

Hong Kong as an International 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 nurtures 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 an international education hub to nurture talents. 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 22 degree-awarding institutions in Hong Kong, five were ranked within the top 100 in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2027: The University of Hong Kong (HKU) (11th), The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) (18th), The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) (33rd), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) (50th) and City University of Hong Kong (CityU) (52nd). Besides, HKU, CUHK, HKUST, CityU and PolyU were also ranked within the top 100 in the World University Rankings 2027 by the Times Higher Education. 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 1st by the Financial Times in 2026. Besides, according to the 2026 QS World University Ranking by Subjects, HKU's Faculty of Dentistry was ranked the 2nd dental school in the world. PolyU's Hospitality & Leisure Management was ranked 15th in the world. The "Accounting and Finance" discipline of the HKU, HKUST and CUHK were ranked 26th, 33rd and 34th worldwide respectively.

Non-local students in Hong Kong

- Hong Kong welcomes international students. In the 2024/25 academic year, about 92,000 non-local students coming from over 100 countries/regions study post-secondary programmes in Hong Kong. Moreover, about 6,300 incoming students entered Hong Kong on exchange in publicly-funded post-secondary programmes in the same year. To enhance internationalisation –



- Starting from the 2026/27 academic year, the enrolment ceiling of non-local students in publicly-funded post-secondary institutions (applicable to taught programmes) raised from 40% to 50% (of local student places); the over-enrolment ceiling of self-financing places of funded research postgraduate programmes increased from 100% to 120%. To dovetail with the development of Northern Metropolis University Town, the number of UGC-funded research postgraduate places will gradually increase by around 30%, from the current level of 7,200 to 9,600 in the 2030/31 academic year.

- 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, and the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund to award scholarships to outstanding local and non-local students of full-time locally-accredited self-financing post-secondary programmes. There are 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. Belt and Road Scholarships are also offered to non-local students from Belt and Road countries pursuing full-time publicly-funded undergraduate programmes and research postgraduate programmes in Hong Kong.

- We have established the Task Force on Study in Hong Kong to step up the promotion of higher education and attract more international teaching and research talents and students.

- 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 24 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.

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme

- The Research Grants Council 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 funded by the UGC in Hong Kong's universities. In the 2026/27 academic year, the scheme provides an annual stipend of HK$ 344,400 (approximately US$44,150) and a conference and research-related travel allowance of HK$14,400 (about US$1,840) per year to each awardee for a period up to three years. Starting from the 2027/28 academic year, the annual quota of the Fellowship Scheme will gradually increase from 400 to 550 places in the 2029/30 academic year. More information on HKPFS can be obtained at Research Grants Council's website [https://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/funding_opport/fellowships/hkphdfs.html].



Non-local courses conducted in Hong Kong

- There are about 739 non-local courses conducted in Hong Kong by institutions outside Hong Kong, leading to the award of non-local higher academic or professional qualifications.
- Among these non-local courses, 81% are from the United Kingdom, 6% from Australia, 4% from the United States and Canada, 6% from Chinese Mainland and 3% from other countries.

Further internationalisation and diversification of Hong Kong's higher education sector

- The HK$3.07 billion (about US$390 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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Education Bureau

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