



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

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16 October 2013

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,

Panel on Education

**Application for UGC-funded FYFD programmes
by 2013 HKALE candidates**

I refer to your letter of 3 October 2013.

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) conducted the last Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) for private candidates in 2013. A total of over 5 300 private candidates sat for the HKALE in 2013. These candidates also have access to multiple pathways for further study, including applying for admission to University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions through direct channels outside the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (commonly known as the non-JUPAS route) according to the timetable set by institutions.

According to information provided by the UGC-funded institutions, all eight institutions have admitted HKALE candidates to UGC-funded first-year first-degree (FYFD) programmes this year. The total number

was 319, including 62 admitted solely on the strength of current or combined HKALE results, as well as 257 students who were admitted based on their HKALE results together with other qualifications such as completion of the first year of sub-degree programmes. Based on 2013 HKALE results alone, 72 candidates have met the general entrance requirements for admission to local undergraduate programmes.

All along, in line with the principle of fairness and merit-based selection, each institution has established its own student admission policy. When considering student admission, institutions do not give favour to applicants on the basis of the routes (JUPAS or non-JUPAS) through which they submit their applications or the results release dates of their qualifications. Instead, institutions strive to identify the most meritorious candidates in the pool, taking into account factors such as their public examination results, the relevance of such results to the programmes being applied for, whether such results are attained through one or a few sittings, etc. Besides, institutions also assess candidates in other aspects, such as performance in interviews and their non-academic achievements.

The timetable and results release date of the 2013 HKALE were decided by the HKEAA's Public Examinations Board, whose members include representatives of secondary schools and post-secondary institutions. The release date was announced as early as mid-May 2012 and the requirement for HKALE candidates to submit their applications via the non-JUPAS route was also announced as early as 2012. All UGC-funded institutions have well-established mechanisms in place for admitting candidates holding different qualifications with different results release dates via the non-JUPAS route. They have also reaffirmed with the Education Bureau (EDB) that their 2013 student admission processes were conducted in a fair manner. Institutions accepted applications for admission via the non-JUPAS route from September 2012 to the first quarter of 2013. They also made it clear that transcripts could be submitted after the release of examination results in the current academic year (e.g. 30 July for the HKALE and 15 August for the General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (GCE A-Level) Examination), and admission results would be announced by the end of August. Based on the fact that 319 HKALE candidates were admitted by the UGC-funded institutions this year, it is self-evident that the prospects for HKALE candidates to compete for degree places with fellow applicants under fair and reasonable circumstances have not been compromised because of the results release date of 2013 HKALE. Moreover, we understand that there have been

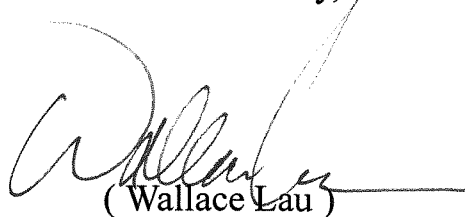
queries because a small number of students might have submitted belated applications or otherwise failed to submit their transcripts in accordance with the non-JUPAS application procedures set by institutions. To this end, the EDB has liaised with the institutions and provided relevant contact details for applicants to touch base with the institutions. The EDB also issued an open article on 22 August to clarify various queries regarding the admission arrangements of institutions.

I must reiterate that all institutions enjoy a high degree of autonomy in deciding their admission requirements. Admission grades may vary year on year depending on competition for the programmes concerned, and thus the past admission grades can only be taken as reference.

All in all, the Government is committed to providing our young people with flexible and diversified study pathways with multiple entry and exit points. For FYFD programmes, in addition to over 15 000 publicly-funded places, there are more than 7 000 places in full-time locally-accredited self-financing programmes. As for sub-degree programmes, 9 800 publicly-funded places and some 30 000 places in full-time locally-accredited self-financing programmes are offered. Furthermore, the number of senior year places for UGC-funded undergraduate programmes will also progressively increase to 4 000 intake places per annum. This will provide outstanding sub-degree graduates with more opportunities for articulation to the last two years of undergraduate programmes.

I should be grateful if you could help circulate the information to Members.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wallace Lau', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

(Wallace Lau)
for Secretary for Education

cc

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