

回應教育事務委員會主席葉建源議員：

邀請就"為進一步支持高等教育界研究工作提供的新資源及研究資助局的撥款政策"提交意見書

1. Enhance research-related infrastructural support

Lack of research space is a bottle-neck hindering the development of all universities in Hong Kong. Many proposed construction projects are now put on hold by UGC. We suggest that the Government considers investing directly with one-off funding to accelerate the construction of buildings for R&D to fulfill the needs as requested by universities. This will greatly release the pressure on space needs and help boost R&D activities. For CityU, our projected research building space shortfall is currently 37,000M² according to the standard of UGC.

2. Additional PhD students

Increasing RPg numbers is the fast track for strengthening the support for researchers and fostering a research culture to help promote industrial development and technological innovation, thereby enhancing Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness:

- to meet the development needs of Hong Kong as reiterated by the CE in her Policy Address – this could be cost-neutral by allowing universities to find resources to fund their additional numbers;
- the RPg student:staff ratio of Hong Kong universities is currently far below comparable institutions in the region such as NTU.

Based on the UGC letter of 1 February 2019 to our University, the over-enrolment limit of RPg students will be raised from the current level of 40% to 70% progressively in 3 years starting from 2019/20. However, the number of RPg students is still far from what is needed in Hong Kong for doubling R&D as addressed by the CE. We suggest that the Government considers not to set any limit at all for all UGC institutions.

3. Annual Research Matching Grant Scheme

The 2018 CE Policy Address proposes "to launch a new Research Matching Grant Scheme with a total commitment of \$3 billion for three years for applications by local degree-awarding institutions". We suggest that this new research matching grant scheme be introduced as a regular annual exercise to boost R&D expenditure and donations from the private sector, and to provide incentives to universities in terms of commitment and support for enhancing investments in R&D activities. This also reaffirms the message in the CE Policy Address about meeting the development needs of Hong Kong.

City University of Hong Kong