

Regional education and training hub

Overview

With top-notch universities, Hong Kong is well-positioned to be a **regional education hub**. In the 2019-20 Budget, recurrent expenditure on education is HK\$90.6 billion (US\$11.6 billion), accounting for 20.5% (highest for any single policy area) of total government recurrent expenditure. The 2019-20 Budget also earmarked HK\$16 billion for University Grants Committee-funded universities to enhance or refurbish campus facilities to help create an optimal teaching and research environment for students and research staff, and provided a further \$500 million to implement the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme.

HK's attraction for Mainland and overseas students

- **Academic freedom** and learning in a cosmopolitan and liberal environment
- Universities provide **excellent prospects for internships** and **further education**
- **High-ranking, internationally recognised qualifications**
- **International perspective** and employment opportunities
- Vibrant **multi-cultural scene** expanding students' horizons
- Geographical and cultural **proximity favourable to Mainland students**.

University rankings

- **3 universities in World Top 50 & 3 universities in Top 10 in Asia:** Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2019: HKU (25th), HKUST (37th) and CUHK (49th). QS Asian University Rankings 2019: HKU (2nd), HKUST (7th), and CUHK (9th)
- **3 universities in World's Top 100 & Top 10 in Asia:** Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2019/ Asian University Rankings 2019: HKU (36th/4th), HKUST (41st/3rd), CUHK (53rd/7th)
- **3 "young" universities in World's Top 20:** The Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2018: HKUST (1st), CityU (7th) and PolyU (18th)
- **World's Top No.1 & No.4 EMBA programmes:** Financial Times EMBA Ranking 2018: Kellogg-HKUST EMBA programme (No.1 for third consecutive year in a row and ninth time overall); EMBA-Global Asia, delivered jointly by Columbia Business School, London Business School and HKU (No.4)
- In 2018, The Economist rated the **HKU's MBA programme No.1 in Asia** for the ninth consecutive year
- **World No.1 hotel and tourism school:** PolyU School of Hotel and Tourism Management ranked top in ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects in 2017 and 2018.

International schools

Fifty-four international schools (including a special school) in the 2018/19 academic year (about 44,800 primary and secondary school places and providing more than 10 curricula, including British, American, Australian, Japanese, Singaporean, French, German, Korean, Canadian and the International

Baccalaureate programme).

Student exchange programmes

- At least **one in four university students** participates in exchange programmes lasting at least one semester during their university years. In the 2017/18 academic year, the eight universities funded by the University Grants Committee received more than 6,000 incoming exchange students and also sent over 6,000 local students on exchange programmes lasting at least one semester
- With an additional \$100 million allocated to expand the International Youth Exchange Programme to encourage young people to broaden their horizons, **a new Funding Scheme on International Youth Exchange** has been operating since 2017
- **Belt and Road Scholarships** to encourage outstanding students in Belt and Road countries to pursue undergraduate and above studies in Hong Kong. The Scholarships will be expanded to cover all regions along the Belt and Road, as well as to cover research postgraduate students, in the 2019/20 academic year.

Training hub

- The **Hong Kong International Aviation Academy**, the **MTR Academy**, the **Fire and Ambulance Services Academy**, the **Maritime Services Training Institute** and **Hotel ICON** offer specialised operational and management training
- The Hong Kong Monetary Authority plans to establish **Academy of Finance** in Hong Kong around mid-2019
- The Construction Industry Council has established the **Hong Kong Institute of Construction** to nurture more high-calibre professionals
- **Human Resources Planning Commission**, chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, commenced operation in April 2018
- To attract high quality world talents, the **Talent List of Hong Kong** identifying 11 specific professions in demand in Hong Kong was launched in August 2018
- The **Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme** was launched in November 2014 to support up to 100 outstanding local students per cohort to pursue studies at world renowned universities outside Hong Kong. The scheme will be regularised from the 2019/20 academic year onwards.
- **The Pilot Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas** was launched in March 2018 in collaboration with major companies to provide internship places for local youngsters on the Mainland and overseas
- **World-class institutes have established a base in Hong Kong** (Sweden's Karolinska Institutet, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Germany's Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology, University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine, Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), the Asia Society, HKU-Pasteur Research Pole (France) and the Nordic Innovation House)
- **Harvard SEAS** (Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences) and the **Faculty of Engineering at the University of Hong Kong** (HKU) signed in early December 2018 a Memorandum of Understanding to set up a joint laboratory of instrumentation for precision medicine.