



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局  
Education Bureau  
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Miss Polly Yeung  
Clerk to Panel on Education  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss Yeung,

**Panel on Education  
Special Meeting on 25 January 2013**

At the special meeting on 25 January 2013, the Administration was requested to provide information on the number of students submitting their academic qualifications awarded by Mainland institutions to the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) for assessment; and where practicable, details of these assessed qualifications, including the names of the programmes and institutions involved. Our reply is set out below.

In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the HKCAAVQ received 598, 566 and 536 applications for qualifications assessment respectively from holders of qualifications obtained from Mainland institutions, including qualifications below the university level.

The HKCAAVQ provides professional assessment service to individuals possessing qualifications awarded by granting bodies outside Hong Kong. Each application is assessed independently on the basis of the totality of the applicant's qualifications, with emphasis on the integrated learning outcomes of the applicant's highest and terminal qualifications and the components of the course of study (including advanced standing or transfer of credits). The HKCAAVQ assesses whether the totality of an applicant's qualification meets the standard of a particular level of qualification in Hong Kong. Qualifications assessment is not an accreditation of an institution or a programme, and the result relates only to the individual applicant being assessed but not a particular institution or programme. As such, it is inappropriate to publish the names of programmes and institutions involved in qualifications assessment.

In relation to further study, the HKSAR Government and the Ministry of Education signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Mainland and Hong Kong on Mutual Recognition of Academic Degrees in Higher Education (MoU) in July 2004. The MoU facilitates the mutual recognition of qualifications for the purpose of further study in recognised Mainland and Hong Kong higher education institutions empowered to award degrees at undergraduate or above levels by simplifying the procedures involved. All the 70 Mainland higher education institutions joining the Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong Students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions in 2013 are included in the list of recognised higher education institutions in both places under the MoU. As such, degrees at undergraduate or above levels awarded by these institutions are recognised by Hong Kong higher education institutions for the purpose of further study, while degrees at undergraduate or above levels awarded by Hong Kong higher education institutions covered by the MoU are recognised by Mainland higher education institutions for the same purpose.

In terms of employment, recognition of a particular qualification is essentially a matter for the user to decide. In general, it is up to individual employers (both public and private organisations) or professional bodies to decide whether a particular qualification obtained by an applicant should be regarded as meeting the requirements for filling the relevant job position or membership registration. As regards qualifications awarded by bodies outside Hong Kong (including those in the Mainland and overseas), the holders would normally seek the assessment of the HKCAAVQ. This notwithstanding, decisions as to whether or not to accept a particular qualification for employment or registration purposes still rest with the employer or body concerned.

As for civil service appointments, under the existing policy of the Civil Service Bureau (CSB), qualification requirements for civil service posts are normally set with reference to qualifications obtainable under the local education system or from local institutions. Candidates holding non-local qualifications, including those awarded by Mainland education institutions, may also apply for civil service posts. As the programmes offered by local and non-local institutions are different in content, these candidates' overall qualifications will be subject to assessment to decide whether they meet the qualification requirements of the posts being applied for. If their qualifications are assessed as comparable in standard to the entry qualification requirements, they will be considered for appointment. Under the existing mechanism, the CSB will seek the advice of the HKCAAVQ or other relevant education institutions where necessary.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Pecvin Yong)  
for Secretary for Education