



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. :

電話 Telephone : 3509 8555

來函檔號 Your Ref. :

傳真 Fax Line : 2899 2967

15 August 2018

Ms Angel Wong  
Clerk to Panel on Education  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Wong,

**RE: Panel on Education  
Follow-up to the meeting on 13 July 2018**

I refer to your letter of 17 July 2018 to the Secretary for Education on the subject matter.

For the agenda item “Progress of the Task Force on Review of Self-financing Post-secondary Education”, I enclose the requested information on the graduation pathways of Associate Degree students in recent years, and the Government’s response to the motion passed under this agenda item, in response to items (a) and (b) in your letter.

We will provide written response to the motion passed under the agenda item of “An update on the situation of contract teachers in primary and secondary schools” separately.

For enquiries, please contact the undersigned at 3509 8555.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Thomas Li', written in a cursive style.

(Thomas Li)  
*for* Secretary for Education

Encl.

## Statistics on the Graduation Pathways of Associate Degree (AD) Students

## 副學士畢業生的出路數據

Academic Year 學年	Funding mode 資助模式	No. of AD graduates 副學士畢業生總數 <sup>(1)</sup>	No. of respondents of Graduate Survey 畢業生問卷調查的回應人數 <sup>(5)</sup>		Further studies 升學								Employment (including full-time, part-time and under-employed) 就業 (包括全職、兼職及就業不足)		Other pathways (e.g. between jobs, family care-taker) 其他出路 (例如待業人士、家庭照顧者)			
					Publicly-funded degree (including FYFD & senior year places) 公帑資助學士學位(包括首年學士學位及高年級學位) <sup>(2)</sup>		Self-financing degree (including FYFD & top-up degree) 自資學士學位(包括首年學士學位及銜接學位) <sup>(2)</sup>		Other further studies in Hong Kong 在港升讀其他課程		Further studies outside Hong Kong 到香港以外升學						Not providing further information 未有提供詳細的升學資料	
					No. 人數	% to (b)	No. 人數	% to (b)	No. 人數	% to (b)	No. 人數	% to (b)					No. 人數	% to (b)
2012/13	Self-financing 自資	10 541	8 540	81.0%	2 136	25.0%	4 046	47.4%	93	1.1%	119	1.4%	-		1 852	21.7%	294	3.4%
	UGC-funded 教資會資助	475	424	89.3%	175	41.3%	11	2.6%	3	0.7%	7	1.7%	-		223	52.6%	5	1.2%
	Overall 合共	11 016	8 964	81.4%	2 311	25.8%	4 057	45.3%	96	1.1%	126	1.4%	-		2 075	23.1%	299	3.3%
2013/14	Self-financing 自資	13 035	10 500	80.6%	2 878	27.4%	4 450	42.4%	190	1.8%	246	2.3%	-		2 127	20.3%	609	5.8%
	UGC-funded 教資會資助	402	376	93.5%	157	41.8%	18	4.8%	1	0.3%	6	1.6%	-		186	49.5%	8	2.1%
	Overall 合共	13 437	10 876	80.9%	3 035	27.9%	4 468	41.1%	191	1.8%	252	2.3%	-		2 313	21.3%	617	5.7%
2014/15	Self-financing 自資	9 061	7 451	82.2%	2 723	36.5%	3 144	42.2%	127	1.7%	103	1.4%	-		1 130	15.2%	224	3.0%
	UGC-funded 教資會資助	357	331	92.7%	141	42.6%	33	10.0%	3	0.9%	6	1.8%	7	2.1%	136	41.1%	5	1.5%

	Overall 合共	9 418	7 782	82.6%	2 864	36.8%	3 177	40.8%	130	1.7%	109	1.4%	7	0.1%	1 266	16.3%	229	2.9%
2015/16	Self-financing 自資	7 962	6 626	83.2%	2 841	42.9%	2 505	37.8%	132	2.0%	107	1.6%	-	-	805	12.1%	236	3.6%
	UGC-funded 教資會資助	323	266	82.4%	115	43.2%	24	9.0%	3	1.1%	8	3.0%	10	3.8%	103	38.7%	3	1.1%
	Overall 合共	8 285	6 892	83.2%	2 956	42.9%	2 529	36.7%	135	2.0%	115	1.7%	10	0.1%	908	13.2%	239	3.5%
2016/17	Self-financing 自資	8 246	6 999	84.9%	3 118	44.5%	2 521	36.0%	158	2.3%	106	1.5%	-	-	862	12.3%	234	3.3%
	UGC-funded 教資會資助	334	284	85.0%	117	41.2%	46	16.2%	7	2.5%	7	2.5%	13	4.6%	86	30.3%	8	2.8%
	Overall 合共	8 580	7 283	84.9%	3 235	44.4%	2 567	35.2%	165	2.3%	113	1.6%	13	0.2%	948	13.0%	242	3.3%

General remarks:

一般備註：

- (1) Refers to the number of full-time AD graduates as at the end of the respective academic year.  
指相關學年完結時全日制副學士畢業生的數目。
- (2) No information on breakdown by first-year-first-degree (FYFD) and senior year places/top-up degree.  
並無首年學士學位及高年級學位或銜接學位的分類資料。
- (3) Percentages may not add up to 100% owing to rounding.  
由於四捨五入，百分比總和可能不等於 100%。
- (4) ‘-’ denotes 0.  
‘-’ 代表零。

Notes on UGC figures:

有關教資會數字的備註：

- (5) Refers to the number of responses of AD graduates covered by the Graduates' Employment Surveys (GESs) conducted annually by the UGC-funded universities with a time frame up to December of the same year. However, the number of respondents of GESs on AD graduates cannot be directly compared with that of AD graduates in the same year because there are other factors determining the conferment/award of a degree to a final year student.  
指教資會資助大學每年在同年十二月期間進行的畢業生就業統計調查有回應的副學士畢業生人數。不過，由於有其他因素去決定是否授予或頒發學位給最後一年學生，所以該數字不能與同年副學士的畢業生人數作直接比較。

**The Government's response to the motion passed  
under the agenda item of "Progress of the Task Force on  
Review of Self-financing Post-secondary Education"**

All along, the Government has been striving to provide secondary school leavers with flexible and diversified articulation pathways with multiple entry and exit points through promoting quality and sustainable development of the publicly-funded and self-financing post-secondary education sectors. Through the development of both sectors, about 48% of our young people in the relevant cohort now have access to degree-level education. The cohort participation rate for publicly-funded undergraduate programmes alone reaches about 28%.

**Enhancing support for pursuing higher education**

2. In recent years, the Government has implemented a number of measures to increase local higher education opportunities and enhance subsidisation, in a bid to provide secondary school leavers with broader and more diversified articulation pathways –

- (a) increasing University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded senior year undergraduate intake places to 5 000 per annum by 2018/19 academic year;
- (b) implementing the Non-means-tested Subsidy Scheme for Self-financing Undergraduate Studies in Hong Kong starting from the 2017/18 academic year; and
- (c) subsidising students to pursue self-financing undergraduate programmes in selected disciplines through the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors (SSSDP) to meet Hong Kong's manpower needs. SSSDP has been implemented since the 2015/16 academic year and will provide about 3 000 subsidised places per annum starting from the 2018/19 academic year.

3. With full implementation of these measures, and given a declining student population, there are now and will continue to be sufficient publicly-funded and self-financing first-year-first-degree undergraduate places for all secondary school leavers meeting minimum entrance requirements for undergraduate admission, assuming the performance of secondary school graduates will be maintained at comparable level. Furthermore, the Government has made

substantial efforts in rendering self-financing undergraduate programmes more affordable by introducing the aforesaid subsidy schemes. We therefore do not see a genuine need to increase publicly-funded undergraduate places at this juncture. The Government will continue to exercise prudence in its planning for the provision of subsidised higher education opportunities, with due emphasis on both quality and quantity.

### **Quality assurance for the higher education sector**

4. Both publicly-funded and self-financing post-secondary institutions enjoy a high degree of autonomy and academic freedom. The Government understands the community's expectation for post-secondary institutions to provide quality education in nurturing our younger generation. Therefore, our policy oversight of the institutions focuses on enhancing transparency, quality assurance (QA) and good governance. Where public funds are involved, we have devised a mechanism to ensure that resources are put to intended use and in a prudent manner, rather than involving in micro-management. In devising oversight and regulatory mechanisms, we are guided by the principles of reasonableness and proportionality.

5. All local post-secondary programmes are required to undergo QA before they can be offered in Hong Kong. It is our community's expectation that there should be a sound, robust and transparent QA mechanism in place to ensure provision of a quality post-secondary education, irrespective of whether the providers of such education receive recurrent public subvention.

6. For programmes offered by institutions with self-accrediting status, i.e. the eight UGC-funded universities (including their self-financing arms), The Open University of Hong Kong, and institutions enjoying Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) status in certain disciplines<sup>1</sup>, they are primarily subject to their internal QA procedures. The quality of programmes provided by self-financing institutions without self-accrediting status is assured by going through accreditation by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ). Accreditation conducted by the HKCAAVQ is based on a set of rigorous standards that have been benchmarked with international good practice.

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<sup>1</sup> PAA is conferred by the HKCAAVQ on operators with sufficient QA competency and maturity at the organisational level and a good track record in their validated programmes. For example, some more established institutions registered under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320) such as Hong Kong Shue Yan University, Chu Hai College of Higher Education and Hang Seng Management College, enjoy PAA status in certain programme areas.

7. To promote good governance in the self-financing sector, the Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education promulgated the Code of Good Practices on Governance and Quality Assurance for Self-financing Post-secondary Education Sector in June 2015 for all self-financing post-secondary institutions to adopt on a voluntary basis. The Code covers areas of institutional governance, programme design and delivery, and staff, other resources and student support. A study of the sector-wide implementation of the Code was undertaken by the HKCAAVQ and completed in October 2017, which showed a high level of compliance across the sector after one year of implementation. The Government will continue to support the self-financing post-secondary sector in enhancing its quality.

8. The Task Force on Review of Self-financing Post-secondary Education, chaired by Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, has engaged in in-depth discussion and studies over various issues pertinent to the self-financing post-secondary education sector, including QA. The preliminary views of the Task Force have been published in its consultation document. With the benefit of views gathered during the public consultation period, the Task Force will finalise its reform proposals and make specific recommendations to the Government by the end of 2018 with a view to supporting the healthy and sustainable development of the sector.

**Education Bureau**  
**August 2018**