



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

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10 March 2020

Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Panel on Education
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Angel Wong)

Dear Ms Wong,

Legislative Council Panel on Education
Follow-up to the Meeting on 3 January 2020

At the meeting on 3 January 2020, Members of the Panel on Education requested the Government to provide supplementary information regarding the agenda item of “Targeted Taught Postgraduate Programmes Fellowships Scheme” (the Scheme). The Government’s reply is set out below.

Criteria for selecting programmes relevant to the priority area of “Developing a Sustainable Environment”

To prepare for the implementation of the Scheme, the University Grants Committee (UGC) has set up a task force to finalise the details of the Scheme and to assess proposals from the universities on the taught postgraduate (TPg) programmes and fellowship places. The task force is led by Sir Howard Newby, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool in the United Kingdom, with members including overseas academics and experts who are experienced in

the relevant fields and with no conflicts of interests. The task force assesses the proposed TPg programmes and the respective number of fellowships to be allocated to each programme under each priority area (including “Developing a Sustainable Environment”) in accordance with the following set of criteria –

- (i) relevance to the specific priority area;
- (ii) the manpower requirements and market demand presented by the universities prove that the programme can attract meritorious students;
- (iii) the capability of the programme in nurturing talent and supporting the high value-added and diversified development of Hong Kong, as well as its social impact;
- (iv) the university’s previous experience in offering relevant programmes; and
- (v) the long-term sustainability of the programme.

In February this year, the UGC announced the list of eligible programmes and the respective number of fellowship places to be allocated to each programme for the first cohort of the Scheme. Among them, five selected TPg programmes are in the priority area of “Developing a Sustainable Environment”, with a total of 56 fellowship places. Details are at Annex I.

To gain experience and facilitate the consideration of the arrangements for the second cohort (i.e. 2021/22 academic year), the UGC will invite the universities to offer comments on the implementation arrangements of the Scheme.

Number of non-local students on postgraduate programmes who have discontinued their studies in the 2019/20 academic year

The UGC Secretariat has sought information from the UGC-funded universities on the situation of the discontinuation of studies by non-local students on postgraduate programmes in the first semester of the 2019/20 academic year. When compared with the situation in the 2018/19 academic year, no substantial increase was detected in the number of non-local students discontinuing their studies. Details are at Annex II. It should be noted that the decision to discontinue studies is a matter of personal choice, having regard to different reasons including employment, family, health, changing schools/institutions, financial difficulties, and academic results. The universities are unable to assess whether the cases of discontinuing studies involve the element of social events.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Derek Lai', written in a cursive style.

(Derek Lai)
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

Targeted Taught Postgraduate Programmes Fellowships Scheme
List of eligible programmes under the priority area of "Developing a Sustainable Environment" with respective numbers of fellowship places
in the 2020/21 academic year

	University	Programme	Number of fellowship places
1	City University of Hong Kong	Master of Science in Electronic Information Engineering	9
2	City University of Hong Kong	Master of Science in Energy and Environment	9
3	City University of Hong Kong	Master of Arts in Public Policy and Management	3
4	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	MSc in Environmental Science and Management	20
5	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	MSc in Environmental Engineering and Management	15
Total:			56 (five programmes)

**Discontinuation of Studies by Non-local Students in
Taught and Research Postgraduate Programmes
(including UGC-funded and self-financing programmes)**

Semester	Number of non-local students who discontinued their studies	
	Taught postgraduate programmes	Research postgraduate programmes
First semester of 2018/19	95	85
Second and Summer semesters of 2018/19	77	123
First semester of 2019/20 (provisional)	109	57