



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 6/2041/07

電話 Telephone : (852) 3509 8501

來函檔號 Your Ref. :

傳真 Fax Line : (852) 2804 6499

21 May 2014

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

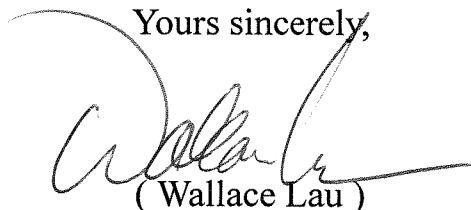
Dear Miss Yeung,

**Legislative Council
Panel on Education**

Follow-up to Meeting on 10 February 2014

At the meeting of the Panel on Education on 10 February 2014, the Administration was requested to provide supplementary information in a number of specified areas as far as practicable. The requested information is now set out at Annex for Members' reference.

Yours sincerely,



(Wallace Lau)

for Secretary for Education

cc

Secretary-General, University Grants Committee (Attn: Ms Eva Yam)
(Attn: Ms Sharon Ho)

**Legislative Council
Panel on Education**

**Supplementary information requested at
the meeting on 10 February 2014**

1. Information on the intake of non-local students to postgraduate programmes by universities in neighbouring countries

In response to the request of the Panel on Education, we have conducted some brief desktop research on the situations in Japan, Singapore and South Korea.

Tuition fees and financial assistance for non-local postgraduate students

Based on available information, local and non-local postgraduate students pay the same tuition fees in both Japan and South Korea. In the case of Japan, the tuition fees for pursuing PhD programmes in national and public universities are fixed by the Government, which stand at around JPY530,000 (~HKD39,600) per annum¹. As regards South Korea, tuition fees vary by subject, which roughly range from KRW2,700,000 to KRW4,250,000 (~HKD19,800 to HKD31,200) per semester for postgraduate study in national universities².

In Singapore, non-local students pay higher tuition fees than those who are citizens and permanent residents. That said, they also have the option to have their tuition fees reduced if they sign a Service Obligation (SO) with Singapore's Ministry of Education (MOE) to work in Singapore-based companies for 3 years after graduation. Almost all international students in Singapore are in receipt of the MOE's subsidy in this respect³. Actual tuition fees vary by student type, institution and subject. Taking the Singapore Management University as an example, the prevailing annual tuition fees for its PhD programmes are SGD10,000 (~HKD61,600) for citizens, 13,200 (~HKD81,300) for permanent residents, and 18,400 (~HKD113,300) (with SO) and 30,700 (~HKD189,100) (without SO) for

¹ <http://www.findaphd.com/study-abroad/asia/phd-study-in-japan.aspx>

² <http://www.findaphd.com/study-abroad/asia/phd-study-in-korea.aspx>

³ <http://www.moe.gov.sg/media/parliamentary-replies/2011/11/number-of-international-students-prs.php>

non-local students⁴.

It is noteworthy that in all three surveyed countries, their universities also offer various scholarships (usually in the form of monthly stipends) and full/partial fee waivers to qualified non-local PhD students to support their studies. Many universities also offer part-time appointments as tutors or researchers.

Enrolment of non-local students in postgraduate programmes

We are unable to obtain any comprehensive country-wide information about the overall ratio of non-local students in postgraduate programmes in the three countries surveyed. That said, some individual universities have published relevant information about the overall ratio of international students in their postgraduate programmes (including taught and research programmes). Our findings are summarised in the following table. The equivalent ratio in Hong Kong is also provided for like-with-like comparison:

Institution / City	Ratio of non-local students in postgraduate programmes
Seoul National University	8.5% ⁵
Singapore Management University	35% ⁶
University of Tokyo	19.0% ⁷
Hong Kong	35.0% ⁸

Individual schools such as Duke-National University of Singapore Graduate Medical School (Duke-NUS) explicitly welcome applications from qualified applicants of all nationalities and state that there is no quota on the number of international students they accept⁹.

It is noteworthy that many postgraduate programmes offered in Japanese

⁴ <http://pgr.smu.edu.sg/phdsmu/financial-matters/programme-fees>

⁵ www.useoul.edu/upload/about/guidebook_2013_en.pdf

⁶ <http://www.smu.edu.sg/smu/about/university-information/quick-facts>

⁷ <http://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/about/data/enrollment.html>

⁸ This refers to the overall ratio of non-local students (headcount) enrolled in all publicly-funded taught postgraduate (TPg) and RPg programmes as well as locally-accredited self-financing TPg programmes and full-time RPg programmes in Hong Kong in the 2012/13 academic year.

⁹ <http://dukemed.duke.edu/modules/faq/index.php?id=2>

and South Korean universities adopt the respective mother languages rather than English as the medium of instruction, hence this might create language barriers to non-local students. In fact, many such programmes require applicants to attain a prescribed level of proficiency in Japanese/Korean before admission can be considered. As regards Singapore, similar to Hong Kong, most courses are conducted in English and hence they are able to attract a wider base of applicants, thus resulting in a higher ratio of non-local postgraduate students. This is consistent with the situation observed in other English-speaking countries with advanced higher education institutions such as the United Kingdom and the United States, where some 40% to 60% of their postgraduate students are of foreign origin. For example, international students in the postgraduate programmes of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology¹⁰ and the University of Oxford¹¹ account for 40.5% and 62% respectively.

2. Information on local students pursuing postgraduate studies abroad and locally and the percentage of local students taking University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded RPg programmes in the past few years

In 2012, out of the 13 941 local graduates who responded to graduate surveys, 1 340 or 9.6% chose to pursue further studies immediately upon graduation. Among them, over half pursued taught postgraduate programmes in UGC-funded institutions. Besides, 258 graduates were studying UGC-funded RPg programmes in Hong Kong whereas 175 graduates pursued postgraduate studies outside Hong Kong.

It is noteworthy that many people also choose to return to postgraduate studies some time after graduation from first-degree programmes. The numbers of local students admitted to UGC-funded RPg programmes in the 2011/12 and 2012/13 academic years are 541 and 531 respectively.

¹⁰ <http://web.mit.edu/facts/enrollment.html>

¹¹ http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/facts_and_figures/index.html

Details for the last two years where data are available are as follows:

	2011			2012		
	No.	Estimated % to number of responding local graduates [^]	Estimated % to number of responding local graduates who pursue studies [^]	No.	Estimated % to number of responding local graduates [^]	Estimated % to number of responding local graduates who pursue studies [^]
Total number of local graduates of UGC-funded undergraduate programmes	15 458			15 558		
Number of local graduates responding to survey	14 048	100%		13 941	100%	
<i>Response rate</i>	<i>91%</i>			<i>90%</i>		
Responding local graduates who pursue further studies after graduation	1 303	9.3%	100%	1 340	9.6%	100%
<i>Studying taught postgraduate programmes in Hong Kong</i>	<i>631</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>54.5%</i>	<i>645</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>51.0%</i>
<i>Studying UGC-funded RPg programmes in Hong Kong</i>	<i>225</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>19.4%</i>	<i>258</i>	<i>2.0%</i>	<i>20.4%</i>
<i>Studying postgraduate studies outside Hong Kong</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>1.2%</i>	<i>12.4%</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>1.3%</i>	<i>13.8%</i>
<i>Others</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>1.3%</i>	<i>13.7%</i>	<i>187</i>	<i>1.4%</i>	<i>14.8%</i>
<i>Did not indicate the type of further studies being pursued[^]</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>1.0%</i>	<i>11.1%</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>0.5%</i>	<i>6.0%</i>

	2011/12 academic year	2012/13 academic year
No. of local students admitted to UGC-funded RPg programmes	541	531

Notes

1. The employment information of graduates from full-time UGC-funded programmes in a given year is collected through graduate surveys which is conducted annually by the UGC-funded institutions with a time frame up to December of the same year.
2. Graduates covered in the graduate surveys refer to the students graduated from the year in which the surveys were conducted. However, for first degree graduates of medical programmes, they refer to those students who graduated one year immediately before the survey year.
3. [^] Out of the responding local graduates who indicated that they pursued further studies after graduation, some did not indicate the type of further studies being pursued. Hence, the percentages are estimated after discounting these partial respondents.

3. Cost structure of UGC-funded undergraduate programmes

Based on the information provided by institutions, the average student unit cost for UGC-funded undergraduate programmes is \$201,040 for the 2012/13 academic year, which comprises \$132,772 or 66% as Departmental Cost Centre Expenditure (e.g. expenditure wholly earmarked for teaching or research purposes) and \$68,268 or 34% as Central Expenditure (e.g. expenditure associated with central academic support and services, operation of central libraries and computer centres, central management, etc.). Information for the 2013/14 academic year is not yet available.

4. Tuition fees payable by non-local students of UGC-funded undergraduate programmes

In 2003, the Government accepted the UGC's recommendation that, as a general rule, institutions should charge non-local students of UGC-funded undergraduate programmes at a level which is at least sufficient to recover all additional direct costs, and that the tuition fees should in no circumstances be lower than the fees applicable to local students (i.e. \$42,100 per annum). Institutions were supportive of the initiative, and agreed that the tuition fees for non-local students should be at least \$60,000 per annum. While the tuition fee for local students has been maintained at \$42,100 per annum since the 1997/98 academic year, institutions have been increasing the tuition fees payable by non-local students over the years. In the 2013/14 academic year, the tuition fees payable by non-local students of UGC-funded undergraduate programmes range from \$100,000 to \$135,000 per annum.