

Regional education and training hub

Overview

With top-notch universities and institutes, Hong Kong is well-positioned to be a regional education and training hub. In the 2023-24 Budget, recurrent expenditure on education is HK\$114.7 billion (US\$14.7 billion), accounting for 15.1% of total government recurrent expenditure.

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

- **5 universities in World Top 100:** Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024/ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2024: HKU (35th/26th), CUHK (53rd/47th), HKUST (64th/60th), CityU (82nd/70th) and PolyU (87th/65th)
- **5 universities in Top 25 in Asia:** Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2023: HKU (4th), CUHK (6th), HKUST (7th), PolyU (14th) and CityU (16th); QS Asia University Rankings 2023: HKU (4th), CUHK (12th), HKUST (14th) and CityU (23rd)
- **4 universities in World Top 10 most international universities:** Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023: HKU (1st), CityU (4th), HKUST (5th) and PolyU (6th)
- **3 "young" universities in World Top 10:** Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2023: HKUST (2nd), PolyU (4th) and CityU (6th)
- **3 EMBA programmes in World Top 25:** Financial Times EMBA Ranking 2022: Kellogg-HKUST EMBA programme (No.1); HKU Business School EMBA programme (No.18); CUHK Business School EMBA programme (No.24). QS EMBA Rankings 2022 (Joint Programmes): Kellogg-HKUST EMBA programme (No.5)
- In 2022, The Economist rated the **HKU's MBA programme No.1 in Asia**
- **World No.1 hotel and tourism school:** PolyU's School of Hotel and Tourism Management ranked top for the sixth consecutive year (ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2022)
- **World No. 3 and Asia No.1 for dentistry:** HKU's Faculty of Dentistry ranked 3rd in the world and 1st in Asia (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023)
- **World No.5 and Asia No. 1 for education:** HKU's Faculty of Education ranked 5th in the world (Times Higher Education World Rankings by Subject 2023); and 1st in Asia (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023)
- **World No.10 and Asia No.2 for social policy and administration:** HKU's Department of Social Work and Social Administration ranked 10th in the world and 2nd in Asia (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023)
- **Asia No.1 for 12 subjects:** Arts and Humanities (HKU), Education and Educational Research (HKU), Endocrinology and Metabolism (CUHK), Gastroenterology and Hepatology (CUHK), Immunology

(HKU), Infectious Diseases (HKU), Microbiology (HKU), Public, Environmental and Occupational Health (HKU), Social Sciences and Public Health (PolyU) and Surgery (CUHK) (US News and World Report: Best Global Universities Rankings by Subjects 2022-2023); Performing Arts (Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts) and Nursing (CUHK) (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023)

International schools

54 international schools are in operation in the 2022/23 academic year, providing more than 10 curricula, including British, American, Australian, Japanese, Singaporean, French, German, Korean, Canadian and the International Baccalaureate programme.

Student exchange programmes

- **University students** are encouraged to participate in exchange programmes. In the 2019/20 academic year, the eight universities funded by the University Grants Committee received around 3,500 incoming exchange students and also sent about 5,400 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, the **Funding Scheme on International Youth Exchange** has been operating since 2017.
- To attract more outstanding students along the Belt and Road to pursue their studies or career in Hong Kong, Belt and Road Scholarships have been expanded to cover all regions along the Belt and Road, as well as research postgraduate students, starting from the 2019/20 academic year. The Government will collaborate with institutions to promote the Belt and Road Scholarship in countries outside the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Non-local Graduates

- The Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates allows non-local graduates to stay or return and work in Hong Kong.
- Under the scheme, non-local students who have obtained an undergraduate or higher qualification in a full-time and locally-accredited programme in Hong Kong can apply to stay for two years after graduation without other restrictions on conditions of stay.
- Expand the scope of the arrangements to cover those who graduated from a Hong Kong university's campus in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area on a two-year pilot basis.

Training hub

- The **Hong Kong International Aviation Academy**, the **MTR Academy**, the **Fire and Ambulance Services Academy** and the **Maritime Services Training Institute** offer specialised operational and management training.
- The **Hong Kong Academy of Finance** was set up in June 2019 with full collaboration amongst the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the Securities and Futures Commission, the Insurance Authority and the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority.
- The Hong Kong International Aviation Academy will collaborate with aviation training institutions in the Mainland to launch a **GBA Youth Aviation Industry Internship Programme**, which aims to **send young people to the airports on each side for internship** in the first half of 2023. 450

training places will be available for the first year of the programme, with a view to attracting more young people to the aviation industry. The Academy will continue to partner with the National School of Civil Aviation of France to co-organise the **Advanced Master Programme in Air Transport Management** to attract prospective students from Belt and Road countries and consolidate Hong Kong's position as a regional aviation training centre.

- With a commitment of \$300 million, the **Maritime and Aviation Training Fund (MATF)** was set up in 2014 to nurture talents for the maritime and aviation industries, more than 16,000 students and practitioners have benefited from MATF since its establishment. The 2023-24 Budget proposed to inject a sum of **\$200 million more into the MATF** to support manpower training of the logistics industry, promote the development of high end, high value added and smart logistics, and encourage the industry to collaborate with tertiary institutions and professional organisations to attract more young people to the industry. In addition, a **Maritime Services Traineeship Scheme** will be launched in 2023 to provide training opportunities for young people who aspire to a **career in maritime law**, to nurture more home grown maritime lawyers.
- The Construction Industry Council established the **Hong Kong Institute of Construction** in 2018 to nurture more high-calibre professionals. The 2023-24 Budget proposed to allocate an additional \$7 million to partner with the Hong Kong Institute of Construction to launch a **two year "First-hire-then-train" subsidy scheme**, to provide on-the-job training allowance to trainees who have chosen to enroll in Construction Safety Officer courses. It is estimated that the scheme will benefit about 300 trainees.
- In order to meet the manpower requirement for future infrastructure development and encourage young people to join the construction industry, the 2023-24 Budget proposed to allocate \$100 million for working with tertiary institutions to launch a two-year pilot scheme to provide on-the-job training allowance to students working in the construction industry during the study of part time construction related degree programmes. It is estimated that the scheme will benefit about 1,000 students. The scheme aims at enhancing the education and career ladder and also expanding the source of manpower supply for training up construction industry talents.
- The Development Bureau established the **Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Major Project Leaders** in July 2019. As the first of its kind in Asia, the CoE offers a high-level project management and leadership development programme to senior government officials and construction leaders involved in public projects. Starting from December 2021, the CoE also provides systematic training for mid-tier managers in the Government to enhance their professional skills and uplift project delivery capability, with a view to ensuring more effective use of public resources. The 2022-23 Budget sets aside \$30 million to strengthen the position of the CoE as an expert knowledge hub on project delivery, with an aim to enhancing the overall performance of works projects.
- The **Pilot Programme to Enhance Talent Training for the Insurance Sector and the Asset and Wealth Management Sector**, launched in August 2016 with commitment of \$100 million, aims to attract talents and enhance the professional competency of industry practitioners, which was conducive to the long-term growth of the sectors.
- The **Pilot Scheme on Training Subsidy for FinTech Practitioners** was launched in September 2022 to promote the professional development of fintech talent and expand the fintech talent pool in Hong Kong.
- The **Pilot Green and Sustainable Finance Capacity Building Support Scheme**, launched in December 2022, aims to encourage local eligible practitioners and prospective practitioners to

participate in training related to green and sustainable finance in response to the new trend of developing low-carbon and sustainable economy.

- The 2022-23 Budget earmarked \$10 billion for the completion of works to upgrade and increase **healthcare teaching facilities of universities** to provide capacity for about 900 additional healthcare training places.
- **Human Resources Planning Commission**, chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, commenced operation in April 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 **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.
- The **STEM Internship Scheme** was launched in 2020 to subsidise short-term internships for undergraduates and postgraduates taking STEM programmes in local universities.
- **World-class institutes have established a base in Hong Kong**, e.g. 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, the Asia Society, and HKU-Pasteur Research Pole (France).
- As part of our efforts to nurture the necessary talents to develop Hong Kong into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange, the HKAPA will study its role in the long-term nurturing of arts and cultural talents for Hong Kong and even the GBA, as well as consider the long-term need of establishing another campus in the Northern Metropolis and raise the proportion of non-local students. Funding support will be provided for launching an internship programme to offer placement opportunities in local arts groups and the West Kowloon Cultural District for graduates of the HKAPA and other tertiary institutions majoring in culture and arts-related disciplines.

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