

**For discussion  
on 16 July 2014**

**Legislative Council Panel on Education**

**Electronic application platforms for candidates of  
Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination  
to pursue multiple pathways**

**Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on the various electronic application platforms for candidates of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) to pursue further studies under multiple pathways.

**Overview**

*Multiple pathways*

2. The Government is committed to providing our young people with quality and diversified study pathways with multiple entry and exit points, thus enabling them to unleash their full potential in accordance with their interests, aptitudes and abilities.

3. At present, there are 18 local degree-awarding institutions in Hong Kong, of which nine are publicly-funded and the other nine are self-financing. In the 2014/15 academic year, about 300 undergraduate programmes and 400 sub-degree programmes will be offered by the institutions. Besides, students may choose from a variety of vocational and continuing programmes, Yi Jin Diploma (YJD) programme as well as non-local courses offered in Hong Kong that best suit their aspirations and abilities. Some may also choose to study in the Mainland or abroad.

4. Through the development of the publicly-funded and

self-financing sectors, 38.4% of our young people in the relevant cohort have access to degree-level education in the 2013/14 academic year. Including sub-degree education, nearly 70% of them now have access to post-secondary education.

### *Student admission and electronic application platforms*

5. Under the principles of fairness and merit-based selection, admission to post-secondary institutions is a matter of institutional autonomy. That said, there are a number of electronic platforms which facilitate candidates of the HKDSE Examination to lodge applications to different institutions for different types of post-secondary programmes. These include the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS), the Electronic Advance Application System for Post-secondary Programmes (E-APP), the Web-based Application System for the YJD programme, and the online system for the Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong Students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions (Admission Scheme).

### **Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS)**

6. Established and governed by the eight University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions<sup>1</sup>, JUPAS is a unified platform and the sole channel for students applying on the strength of HKDSE Examination results (and previously Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) results) for admission to the following programmes:

- (a) Publicly-funded full-time first-year first-degree (FYFD) programmes offered by the eight UGC-funded institutions;
- (b) Publicly-funded full-time sub-degree programmes offered by City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Institute of Education and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University; and

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<sup>1</sup> The eight UGC-funded institutions include: City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, Lingnan University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Institute of Education, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and The University of Hong Kong.

- (c) Self-financing full-time FYFD programmes offered by the Open University of Hong Kong.

7. JUPAS provides applicants with a convenient one-stop online channel for accessing a wealth of relevant information about the programmes being offered by the participating institutions (e.g. programme description and structure, entrance requirements, interview arrangements, past admission statistics, etc.), and for submitting one single application for these programmes. In 2014, 205 FYFD and 17 sub-degree programmes are being offered through JUPAS. Meanwhile, each applicant is allowed to choose up to 20 programmes, in order of preference. With the online system and the mobile app programmes, applicants can also login onto their JUPAS account to check and update their personal data, as well as update their programme choices during designated periods before and after release of HKDSE Examination results respectively. In addition, applicants can check their offer results and other general information regarding the JUPAS scheme.

8. Programme choices of individual applicants are made known to institutions in five bands. Apart from this, institutions have no access to individual applicants' exact priority of programme choices until after the announcement of the Main Round offer results. Besides, to ensure fairness, institutions have agreed that no advice to applicants shall be given by institutions during the period between release of HKDSE Examination results and deadline for modification of programme choices. Moreover, participating institutions will not enter into any private deals with any applicants at any time of the entire JUPAS exercise<sup>2</sup>.

9. The applicants' examination results will be transmitted from the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) to the JUPAS Office and the participating institutions on the date the HKDSE Examination results are announced. Based on their own selection criteria (which take into account HKDSE Examination results, interview performance where applicable<sup>3</sup>, extra-curricular achievements, etc.), participating institutions will give a rating to each application for their

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<sup>2</sup> Notwithstanding this, special consideration and conditional offers may be given to applicants by institutions under specified circumstances, such as applicants with a disability, applicants with School Principal's Nominations, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Interviews are required by some programmes to ascertain students' aptitudes.

programmes. The rating will determine the relative position in the merit order list of an applicant in each programme for which he or she has chosen to apply. The JUPAS computer system will then match (known as the “iteration process”) the order of preference each applicant has assigned to his/her programme choice list with the relative position in which he/she has been placed in each merit order list of these programmes. A successful applicant will then be given one single offer of the highest priority on his/her programme choice list for which he/she has the required rating.

10. The numbers of applicants applying under and the number of Main Round offers made through JUPAS from 2012 to 2014 are as follows:

	<b>2012 (HKDSE cohort only)</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Number of applicants</b>	64 442	69 397	63 678
<b>Number of Main Round offers</b>	16 619	18 239	Offers not yet made

### **Electronic Advance Application System for Post-secondary Programme (E-APP)**

11. E-APP ([www.eapp.gov.hk](http://www.eapp.gov.hk)) was first launched by the Education Bureau in February 2012<sup>4</sup>. It is an online application system developed for secondary school candidates sitting for the HKDSE Examination (and previously HKALE) to lodge advance applications for full-time locally-accredited undergraduate and sub-degree programmes not covered by JUPAS before the announcement of the public examinations results. It provides an alternative application channel to supplement those offered by individual institutions<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> In 2012, there were two cohorts of graduates seeking post-secondary admission, including the last cohort of Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) and the first cohort of the HKDSE under the NAS. The number of day school candidates in 2012 had added up to about 103 500.

<sup>5</sup> Prior to the launch of the E-APP, only JUPAS provides a one-stop common platform for processing applications from around 30 000 day school students with HKALE results seeking admission to the

12. E-APP synchronises with the Information Portal for Accredited Post-secondary Programmes (iPASS), providing the most updated and comprehensive information to facilitate programme selection and application. Under E-APP, applicants are only required to complete one online application form for applying multiple programmes not covered by JUPAS from different institutions. Applicants may also have the chance to obtain conditional offers before the announcement of HKDSE Examination results.

13. Similar to JUPAS, the applicants' examination results will be transmitted from HKEAA to the institutions for which they have applied via E-APP on the date the HKDSE Examination results are announced. Based on the results, the institutions could provide firm offers to those applicants with conditional offers and have met the requirements. This could save the time and effort of the students in lieu of the need to queue for admission.

14. As some E-APP applicants may also wish to concurrently apply for the YJD Programme, subject to the applicant's consent, E-APP is equipped with the function to transfer information contained in the applicant's account under E-APP (such as personal particulars and academic results) to the Application System of the YJD Programme.

15. Currently, all 30 self-financing post-secondary institutions with advance application arrangements for sub-degree and undergraduate programmes have participated in E-APP (list of institutions at [Annex A](#)). For programmes to be offered in the 2014/15 academic year, there are two rounds of application under E-APP, namely the first round from 4 December 2013 to 26 May 2014 and the second round from 1 June 2014 to 30 June 2014. The two rounds of applications have provided applicants with sufficient time to apply for post-secondary programmes not covered by JUPAS, before the announcement of the 2014 HKDSE Examination results by HKEAA on 14 July 2014.

16. Since its launch in 2012, E-APP has become a widely accepted

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UGC-funded institutions. Outside JUPAS, institutions offering locally-accredited sub-degree and degree programmes administer their own arrangements for application by and admission of students. Students have to approach individual institutions and submit multiple applications.

platform for HKDSE candidates to apply for full-time locally-accredited sub-degree and undergraduate programmes and for planning of further studies. A summary of the number of public examination day school candidates, applicants and applications<sup>6</sup> since the launch of E-APP are set out in the table below –

	<b>2012<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Number of public examination day school candidates</b>	103 500	69 800	65 300
<b>Number of applicants who have submitted applications under E-APP</b>	27 811	27 482	25 426
<b>Number of applications sent under E-APP</b>	72 759	78 902	69 819

17. Since the launch in 2012, annual reviews on the operation of E-APP were conducted in consultation with major stakeholders. Taking into account the views of stakeholders, numerous enhancements to E-APP were made in the past two years. Overall speaking, feedback from stakeholders on E-APP has been positive –

- (a) From students' point of view, E-APP has facilitated them in submitting only one application online to more than one institution for different post-secondary programmes. It also helps students develop their articulation plans early and select programmes suitable for them.
- (b) From the perspective of post-secondary institutions, E-APP has facilitated them in handling electronic applications before the announcement of the public examination results and providing conditional offers to eligible candidates. The statistics on students' applications generated by E-APP have also provided useful information for institutions in planning their programmes

<sup>6</sup> Applicants may submit applications to more than one institution under E-APP with the completion of one online application form. If, for example, an applicant has applied for a total of five programmes offered by two institutions, the number of applications sent by this applicant is regarded as two.

<sup>7</sup> 2012 was a double cohort year in which the first cohort of students sitting the HKDSE Examination and the last cohort of day school students sitting the HKALE completed their secondary education at the same time.

and operation.

- (c) As to secondary schools, E-APP is equipped with the function to allow teachers/career masters to monitor the progress of their students' applications on E-APP, including whether they have already submitted applications and received conditional offers from institutions, etc. The teachers/career masters may therefore offer appropriate advice and guidance to students during the process.

### **Web-based Application System for Yi Jin Diploma (YJD) Programme**

18. In 2011, the Web-based Application System for the former Project Yi Jin (PYJ) Programme was first launched to allow applicants to apply for admission to the PYJ Programme through an electronic platform. With the introduction of the New Academic Structure and the replacement of the former PYJ Programme by the YJD Programme, the said web-based system has been adopted for the YJD Programme to serve the admission function.

19. The system encompasses a number of functions. It provides course information by displaying on the platform information on the elective subjects offered by all the seven provider institutions. For the 2014/15 academic year, the system provides the information of a total of 179 elective clusters covering over 500 subjects of study under the Programme. In terms of the application process, each applicant may indicate up to eight choices of elective clusters in a preferred order of priority in submitting their applications. After the application period, the system will perform a balloting function to allocate course places in accordance with these applicants' indicated choices and preferred order of priority. Upon completion of the balloting, the system issues notification to individual applicants through emails to inform them of the course place allocated to them and the arrangement for their registration with the provider institution if they accept the offer. As mentioned above, from 2013 onwards, subject to the applicant's consent, E-APP can transfer information contained in their E-APP account to the Application System of the YJD Programme. The purpose of the transfer is to provide convenience to applicants so that when applying for admission to

the 2014/15 Yi Jin Diploma Programme through the Application System, individual applicants are not required to re-enter their personal particulars. For these E-APP account-holders who have given their consent to the said transfer, if they wish to apply for admission to the YJD Programme and have opened an account at the YJD Web-based Application System, their personal data will be automatically loaded on the application page of the Application System of the YJD Programme.

20. The utilisation of the Web-based Application System for the YJD Programme and the former PYJ Programme since its launch in 2011 is as follows –

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014<sup>8</sup></b>
<b>Numbers of visitors to the webpage of the system for viewing of course information</b>	N.A. <sup>9</sup>	15 496	24 298	35 793
<b>Number of applicants who have submitted applications on the system</b>	2 463	11 399	8 881	3 091
<b>Number of E-APP account-holders who have indicated agreement to the transfer of data to the YJD Web-based Application System</b>	N.A. <sup>10</sup>	N.A. <sup>10</sup>	35 645	26 519
<b>Number of E-APP account-holders who have given the said consent and have activated an account on the YJD Web-based Application System</b>	N.A. <sup>10</sup>	N.A. <sup>10</sup>	3 485	525

<sup>8</sup> Position as at 6 July 2014. Admission is open till 15 July 2014.

<sup>9</sup> The system did not provide separate course information in 2011.

<sup>10</sup> The data transfer function was not available on the system in 2011 and 2012.



It is noted that the applicant figure for 2011 was relatively small as this was the “gap year” in which there was no school candidate for the former Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination. The surge in 2012 and the drop in 2013 of applicant numbers were explained by the fact that 2012 was the first year of launch of the YJD Programme which might have attracted a greater number of applicants of various backgrounds hoping to gain a higher level qualification through the then newly introduced Programme.

21. Since its launch in 2011, reviews on the operation of the system have been conducted annually to consider feedback of stakeholders such as users and the provider institutions. Taking into account the feedback, enhancements of the system were introduced over the years, including the provision of one-stop information on elective courses since 2012 and the provision of the option for E-APP account-holders to transfer their data from the E-APP accounts to the YJD Application System since 2013. In general, the system has been well received by users and reviews will continue be conducted at suitable junctures with a view to identifying areas for further enhancement so as to better serve users of the system.

### **Online System for the Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong Students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions**

22. The Ministry of Education has implemented the Admission Scheme since 2011 whereby a number of Mainland higher education institutions can admit Hong Kong students based on their HKDSE Examination results, thus exempting them from taking the Joint Entrance Examination or any other examinations organised by individual Mainland institutions.

23. The enrolment process of the Admission Scheme consists of online application and subsequent on-site confirmation of application. The Ministry of Education has commissioned the Co-Office of the Mainland Chinese Universities and Colleges of China for the Joint Examinations and Enrolment of the Students from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Overseas Chinese-Resident Areas and Countries (Joint Enrolment Office) to handle online application and admissions screening.

It has also commissioned the China Education Exchange (HK) Centre for on-site confirmation of applications, vetting of eligibility and publicity arrangements. Candidates are required, after completing online application, to attend on-site confirmation in person at the time and place confirmed, and pay an enrolment fee of HK\$420. The Ministry of Education also commissioned the Joint Enrolment Office in 2011 to develop an online system for processing applications and admissions. Under the Admission Scheme, candidates may apply to four Mainland higher education institutions according to their priority of choice and four programmes for each of the institutions.

24. The online application system provides a one-stop platform for Hong Kong students participating in the Admission Scheme to lodge advance applications, make appointment for on-site confirmation (i.e. date, time and location) and interviews, check admission results, submit supplementary enrolment and check supplementary enrolment results. Candidates can log on to the website of the Joint Enrolment Office ([www.ecogd.edu.cn](http://www.ecogd.edu.cn)) with their candidate numbers and complete the above procedures of the Admission Scheme by clicking on “Application by Hong Kong Students” or “Admission of Hong Kong Students” under the menu of “Joint Admission”, thereby saving their time to search and browse various websites.

25. Candidates can also submit the required information through the system, including uploading their Student Learning Profiles. During on-site confirmation, they can log on to the system to make final amendments to their personal and application information before confirming the application.

26. In addition, candidates can access all the information about the Admission Scheme via the online application system, including details of the Admission Scheme, list of participating institutions, types of the institutions (such as higher education institutions under “Project 985”<sup>11</sup> and higher education institutions under “Project 211”<sup>12</sup>) with brief

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<sup>11</sup> “Project 985” was first taken forward by the Central People’s Government in 1998 by allocating large amounts of funding to certain top notch universities to turn them into world-class universities. As at present, there are 39 higher education institutions under “Project 985”.

<sup>12</sup> “Project 211” was initiated in 1995 by the Ministry of Education with the intent of raising the quality and standard of teaching, research, management and programmes of certain higher

description, titles and types of programmes (such as generic, sports or arts programmes) and contact information of the institutions and their admission offices. The system also features a search function by certain types of programmes (such as law, engineering, education, etc.), which allows candidates to easily access the list of institutions that offer such types of programmes.

27. The system will automatically display new or important information about the Admission Scheme, including the latest announcements made by the institutions, the stage of the Scheme in progress, etc., when students log on to it in order to keep students abreast of the latest development of the Scheme. Students can also access the latest news or announcements about the Scheme via the bulletin board of the system.

28. The system also provides login interface for the candidates' own schools as a means to facilitate uploading of information required under the School Principal's Nomination Scheme. Career guidance teachers can also make use of the interface to keep track of the applications submitted by individual candidates, and contact them for guidance and follow-up purposes should the need arise.

29. In the past three years, the scope of the Admission Scheme has expanded. The number of participating institutions has increased from 63 in the 2012/13 academic year to 75 (See **Annex B**). The types of institutions and academic disciplines have also become more diversified, thereby offering more choices for Hong Kong students. Since its launch, the system has benefited around 10 000 candidates participating in the Admission Scheme.

## **Way forward**

30. The electronic application platforms are effective in facilitating secondary school leavers to access useful information about and apply to a multitude of post-secondary education programmes in accordance with

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education institutions, so that they became the base of nurturing talents and cultivating strategies for socio-economic development. As at present, there are 112 higher education institutions under "Project 211".

their interests and aptitudes. Looking ahead, the Government and the institutions will continue to work together to monitor the implementation of and identify areas for further improvement to these platforms. Students, secondary schools and other stakeholders are also welcome to make suggestions for further enhancements.

**Education Bureau**  
**July 2014**

**E-APP Participating Institutions**

1. Caritas Bianchi College of Careers
2. Caritas Institute of Higher Education
3. Centennial College
4. Chu Hai College of Higher Education
5. City University of Hong Kong  
-Community College of City University
6. Hang Seng Management College
7. HKU SPACE Po Leung Kuk Community College
8. Hong Kong Art School (a division of the Hong Kong Arts Centre)
9. Hong Kong Baptist University  
-College of International Education  
-School of Continuing Education
10. Hong Kong College of Technology
11. Hong Kong Institute of Technology
12. Hong Kong Nang Yan College of Higher Education
13. Lingnan University  
-The Community College at Lingnan University  
-Lingnan Institute of Further Education
14. Pui Ching Academy
15. SCAD Foundation (Hong Kong) Limited/ Savannah College of Art and Design, Inc.
16. The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
-School of Continuing and Professional Studies
17. The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
18. The Hong Kong Institute of Education
19. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University  
-Hong Kong Community College
20. The Open University of Hong Kong  
-Li Ka Shing Institute of Professional and Continuing Education
21. The University of Hong Kong  
-HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education  
-HKU SPACE Community College
22. Tung Wah College
23. Vocational Training Council  
-Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education / Hong Kong Design Institute  
-Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong
24. Yew Chung Community College
25. YMCA College of Careers

**Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong Students to  
Mainland Higher Education Institutions in 2014**

**List of Participating Institutions**

<b><u>北京市</u></b>	<b><u>Beijing Municipality</u></b>
中國人民大學	Renmin University of China
中國政法大學	China University of Political Science and Law
中國傳媒大學	Communication University of China
北京大學	Peking University
北京中醫藥大學	Beijing University of Chinese Medicine
北京外國語大學	Beijing Foreign Studies University
北京服裝學院	Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology
北京師範大學	Beijing Normal University
北京語言大學	Beijing Language and Culture University
清華大學	Tsinghua University
對外經濟貿易大學	University of International Business and Economics

<b><u>天津市</u></b>	<b><u>Tianjin Municipality</u></b>
天津大學	Tianjin University
天津中醫藥大學	Tianjin University of Traditional Chinese Medicine
天津師範大學	Tianjin Normal University
南開大學	Nankai University

<b><u>上海市</u></b>	<b><u>Shanghai Municipality</u></b>
上海大學	Shanghai University
上海中醫藥大學*	Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine*
上海外國語大學	Shanghai International Studies University
上海交通大學	Shanghai Jiao Tong University
上海師範大學	Shanghai Normal University
上海財經大學	Shanghai University of Finance and Economics
同濟大學	Tongji University

東華大學	Donghua University
復旦大學	Fudan University
華東政法大學	East China University of Political Science and Law
華東師範大學	East China Normal University
華東理工大學*	East China University Of Science And Technology*

<b><u>江蘇省</u></b>	<b><u>Jiangsu Province</u></b>
南京大學	Nanjing University
南京中醫藥大學	Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine
南京師範大學	Nanjing Normal University

<b><u>浙江省</u></b>	<b><u>Zhejiang Province</u></b>
浙江大學	Zhejiang University
浙江中醫藥大學	Zhejiang Chinese Medical University
溫州醫科大學	Wenzhou Medical University
寧波大學	Ningbo University

<b><u>福建省</u></b>	<b><u>Fujian Province</u></b>
華僑大學	Huaqiao University
集美大學	Jimei University
廈門大學	Xiamen University
福州大學	Fuzhou University
福建中醫藥大學	Fujian University of Traditional Chinese Medicine
福建師範大學	Fujian Normal University

<b><u>江西省</u></b>	<b><u>Jiangxi Province</u></b>
江西中醫藥大學*	Jiangxi University of Traditional Chinese Medicine*

<b><u>山東省</u></b>	<b><u>Shandong Province</u></b>
山東大學*	Shandong University*

<b><u>湖南省</u></b>	<b><u>Hunan Province</u></b>
湖南師範大學	Hunan Normal University

<b>湖北省</b>	<b><u>Hubei Province</u></b>
三峽大學*	China Three Gorges University*
中南財經政法大學	Zhongnan University of Economics and Law
武漢大學	Wuhan University
湖北中醫藥大學	Hubei University of Chinese Medicine
華中師範大學	Central China Normal University

<b>廣東省</b>	<b><u>Guangdong Province</u></b>
中山大學	Sun Yat-sen University
北京師範大學珠海分校	Beijing Normal University, Zhuhai
汕頭大學	Shantou University
南方醫科大學	Southern Medical University
星海音樂學院	Xinghai Conservatory of Music
深圳大學	Shenzhen University
華南師範大學	South China Normal University
華南理工大學	South China University of Technology
暨南大學	Jinan University
肇慶學院	Zhaoqing University
韶關學院	Shaoguan University
廣州大學	Guangzhou University
廣州中醫藥大學	Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine
廣州美術學院	The Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts
廣東工業大學	Guangdong University of Technology
廣東外語外貿大學	Guangdong University of Foreign Studies
廣東金融學院	Guangdong University of Finance
廣東財經大學	Guangdong University of Finance and Economics
廣東藥學院	Guangdong Pharmaceutical University

<b>重慶市</b>	<b><u>Chongqing Municipality</u></b>
西南大學	Southwest University
西南政法大學	Southwest University of Political Science and Law
重慶大學	Chongqing University

<b>四川省</b>	<b><u>Sichuan Province</u></b>
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四川大學	Sichuan University
四川師範大學	Sichuan Normal University
成都中醫藥大學	Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine

<b>雲南省</b>	<b><u>Yunnan Province</u></b>
雲南大學	Yunnan University
雲南師範大學	Yunnan Normal University

(按中文筆劃序)	(In ascending order of Chinese characters)
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備註：	Remark:
* 新增院校	* Institutions newly joining the Scheme