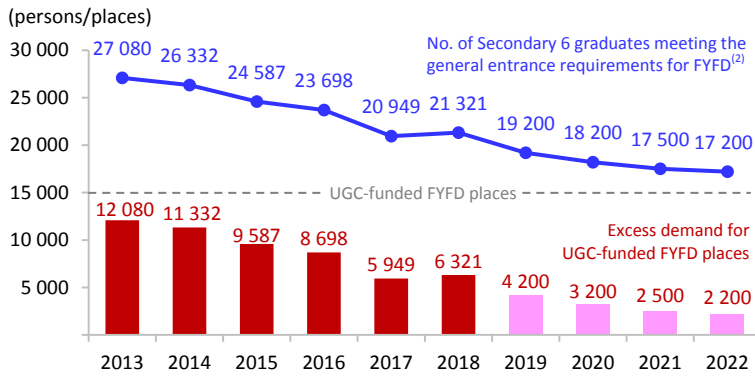




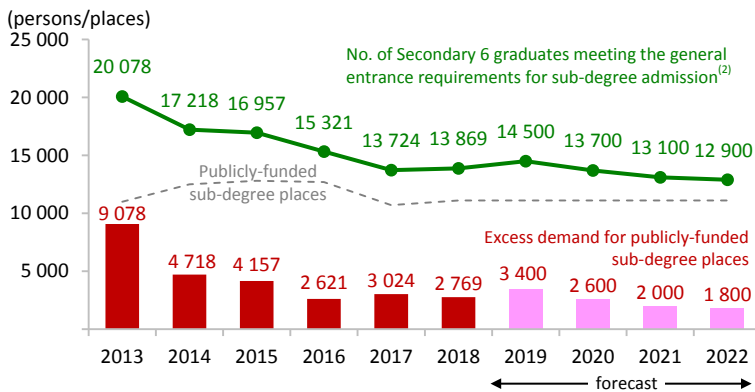
Publicly-funded higher education

Figure 1 – Potential demand for FYFD⁽¹⁾ places and shortfall in UGC-funded places, 2013-2022



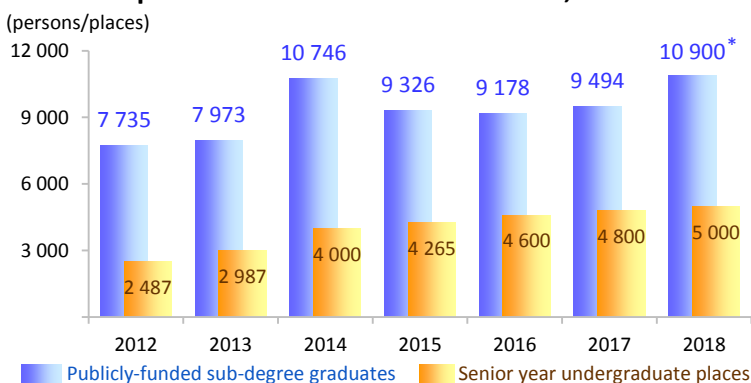
Notes: (1) FYFD means first-year first-degree.
(2) Level 3 in Chinese Language, English Language, Level 2 in Mathematics and Liberal Studies, and Level 2 or above in one elective subject.

Figure 2 – Potential demand for sub-degree places and shortfall in publicly-funded places⁽¹⁾, 2013-2022



Notes: (1) In addition to the UGC-funded universities, Vocational Training Council and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts provide government-funded sub-degree programmes.
(2) Level 2 obtained in five subjects (including Chinese Language and English Language).

Figure 3 – Potential demand for senior year undergraduate places in UGC-funded universities, 2012-2018



Note: (*) Estimated figure.

Highlights

- There are 21 degree-awarding higher education institutions in Hong Kong, of which eight universities are funded by the University Grants Committee ("UGC"). Meanwhile, locally accredited sub-degree programmes are provided by 28 institutions and five of them are publicly-funded education institutions.
- The first-year first-degree ("FYFD") places funded by UGC have remained unchanged at 15 000 over the years, resulting in a shortage of FYFD places for secondary school leavers. Yet, the shortage has eased from a high of 12 080 in 2013 to 6 321 in 2018, and further to 2 200 in 2022 (Figure 1). This reflects primarily the continuous drop in the number of secondary school students consequential to Hong Kong's low birth rate.
- Likewise, the number of students who only met the entrance requirements for sub-degree programmes decreased during 2013-2018 (Figure 2). They competed for the limited number of publicly-funded sub-degree places, which remained virtually unchanged for most of the 2013-2018 period.
- For the graduates of sub-degree programmes, the availability of senior year undergraduate places in the UGC-funded universities gives them a second chance to enter a UGC-funded degree programme. Yet, the number of places only increased modestly during 2016-2018 after the more rapid growth in the years earlier (Figure 3).

Publicly-funded higher education (cont'd)

Figure 4 – Non-local students in UGC-funded universities and their share by place of origin, 2008-2017

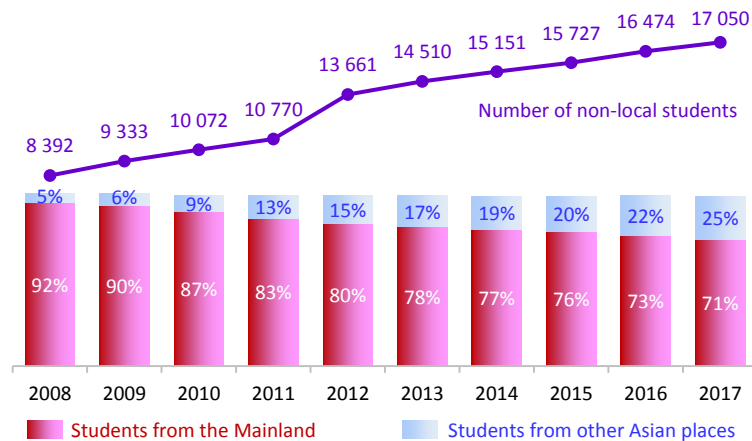


Figure 5 – Proportion of non-local students and enrolment in undergraduate programmes in UGC-funded universities, 2008-2017

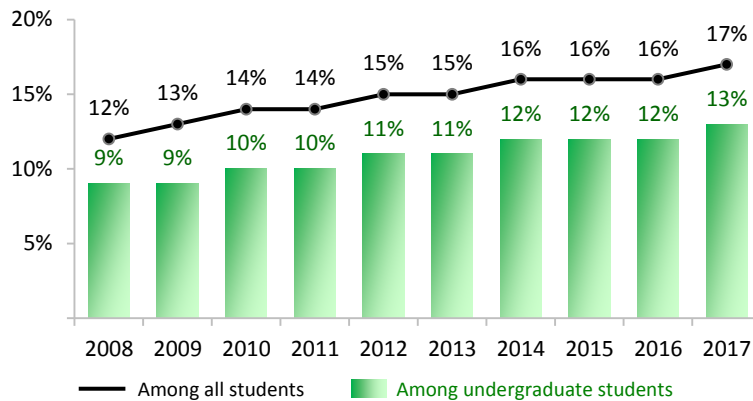
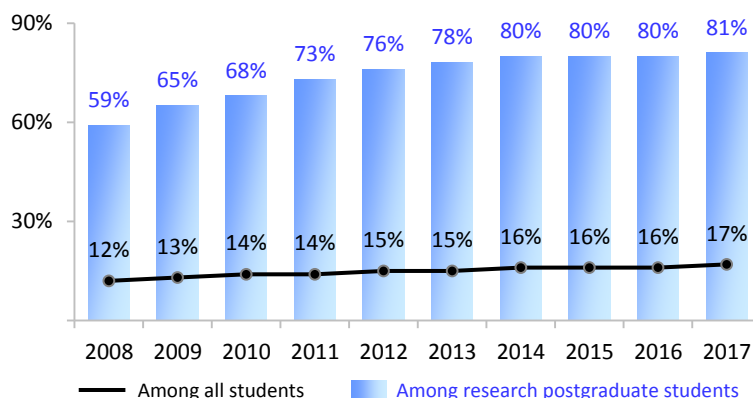


Figure 6 – Proportion of non-local students and enrolment in research postgraduate programmes in UGC-funded universities, 2008-2017



Highlights

- At present, UGC-funded universities may admit non-local students to their sub-degree and taught degree programmes by way of over-enrolling up to 20% of approved student number in the relevant programme.
- The number of non-local students has doubled over the past decade to 17 050 in 2017. Students from the Mainland have dominated half of the increase during the period. In 2017, they accounted for 71% of the total number of non-local students in UGC-funded universities (**Figure 4**).
- Among all students of UGC-funded universities, the proportion of non-local students has been growing gradually from 12% to 17% during 2008-2017. Likewise, the proportion of non-local undergraduate students has been on an uptrend in tandem, accounting for 9% to 13% over the same period (**Figure 5**).
- As for the enrolment in postgraduate research programmes, non-local students accounted for a bigger and increasing share over the past decade (**Figure 6**). Non-local students have picked up the education opportunity left by local students, who might be held up by the concerns over the prospects for teaching and research fields and employment opportunities.

Data sources: Latest figures from Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education, Education Bureau, Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, and University Grants Committee.

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