

HSBC Overseas Scholarship 2023/24

The Hongkong Bank Foundation (the Foundation) has approved a contribution of up to HK\$1,500,000 towards HSBC Overseas Scholarship 2023/24. These scholarships, with a maximum amount of HK\$300,000 each, will be available to selected local undergraduate degree students in Hong Kong.

1. Each scholarship will enable a local non-final year full-time government-funded Bachelor Degree student to spend **one semester or one academic year (i.e. semester 1 and/or 2)** of his/her current degree programme at one of the specified overseas universities listed in the Appendix 1 in the 2023/24 academic year. No other universities and research programmes will be considered. The overseas study programme or exchange programme must be credit-bearing.
2. To enable students to have more exposure in their fields of study, applicants will have the flexibility to major in a different discipline other than the one the applicant is currently studying while abroad. The discipline, however, should be under the following approved bachelor degree courses:
All disciplines under architecture, business and economics, communication, computer science/information systems, construction and land use, dentistry, design, education, engineering, health care, hotel and tourism, law, medicine, science (basic and applied), social sciences, textiles, and arts subjects (linguistics and languages, translation, history, geography, fine arts and applied arts) and environment.
3. The School/Department of the awardee will be responsible for making all the necessary arrangements to establish the study programme concerned with the overseas university selected.
4. The maximum total value of each scholarship is HK\$300,000. The recommended scholarship amount for each scholar can only go towards (1) tuition fees and mandatory college fees to be paid to the overseas university, (2) a minimum economy return airfare, and (3) reasonable room and board costs, books and a small portion of living expenses and visa application fees. However, it will not cover insurance, clothing expenses and other incidentals. The awardees are expected to bear part, if not all, of the daily expenses during their overseas studies. Besides, the awardees are expected to share accommodation and not opt for single room. Moreover, they are expected to opt for the least expensive routing for flights wherever possible.
5. Students who enroll in a credit-bearing overseas study programme or exchange programme arranged by PolyU are also eligible to apply for the Scholarship. However, the Scholarship will only cover the expenses abroad. Tuition fees paid to PolyU will not be covered by the Scholarship.
6. The Scholarship is open to non-final year full-time government-funded undergraduate degree students who meet the following requirements:
 - a) Hong Kong permanent residents with right of abode in Hong Kong;
 - b) Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.7 or being top 3% of class by end of semester one of the 2022/23 academic year;
 - c) Well-rounded, participating in extra-curricular and community service activities;
 - d) No extensive experience of living and studying overseas;
 - e) **In a financial situation which does not permit overseas study or extensive travel overseas. Nominees must demonstrate strong financial needs, with preference for those from a financially disadvantaged background;** and
 - f) Commitment to Hong Kong.

7. **All nominees are required to take the TOEFL or IELTS test, irrespective of overseas universities' requirement.**

For internet-based TOEFL, a minimum total TOEFL score of 90 (Internet-based test) with scores for individual sections not lower than 22 on listening, 17 on writing, 21 on reading, and 21 on speaking. For IELTS (Academic Module), the minimum overall band score is 6.5, with no components below 6.0.

The TOEFL/IELTS test must have been taken on 18 February 2021 or later. Please refer to [Appendix 2](#) for the websites of TOEFL and IELTS examination centres. Please note that the TOEFL and IELTS results will only be available 2 and 3 weeks after the TOEFL/IELTS examination respectively. **Interested students are strongly advised to apply for the TOEFL/IELTS test soonest possible if they still do not have a valid TOEFL/IELTS test result.**

For candidates who will sit for the TOEFL/IELTS examination during 26 November 2022 - 7 January 2023, and have met the TOEFL/IELTS requirements set by the Foundation and eventually been nominated by their academic department to compete for the scholarship, they will be entitled to a 100% refund of the TOEFL/IELTS examination fee once by PolyU.

**TOEFL or IELTS results must be made available on or before
31 January 2023 for assessment. Please refer to the websites of
TOEFL/IELTS for the examination dates.**

8. Each eligible Faculty/School hosting government-funded undergraduate degree programmes are invited to nominate one student to compete for the Scholarship **on or before 20 January 2023 (Friday)**. The shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a PolyU internal selection interview **between 1 – 7 February 2023**, for selection of a maximum of 5 deserving candidates to be recommended to the Foundation for further consideration. The PolyU nominees shortlisted by the Foundation must attend an interview in person in March 2023 with an HSBC's selection panel, the decision of which is final.
9. **The nominees are expected to apply for admission into their target overseas university(ies) once they are being shortlisted by the PolyU internal selection panel and recommended to the Foundation for consideration. They are also encouraged to apply for more than one overseas university in case application for their first priority is not accepted.**
10. Conditional offers will be made by the Foundation in April 2023 to the successful candidates who completely fulfill selection criteria and perform well at the final interview with the Foundation.
11. Confirmation of scholarship awards will be made by the Foundation subject to the candidates' successful submission of the following documents:
- The official admission letter from the overseas university;
 - A successful application to the Hong Kong Young Ambassador Scheme (HKYAS) (website: yas.hkfyg.org.hk/) or a similar programme that HSBC has approved in writing;
 - A letter from PolyU confirming the number of credits that the student will take during the semester or year abroad. This submitted figure will be regarded as final. Costs of any additional credits taken during the academic year will not be covered;

- d) Evidence from the overseas university outlining the duration of the academic year and information on the number of courses/credits that a visiting or full-time overseas student should take.
 - e) A completed pro-forma summary sheet providing the final cost breakdown that is reviewed by PolyU.
12. HSBC will compare cost information received from other scholars who study in the same university or country. The value of the scholarship award may differ from the recommended sum put forward. All candidates are reminded to provide an accurate projection of expenses before they submit the cost breakdown. The decision of HSBC/The Hongkong Bank Foundation in relation to the HSBC Overseas Scholarship shall be final.
13. The awardees under this Programme must submit a written report of not less than 1,000 words in English on their overseas studies with their official transcript of study to the Foundation via the Student Affairs Office of PolyU within one month of their returning to Hong Kong.

Students, who are interested in the Scholarship and wish to be considered for nomination, should approach their Department's Scholarship Liaison Officer for no later than 20 December 2022.

For enquiries, please contact Student Affairs Office (SAO) in Room QT308, Core T or by telephone at 2766 6800.

