

Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 57/2023

From: Secretary for Education
Ref.: (3) in EDB/LTQ/PRO/49 Pt.4
Date: 13 June 2023

To: Heads of all secondary schools

Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2023/24)

Summary

The purpose of this circular memorandum is to invite applications for the Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2023/24), the details of which were announced in the Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 187/2022 issued on 30 November 2022. Heads of secondary schools are requested to forward the following information to the careers guidance teachers so that they would inform all students, especially those who are applying for admission to local universities in the 2023/24 school year, of the Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2023/24).



Details

2. The Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (“the Scholarship”) is one of a series of measures to enhance the professionalism of English teachers in Hong Kong. It aims to attract persons proficient in English to pursue relevant local bachelor degree programmes and / or teacher training programmes which will qualify them to become English teachers on graduation. The Scholarship is tenable for the normal duration of the intended study programmes. Upon graduation, awardees have to undertake to teach English full-time in primary or secondary schools in Hong Kong (day schools offering a formal curriculum). For awardees on undergraduate degree programmes, the duration of teaching obligation is three years.

3. The Scholarship (2023/24) will be open for applications from 9 to 18 August 2023. Only applicants who will pursue **year one** study in relevant study programmes starting from the 2023/24 school year are eligible to apply for the Scholarship. Hence, schools are requested to notify students who are interested in the Scholarship of its details so that students could be reminded to reprioritise their JUPAS programme choices, if necessary, after the release of results for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination. The list of relevant study programmes is available on the website of the Education Bureau (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>).



4. In this connection, please draw your students’ attention to the Scholarship (2023/24) and distribute to them copies of the attached letter (Annex 1), the Information

Sheet (Annex 2) and the Recommendation Form (Annex 3).

Enquiries

5. For enquiries about the Scholarship, please contact Ms Constance CHOW (Tel. 2892 5786) of the Professional Development and Training Division, Education Bureau.

Ms W P LEE
for Secretary for Education


c.c. Heads of Sections --- for information

Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2023/24)
Information Sheet
for Secondary School Graduates of Local Student Status

Background

1. The Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (“the Scholarship”) is set up by the Education Bureau (EDB), the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) as one of a series of measures to enhance the professionalism of English teachers in Hong Kong.
2. The aim of the Scholarship is to attract persons proficient in English to pursue relevant local bachelor degree programmes and / or teacher training programmes, which will qualify them to become English teachers on graduation.

Eligibility for Application

3. Both local and non-local students¹ may apply for the Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2023/24). Information for local students interested in applying for a 5-year Scholarship is provided in the following paragraphs. Non-local students should refer to the “Information Sheet for Secondary School Graduates and Undergraduates / Graduates of Universities of Non-local Student Status” posted on the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>). 
4. Application is open to secondary school graduates who
 - (a) have attained Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination, or equivalent²; and
 - (b) will start pursuing **year one** study in relevant degree programmes in local universities in the 2023/24 school year. A list of such programmes can be found on the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>).

¹ “Non-local students” are persons, regardless of their nationalities, who require a student visa / entry permit issued by the Director of Immigration for the purpose of receiving education in Hong Kong.

² The following results are accepted for applying for the Scholarship:

- Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) – Grade B or above in Use of English (UE)
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – An overall score of Band 7 or above in the Academic Module
- General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examinations – Grade B or above in AS Level English
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme – Grade 5 or above in Higher Level English Language (A1 or A2)
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) – A minimum score of 600 (Paper-based) or 250 (Computer-based) or 100 (Internet-based)
- National Joint College Entrance Examination (NJCEE) (全國普通高等學校統一考試, also known as Gaokao 高考) – A score of 130 or above in English

5. Broadly speaking, applicants should pursue one of the following programmes in a local university:
 - (a) a full-time Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree programme majoring in English; or
 - (b) a full-time Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education (BA & BEd) double degree programme majoring in English; or
 - (c) a full-time Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree programme majoring in English or a relevant subject (such as Linguistics, with English as the main language of study) followed immediately by a full-time / part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) programme also majoring in English.

Scholarship Amounts

6. The Scholarship is tenable for the normal duration of the study programme(s). The scholarship amounts are detailed in the following table:

Study programme	Scholarship amounts for each awardee of local student status
BEd degree	HK\$50,000 per year
BA & BEd double degree	HK\$50,000 per year
BA degree followed by full-time / part-time PGDE	HK\$50,000 per year (for BA degree programme); and HK\$50,000 (for the whole PGDE programme)

7. To have the Scholarship renewed every year, awardees are obliged to put forward good conduct and academic performance while complying with the terms and conditions of the Undertaking signed by them upon acceptance of the award of the Scholarship.

Application and Selection

8. Applications for the Scholarship will be open from 9 to 18 August 2023.
9. Students who are interested may submit an application together with the supporting documents through the on-line application system to EDB on or before the deadline (18 August 2023). Applications should be supported by the Recommendation Form (Annex 3) to be completed by the Principal or a teacher of the secondary school the applicant attended and submitted separately on or before the deadline. For details of application, please visit the EDB website at <http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>.

10. Applicants will be shortlisted for an interview on the basis of public examination results attained. The interviews are scheduled for early September 2023. Attendance is mandatory.
11. The Scholarship will be awarded to applicants whose performance is the best in all aspects. When all factors being considered are equal, priority will be given to applicants who intend to teach in primary schools, as indicated by the choice of their study programmes. Applicants will be informed of the selection results by the end of November 2023.

Teaching Obligation

12. Awardees should undertake to fulfil a teaching obligation by teaching English full-time in primary or secondary schools in Hong Kong (day schools offering a formal curriculum) immediately after graduation. The duration of the teaching obligation is three consecutive school years.
13. In the case of a BA degree programme awardee who has chosen to pursue a recognised 2-year part-time PGDE programme upon completion of the BA degree programme, his / her full-time engagement as an English teacher in a school mentioned above while studying shall be counted towards the fulfilment of the teaching obligation, on condition that he / she completes the PGDE programme as required.

Undertaking and Deed of Indemnity

14. Awardees are required to sign an Undertaking which delineates the terms and conditions that they should comply with. These include, but are not limited to, the requirements for awardees to:
 - (a) attain good conduct and academic standards required by the university concerned to complete the relevant study programme(s);
 - (b) (for BA degree programme awardees) pursue a PGDE programme majoring in English immediately upon graduation from the degree programme; and
 - (c) fulfil the 3-year teaching obligation after graduation, and adhere to the standards of professional conduct of teachers and have no records of professional misconduct.
15. At any point of time, when a breach of the Undertaking occurs,
 - (a) the scholarship will cease to be paid for the remainder of a study programme; and
 - (b) awardees will be required to repay to the HKSAR Government the scholarship

amounts received on an interest-free and, if applicable, pro rata basis.

However, these circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis and flexibility will be exercised for reasons of breaching the Undertaking not within the awardees' control such as accidents, ill health, deaths, etc.

16. Each awardee has to nominate a person as his / her indemnifier. An indemnifier should be a person at or over 21 years of age who is gainfully employed, financially sound and able to provide a business / office address. Details of the qualifications of an indemnifier can be found in the Undertaking and the Deed of Indemnity. By signing the Deed of Indemnity, the indemnifier agrees to repay to the HKSAR Government the scholarship amounts received by an awardee if the awardee fails to comply with the terms and conditions included in the Undertaking and is unable to repay the scholarship amounts received.

Enquiries

17. For details about the relevant study programmes, please visit the websites of the local universities. Enquiries about the Scholarship can be sent to ltq@edb.gov.hk or directed to Ms Constance CHOW (Tel. 2892 5786) of the Professional Development and Training Division, EDB.

Education Bureau

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region


June 2023

Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2023/24)
Information Sheet
for Undergraduates / Graduates of Universities of Local Student Status

Background

1. The Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (“the Scholarship”) is set up by the Education Bureau (EDB), the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) as one of a series of measures to enhance the professionalism of English teachers in Hong Kong.
2. The aim of the Scholarship is to attract persons proficient in English to pursue relevant local bachelor degree programmes and / or teacher training programmes, which will qualify them to become English teachers on graduation.

Eligibility for Application

3. Both local and non-local students¹ may apply for the Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2023/24). Information for local students interested in applying for a 1-year Scholarship is provided in the following paragraphs. Non-local students should refer to the “Information Sheet for Secondary School Graduates and Undergraduates / Graduates of Universities of Non-local Student Status” posted on the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>). 
4. Application is open to undergraduates / graduates of universities² who
 - (a) have attained Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination, or equivalent³;
 - (b) hold a recognised first degree majoring in English or a relevant subject with honours not lower than Second Class Upper Division, or equivalent; and

¹ “Non-local students” are persons, regardless of their nationalities, who require a student visa / entry permit issued by the Director of Immigration for the purpose of receiving education in Hong Kong.

² Those who have graduated from degree programmes majoring in English and are employed in professions other than teaching, as well as those who are final year students graduating from relevant degree programmes in 2023 are included.

³ The following results are accepted for the purpose of applying for the Scholarship:

- Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) – Grade B or above in Use of English (UE)
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – An overall score of Band 7 or above in the Academic Module
- General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examinations – Grade B or above in AS Level English
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme – Grade 5 or above in Higher Level English Language (A1 or A2)
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) – A minimum score of 600 (Paper-based) or 250 Computer-based) or 100 (Internet-based)
- National Joint College Entrance Examination (NJCEE) (全國普通高等學校統一考試, also known as Gaokao 高考) – A score of 130 or above in English

- (c) will start pursuing a full-time Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) programme majoring in English in local universities in the 2023/24 school year. Information of such programmes can be found on the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>).

Scholarship Amounts

5. Each awardee will receive HK\$50,000 for the pursuit of a full-time PGDE programme.

Application and Selection

6. Applications for the Scholarship will be open from 9 to 18 August 2023.
7. Students who are interested may submit an application together with the supporting documents through the on-line application system to EDB on or before the deadline (18 August 2023). Applications should be supported by the Recommendation Form (Annex 3) to be completed by a member of the academic staff of the higher education institution the applicant attended and submitted separately on or before the deadline. For details of application, please visit the EDB website at <http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>.
8. Applicants will be shortlisted for an interview on the basis of public examination results attained. The interview is scheduled for early September 2023. Attendance is mandatory.
9. The Scholarship will be awarded to applicants whose performance is the best in all aspects. When all factors being considered are equal, priority will be given to applicants who intend to teach in primary schools, as indicated by the choice of their study programmes. Applicants will be informed of the selection results by the end of November 2023.

Teaching Obligation

10. Awardees should undertake to fulfil a teaching obligation by teaching English full-time in primary or secondary schools in Hong Kong (day schools offering a formal curriculum) immediately after graduation. The duration of the teaching obligation is one school year.

Undertaking and Deed of Indemnity

11. Awardees are required to sign an Undertaking which delineates the terms and conditions that they should comply with. These include, but are not limited to, the

requirements for awardees to:

- (a) attain good conduct and academic standards required by the university concerned to complete the relevant study programme(s); and
- (b) fulfil the 1-year teaching obligation after graduation, and adhere to the standards of professional conduct of teachers and have no records of professional misconduct.

12. At any point of time, when a breach of the Undertaking occurs, awardees will be required to repay to the HKSAR Government the scholarship amounts received on an interest-free and, if applicable, pro rata basis. However, these circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis and flexibility will be exercised for reasons of breaching the Undertaking not within the awardees' control such as accidents, ill health, deaths, etc.
13. Each awardee has to nominate a person as his / her indemnifier. An indemnifier should be a person at or over 21 years of age who is gainfully employed, financially sound and able to provide a business / office address. Details of the qualifications of an indemnifier can be found in the Undertaking and the Deed of Indemnity. By signing the Deed of Indemnity, the indemnifier agrees to repay to the HKSAR Government the scholarship amounts received by an awardee if the awardee fails to comply with the terms and conditions included in the Undertaking and is unable to repay the scholarship amounts received.

Enquiries

14. For details about the relevant study programmes, please visit the websites of the local universities. Enquiries about the Scholarship can be sent to ltq@edb.gov.hk or directed to Ms Constance CHOW (Tel. 2892 5786) of the Professional Development and Training Division, EDB.

Education Bureau

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region



June 2023

Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2023/24)
Information Sheet
for Secondary School Graduates and
Undergraduates / Graduates of Universities of Non-local Student Status

Background

1. The Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (“the Scholarship”) is set up by the Education Bureau (EDB), the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) as one of a series of measures to enhance the professionalism of English teachers in Hong Kong.
2. The aim of the Scholarship is to attract persons proficient in English to pursue relevant local bachelor degree programmes and / or teacher training programmes, which will qualify them to become English teachers on graduation.

Applicants’ Identity

3. Both Hong Kong students and students from places outside Hong Kong may apply for the Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2023/24). Awardees will receive a scholarship for five years or one year, as determined by the study programme(s) pursued. Information about the Scholarship is detailed in Part A (for 5-year Scholarship), Part B (for 1-year Scholarship) and Part C below for non-local students. Local students should refer to the “Information Sheet for Secondary School Graduates of Local Student Status” and the “Information Sheet for Undergraduates / Graduates of Universities of Local Student Status” posted on the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>). 
4. Non-local students are persons, regardless of their nationalities, who require a student visa / entry permit issued by the Director of Immigration for the purpose of receiving education in Hong Kong. Applicants should check their student status with reference to the information from the Immigration Department of Hong Kong accordingly. For more information about applying for a visa / entry permit, please visit the webpage of the Immigration Department of Hong Kong (<http://www.immd.gov.hk> > Our Services > Visas / Entry > Students). 

Part A: For Secondary School Graduates Interested in Applying for a 5-year Scholarship

Eligibility for Application

5. Application is open to secondary school graduates who
 - (a) have attained, either Grade B or above in AS Level English of the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examinations, or Grade 5 or above in Higher Level English Language (A1 or A2) in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, or equivalent¹; and
 - (b) will start pursuing **year one** study in relevant degree programmes in the universities in Hong Kong in the 2023/24 school year. A list of such programmes can be found on the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>).

6. Broadly speaking, applicants should pursue one of the following programmes provided by the universities in Hong Kong:
 - (a) a full-time Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree programme majoring in English; or
 - (b) a full-time Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education (BA & BEd) double degree programme majoring in English; or
 - (c) a full-time Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree programme majoring in English or a relevant subject (such as Linguistics, with English as the main language studied) followed immediately by a full-time / part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) programme also majoring in English.

Scholarship Amounts

7. The Scholarship is tenable for the normal duration of the study programme(s). The scholarship amounts are detailed in the following table:

¹ The following results are accepted for the purpose of applying for the Scholarship:

- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – An overall score of Band 7 or above in the Academic Module
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) – A minimum score of 600 (Paper-based) or 250 (Computer-based) or 100 (Internet-based)
- National Joint College Entrance Examination (NJCEE) (全國普通高等學校統一考試, also known as Gaokao 高考) – A score of 130 or above in English
- Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) – Grade B or above in Use of English (UE)
- Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination – Level 5 or above in English Language

Study programme	Scholarship amounts for each awardee of non-local student status
BEd degree	HK\$80,000 per year
BA & BEd double degree	HK\$80,000 per year
BA degree followed by full-time / part-time PGDE	HK\$80,000 per year (for BA degree programme); and HK\$80,000 (for the whole PGDE programme)

8. To have the Scholarship renewed every year, awardees are obliged to put forward good conduct and academic performance while complying with the terms and conditions of the Undertaking signed by them upon acceptance of the award of the Scholarship.

Part B: For Undergraduates / Graduates of Universities Interested in Applying for a 1-year Scholarship

Eligibility for Application

9. Application is open to undergraduates / graduates of universities² who
- have attained either Grade B or above in AS Level English of the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examinations, or Grade 5 or above in Higher Level English Language (A1 or A2) in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, or equivalent³;
 - hold a recognised first degree majoring in English or a relevant subject with honours not lower than Second Class Upper Division, or equivalent; and
 - will start pursuing a full-time Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) programme majoring in English in the universities in Hong Kong in the 2023/24 school year. For information about such programmes and the list of

² Persons who have graduated from degree programmes majoring in English and are employed in professions other than teaching, as well as those who are final year students graduating from relevant degree programmes in 2023 are included.

³ The following results are accepted for the purpose of applying for the Scholarship:

- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – An overall score of Band 7 or above in the Academic Module
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) – A minimum score of 600 (Paper-based) or 250 (Computer-based) or 100 (Internet-based)
- National Joint College Entrance Examination (NJCEE) (全國普通高等學校統一考試, also known as Gaokao 高考) – A score of 130 or above in English
- Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) – Grade B or above in Use of English (UE)
- Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination – Level 5 or above in English Language

institutions offering them, please visit the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>).

Scholarship Amounts

10. Each awardee will receive HK\$80,000 for the pursuit of a full-time PGDE programme.

Part C: For Applicants of Parts A and B

Application and Selection

11. Applications for the Scholarship will be open from 9 to 18 August 2023.
12. Students who are interested may submit an application together with the supporting documents through the on-line application system to EDB on or before the deadline (18 August 2023). Applications should be supported by the Recommendation Form (Annex 3) to be completed by the Principal or a teacher of the secondary school the applicant attended (for applicant of Part A) or a member of the academic staff of the higher education institution the applicant attended (for applicant of Part B), and submitted separately on or before the deadline. For details of application, please visit the EDB website at <http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>.
13. Applicants will be shortlisted for an interview on the basis of public examination results attained. The interviews are scheduled for early September 2023. Attendance is mandatory. Interviewees are expected to attend the interviews at their own expenses.
14. The Scholarship will be awarded to applicants whose performance is the best in all aspects. When all factors being considered are equal, priority will be given to applicants who intend to teach in primary schools, as indicated by the choice of their study programmes. Applicants will be informed of the selection results by the end of November 2023.

Teaching Obligation

15. Awardees should undertake to fulfil a teaching obligation by teaching English full-time in primary or secondary schools in Hong Kong (day schools offering a formal curriculum) immediately after graduation. The duration of the teaching obligation is three consecutive school years for awardees of the 5-year Scholarship


and one school year for awardees of the 1-year Scholarship.

16. In the case of a BA degree programme awardee of the 5-year Scholarship who has chosen to pursue a recognised 2-year part-time PGDE programme upon completion of the BA degree programme, his / her full-time engagement as an English teacher in a school mentioned above while studying shall be counted towards the fulfilment of the teaching obligation, on condition that he/she completes the PGDE programme as required.

Undertaking and Deed of Indemnity

17. Awardees are required to sign an Undertaking which delineates the terms and conditions that they should comply with. These include, but are not limited to, the requirements for awardees to:
 - (a) attain good conduct and academic standards required by the university concerned to complete the relevant study programme(s);
 - (b) (for BA degree programme awardees) pursue a PGDE programme majoring in English immediately upon graduation from the degree programme; and
 - (c) fulfil the teaching obligation of one year or three years in Hong Kong after graduation, and adhere to the standards of professional conduct of teachers and have no records of professional misconduct.
18. At any point of time, when a breach of the Undertaking occurs,
 - (a) the scholarship will cease to be paid for the remainder of a study programme; and
 - (b) awardees will be required to repay to the HKSAR Government the scholarship amounts received on an interest-free and, if applicable, pro rata basis.However, these circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis and flexibility will be exercised for reasons of breaching the Undertaking not within the awardees' control such as accidents, ill health, deaths, etc.
19. Each awardee has to nominate a person as his / her indemnifier. An indemnifier should be a person at or over 21 years of age who is gainfully employed, financially sound and able to provide a business / office address. Details of the qualifications of an indemnifier can be found in the Undertaking and the Deed of Indemnity. By signing the Deed of Indemnity, the indemnifier agrees to repay to the HKSAR Government the scholarship amounts received by an awardee if the awardee fails to comply with the terms and conditions included in the Undertaking and is unable to repay the scholarship amounts received.

Enquiries

20. For details about the relevant study programmes offered, please visit the websites of the universities in Hong Kong. Information about the universities can be found on the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk> > Education System and Policy > Post-secondary Education > Local Higher Education > Institutions). 
21. Enquiries about the Scholarship can be sent to ltq@edb.gov.hk or directed to Ms Constance CHOW (Tel. 852-2892 5786) of the Professional Development and Training Division, EDB.

Education Bureau

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

June 2023