

## **Acceptance of alternative qualifications in Chinese Language for admission to the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded Institutions and undergraduate programmes under the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions / Sectors (SSSDP)**

- 1 Starting from the 2008 Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) cycle, the UGC-funded institutions have considered, for the purpose of satisfying their entrance requirements, alternative qualifications in Chinese Language, under specified circumstances, in lieu of the general Chinese Language requirement for JUPAS applicants seeking admission based on the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination.
- 2 Under the New Academic Structure, all UGC-funded institutions continue with the arrangement to accept alternative qualifications in Chinese Language in lieu of the general Chinese Language requirement in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE).
- 3 Starting from the 2015/16 academic year, under the SSSDP, the Government has subsidised students to pursue designated full-time locally-accredited self-financing undergraduate programmes in selected disciplines to nurture talents to meet Hong Kong's social and economic needs. Applicants for the subsidised places under the SSSDP mainly apply through JUPAS. The SSSDP institutions will also accept non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students<sup>1</sup> alternative Chinese Language qualifications under specified circumstances.

### *Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language (for NCS Applicants only)*

- 4 Starting from the 2017 JUPAS cycle, the HKDSE Category B: Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (ApL(C)) is also accepted for the purpose of meeting the general entrance requirements in respect of Chinese Language of the 9 JUPAS participating-institutions and the SSSDP institutions as an alternative qualification in Chinese Language, in addition to those under the General Certificate of Education (GCE), General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) examinations.
- 5 The alternative qualifications in Chinese Language to be accepted by individual institutions and the minimum grade required, as well as specific requirements of individual programmes are available at the JUPAS website under "[\*Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language \(ACL\) \(for Non-Chinese Speaking \(NCS\) Applicants only\)\*](#)", the relevant links of which are as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> For the planning of educational support measures, students whose spoken language at home is not Chinese are broadly categorised as non-Chinese speaking students.

- (a) For the JUPAS participating-institutions:  
<https://www.jupas.edu.hk/en/page/detail/547>
  - (b) For the SSSDP institutions:  
<https://www.jupas.edu.hk/en/page/detail/548>
- 6 To avoid any doubt, the flexibility as set out above is in addition to other forms of flexibility being offered, including –
- 6.1 the institutions may relax the Chinese Language requirement and admit students on the basis of their outstanding performance in other academic subjects;
  - 6.2 in exceptional cases, the Chinese Language requirement may be waived having regard to individual circumstances; and
  - 6.3 students who pursue a non-local curriculum may apply for admission to the UGC-funded institutions direct by using results other than those in the HKDSE under the “non-JUPAS route”. Individual institutions have been accepting and will continue to accept alternative qualifications in Chinese Language for non-JUPAS applicants.

### *Specified Circumstances*

- 7 NCS students pursuing the local curriculum and participating in JUPAS have to meet either of the following specified circumstances before consideration will be given to the alternative qualifications in Chinese Language attained –
- 7.1 the student has learnt Chinese Language for less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education<sup>2</sup>; or
  - 7.2 the student has learnt Chinese Language for six years or more in schools, but has been taught an adapted and simpler curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in local schools.

### *JUPAS Applications and Submission of Relevant Documents*

- 8 Please note that eligible NCS applicants who wish to apply for admission to the 9 JUPAS participating-institutions and the subsidised programmes under the SSSDP through JUPAS and who only take GCE / GCSE / IGCSE (Summer Series) examinations in the same cycle year

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<sup>2</sup> This caters specifically to students who have a late start in the learning of Chinese Language (*e.g.* due to their settlement in Hong Kong well past the entry level) or who have been educated in Hong Kong sporadically.

will **NOT** be able to meet JUPAS's deadline for submission of these alternative qualifications in Chinese Language for the same cycle year. In other words, they should take the aforementioned examinations at least one year in advance.

- 9 The final decision on admission will be subject to the authentication of these qualifications as listed in applicants' applications. Please note that applicants may be disqualified, or the 9 JUPAS participating-institutions and the SSSDP institutions have the right to withdraw or amend any of their offers, cancel the registration, or terminate the studies of those applicants if they are not able to produce such copies of certificates when required.

#### Submission of GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Examination Results as Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language

- 10 For the 2021 JUPAS cycle, applicants who have met either one of the specified circumstances as stated in paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 above and wish to submit their Chinese Language examination results under GCE / GCSE / IGCSE as alternative qualifications in Chinese Language are required to enter their highest level / score attained in the JUPAS online application system (the System) **on or before 14 April 2021 (11:59 pm)**.
- 11 Applicants are reminded that in the consideration of Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language, the following will NOT be accepted:
- 11.1 "equivalent" qualifications;
  - 11.2 qualifications not on the "[List of Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language](#)";
  - 11.3 online results / reports; and
  - 11.4 provisional results.

#### Use of ApL(C) as Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language

- 12 Eligible applicants with their ApL(C) results registered at the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) **NEED NOT** enter their ApL(C) results in the System or submit them to the JUPAS Office. The JUPAS Office, the 9 JUPAS participating-institutions and the SSSDP institutions will obtain their ApL(C) results from the HKEAA.

#### *Certification of Specified Circumstances and Submission of Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language*

##### For JUPAS School Applicants

- 13 School applicants who have met either one of the specified circumstances as stated in paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 above should apply to their **current school** for certification by completing Annex A, which

should be submitted to their schools but not the JUPAS Office.

- 14 School principals or teachers who are authorised by school principals will be required to
- 14.1 verify the Chinese Language results under GCE / GCSE / IGCSE examinations of their school applicants;
  - 14.2 certify the specified circumstances of their school applicants; and
  - 14.3 upload the certified true copies of GCE / GCSE / IGCSE examination results, which **MUST** contain the subject grades their school applicants have attained
- via the System **on or before the deadline of 21 April 2021 (11:59 pm)**.
- 15 Procedures as stated in paragraphs 14.1 and 14.3 above are not applicable to school applicants with ApL(C) results only. (Please refer to paragraph 12 above.)
- 16 It should be noted that **late submission of qualifications will NOT be taken into consideration for application by the 9 JUPAS participating-institutions and the SSSDP institutions.**

#### For JUPAS Non-School Applicants

- 17 Non-school applicants who have met either one of the specified circumstances as stated in paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 above should apply to their **last school attended** for certification by completing **Annex A**, which should be submitted to their schools but not the JUPAS Office.
- 18 Non-school applicants applying for certification under specified circumstance as stated in paragraph 7.2 above should also obtain reference letter(s) (sample letter at **Annex B**, which is not required to be submitted to the JUPAS Office) from the previous school(s) they had attended, if necessary. School principals may also require the applicants to provide other documents such as student report cards showing the history of schooling to facilitate their certification.
- 19 School principals are required to
- 19.1 certify the specified circumstances of the non-school applicants by using **Annex C**; and
  - 19.2 return the copies of the completed **Annex C** to the non-school applicants for submission to the JUPAS Office **on or before the deadline of 21 April 2021 (11:59 pm)**.

Applicants who have submitted GCE / GCSE / IGCSE Chinese Language examination results as their alternative qualifications in Chinese Language have to submit the certified true copies of the certificates of the respective results, which **MUST** contain the subject grades the applicants have attained, to the JUPAS Office as well. The

submission of certified true copies of the certificates of alternative qualifications in Chinese Language results is not applicable to the applicants with ApL(C) results only. (Please refer to paragraph 12 above.)

- 20 It should be noted that **late submission will NOT be taken into consideration for application by the 9 JUPAS participating-institutions and the SSSDP institutions.**
- 21 For further information on the submission of alternative qualifications in Chinese Language, please visit the JUPAS website on "[\*Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language \(ACL\) \(for Non-Chinese Speaking \(NCS\) Applicants only\)\*](#)". The link is as follows:

<https://www.jupas.edu.hk/en/application-procedures-information/application-information/alternative-qualifications-in-chinese-language-a-cl-for-non-chinese-speaking-ncs-applicants-only>

### *Enquiry*

- 22 For enquiries on the alternative qualifications in Chinese Language requirements to be considered by the 9 JUPAS participating-institutions and the SSSDP institutions, please contact the JUPAS Office at 2334 2929 or email at [info@jupas.edu.hk](mailto:info@jupas.edu.hk).
- 23 For enquiries about the specified circumstances and certification by schools of the specified circumstances for applicants, please contact the Education Bureau at 3540 7447.

**Application for Certification of the Specified Circumstances  
in respect of Individual JUPAS Applicants for  
Consideration of Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language**

**(To be completed by JUPAS School and Non-School Applicants)**

To: School Principal

I am \_\_\_\_\_ (*Name of applicant*) with Hong Kong Identity Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ studying in \_\_\_\_\_ (*class*) in \_\_\_\_\_ (*year*) and have submitted application for admission to institutions through the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) in \_\_\_\_\_ (*year*).

- I will obtain / have obtained the HKDSE Category B: Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) result
- I have obtained Grade / Level \_\_\_\_\_ in the Chinese Language in GCE O-level\* / GCE AS-level\* / GCE A-level\* / GCSE\* / IGCSE\* Examination (\*please cross out as appropriate)

To seek the 9 JUPAS participating-institutions and the SSSDP institutions' consideration of alternative qualifications in Chinese Language attained by me when applying for admission to their programmes, I wish to apply for your certification that I have met the specified circumstance. Relevant information in support of my application is listed below for your consideration:

A. Education Background#:

School started (month/year)	School ended (month/year)	Name of School	Highest level achieved

(# If space is not enough for filling in the required details, please use another sheet of paper to supplement.)

B. Learning of Chinese Language: (Please tick (✓) as appropriate)

- I have learnt Chinese Language for less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education. Relevant details have been shown in Section A of this proforma.
  
- I have learnt Chinese Language for six years or more in schools, but have been taught an adapted and simpler curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in the schools of Hong Kong. \_\_\_ copies of the reference letter(s) from the school(s) concerned are attached (if necessary).

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Applicant's signature

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Name of Applicant

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Date

**Sample of  
School Reference Letter**

**(To be completed by JUPAS Non-School Applicants only)**

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Application for Certification of the Specified Circumstances  
in respect of Individual JUPAS Applicants for  
Consideration of Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language**

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hong Kong Identity Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that the captioned student has studied in my school since \_\_\_\_\_ (*month / year*) and left school / graduated\* in \_\_\_\_\_ (*month / year*). During his / her\* \_\_\_\_\_ year / \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) and \_\_\_\_\_ month(s) of study# in my school, he / she\* has been taught an adapted and simpler Chinese Language curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in the schools of Hong Kong.

Yours faithfully,

(Name of Principal)  
Name of School

\* Delete whichever is inapplicable.

# Leave of one month or more (with the exception of summer vacation) will not be counted as period of study in a school.



**School Principal's Certification of Specified Circumstances  
in respect of individual applicants  
under Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS)  
for consideration of Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language (ACL)**

**(For JUPAS Non-School Applicants only)**

*School principals are required to certify the specified circumstances of JUPAS non-school applicants using **this Annex** and return it to the applicants for submission to the JUPAS Office **on or before 21 April 2021 (by 11:59 pm)**.*

*Applicants who have submitted the General Certificate of Education (GCE) / General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) / International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) Chinese Language examination results as their ACL have to submit the certified true copies of the certificates of the respective results, which **MUST** contain the subject grades the applicants have attained, to the JUPAS Office as well. The submission of certified true copies of the certificates of ACL is not applicable to the applicants with HKDSE Category B: Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) results only.*

*It should be noted that **late submission to the JUPAS Office will NOT be taken into consideration.***

**To: JUPAS Office**

\_\_\_\_\_ (Full name of non-school applicant) with Hong Kong Identity Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ has been a student in my school from \_\_\_\_\_ (month / year) to \_\_\_\_\_ (month / year). According to available information, he / she has met the specified circumstance stipulated below for consideration of acceptance of his / her alternative qualifications in Chinese Language attained for the purpose of admission to the programmes offered under JUPAS:

(Please tick (✓) as appropriate)

- (a) the applicant has learnt Chinese Language for less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education<sup>Note</sup>; **OR**
- (b) the applicant has learnt Chinese Language for six years or more in schools, but has been taught an adapted and simpler curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in our local schools

Principal's Signature : \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Principal  
(in BLOCK letters) : \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School  
(in BLOCK letters) : \_\_\_\_\_

School Code  
(under JUPAS) : \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

School  
Chop

<sup>Note</sup> This caters specifically to those students who have had a late start in the learning of Chinese Language (e.g. due to their settlement in Hong Kong well past the entry level) or who have been educated in Hong Kong sporadically.