

Regional education and training hub

Overview

With top-notch universities, Hong Kong is well-positioned to be a **regional education hub**. In the 2020-21 Budget, recurrent expenditure on education is HK\$99.6 billion (US\$12.8 billion), accounting for 20.5% (highest for any single policy area) 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

- **4 universities in World Top 50 & 3 universities in Top 10 in Asia:** Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2021: HKU (22nd), HKUST (27th), CUHK (43rd) and CityU (48th). QS Asian University Rankings 2020: HKU (3rd), HKUST (8th), and CUHK (10th)
- **3 universities in World Top 100 & Top 10 in Asia:** Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021/ Asia University Rankings 2020: HKU (39th/4th), HKUST (56th /5th), CUHK (56th/8th)
- **3 universities in World Top 5 most international universities:** Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020: CityU (1st), HKU (2nd), and CUHK (5th)
- **3 "young" universities in World Top 20:** The Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2020: HKUST (1st), CityU (7th) and PolyU (19th)
- **World No.2 & No.4 EMBA programmes:** Financial Times EMBA Ranking 2019: Kellogg-HKUST EMBA programme (No.2); EMBA-Global Asia, delivered jointly by Columbia Business School, London Business School and HKU (No.4)
- In 2019, The Economist rated the **HKU's MBA programme No.2 in Asia**
- **World No.3 for education:** HKU's Faculty of Education ranked 3rd in Times Higher Education World Rankings by Subject 2020
- **World No.1 hotel and tourism school:** PolyU School of Hotel and Tourism Management ranked top in ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2020 for the fourth consecutive year
- QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020 rated **Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts** and **HKU No.1 in Asia**, for performing arts and dentistry respectively

International schools

Fifty-three international schools in operation (excluding one school under temporary suspension for renovation) in the 2019/20 academic year (about 46,500 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

- **One in four university students** participates in exchange programmes lasting at least one semester during their university years. In the 2018/19 academic year, the eight universities funded by the University Grants Committee received around 6,800 incoming exchange students and also sent about 6,700 local students on exchange programmes
- 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 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**, the **Maritime Services Training Institute** and **Hotel ICON** offer specialised operational and management training
- The Hong Kong Monetary Authority established the **Hong Kong Academy of Finance** in June 2019
- The Construction Industry Council has established the **Hong Kong Institute of Construction** to nurture more high-calibre professionals
- 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
- **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 has been 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
- The 2020-21 Budget set aside \$40 million 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** (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, 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.

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