



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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14 July 2020

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

Dear Ms WONG,

**Panel on Education
Enhancement and Start-up Grant Scheme for
Self-financing Post-secondary Education**

I refer to your letter of 12 June 2020 to the Secretary for Education on the captioned subject. In relation to the questions raised by the Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, the responses from the Education Bureau (EDB) are set out below.

Institutions Offering Self-financing Sub-degree or Undergraduate Programmes

In the 2019/20 academic year, 29 institutions offer full-time locally-accredited self-financing sub-degree or undergraduate programmes in Hong Kong. These institutions offer a total of 778 full-time locally-accredited local and non-local post-secondary programmes (comprising 493 degree (including top-up degree) and 285 sub-degree programmes), involving about 36 600 planned intake places (comprising about 17 300 degree (including top-up degree) and about 19 300 sub-degree places). The actual student intake is about 32 500 (including about 14 100 degree (including top-up degree) and about 18 400 sub-degree students). Details on

the numbers of programmes offered by individual institutions, their planned intakes, and actual intakes are at Annex 1.

Policy on Self-financing Post-secondary Education

The self-financing post-secondary education sector is a vital part of the post-secondary education ecosystem in Hong Kong, complementing the publicly-funded higher education sector, not only by providing more education opportunities, but also by injecting new perspectives and diversity in programme development. The Government's policy is to support the parallel development of the publicly-funded and the self-financing post-secondary education sectors. Over the years, the Government's support for the development of self-financing post-secondary institutions has all along been confined to non-recurrent subsidies, which has not deviated from the operational mode of self-financing post-secondary institutions where they do not receive recurrent public subvention and are self-sustaining.

To enhance the development and quality of the self-financing post-secondary sector, the Government has, as recommended by the Task Force on Review of Self-financing Post-secondary Education (the Task Force), revamped the Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education (CSPE). The CSPE's current work includes fostering strategic coordination of self-financing post-secondary institutions in respect of their positioning and the offering of programmes, as well as providing targeted support for them to develop their distinct character and niche areas. On the other hand, the Sub-committee on Quality Assurance has been set up under the revamped CSPE to study ways to enhance the quality of the self-financing post-secondary education sector at institutional governance and programme levels. The EDB is working with the Sub-committee to explore ways to further improve the existing accreditation standards and quality assurance matters, etc., applicable to the self-financing sector.

The Task Force also recommends that the Government should formulate a clear policy underpinned by a fair and transparent mechanism (through either legislation or administrative arrangements) such that operators whose development and institutional capabilities fall short of their original plans and prescribed standards after a reasonably long trial period – such as serious shortfalls in teaching and learning, teaching capacity, and programme delivery – may be de-registered, with a view to ensuring that institutions can fully demonstrate their competency in continuing to offer an appropriate level of self-financing post-secondary programmes. The EDB is working with the CSPE to follow up on the review of the

Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap.320), and will consult the sector and stakeholders on the proposed amendments to the legislation.

Provision of Subsidies to Self-financing Post-secondary Institutions

As aforementioned, the subsidies provided by the Government specifically to the self-financing post-secondary education sector is confined to non-recurrent forms, including –

- (a) supporting non-works projects that enhance the quality of teaching and learning through the Quality Enhancement Support Scheme under the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund;
- (b) providing public funds to match eligible private donations secured by the institutions under the Matching Grant Scheme; and
- (c) launching the Competitive Research Funding Scheme for the Local Self-financed Degree Sector under the Research Endowment Fund.

The amount of funding granted to self-financing post-secondary institutions under the aforementioned schemes with a breakdown by institution in the 2018/19 academic year is at Annex 2¹.

Provision of Subsidies to Students

The Government's provision of subsidies to students aims at achieving specific policy objectives, instead of supporting the development of self-financing post-secondary institutions. Students of self-financing post-secondary institutions are eligible for two types of subsidies –

- (a) at present, the publicly-funded universities are not able to fully meet Hong Kong's manpower demands in various areas, and self-financing post-secondary institutions can play a part in this respect. To avoid students being deterred by the high tuition fees of self-financing post-secondary institutions, which affects the requisite manpower supply in Hong Kong, the Government has implemented the Study Subsidy Scheme for

¹ As the applications under some of the schemes are still being processed, the complete set of data for the 2019/20 academic year is unavailable.

Designated Professions/Sectors (SSSDP) to subsidise students who pursue designated full-time locally-accredited self-financing undergraduate and sub-degree programmes in selected disciplines related to industries with a keen human resources demand; and

- (b) the current supply of subvented degree programme places is insufficient to cater for the demand from students who meet the minimum entrance requirement of attaining “3322” in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE). The supply of subvented senior year places is also insufficient to cater for the articulation needs of sub-degree graduates. The Government subsidises secondary school graduates who attain at least “3322” in the HKDSE but cannot secure publicly-funded university or SSSDP places and sub-degree graduates to pursue full-time locally-accredited local and non-local self-financing undergraduate programmes through the Non-means-tested Subsidy Scheme for Self-financing Undergraduate Studies in Hong Kong.

In addition to the aforementioned subsidy schemes, the Government has established the Self-financing Post-secondary Scholarship Scheme under the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund to provide scholarships and awards to outstanding students pursuing full-time locally-accredited self-financing sub-degree or undergraduate programmes.

The amount of subsidies granted to students of self-financing post-secondary institutions under the aforementioned schemes with a breakdown by institution in the 2018/19 academic year is at **Annex 3**¹.

Moreover, undergraduate programmes offered by self-financing post-secondary institutions are not the only choice other than publicly-funded universities for students to receive Government subsidies for further studies. Starting from the 2019/20 academic year, the SSSDP subsidises about 2 000 students per cohort to pursue designated sub-degree programmes. The Government also provides subvention to Higher Diploma programmes offered by the Vocational Training Council, and provides subsidies for students to pursue undergraduate programmes on the Mainland, such that the majority of students who complete secondary education and aspire to pursue further studies can receive subsidies.

The Proposed Enhancement and Start-up Grant Scheme for Self-financing Post-secondary Education (the proposed Scheme)

The proposed Scheme not only supports degree programmes, but also covers full-time locally-accredited local sub-degree programmes. Under the proposed Scheme, the CSPE is responsible for advising on the merits of the programme proposals submitted by institutions, having regard to factors including whether the programme concerned is able to nurture talent for an industry with a strong human resources need; whether many similar programmes already exist in the market; whether the programme is in line with the institution's strategic positioning in the sector and its academic development plan; and the programme design, student admission plan, and sustainability, etc. Based on the above criteria, the CSPE will only recommend meritorious programme proposals to the EDB for funding approval. Therefore, the situation of different institutions offering a large number of similar programmes and resulting in vicious competition will not occur. In fact, we envisage that the programmes supported under the proposed Scheme would mainly be vocational and professional education and training programmes and degree programmes with a strong professional orientation. Given their close relevance to industries with keen human resources needs, these programmes can help graduates acquire the required skills and knowledge to prepare them for career development in relevant industries. In terms of programme quality, programmes launched by institutions are subject to external quality assurance and accreditation by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (other than those offered by institutions with a self-accrediting status) in order to ensure their programme quality.

Survey on Graduates of Self-financed Post-secondary Institutions

The EDB conducts surveys on opinions of employers on the performance of undergraduate and sub-degree programme graduates to look into employers' assessment of the performance of graduates. The Executive Summary of the survey has been uploaded onto the Concourse for Self-financing Post-secondary Education for reference by the public. In addition, individual self-financing post-secondary institutions conduct graduate surveys and report the relevant salary information to the Government. Participating institutions of the SSSDP also submit the employment figures of subsidised students upon graduation to the Government, which can help us understand the situation of graduates joining the relevant industries.

Sub-degree Programmes

The Government has accepted the recommendation of the Task Force to conduct a more focused study to review and improve the structure and curriculum of sub-degree education to reflect the respective refined positioning of Associate Degree and Higher Diploma programmes within the higher education sector in Hong Kong. The EDB plans to commence the review by the end of this year. As aforementioned, the majority of the support measures provided by the Government for the self-financing post-secondary education sector are also applicable to sub-degree programmes. For instance, the SSSDP subsidises about 2 000 students of designated sub-degree programmes per cohort, and full-time locally-accredited local sub-degree programmes can also benefit from the proposed Scheme.

Conclusion

Given the above, the Government's policy is not particularly inclined towards undergraduate programmes of the self-financing post-secondary education sector. For both undergraduate and sub-degree programmes of the self-financing post-secondary sector, the Government has plans for them to develop their own niche areas and distinct positioning and to strive to enhance the quality of programmes.

For enquiries, please contact the undersigned at 3509 8556.

Yours sincerely,



(Martin WONG)
for Secretary for Education

Annex 1

Number of Programmes, Planned Intakes, and Actual Intakes of Full-time Locally-accredited Self-financing Sub-degree, First-year-first-degree, and Top-up Degree Programmes by Institution in the 2019/20 Academic Year

Institution	Number of Programmes				Planned Intakes ^[1]				Actual Intakes			
	Sub-degree ^[2]	First-year-first-degree ^[2]	Top-up Degree ^[3]	Total	Sub-degree ^[2]	First-year-first-degree ^[2]	Top-up Degree	Total	Sub-degree ^[2]	First-year-first-degree ^[2]	Top-up Degree	Total
Caritas Bianchi College of Careers	6	-	-	6	160	-	-	160	159	-	-	159
Caritas Institute of Community Education	1	-	-	1	80	-	-	80	19	-	-	19
Caritas Institute of Higher Education	2	5	8	15	150	490	70	710	176	442	96	714
Centennial College ^[4]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chu Hai College of Higher Education	-	14	28	42	-	602	198	800	-	85	70	155
City University of Hong Kong and its School of Continuing and Professional Education	-	8	11	19	-	390	400	790	-	179	268	447
Community College of City University/ UOW College Hong Kong	41	6	9	56	2 600	150	150	2 900	2 091	53	166	2 310
Gratia Christian College	4	3	3	10	120	100	80	300	27	14	37	78
The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong	-	20	20	40	-	1 100	365	1 465	-	1 348	857	2 205
HKU SPACE Po Leung Kuk Stanley Ho Community College	24	-	-	24	1 430	-	-	1 430	1 195	-	-	1 195
Hong Kong Art School	1	1	-	2	50	65	-	115	43	31	-	74

Institution	Number of Programmes				Planned Intakes ^[1]				Actual Intakes			
	Sub-degree ^[2]	First-year-first-degree ^[2]	Top-up Degree ^[3]	Total	Sub-degree ^[2]	First-year-first-degree ^[2]	Top-up Degree	Total	Sub-degree ^[2]	First-year-first-degree ^[2]	Top-up Degree	Total
Hong Kong Baptist University and its School of Continuing Education, College of International Education, and Academy of Film	38	2	17	57	1 855	380 ^[5]	847	3 082	1 811	274	749	2 834
Hong Kong College of Technology and HKCT Institute of Higher Education	14	2	1	17	280	35	20	335	243	@	@	243
Hong Kong Institute of Technology	4	5	8	17	150	30	100	280	153	31	72	256
Hong Kong Nang Yan College of Higher Education	1	4	3	8	45	120	25	190	0	30	1	31
Hong Kong Shue Yan University	-	14	13	27	-	950	185	1 135	-	826	277	1 103
Lingnan University and its Lingnan Institute of Further Education	20	1	-	21	590	0	-	590	446	29	-	475
SCAD Foundation (Hong Kong) Limited/Savannah College of Art and Design, Inc	-	13	-	13	-	300	-	300	-	183	-	183
The Chinese University of Hong Kong – School of Continuing and Professional Studies	14	-	-	14	794	-	-	794	821	-	-	821
The Education University of Hong Kong	-	1	5	6	-	40	230	270	-	29	160	189

Institution	Number of Programmes				Planned Intakes ^[1]				Actual Intakes			
	Sub-degree ^[2]	First-year-first-degree ^[2]	Top-up Degree ^[3]	Total	Sub-degree ^[2]	First-year-first-degree ^[2]	Top-up Degree	Total	Sub-degree ^[2]	First-year-first-degree ^[2]	Top-up Degree	Total
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and its School of Professional Education and Executive Development and Hong Kong Community College	34	-	27	61	4 900	-	1 430	6 330	4 988	-	1 095	6 083
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	-	1	-	1	-	50	-	50	-	61	-	61
The Open University of Hong Kong and Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing Education	20	38	84	142	1 110	2 192	1 453	4 755	1 038	1 747	1 354	4 139
The University of Hong Kong - HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPACE) and HKU SPACE Community College	33	4	12	49	3 400	43	160	3 603	3 417	56	135	3 608
Tung Wah College	4	10	6	20	340	895	340	1 575	197	524	148	869
Vocational Training Council	22	20	64	106	1 110	846	2 421	4 377	1 444	322	2 358	4 124
Yew Chung College of Early Childhood Education	1	1	1	3	120	35	35	190	94	20	15	129
YMCA College of Careers	1	-	-	1	30	-	-	30	4	-	-	4

Notes:

[1] Figures are provided by institutions for planning of intake places. They may not be the admission target or the maximum intake quota of individual institutions.

[2] Figures include programmes subsidised under the SSSDP and their planned intakes and actual intakes.

[3] For number of top-up degree programmes, there are overlapping of the same programme with student admission in different years of study. Therefore, caution should be exercised when interpreting these figures and the related totals.

[4] Centennial College discontinued student admission since the 2019/20 academic year.

[5] The figure includes part-time programme intakes of the institution concerned.

“-” No relevant programmes are offered by the institutions.

@ Figures are not available from the institutions.

Annex 2

Funding Granted under Different Support Schemes to Self-financing Post-secondary Education Institutions by Institutions in the 2018/19 Academic Year

Institution	Quality Enhancement Support Scheme (\$'000)	Seventh Matching Grant Scheme ^{[1][2]} (\$'000)	Competitive Research Funding Schemes for the Local Self-financing Degree Sector ^[1] (\$'000)	Total ^[1] (\$'000)	Total (%)
Caritas Bianchi College of Careers	0	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
Caritas Institute of Community Education	0	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
Caritas Institute of Higher Education	2,255	100,000	2,899	105,154	19.08%
Centennial College	0	1,148	720	1,868	0.34%
Chu Hai College of Higher Education	0	100,000	2,693	102,693	18.63%
City University of Hong Kong and its School of Continuing and Professional Education	0	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
Community College of City University/UOW College Hong Kong	0	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
Gratia Christian College	0	17,735	0	17,735	3.22%
The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong	4,181	100,000	8,483	112,664	20.44%
HKU SPACE Po Leung Kuk Stanley Ho Community College	0	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
Hong Kong Art School	0	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
Hong Kong Baptist University and its School of Continuing Education, College of International Education, and Academy of Film	8,723	N/A	0	8,723	1.58%
Hong Kong College of Technology and HKCT Institute of Higher Education	0	13,973	0	13,973	2.53%
Hong Kong Institute of Technology	0	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
Hong Kong Nang Yan College of Higher Education	0	7,373	0	7,373	1.34%
Hong Kong Shue Yan University	0	22,329	2,680	25,008	4.54%
Lingnan University and its Lingnan Institute of Further Education	0	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
SCAD Foundation (Hong Kong) Limited/Savannah College of Art and Design, Inc.	0	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%

Institution	Quality Enhancement Support Scheme (\$'000)	Seventh Matching Grant Scheme ^{[1][2]} (\$'000)	Competitive Research Funding Schemes for the Local Self-financing Degree Sector ^[1] (\$'000)	Total ^[1] (\$'000)	Total (%)
The Chinese University of Hong Kong - School of Continuing and Professional Studies	0	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
The Education University of Hong Kong	0	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and its School of Professional Education and Executive Development, and Hong Kong Community College	2,018	N/A	3,225	5,243	0.95%
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	0	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
The Open University of Hong Kong and Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing Education	2,354	92,532	13,029	107,915	19.58%
The University of Hong Kong - HKU SPACE and HKU SPACE Community College	0	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
Tung Wah College	0	7,178	748	7,926	1.44%
Vocational Training Council	2,040	11,288	3,208	16,535	3.00%
Yew Chung College of Early Childhood Education	0	18,414	N/A	18,414	3.34%
YMCA College of Careers	0	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
Total ^[1]	21,572	491,968	37,684	551,225	100.00%

Notes:

[1] Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

[2] The Seventh Matching Grant Scheme ran for two years from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2019. The above amount is the total amount of matching grants received by the institutions.

"N/A" Not applicable.

Annex 3**Subsidies Granted under Different Support Schemes to Students of Self-financing Post-secondary Education Institutions by Institutions in the 2018/19 Academic Year**

Institution	Self-financing Post-secondary Scholarship Scheme (\$'000)	Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/ Sectors (\$'000)	Non-Means-Tested Subsidy Scheme for Self-financing Undergraduate Studies in Hong Kong (\$'000)	Total ^[1] (\$'000)	Total (%)
Caritas Bianchi College of Careers	310	N/A	N/A	310	0.03%
Caritas Institute of Community Education	150	N/A	N/A	150	0.01%
Caritas Institute of Higher Education	1,710	58,658	8,634	69,002	6.61%
Centennial College	130	N/A	2,202	2,332	0.22%
Chu Hai College of Higher Education	750	4,305	5,916	10,971	1.05%
City University of Hong Kong and its School of Continuing and Professional Education	1,490	N/A	N/A	1,490	0.14%
Community College of City University/UOW College Hong Kong	6,840	N/A	N/A	6,840	0.66%
Gratia Christian College	140	N/A	1,155	1,295	0.12%
The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong	5,250	28,516	106,287	140,053	13.43%
HKU SPACE Po Leung Kuk Stanley Ho Community College	2,210	N/A	N/A	2,210	0.21%
Hong Kong Art School	170	N/A	246	416	0.04%
Hong Kong Baptist University and its School of Continuing Education, College of International Education, and Academy of Film	7,010	N/A	N/A	7,010	0.67%
Hong Kong College of Technology and HKCT Institute of Higher Education	360	N/A	477	837	0.08%
Hong Kong Institute of Technology	600	N/A	2,295	2,895	0.28%
Hong Kong Nang Yan College of Higher Education	80	N/A	385	465	0.04%
Hong Kong Shue Yan University	3,990	N/A	104,407	108,397	10.39%

Institution	Self-financing Post-secondary Scholarship Scheme (\$'000)	Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/ Sectors (\$'000)	Non-Means-Tested Subsidy Scheme for Self-financing Undergraduate Studies in Hong Kong (\$'000)	Total ^[1] (\$'000)	Total (%)
Lingnan University and its Lingnan Institute of Further Education	970	N/A	N/A	970	0.09%
SCAD Foundation (Hong Kong) Limited/Savannah College of Art and Design, Inc.	880	N/A	975	1,855	0.18%
The Chinese University of Hong Kong - School of Continuing and Professional Studies	1,830	N/A	N/A	1,830	0.18%
The Education University of Hong Kong	1,620	N/A	N/A	1,620	0.16%
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and its School of Professional Education and Executive Development, and Hong Kong Community College	12,440	N/A	N/A	12,440	1.19%
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	150	N/A	N/A	150	0.01%
The Open University of Hong Kong and Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing Education	13,670	181,439	140,388	335,497	32.16%
The University of Hong Kong - HKU SPACE and HKU SPACE Community College	6,570	N/A	N/A	6,570	0.63%
Tung Wah College	2,450	96,681	15,846	114,977	11.02%
Vocational Training Council	11,540	92,620	107,390	211,550	20.28%
Yew Chung College of Early Childhood Education	280	N/A	770	1,050	0.10%
YMCA College of Careers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total ^[1]	83,590	462,219	497,373	1,043,181	100.00%

Notes:

[1] Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

“N/A” Not applicable.