



Overview

The Government has made education its top priority. Education services have been identified as one of six industries where Hong Kong enjoys distinct advantages and the aim is to enhance the city's status and competitiveness as a regional education hub. The 2011-12 budget allocated 22.5 per cent of recurrent government expenditure, or \$54.5 billion (US\$7 billion), to education.

Our aim is to nurture students to become balanced individuals with a broad knowledge base and a capacity for life-long learning, ready to venture into new frontiers of knowledge and face the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

Key Advantages

Three fundamental strengths set Hong Kong apart as a centre for education in our region: cultural diversity, opportunities and international standards.

Hong Kong's rich cultural blend of East and West forms the backbone of a vibrant learning environment. It is easy for students to communicate in both English and Chinese in an intellectually stimulating mix of cultures.

As the premier gateway to China, Hong Kong is in tune with our nation's needs in terms of talent, investment and creative thinking. There is also great opportunity for students to interact with people from diverse backgrounds and learn about different business cultures,

particularly how to do business on the Mainland.

Hong Kong's third fundamental strength is high standards of education. Our universities enjoy excellent global rankings.

International Education Centre

Hong Kong's universities have become home to scholars from every corner of the world. They have enriched academic life at our institutions and strengthened our higher education system. Currently, about 13 per cent of the students in our publicly funded programmes are from places outside Hong Kong. Another 3 000 students come to Hong Kong every year on exchange. In 2010, the quota for non-local students at our universities was doubled from 10 per cent to 20 per cent.

In 2009, we kicked off a new PhD Fellowship Scheme to attract students from all over the world to pursue doctoral studies in Hong Kong. Selected students are eligible to \$20,000 per month (US\$2,560) plus other research-related allowances. A \$1 billion (US\$0.13 billion) Government Scholarship Fund is also available to provide scholarships to meritorious non-local and local students to pursue higher education in Hong Kong.

We have relaxed immigration and employment restrictions on foreign students. They can now take up part-time work, internships and summer jobs, enabling them to integrate better into the community. After graduating, non-local students can

remain in Hong Kong without restriction for up to one year.

With more overseas students, Hong Kong offers an even more culturally diverse learning environment for developing valuable cross-cultural competencies.

We are also inviting expressions of interest from local and non-local education bodies to develop self-financing tertiary education institutes on a site in the northern part of Hong Kong.

Attractions for Overseas and Mainland Students

- Learn in a cosmopolitan, liberal as well as biliterate and trilingual environment.
- Attain high-ranking, internationally recognised qualifications.
- Gain global perspectives and employment opportunities.
- Geographical and cultural proximity eases adjustment and learning conditions for Mainland students.
- Learn on the doorstep of the world's fastest-growing destination for overseas students.

Initiatives

The following initiatives seek to further enhance the sector:

- Promote language proficiency, e-Learning and small class teaching to improve the quality of learning.
- Allocate four greenfield sites for the development of new international schools

or the expansion of existing ones.

Along with other measures, a total of about 5 000 new places will come on stream in the coming few years.

- Work with local higher education institutions to step up exchange and promotion efforts in Asia.
- Inject \$250 million (US\$32 million) into the Government Scholarship Fund to extend scholarships to students of publicly-funded sub-degree programmes.
- Set up a \$2.5 billion (US\$0.32 billion) Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund for the development of self-financing post-secondary education.

International Schools

Hong Kong has a vibrant international school sector, which helps attract talent and executives from around the world to come here with their families. We have 48 international schools – more than any other Asian city – offering about 36 100 primary and secondary school places, a net increase of about 1 000 places compared with 2009. These schools offer a familiar learning environment for students from all corners of the globe, and over 10 curricula, including British, American, Australian, Japanese, Singaporean, French, German, Korean, Canadian and the International Baccalaureate.

World-class Universities

Hong Kong has 13 degree-awarding higher education institutions, including nine universities, a teacher education institution, a performing arts academy, and two post-secondary colleges.

Our universities are re-engineering their undergraduate programmes with the addition of one more year under the new system. The four-year undergraduate programme, starting 2012-13, will give our universities more time and space to provide a broader, deeper, more globally oriented university experience in line with other national academic systems.

The University of Hong Kong (HKU) has been ranked Asia's top university by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Three others – the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), the Hong Kong Baptist University and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University – were among the top 20.

In 2010-11, two Hong Kong universities – the HKU and Hong Kong Baptist University – were ranked by the same Times survey among the 'World's top 200 universities'.

QS World University Rankings places HKUST, HKU and The Chinese University of Hong Kong first, second and fifth in the list of Asia's top 50 universities.

Hong Kong's universities host Asia's (and the world's) best executive business management programmes – the EMBA offered jointly by Kellogg and the HKUST ranked first, according to a survey by the *Financial Times* in 2010.

Hong Kong's universities excel in various fields of research and teaching, and especially in medicine (liver transplants, computer navigation surgery, foetal diagnosis, avian flu and influenza research), chemistry, biotechnology and textiles.

There are now about 8 800 students from the Mainland and 1 300 from elsewhere studying in our University Grants Committee-funded higher education institutions. There are also over 1 200 non-local courses in Hong Kong, providing degree or above level education to about 45 000 students.

Education Reforms and Initiatives

Hong Kong has made very good progress in its strategic education reforms, critical to our success as a knowledge-based economy. The new arrangements are tailored to give students a competitive edge in this era of regionalisation and globalisation.

From the 2009-10 school year, we introduced the new academic structure – three

years of junior secondary followed by three years of senior secondary education and four years of undergraduate programmes. The broad and balanced new senior secondary curriculum includes four core subjects: Chinese language, English language, mathematics and liberal studies. In 2012, one new examination, the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, will replace the previous two for secondary school leavers. It is internationally benchmarked and has gained recognition from agencies in overseas jurisdictions including the United Kingdom and Australia.

Cradle of Young Talent

Hong Kong students have scored some notable successes in recent years. A Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study found that Hong Kong Primary 4 students rose to the world's top and Secondary 2 students ranked fourth in mathematics.

The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education, a non-government organisation, was set up in 2007 to provide information, advice and support for exceptionally gifted students, parents and teachers.

Savannah College of Arts and Design

In September 2010, the prestigious Savannah College of Arts and Design – housed in a historic building which was a Hong Kong court house – welcomed its first batch of students, 40 per cent hailing from 18 countries.

Harrow Comes to Hong Kong

Prestigious British school Harrow is building a boarding school in Hong Kong.

For more information, please visit www.edb.gov.hk