

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

APPROVAL FOR POST SECONDARY COLLEGES TO AWARD DEGREES

INTRODUCTION

At the meeting of the Executive Council on 14 January 2025, the Executive Council ADVISED and the Chief Executive ORDERED that approval should be granted to –

- (a) HKCT Institute of Higher Education (CTIHE) to award degrees for the following programmes –
 - (i) Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Computer Science and Cybersecurity;
 - (ii) Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Computer Science and AI Engineering; and
 - (iii) Master of Social Sciences, with two areas of concentration leading to two separate exit awards, namely –
 - A. Master of Social Sciences (Career Counselling); and
 - B. Master of Social Sciences (Social Service Management);
- (b) Hong Kong Chu Hai College (HKCHC) to award degrees for the following programmes –
 - (i) Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Communication and Digital Media;
 - (ii) Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Criminology and Criminal Justice;
 - (iii) Master of Arts in Cultural Creativity in Chinese Studies; and

- (iv) Master of Arts in Urban Development and Practice;
- (c) Hong Kong Shue Yan University (HKSJU) to award degrees for the following programmes –
 - (i) Bachelor of Science with Honours in Digital Solutions for Entertainment and Game Applications;
 - (ii) Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours in Forensic and Investigative Psychology;
 - (iii) Master of Science in Game Development and Management; and
 - (iv) Master of Social Sciences in Adversity and Trauma Psychology;
- (d) Saint Francis University (SFU) to award degrees for the Bachelor of Crime and Security Science (Honours) programme;
- (e) The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK) to award degrees for the following programmes –
 - (i) Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Business Analytics and Information Management;
 - (ii) Master of Arts in Digital Media for Online Communication;
 - (iii) Master of Science in Digital Innovation and Technology Management; and
 - (iv) Master of Science in Risk Analytics; and
- (f) Yew Chung College of Early Childhood Education (YCCECE) to award degrees for the Master of Education programme.

JUSTIFICATIONS

2. Section 10(a) of the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320) provides that a post secondary college may, with the prior approval of the Chief Executive-in-Council, award degrees.

3. The proposed new degree programmes of CTIHE, HKCHC, HKSYU, SFU, HSUHK, and YCCECE have obtained an accreditation status from the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (in the form of Learning Programme Accreditation or Programme Area Accreditation) as part of the quality assurance process. All programmes are intended to be launched in the 2025/26 academic year.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

4. The proposals are in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. They have no family, civil service, productivity, environmental, and gender implications. The proposal would have positive sustainability and economic implications in widening the institution and programme choices for students and possibly helping nurture more talent although the impact is not expected to be significant.

5. Regarding financial implications, students of the proposed programmes will be able to apply for financial assistance in the form of grants and/or loans. The estimated grants and loans requirement in relation to the proposed programmes is about \$9.31 million and about \$55.73 million respectively in a full year¹. However, it is worth noting that the grants and loans requirement for the proposed Bachelor's degree programmes may be offset by savings from a corresponding decrease in the enrolment of other Bachelor's degree programmes, for a given total student population. The additional financial requirement, if any, will be absorbed from within the Secretary for Education's envelope provisions or covered by the Loan Fund, as appropriate.

¹ These include grants under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students (FASP), loans under FASP, Non-means-tested Loan Scheme for Post-secondary Students (NLSPS), and the Extended Non-means-tested Loan Scheme (ENLS). FASP and NLSPS are for students pursuing self-financing full-time locally-accredited programmes at the sub-degree or Bachelor's degree level. ENLS is for students pursuing specific post-secondary or continuing and professional education courses. For reference, the total expenditure on grants under FASP was \$663.47 million; that on loans under FASP and NLSPS was \$759.66 million; and that on loans under ENLS was \$472.88 million in the 2023/24 AY. Hence, the amount of additional grants and loans that the proposed full-time Bachelor's degree programmes may give rise to is about 1.40% and 1.94% of the existing expenditure respectively; and the amount of additional loans that the proposed Master's degree and part-time Bachelor's degree programmes may give rise to is about 8.67% of the existing expenditure.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

6. Public consultation is unnecessary as the proposals involve no policy change.

PUBLICITY

7. A spokesman of the Education Bureau will be available for answering public enquiries.

ENQUIRIES

8. In case of enquiries, please contact Mr Kasper NG, Principal Assistant Secretary (Further Education), at 3509 8502.

Education Bureau
February 2025