



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. : EDB(HE)CR 1/2041/14

電話 Telephone : 3509 8501

來函檔號 Your Ref. :

傳真 Fax Line : 2804 6499

25 November 2014

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

Dear Miss Yeung,

**Legislative Council Panel on Education**

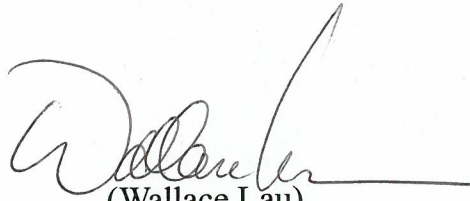
**Report on the Implementation Details of  
the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme**

In his 2014 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced a series of initiatives in a bid to provide senior secondary graduates with broader and more diversified further study pathways both in and outside Hong Kong. These include the launching of a new scholarship scheme to support outstanding local students to pursue studies in world renowned universities outside Hong Kong. To underscore its paramountcy as the scholarship of our Asia's World City, the scheme is officially named as Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme (HKSES).

The Government consulted Members on the objectives, eligibility, form and amount of funding support, conditions and requirements of funding support, etc of the HKSES on 14 April 2014 (see paper CB(4)545/13-14(01)). The Finance Committee approved a funding of \$347,965,000 for implementing the HKSES to support three cohorts of students, with initially up to 100 students per cohort, starting from the 2015/16 academic year and then its effectiveness will be reviewed.

A Steering Committee was set up in September 2014 to advise the Administration on the policy, strategy and administration of the HKSES. Implementation details of the HKSES deliberated and endorsed by the Steering Committee are set out in the "Report on the Implementation Details of the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme" at the Annex for information by all Council Members

Yours sincerely,



(Wallace Lau)

for Secretary for Education

For information  
on 25 November 2014

**Legislative Council Panel on Education**  
**Report on the Implementation Details of**  
**the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme**

**Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on the implementation details of the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme (HKSES).

**Background**

2. In his 2014 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced a series of initiatives in a bid to provide senior secondary graduates with broader and more diversified further study pathways both in and outside Hong Kong. These include the launching of a new scholarship scheme to support outstanding local students to pursue studies in world renowned universities outside Hong Kong. To underscore its paramountcy as the scholarship of our Asia's World City, the scheme is officially named as HKSES.

3. The Government consulted Members on the objectives, eligibility, form and amount of funding support, conditions and requirements of funding support, etc of the HKSES on 14 April 2014 (see paper CB(4)545/13-14(01)). The Finance Committee approved a funding of \$347,965,000 on 12 July 2014 (see paper FCR(2014-15)17) for implementing the HKSES to support three cohorts of students, with initially up to 100 students per cohort, starting from the 2015/16 academic year and then its effectiveness will be reviewed.

4. The objective of the HKSES is to support local students to pursue studies in world renowned universities outside Hong Kong with a view to grooming a top cadre of talents with global vision, international network and world-class education, thereby contributing to enhancing Hong Kong's competitiveness as Asia's World City in a globalised knowledge economy. The scheme also seeks to support those students who have excellent academic achievement but lack the financial means to study in top-notch universities outside Hong Kong.

## **Steering Committee**

5. A Steering Committee was set up in September 2014 to advise the Administration on the policy, strategy and administration of the HKSES. Chaired by a non-official, the Steering Committee an ex-officio members and 13 non-official members who are leaders and experts with excellent knowledge, experience and network relating to world renowned universities as well as major corporations or organisations with global vision and network. The terms of reference and membership of the Steering Committee are at Annex. Implementation details of the HKSES deliberated and endorsed by the Steering Committee are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

## **Implementation Details**

### Programme Coverage

6. The HKSES will cover all undergraduate and postgraduate programmes including those of master and doctoral degrees or equivalent levels. While there is no limitation on the disciplines of study, priority will be given to programmes that are conducive to building up Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness, in particular those not available in Hong Kong.

### Duration of Scholarship

7. Once awarded, a scholarship will last for the normal duration of the concerned programme in respect of undergraduate studies and up to two years in respect of all postgraduate studies. It will be renewable annually subject to the provision of satisfactory documentary proof of the awardees' good academic performance.

### Eligibility

8. To be eligible for the HKSES, applicants are required to meet the following two criteria:

- (a) have right of abode or right to land, or have entered Hong Kong on One-way Permits; and
- (b) have resided in Hong Kong continuously for three complete years immediately prior to the commencement of the academic programme outside Hong Kong.

In particular, students entering Hong Kong on student or dependant visas will not be eligible for the scheme.

9. For undergraduate programmes, only students receiving their formal school education in Hong Kong are eligible. This would cover all Hong Kong students who receive senior secondary education in Hong Kong, including those studying local and non-local curricula in Hong Kong. For postgraduate programmes, students who have obtained their undergraduate qualifications either in or outside Hong Kong are eligible, provided that they meet the criteria set out in paragraph 8 (a) & (b) above.

### Selection Criteria

10. The Steering Committee will adopt a merit-based approach to selection, targeting the best and most outstanding Hong Kong students who are admitted to world renowned universities or programmes. Selection will be based on the academic achievements and other attributes of the applicants such as leadership qualities and potential, contribution and commitment to Hong Kong, etc. In particular, their plan to return to work and contribute to Hong Kong after completion of studies will be a key selection consideration.

### Selection Process

11. To facilitate an objective and rigorous selection, the Steering Committee will adopt a three-stage selection process – preliminary screening, shortlisting and interview.

- (a) Preliminary screening (February to April 2015): Upon receipt of the applications, the Secretariat will conduct preliminary screening based on the academic results and choices of university/programme. Each applicant is allowed to list three universities/programmes in order of priority in their applications. When assessing the choices of universities/programmes, reference will be made to the top 100 universities/institutions in each of the four world university ranking tables lately published by QS, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Times Higher Education and US News and World Report respectively; and the top 30 colleges in the latest National Liberal Arts Colleges Rankings published by the US News and World Report. Choices not listed in these lists will still be considered subject to justification provided by the applicants. Consolidated details of the applications will be ranked in priority order for consideration and shortlisting by the Steering Committee at the second stage.
- (b) Shortlisting (April to May 2015): The shortlisting process will involve assessment of both academic achievements and non-academic attributes of the applicants with a view to coming up a pool of selected applicants for interview. Other factors such as the reason for choosing their areas of study and universities/programmes, their personal statement on how the scholarship could help them realise their aspiration, their career plan after graduation and how they could

contribute to Hong Kong's future development will also be considered. Shortlisted applicants will be notified individually.

- (c) Interview (May to August 2015): Shortlisted applicants who have received confirmed offers from the chosen universities and programmes will be invited to attend interviews during which the overall credential of the applicants will be assessed by face-to-face interviews. Selection of the final awardees will rest with the Steering Committee having regard to the assessment given by the interview panels on individual applicants.

Final list of awardees will be announced in August 2014, immediately followed by the disbursement of scholarship and bursary to the awardees.

12. Initially up to 100 scholarships will be awarded each year. Whilst there will be no pre-determined split of or quotas for awardees at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, the HKSES will primarily benefit students pursuing studies at undergraduate level. The selection will also cover applications for study in design, arts, sports or other unconventional disciplines in reputable specialised institutions.

#### Scholarship and Bursary

13. All awardees of HKSES will receive a non-means-tested scholarship to cover their tuition fees, subject to a ceiling of HK\$250,000 per student per annum, whichever is lower. Financially needy students may also apply for the means-tested bursary, subject to a ceiling of HK\$200,000 per student per annum. The bursary will consist of two components, i.e. up to HK\$50,000 per annum for covering tuition fee in excess of HK\$250,000; and up to HK\$150,000 per annum for covering living and other study-related expenses. The value of the award may be correspondingly reduced if an awardee also receives other awards to finance his/her same studies overseas.

14. For those applicants who eventually receive scholarship from other sources covering the tuition fee and living cost in full, they may still be considered for awarding under the HKSES (without any monetary benefit) as a token of Government's recognition of their outstanding achievements. The same set of assessment criteria for other HKSES awardees will be applied to this kind of awardees.

#### Undertaking to Return to Work in Hong Kong

15. Awardees would be required to complete the specific study programme and undertake to return to Hong Kong upon graduation to work for at least two years or a period equivalent to the duration of receiving the scholarship, whichever is longer. However, the Steering Committee will have the flexibility to decide, upon application on a case-by-case basis, whether the

requirement to undertake to return to and work in Hong Kong could be suitably deferred or waived under exceptional circumstances.

#### Application Period

16. The HKSES is officially launched on 25 November 2014. Eligible Hong Kong students who intend to pursue undergraduate or postgraduate studies in world renowned universities outside Hong Kong starting from the 2015/16 academic year have to upload the completed application form and supporting documents, including the written confirmation of receipt by the relevant universities/institutions, onto the HKSES website ([www.edb.gov.hk/hkses](http://www.edb.gov.hk/hkses)) on or before 31 January 2015. Considering that the application period for universities/programmes in Mainland would normally start from mid February to April 2015, applicants will need to provide written confirmation of receipt by the relevant universities/institutions in the Mainland on or before end April 2015.

#### Advice Sought

17. Members are invited to note this paper.

Education Bureau  
November 2014

## **Steering Committee on the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme**

### **Terms of Reference**

- (a) To set the overall strategy and direction of the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme (HKSES);
- (b) To determine the scope, parameters and details of the implementation of the HKSES, including but not limited to the principles and criteria for the selection process;
- (c) To select the awardees under the HKSES;
- (d) To consider applications relating to the compliance with conditions of the scholarship; and
- (e) To consider any other matters that may be referred to the Steering Committee by the Education Bureau concerning the policy and administration of the HKSES.

In discharging its functions, the Steering Committee may set up sub-committees and panels, conduct studies, engage professional services and co-opt members as and when necessary.

### **Membership**

#### **Chairman**

Dr Victor FUNG Kwok-king, GBM, GBS  
Chairman, Fung Group and Honourary Chairman, Li & Fung Ltd

#### **Non-Official Members**

Mr Ronnie CHENG Kay-yen  
Headmaster, Diocesan Boys School

The Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP  
Member of the Executive Council and Legislative Council  
Chairperson, New People's Party



Professor Nancy IP Yuk-yu, MH, JP  
Dean of Science, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Mr KONG Qing-ping  
Vice Chairman, China Overseas Holdings Ltd

Professor Paul LAM Kwan-sing, SBS, JP  
Chief-of-Staff (Vice President) and Chair of Biology,  
The City University of Hong Kong

Professor LEUNG Yuen-sang  
Dean of Faculty of Arts, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Mr Joseph Luc NGAI  
Director and Managing Partner, Hong Kong,  
McKinsey & Company Inc

Mr PANG Yiu-kai, SBS, JP  
Chief Executive, Hongkong Land Holdings Ltd

Professor SUEN Wing-chuen  
Chair of Economics, The University of Hong Kong

Professor TSUI Lap-chee, GBS, JP  
Victor and William Fung Foundation Ltd  
Former Vice Chancellor, The University of Hong Kong

Dr Allan WONG Chi-yun, GBS, JP  
Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer, VTech Group

Mr Andrew YAO Cho-fai, JP  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Van Shung Chong Holdings Ltd

Mr Patrick YEUNG Pui-choi  
Partner, Holman Fenwick Willan LLP

#### Ex-officio Member

Permanent Secretary for Education

#### Secretary

Principal Assistant Secretary for Education (Higher Education)