



## Hong Kong as a Regional Education Hub

- Hong Kong is a place where East meets West. People from different parts of the world come to Hong Kong for education, business, enjoyment, and for exposure to the blend of Chinese and Western cultures. Hong Kong provides an attractive learning environment for preparing students to meet challenges in a globalized world.
- The English environment and English-speaking tertiary institutions facilitate overseas students to study here. The cosmopolitan nature of campus life is nurturing students with inter-cultural competence to be future world citizens. The rich Chinese language and cultural environment prepare students who are interested in developing their career in Asia, particularly in the Greater China region.
- Hong Kong aspires to be a regional education hub to nurture talents for the region. We welcome overseas students to study, to conduct academic research, and to take part in educational exchange activities in Hong Kong.
- Hong Kong has many world-class institutions. Of the 17 degree-awarding institutions in Hong Kong, three were ranked within the top 50 in 2013 by the *Quacquarelli Symonds*: The University of Hong Kong (HKU) (26<sup>th</sup>), The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) (34<sup>th</sup>) and The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) (39<sup>th</sup>); and another two within the top 200: City University of Hong Kong (104<sup>th</sup>) and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) (161<sup>st</sup>). Besides, HKU was also ranked within the top 50 in 2013 by the *Times Higher Education Supplement*. We adopt international standards in curriculum design and quality assurance.
- Hong Kong universities also host many of the world's best programmes. The EMBA programme offered by the HKUST, in collaboration with Kellogg School of Management of the Northwestern University, was ranked 1<sup>st</sup> by the *Financial Times* in 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. The MBA programmes offered by the HKUST was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> by the *Financial Times* in 2013. Besides, according to the 2013 *QS World University Ranking by Subjects*, the "Finance and Accounting" discipline of the HKUST, HKU and CUHK were ranked 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> worldwide respectively. For the "Law" discipline, HKU was ranked 20<sup>th</sup> worldwide and the highest in Asia. The School of Hotel and Tourism Management at the PolyU was ranked by the *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Research* in 2009 as the second in the world amongst the major academic institutions in hospitality and tourism based on research and scholarly activities.

### **Non-local students in Hong Kong**

- Hong Kong welcomes international students. In the 2012/13 academic year, about 26,600 non-local students coming from over 70 countries/regions study post-secondary programmes in Hong Kong. Moreover, about 4,400 incoming students entered Hong Kong on exchange in publicly-funded post-secondary programmes in the same year. Tuition fees in Hong Kong's universities range from US\$10,000 to US\$15,000 per year. To enhance internationalization –
  - we have doubled the quotas for non-local students at publicly-funded institutions from 10% to 20% since 2008.
  - we have set up the HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund to award government scholarships to outstanding local and non-local students of full-time publicly-funded post-secondary programmes. Starting from the 2012/13 academic year, up to ten targeted scholarships covering tuition fees are offered to first-year non-local full-time students from ASEAN countries, India and Korea, who are enrolled in publicly-funded degree programmes in Hong Kong. In addition, there are also different types of scholarships and award schemes in place for outstanding



academic performance, achievements and talents in other non-academic fields as well as deserving post-secondary students with special educational needs.

- we have relaxed immigration restrictions by aligning the length of stay with the normal duration of study programmes.
- we have relaxed employment restrictions to allow non-local students studying locally-accredited post-secondary programmes to take internships and part-time jobs during their studies and stay in Hong Kong for 12 months, without any restrictions, after graduation.
- A number of universities in Hong Kong offer student exchange programmes with major universities around the world. In addition, many overseas students pursue short-term studies in Hong Kong.

### ***Research opportunities in Hong Kong***

- The Research Endowment Fund (“REF”) was established in 2008 with an original endowment of HK\$18 billion (about US\$2.3 billion). In 2012, we injected a further HK\$5 billion (about US\$640 million) into the REF to provide additional research resources for tertiary education sector, of which HK\$3 billion (about US\$385 million) will be used to support research projects of self-financing degree-awarding institutions.
- We launched the *Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS)* in 2009. This scheme aims to attract the best and brightest students from around the world to pursue their PhD programmes in Hong Kong's institutions funded by the University Grants Committee. The scheme provides a monthly stipend of HK\$20,000 (about US\$2,560) and a conference and research-related travel allowance of HK\$10,000 (about US\$1,280) per year to each awardee for a period up to three years. More information on HKPFS can be obtained at Research Grants Council's website [<http://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/hkphd/hkphd.htm>].

### ***Non-local institutions in Hong Kong***

- There are about 1,100 courses in Hong Kong offered by institutions outside Hong Kong, leading to the award of a non-local higher academic or professional qualification.
- Among them, 69% are from the UK, 16% from Australia, 8% from the US and Canada, 5% from Mainland China and 2% from other countries.

### ***Further internationalization and diversification of Hong Kong's higher education sector***

- The HK\$2.27 billion (about US\$290 million) HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund was established to award Government scholarships on the basis of merit to outstanding local and non-local students studying in full-time publicly-funded programmes at sub-degree and degree level or above in the eight UGC-funded institutions, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, and the Vocational Training Council.
- We have been making great effort to promote the development of the self-financing post-secondary sector through a basket of support measures including land grant at nominal premium, interest-free start-up loans, student finances, quality assurance subsidies and a HK\$3.52 billion (about US\$450 million) Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund to provide scholarships to outstanding students pursuing full-time locally-accredited self-financing sub-degree or undergraduate programmes (including local and non-local students) and support quality enhancement efforts of institutions.

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