CSB will seek the advice of HKCAAVQ or other relevant education institutions where necessary. The number of cases in which CSB had sought the HKCAAVQ's assessment of non-local qualifications for the purpose of civil service appointments over the past five years is as follows –

Year	Number of cases
2008	46
2009	57
2010	25
2011	34
2012 (as at 28 December)	23

(Remarks:

1. The above figures do not include the number of cases in which HKCAAVQ's assessment of non-local qualifications were initiated by individual departments or grades.
2. Besides, since a candidate can hold several qualifications granted by institutions in different regions, and there is no established and clear categorisation of the disciplines pertaining to these qualifications, we are unable to provide a breakdown by region of the awarding institutions and by discipline.)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wallace Lau', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

(Wallace Lau)
for Secretary for Education