Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2011/12)
Information Sheet for Secondary School Graduates

Background

1. The Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers is set up by the Education Bureau (EDB), the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) as one of a series of measures to enhance the professionalism of English teachers in Hong Kong.

Aim of the Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers

2. The aim of the Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers is to attract persons proficient in English to pursue relevant local bachelor degree programmes and/or teacher training programmes which will qualify them to become English teachers on graduation.

Eligibility for Application

3. Both local and non-local students may apply for the Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers (2011/12) (“the Scholarship”).

4. Application is open to students who
   (a) have attained, in the period from 2009 to 2011, Grade B or above in Use of English (UE) of the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) or equivalent; AND
   (b) will start pursuing relevant degree programmes in local higher education institutions in the 2011/12 school year. A list of such programmes can be found on the website of EDB (http://www.edb.gov.hk > Teachers’ Applicants for the Early Admissions Scheme (EAS) are included.

2 Local students are persons, regardless of their nationalities, who do not require a student visa/entry permit issued by the Director of Immigration for the purpose of receiving education in Hong Kong.

3 Non-local students are persons, regardless of their nationalities, who require a student visa/entry permit issued by the Director of Immigration for the purpose of receiving education in Hong Kong.

4 The following results are accepted for the purpose of applying for “the Scholarship”:
   - Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) – Level 5* in English Language for local students admitted on Early Admissions Scheme (EAS)
   - International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – An overall score of Band 7 or above
   - General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examinations – Grade B or above in AS Level English
   - International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma programme – Grade 5 or better in Higher Level English Language (A1 or A2)
   - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) – A minimum score of 600 (Paper-based) or 250 (Computer-based) or 100 (Internet-based)
   - National Joint College Entrance Examination (NJCEE) (高考) – A score of 130 or above in English

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1 Applicants for the Early Admissions Scheme (EAS) are included.
Development > Training & Qualifications > Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers). Broadly speaking, applicants should pursue one of the following:

(i) a full-time Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree programme in English Language; or

(ii) a full-time Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education (BA & BEd) double degree programme in English Language; or

(iii) a full-time Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree programme in English or a relevant subject (such as Linguistics, with English as the main language studied) followed immediately by a full-time/part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) programme majoring in English.

Scholarship Amounts
5. Each local student will be awarded HK$50,000 per year and each non-local student, HK$80,000 per year. The scholarship amounts are detailed in the following table.

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<tr>
<th>Study programmes</th>
<th>Scholarship amounts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local students</td>
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<tr>
<td>BEd</td>
<td>HK$50,000 per year</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA &amp; BEd Double Degree</td>
<td>HK$50,000 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA followed by full-time/part-time PGDE</td>
<td>HK$50,000 per year (BA); and HK$50,000 (for the whole PGDE programme)</td>
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“The Scholarship” is tenable for the normal duration of the study programmes. The overall annual performance of the awardees should satisfy the requirement for renewal of “the Scholarship”.

Application and Selection
6. Applications for “the Scholarship” will be accepted from 28 July to 12 August 2011.

7. To apply for “the Scholarship”, applicants should submit the completed application form and copies of supporting documents to the Professional Development and Training Division, EDB. Please also make arrangements for
the Recommendation Form to be completed and returned to the Education Bureau by the principal or a teacher of the secondary school you attended by 12 August 2011. The application form is available on the website of EDB (http://www.edb.gov.hk > Teachers’ Development > Training & Qualifications > Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers).

8. Applicants will be shortlisted for an interview on the basis of public examination results attained. The interview is scheduled for the end of August 2011 and attendance is mandatory. “The Scholarship” will be awarded to applicants whose performance is the best in all aspects. When all factors being considered are equal, priority will be given to applicants who intend to teach in primary schools, as indicated by the choice of their study programmes.

9. Applicants will be informed of the selection results in October 2011.

Teaching Obligation
10. Awardees of “the Scholarship” should undertake to fulfill a teaching obligation by teaching English full-time in primary or secondary schools in Hong Kong (day schools offering a formal curriculum) immediately after graduation. The duration of the teaching obligation is three consecutive school years. In the case of a BA awardee who has chosen to pursue a recognised 2-year part-time PGDE programme upon completion of the BA programme, his/her full-time engagement as an English teacher in a school above while studying shall be counted towards the fulfilment of the teaching obligation, on condition that he/she completes the PGDE programme as required.

Undertaking and Deed of Indemnity
11. Awardees are required to sign an undertaking which delineates the terms and conditions that they should comply with. These include, but are not limited to, the requirements for awardees to:
   (a) attain satisfactory academic standards required by the higher education institution concerned to complete the relevant study programmes;
   (b) (for BA awardees) pursue a PGDE programme majoring in English immediately upon graduation from the degree programme; and
   (c) fulfill the three-year teaching obligation after graduation.

12. At any point of time, when a breach of the Undertaking occurs,
   (a) “the Scholarship” will cease to be paid for the remainder of a study programme;
and
(b) awardees will be required to repay to the HKSAR Government the scholarship amounts received on an interest-free and, if applicable, pro-rata basis.

13. A breach of the Undertaking includes, but is not limited to, the following circumstances:-
(a) failing to meet the requirement for renewal of “the Scholarship” because of unsatisfactory academic performance;
(b) dropping out of a programme;
(c) changing to pursue another programme which is not included in “the Scholarship”;
(d) not pursuing a relevant PGDE programme immediately upon graduation from the degree programme (in the case of BA awardees); and
(e) not fulfilling the teaching obligation immediately after graduation.

However, these circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis and flexibility will be exercised for reasons of breaching the Undertaking not within the awardees’ control such as accidents, deaths, ill health, etc.

14. Each awardee has to nominate a person as his/her indemnifier. An indemnifier should be a person at or over 21 years of age who is gainfully employed, financially sound and able to provide a business/office address. The other qualifications of an indemnifier will be listed in the Undertaking and related documents. By signing the Deed of Indemnity, the indemnifier agrees to repay to the HKSAR Government the scholarship amount received by the awardee if the awardee fails to comply with the terms and conditions included in the Undertaking and is unable to repay the scholarship amount received.

Enquiries
15. Please visit the websites of local higher education institutions for details about the relevant study programmes posted on the website of EDB. Enquiries about “the Scholarship” can be sent to ltq@edb.gov.hk or directed to Mrs. Sonia KAN (Tel. 3150 8339) or Ms Louisa YUNG (Tel. 3150 8017) of the Professional Development and Training Division, Education Bureau.

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The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region