

Hong Kong Buddhist Sangha Association

Hong Kong Buddhist College

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Expectations and Suggestions

1. We look to the government to provide strong support to the development of private post-secondary colleges, which have their own visions and missions for the provision of an education targeted at cultivating our young people and offering diversified nature of higher education to the students in Hong Kong. The government's responsibility in this is to ensure a good level playing field and sound policy guidelines for the operation of such institutions in Hong Kong and to provide reasonable support. Naming a post-secondary college as a university is a positive assessment and should not be too stringent.
2. With regard to the quality of private institutions and their programmes, the government should make it clear to the public that the degree programmes validated by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) should be viewed as equivalent in standard to the UGC-funded institutions and programmes once they have met the requirements. In order to highlight this, the government should provide a flat-rate grant to all students of all private post-secondary colleges so that the difference does not lie in whether students will receive any grant but the amount of grant only. Such a step would address the misconceptions held by the students regarding self-financing programmes.
3. The government might also consider re-channelling the resources used to subsidise students studying overseas to supporting the development of local institutions, thus making it more possible for students to study in Hong Kong.
4. Again, in order to provide a level playing field, all the tertiary institutions validated by the HKCAAVQ should be permitted to run the new Yi Jin Diploma Program funded by the government, rather than just a select few.

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