

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Chapter 592)

ACCREDITATION OF ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULES 2 AND 3) ORDER 2018

INTRODUCTION

The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK) should be granted full self-accrediting status in view that it has obtained Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) status in its remaining programme areas of “Visual Arts & Music” (renamed from “Creative Arts & Culture”) and “Psychology”. The Secretary for Education has therefore made the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Amendment of Schedules 2 and 3) Order 2018 (The Order) at **Annex**. The Order seeks to amend Schedules 2 and 3 of the Accreditation of Academic and Vocation Qualifications Ordinance (Cap. 592) (the Ordinance) so that EdUHK as a self-accrediting operator may determine if a learning programme (whether in teacher education or otherwise) operated by it meets the required standard under the Qualifications Framework.

JUSTIFICATIONS

2. At present, EdUHK is listed as a self-accrediting operator under Schedule 2 of the Ordinance insofar as learning programmes in teacher education are concerned. EdUHK would need to seek external accreditation by HKCAAVQ in respect of its other programme areas. Prior to October 2017, EdUHK had obtained PAA status from HKCAAVQ in Chinese Studies, English Studies and Environmental Studies respectively. In October 2017, HKCAAVQ further granted PAA status to EdUHK for its two remaining programme areas, namely “Psychology” and “Visual Arts & Music” (renamed from “Creative Arts & Culture”). The award of PAA status in the two remaining programme areas by HKCAAVQ to EdUHK would provide ample assurance that EdUHK indeed

has the ability to assume responsibility for accrediting all of its own programmes and is in a position to be granted full self-accrediting status. It is therefore considered that EdUHK should be made a full self-accrediting operator under the Ordinance.

THE ORDER

3. The Order at **Annex** amends Schedules 2 and 3 to the Ordinance so that EdUHK as a self-accrediting operator may determine if a learning programme (whether in teacher education or otherwise) operated by it meets the required standard under the Qualifications Framework. A qualification obtainable from the completion of a learning programme that meets the required standard under the Qualifications Framework may be entered into the Qualifications Register under the Ordinance.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

4. The legislative timetable will be –

Publication in the Gazette	19 January 2018
Tabling at the LegCo for negative vetting	24 January 2018

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

5. The Order is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. It does not affect the existing binding effect of the Ordinance. It has no competition, economic, financial, civil service, productivity, environmental, family, gender or sustainability implications.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

6. At the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Education on 1 February 2016, we briefed members on the development and change of title of the then The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd), including the proposal to grant EdUHK full self-accrediting status upon obtaining PAA status in the two other programme areas as detailed in paragraph 2 above. The Panel has no objection to the proposal.

PUBLICITY

7. We shall publish the Order in the Gazette. A spokesperson will be available to respond to enquiries.

BACKGROUND

8. On 26 January 2016, the Administration sought the Chief Executive in Council's advice on matters relating to the granting of university status to the then HKIED. The Chief Executive in Council approved, among other things, that:

- (a) the then HKIED (now retitled as EdUHK) should be granted self-accrediting status in respect of three programme areas covered by its existing PAA status, namely Chinese Studies, English Studies and Environmental Studies; and
- (b) the then HKIED (now retitled as EdUHK) should be granted full self-accrediting status upon obtaining PAA status in two other programme areas, namely Creative Arts & Culture and Psychology.

9. Subsequently, EdUHK submitted an application to HKCAAVQ for the PAA status in the two programme areas. In October 2017, the HKCAAVQ granted PAA status to EdUHK for the two programme areas, namely "Visual Arts & Music" (renamed from "Creative Arts & Culture") and "Psychology".

ENQUIRIES

10. Enquiries on this brief can be directed to Miss Sharon Ko, Principal Assistant Secretary for Education, at telephone number 3509 8501.

Education Bureau
17 January 2018

Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Amendment of Schedules 2 and 3) Order 2018

(Made by the Secretary for Education under section 22 of the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Cap. 592))

1. Commencement

This Order comes into operation on 1 April 2018.

2. Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance amended

The Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Cap. 592) is amended as set out in sections 3 and 4.

3. Schedule 2 amended (self-accrediting operators)

(1) Schedule 2—

Repeal

“22 & Sch. 3]”

Substitute

“22]”.

(2) Schedule 2, item 4—

Repeal

“(excluding learning programmes which are not learning programmes in teacher education)”.

4. Schedule 3 amended (descriptions of qualifications that may be entered into the Qualifications Register)

Schedule 3, section 2—

Repeal

everything after “learning”

Substitute

“programme that is—

- (a) operated by a self-accrediting operator; and
- (b) determined by the operator as having met a QF standard.”.

Secretary for Education

2018

Explanatory Note

This Order amends Schedules 2 and 3 to the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Cap. 592). With the amendments, The Education University of Hong Kong as a self-accrediting operator may determine if a learning programme (whether in teacher education or otherwise) operated by it meets the required standard. A qualification obtainable from the completion of a learning programme that meets the standard may be entered into the Qualifications Register under the Ordinance.