



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
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22 March 2016

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

Dear Miss Yeung,

**Follow-up to meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Education
held on 1 February 2016**

At the meeting of the Panel on Education held on 1 February 2016, Members requested some supplementary information during discussion of the item on "Recurrent funding for University Grants Committee-funded institutions in the 2016/17 to 2018/19 triennium". The required information is now set out at Annex.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Sharon Ko)
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Secretary-General, University Grants Committee (Attn.: Miss Sharon Ho)

1. Projected number of eligible secondary 6 graduates for first-year first-degree (FYFD) places, from 2016 to 2022

Year of graduation	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
No. of Secondary 6 graduates	57 200	52 300	52 000	48 300	45 800	43 700	42 800
No. of Secondary 6 students meeting the general entrance requirements for undergraduate admission	22 000	20 000	20 000	19 000	18 000	17 000	17 000

Notes

- a. The general entrance requirement for admission to undergraduate programmes is the attainment with level 3 in Chinese Language and English Language, and level 2 in Mathematics Compulsory Part and Liberal Studies, respectively in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE). Based on previous statistics, the percentage of Secondary 6 students attaining 3322 or better at HKDSE is close to 40% of the total Secondary 6 students. The projected figures are based on the assumption that the relevant percentage remains about the same.
- b. the above estimates have not taken into account non-HKDSE graduates (e.g. international school graduates and students returning from overseas), graduates pursuing further studies overseas or repeating Secondary 6.

2. Projected publicly-funded and self-financing FYFD places, from 2016/17 to 2022/23 academic years

Academic Year	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Publicly-funded places*	15 200	15 200	15 200	15 200	15 200	15 200	15 200
Self-financing places^	9 100 [#]	9 100 [#]	9 100	9 100	9 100	9 100	9 100
<u>Total</u>	<u>24 300</u>	<u>24 300</u>	<u>24 300</u>	<u>24 300</u>	<u>24 300</u>	<u>24 300</u>	<u>24 300</u>

* including University Grants Committee-funded programmes and Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts programmes.

including around 1 000 places subsidised under the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors.

^ The number of self-financing places is projected based on the current level of provision. Relevant institutions are able to adjust their supply of self-financing places according to the declining student population.

3. Price-weighting for University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded social work undergraduate programmes

The UGC calculates the teaching element of the block grant for its funded institutions with reference to the number of student places, levels of study (ie sub-degree, undergraduate, taught postgraduate and research postgraduate), modes of study (ie part-time and full-time), disciplines of study and the relevant costs, etc. Some subjects are more costly because they require special equipment, laboratory, etc. In consultation with the institutions, the UGC has assigned relative cost weightings by broad academic programme category (APC) into three price groups since the 2005/06 to 2007/08 triennium, namely, “medicine and dentistry”, “engineering and laboratory based studies” and “others” (e.g. law, social sciences, business and management studies, architecture and town planning).

Regarding funding for social work programmes, such programmes are now grouped under “social sciences”, and the relative cost weighting of the relevant teaching and research programmes is 1.0, which is the same as some other professional programmes such as law, architecture and town planning, and education. In determining the relative cost weightings of different broad APCs, the UGC had carefully considered their requirements and costs, such as the need to procure expensive equipment for training purposes.

Once the amount of the block grant is approved and allocated to institutions, institutions have autonomy in and responsibility for determining the best use of the resources vested in them, such as allocating the funding to different academic disciplines/ faculties/ departments in view of their strategic development and priorities. Institutions are not bound to follow the relative cost weightings used by the UGC for the purpose of the institution’s internal distribution.

4. Breakdown of indicative student number targets by award level

Institutions have the autonomy to determine the appropriate level of award to its research postgraduate (RPg) students. As such, it is not possible for the Government to project a distribution of indicative student number targets under RPg programmes by level of award (MPhil /PhD).

5. Allocation of research funding

Under the prevailing funding methodology for the Research element of the block grant, part of the allocation is informed by the results of the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2014 and the other by the institutions' success in obtaining peer reviewed Research Grants Council (RGC) Earmarked Research Grants (ERGs). To recognise institutions' success in obtaining research funding from sources other than the UGC and the RGC, new features were incorporated in the design of the RAE 2014 in terms of research inputs (i.e. external competitive research grants such as the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF)) in addition to research outputs and esteem measures. Institutions' success in obtaining research funding from other sources was taken into account in the RAE 2014 and therefore drove the part of the funding informed by the RAE 2014 results.