

Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship 2024

Information Note for Applicants

INTRODUCTION

In 2014, the HKSAR Government announced the initiative to launch the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship (MES) to support local students studying the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) curriculum who excel in sports, arts and / or community service to pursue undergraduate studies in universities and locally-accredited degree-awarding institutions in Hong Kong. The scholarship aims to promote a culture of multi-faceted excellence and convey to society the message that academic results are not the sole criterion for measuring the success of young people. It provides talented students with an alternative admission channel to higher education.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for the MES, applicants must meet the following criteria –

- (i) have the right of abode or right to land in Hong Kong, or have entered Hong Kong on One-way Permits;
- (ii) study the HKDSE curriculum; and
- (iii) simultaneously and on their own, apply for admission to universities / locally-accredited degree-awarding institutions in Hong Kong to pursue publicly-funded or self-financing undergraduate studies commencing in the 2024/25 academic year through the Joint University Programmes Admission System (JUPAS) or by direct application (for undergraduate programmes not covered by JUPAS).

TARGET BENEFICIARIES

The target students are local HKDSE graduates who (i) excel in sports, arts and / or community service; and (ii) have met all the basic requirements of university admission and / or any further requirements stipulated by individual faculties and departments.

THE SCHOLARSHIP

Our target is to award the MES to around 40 students per cohort. Under the MES, universities / institutions are provided with additional resources to cover the costs of admitting the Scholars. We will directly reimburse the relevant universities / institutions for the tuition costs of the Scholars. Therefore, Scholars will not be required to pay any tuition fees to their universities / institutions for the normal duration of the undergraduate programme concerned. Scholars will not be subjected to means testing.

Scholars shall comply with all applicable laws (including the Laws of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region), regulations and rules of Hong Kong for the time to time in force in Hong Kong. The Government reserves the right to start, continue or cease disbursing the scholarship funding to any scholarship awardees.

APPLYING FOR THE MES

All applicants must be nominated by their respective secondary school principals. Each school principal may nominate **up to two** HKDSE students in his / her school with outstanding achievements in sports, arts and / or community service. **The two nominated applicants must each excel in a different major area** (please refer to Assessment Criteria below). Applicants should indicate **up to three** JUPAS Band A programme choices and / or **up to one** locally-accredited undergraduate degree programme choice outside JUPAS for the purpose of application for the MES. There are no restrictions on the disciplines of study.

Completed application forms, together with all required documents and materials, should reach the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) by hand or by post **at or before 5:00 pm on 12 January 2024.**

SELECTION

- (i) Preliminary screening (around December 2023 to February 2024):** Upon receipt of the applications, HYAB will conduct a preliminary screening based on the achievements stated in the applications (such as honours, qualifications and prizes obtained), with reference to a set of objective criteria. Although there are no restrictions on the disciplines of study, applicants with achievements or talents matching their choice of undergraduate programme(s) will be given extra credit. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interviews with the Assessment Panel.
- (ii) Interviews (around March to May 2024):** Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview with the Assessment Panel, some of whom will subsequently be selected for a second-round interview. The Assessment Panel comprises well-respected figures in the fields of education, sports, arts and community service. Members of the Assessment Panel will assess the credentials of the applicants via face-to-face interviews and select candidates for recommendation to universities / institutions. The decisions of the Assessment Panel on the recommended candidates shall be final and there is no appeal mechanism for the outcomes.
- (iii) Matching with universities / institutions (around June to July 2024):** Candidates recommended by the Assessment Panel will be referred to the relevant universities / institutions¹ for consideration. If necessary, universities / institutions may conduct interviews with the recommended candidates for further assessment. Universities / Institutions enjoy autonomy in student admission and will issue conditional admission offers to candidates whom they find suitable. Candidates who cannot secure any conditional offers from the relevant universities / institutions should consider their applications for MES unsuccessful. They will continue to be considered under the normal admission processes of the universities / institutions concerned.
- (iv) Release of HKDSE results (around July 2024):** Recommended candidates whose HKDSE results do not meet the conditions of conditional admission offers made by universities / institutions should consider their applications

¹ This refers to universities / institutions that correspond to the programme choices under / outside JUPAS indicated by the candidates for the purpose of application for the MES.

unsuccessful.

- (v) **Release of MES results (around August to September 2024):** Subsequent to the release of the admission results under / outside JUPAS, HYAB will consider to award the MES² to the recommended candidates who were admitted to the undergraduate programmes specified in their conditional admission offers and complied with the relevant terms and conditions of the MES. HYAB will inform candidates in writing the outcomes of the MES applications.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Selection of awardees under the MES is merit-based, having regard to their achievements in sports, arts (including music) and / or community service, their interview performance, etc. Applicants should choose one area among sports, arts (including music) and community service as the major area of achievements, and submit **at most two items** to illustrate their achievements. In addition, applicants can also submit **at most one item** of achievement in a non-major area of achievements. Generally speaking, the following criteria are adopted in assessing achievements in sports, arts and community service:

Sports and Arts

Applicants with achievements in sports and arts (including music) should provide details of the prizes / honours attained in competitions. Achievements will be assessed based on the rankings / honours acquired and the scale / significance of the competitions. Extra credit will be given to those who obtained achievements in international or regional competitions. Besides, applicants may provide details on performances / exhibitions they previously participated in. We will assess the achievements with reference to the scale / significance and participation eligibility of the events.

² If a candidate of the MES programme places his/her programme choice with a conditional offer made by a tertiary institution under the MES after other programmes under JUPAS (i.e. not his/her first choice under JUPAS), it may render the candidate ineligible for the MES when he/she is admitted to one of such other programmes.

Community Service

Applicants with achievements in community service should give an overview of their community service experience. The achievements will be assessed based on a host of factors, such as initiatives taken by the applicant, originality of the services, geographical coverage of the services, the number and spectrum of beneficiaries, public recognition, etc. The service history and accumulated service hours of the applicants will also be taken into consideration.

Extra Credit

Extra credit may be given to students who demonstrate leadership experience or receive well-justified recommendation letters from non-related individuals other than school principals and teachers (recommendation letters must be submitted together with the application forms; separate submissions will not be accepted).

**Home and Youth Affairs Bureau
December 2023**