

**For information
on 30 June 2003**

**Legislative Council Panel on Education
Review of the funding of sub-degree programmes**

Introduction

The Government has reviewed its policy on the funding of sub-degree programmes. This paper outlines the development of this review.

Background

2. The University Grants Committee (UGC) conducted a comprehensive review of the higher education sector in Hong Kong and submitted its recommendations to the Government in 2002, following a four-month period of public consultation.

3. One of the main recommendations accepted by the Government is that sub-degree programmes should in general be self-financing, but exceptions should be made for the following courses -

- (a) courses that require high start up and maintenance costs or access to expensive laboratories/equipment;
- (b) courses that meet specific manpower needs; and
- (c) courses that can be regarded as endangered species (i.e. those that lack market appeal to the provider and the average student, such as pure arts or science).

4. We consider that with an expanding post secondary sector, there is a need to free up resources so that more students may benefit from public subsidy in one form or another. The above measure will help achieve a more equitable distribution of resources. The Government also undertakes that most of the savings achieved would be used to benefit students in the sub-degree sector, for example, by enhancing their financial assistance.

Latest development

5. To follow up, a specialist group was set up by the UGC in early 2003 to review the existing UGC-funded sub-degree programmes offered by City University of Hong Kong (CityU) and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The specialist group, comprising UGC members, local academics, and industry representatives, was tasked to examine the institutions' proposals, and to consider submissions received from professional groups and interested parties.

6. Apart from the three exemption criteria set out in paragraph 3 above, the specialist group also worked to the following guiding principles:

- (a) Programmes with comparable alternatives in the market, which include programmes offered by the continuing education arms or community colleges of UGC institutions, should go first.
- (b) Programmes proposed for conversion by the concerned institutions themselves should go first.
- (c) Implementation should be gradual, as far as possible.
- (d) Same treatment for similar programmes offered across institutions.
- (e) Protection of students in the pipeline.

7. The UGC, based on the recommendations of the specialist group, finalised the plan for withdrawal of subvention and informed the affected institutions of the UGC's decision in May 2003.

8. The plan in respect of CityU is at Annex. By the end of the 2005/06 to 2007/08 triennium, the UGC will be funding about 30% of CityU's existing sub-degree programmes, which take up around 25% of CityU's existing student numbers at sub-degree level.

PLAN TO WITHDRAW SUBVENTION FOR UGC-FUNDED SUB-DEGREE PROGRAMMES

CityU

Discipline	UGC-funded programmes ¹	Mode of study ²	Suggested withdrawal time ³
General Studies	AA General Studies	FT	2004/05
Business Administration	ABA General Management	FT & PE	2004/05
	HD Business Studies		
	ABA Electronic Commerce and Web Technology	FT	2005/06
Accounting	ABA Accountancy	FT & PE	2005/06
	HD Accountancy		
Financial Services	ABA Financial Services	FT	2005/06
	HD Banking and Financial Services		
	ABA Financial Services (Banking)	PE	2005/06
	HD Banking and Financial Services		
Social Sciences	ASocSc Community Services Management	FT	2006/07
	ASocSc Public Administration and Management	FT & PE	2006/07
	HD Public Administration and Management		
Translation and Interpretation	AA Translation and Interpretation	FT & PE	2006/07
	HD Translation and Interpretation		
Communication	AA English for Professional Communication	FT	2006/07
	HD English for Professional Communication		
	AA Applied Chinese Studies	FT	2006/07
	HD Applied Chinese Studies		
	AA Applied Japanese Studies	FT	2006/07
	HD Applied Japanese Studies		
Computer Studies and Information Technology	AS Computer Studies	FT & PE	2006/07
	HD Computer Studies		
Legal Studies	Associate of Legal Studies	PE	2007/08
	HD Legal Studies		

¹ AA = Associate of Arts; ABA = Associate of Business Administration; AS = Associate of Science; ASocSc = Associate of Social Science; and HD = Higher Diploma

² FT = Full-time; PE = Part-time evening; and PT = Part-time

³ Suggested withdrawal time refers to the academic year in respect of which the student intake would no longer be funded by the UGC.

SD PROGRAMMES THAT REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC FUNDING IN THE ROLLOVER YEAR 2004/05 AND IN THE 2005-2008 TRIENNium

CityU

Discipline	UGC-funded programmes ¹	Mode of study ²
Media Technology	AA Media Technology	FT
Architectural Studies	AS Architectural Studies	FT & PE
	HD Architectural Studies	
Building and Surveying	AS Building Services Engineering	FT & PE
	HD Building Services Engineering	
	AS Construction Engineering and Management	FT & PE
	HD Building Construction	
	AS Surveying (Building Surveying / Estate Surveying / Quantity Surveying)	FT & PT
	HD Surveying	
Psychology and Social Work	ASocSc Social Work ⁴	FT & PT
	Diploma in Social Work ⁴	

⁴ These programmes are included to meet specific manpower requirements in the corresponding professions with reference to previous advice of the Administration.