

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 2022-23 Budget, recurrent expenditure on education is HK\$101.9 billion (US\$13.1 billion), accounting for 18.1% 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 & 2 universities in Top 10 in Asia:** Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2023: HKU (21st), CUHK (38th), HKUST (40th), CityU (54th) and PolyU (65th); QS Asia University Rankings 2022: HKU (3rd) and HKUST (9th)
- **4 universities in World Top 100 & 3 among Top 10 in Asia:** Times Higher Education World University Rankings/ Asia University Rankings 2022: HKU (30th/4th), CUHK (49th/7th), HKUST (66th/9th) and PolyU (91st in the world)
- **3 universities in World Top 10 most international universities:** Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022: HKU (1st), HKUST (3rd) and CUHK (9th).
- **3 "young" universities in World Top 10:** The Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2022: HKUST (3rd), PolyU (5th) and CityU (10th)
- **World Top 5 EMBA programmes:** Financial Times EMBA Ranking 2021: Kellogg-HKUST EMBA programme (No.2); EMBA-Global Asia, delivered jointly by Columbia Business School, London Business School and HKU (No.4). QS EMBA Rankings 2021 (Joint Programmes): Kellogg-HKUST EMBA programme (No.3).
- In 2022, The Economist rated the **HKU's MBA programme No.1 in Asia**.
- **World and Asia No.1 hotel and tourism school:** PolyU's School of Hotel and Tourism Management ranked top for the fifth consecutive year (ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2021); and 1st in Asia (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022).
- **World No. 2 and Asia No.1 for dentistry:** HKU's Faculty of Dentistry ranked 2nd in the world and 1st in Asia in QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022.
- **World No.6 and Asia No. 1 for education:** HKU's Faculty of Education ranked 6th in Times Higher Education World Rankings by Subject 2022; and 1st in Asia in QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022.
- **World No.10 and Asia No.1 for performing arts:** Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts ranked 10th in the world and 1st in Asia in QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022.

- **World No.10 and Asia No.1 for linguistics:** HKU's Department of Linguistics ranked 10th in the world and 1st in Asia in QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022.
- **Asia No.1 for eight subjects:** Arts and Humanities (HKU), Endocrinology and Metabolism (CUHK), Gastroenterology and Hepatology (CUHK), Microbiology (HKU), Psychiatry/Psychology (HKU) and Social Sciences and Public Health (PolyU) (US News and World Report: Best Global Universities Rankings by Subjects 2022); Nursing (CUHK) and Development Studies (HKU) (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022)

International schools

Fifty-four international schools are in operation in the 2021/22 academic year, offering about 46,100 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

- **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.
- **Belt and Road Scholarships** to encourage outstanding students from Belt and Road countries to pursue tertiary studies in Hong Kong. The 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.

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 Construction Industry Council established the **Hong Kong Institute of Construction** in 2018 to nurture more high-calibre professionals. The 2022-23 Budget proposed to allocate \$1 billion on various initiatives of the Construction Industry Council to enhance manpower development.
- 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 2022-23 Budget proposed to launch the **Pilot Green and Sustainable Finance Capacity Building Support Scheme** and the **Pilot Scheme on Training Subsidy for FinTech Practitioners**.
- 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).

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