



The Hong Kong Jockey Club Scholarships – Compassionate Leader Scholarship (2025/26 Cohort)

Regulations

1. About The Hong Kong Jockey Club Scholarships

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (“the Trust”) established The Hong Kong Jockey Club Scholarships (“the HKJC Scholarship(s)”) in 1998 with an aim to nurture caring leaders for a better Hong Kong. To date, some HK\$1,216 million have been committed, benefitting more than 1,200 students through scholarship awards that help them achieve their life goals. Over the past 27 years, the scholarship schemes have evolved to include students with special educational needs, students from Chinese Mainland and other countries and regions, vocational education students, postgraduate students, and students who have shown exceptional resilience and achieved excellence in the face of adversity.

2. Objectives and Scope

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Compassionate Leader Scholarship (“the Compassionate Leader Scholarship”), previously known as The Hong Kong Jockey Club Undergraduate Scholarship, was established in 1998 and is the longest-standing scholarship funded by the Trust. The Compassionate Leader Scholarship aims to recognise outstanding and well-rounded students committed to serving core sectors of Hong Kong’s society through their chosen academic and professional fields, including but not limited to education, health, social sciences, sports and culture, STEM and business.

The Compassionate Leader Scholarship is open to first-year local students pursuing their first undergraduate degree at Hong Kong’s eight University Grants Committee (“UGC”)-funded institutions and The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. Up to 27 scholarships will be awarded for each cohort.

Recipients of the HKJC Scholarships are referred to as “Jockey Club Scholars” or “JC Scholars” in short.

3. Scholarship Coverage

The Compassionate Leader Scholarship covers (1) full tuition fees, academic allowance and living allowance for the entire normative duration of the study period towards an undergraduate degree programme; (2) overseas learning subsidies of up to HK\$80,000; and (3) an opportunity to participate in a leadership programme tailored for JC Scholars. Value of the scholarship for the 2025/26 academic year:

- 1) Full tuition fee
- 2) Academic Allowance: HK\$18,700
- 3) Living Allowance: HK\$59,600

The actual value of the HKJC Scholarships is subject to:

- the institution chosen and the normative duration of study period of the enrolled programme. The scholarship will not cover non-credit bearing programmes in which students opt to participate, either held locally or overseas, in lieu of their normal coursework required by their study programme.
- recommendations from the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency and respective institutions on the tuition fees, academic expenses and living expenses of each academic year.

If JC Scholars cannot complete the enrolled programme within the normative duration of study period due to factors outside their control, such as health reasons or other special conditions, the Trust may provide flexibility and accommodation on scholarship payment schedule based on the JC Scholars' requests and recommendation from the respective institution.

Payment of the scholarship will be made to JC Scholars through their institution.

4. Eligibility

To be eligible for the Compassionate Leader Scholarship, applicants must:

- Be full-time local undergraduate students who are enrolled in a UGC-funded degree programme, pursuing their first undergraduate degree (i.e. Local students with student ID number starting with "25". Senior-year intake students are **NOT** eligible.);
- Have the right of abode or the right to land, or have entered Hong Kong on One-way Permits;
- Have completed their senior secondary education in Hong Kong;
- Have a high standard of academic performance:
 - Applicants must demonstrate academic excellence in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination ("HKDSE") or other recognised entry qualifications in 2025;
 - Applicants must attain a **GPA of 3.76 out of 4.30 or be ranked in the top 10 percent of their class¹ during the first semester of 2025/26;**
- Have outstanding achievements or exceptional leadership qualities; and
- Be proficient in English and spoken Chinese (Cantonese or Putonghua).

5. Selection Criteria

JC Scholars are recognised for their intellect, character, leadership qualities, and commitment to community service. They are selected according to their merits and attributes in the following aspects:

Intellect	Exceptional academic achievements; strong analytical aptitude and appetite; genuine interest in their subject of study and chosen field; and imagination, curiosity, and a global vision
Character	Qualities of caring leader beyond intellect, leadership and commitment to service – integrity, courage, responsibility, perseverance, temperance, drive, empathy and compassion, social awareness, and humility

¹ 'Class' is defined as the group of students of the same cohort studying in the same programme.

Leadership	Outstanding leadership and teamwork within or outside of school activities; strong professional aspirations and leadership in their disciplines; personal accomplishments and community commitments; potential and capabilities in challenging status quo; embracing diversity and a spirit of collaboration
Commitment to service	Committing to betterment of others and showing care for social and community issues of public rather than personal benefit; processing the ability to innovate and implement actionable plans to address social issues; demonstrating wide range of skills and extensive knowledge to contribute to society; and connecting with Hong Kong and considering how its needs may be addressed

6. Application and Deadline

Interested students should submit the completed application form with all relevant supporting documents, the signed referee form and department recommendation form to SAO via the [Scholarship Application System](#) **before 11.59 pm on 19 January 2026 (Monday)**. To ensure a smooth submission process and avoid missing the application deadline due to any unexpected technical issues, applicants are strongly recommended to submit their application well in advance. **Late applications will NOT be accepted.**

Applicants are strongly recommended to go through the attached [Appendix - Guidelines on Completing Scholarship Application Form](#) (Page 6 of this document) before filling out the application.

A full set of application should include: *(click on the name of form to download the file)*

- 1) A duly completed [Application Form](#) with personal statements;
- 2) A completed [Referee Recommendation Form](#) - signed by a referee highlighting the applicant's leadership, non-academic achievements, and community contributions
- 3) A completed [Department Recommendation Form](#) – signed by the applicant's academic department assessing the applicant's academic achievements, abilities, character, leadership and commitment to service
- 4) Other supporting documents, including but not limited to the academic transcript issued by the applicant's current institution and the proof of the HKDSE result or other recognised entry qualifications

7. Application Procedures

Applicants should submit their application form with all supporting documents, referee form and recommendation form to Student Affairs Office (SAO) for consideration by the application deadline.

Each institution can nominate **6 - 8 students** for further consideration by the Trust.

8. Interview Assessment

ONLY shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend the PolyU internal selection interview in person between 5 – 10 February 2026 for further shortlisting 6 - 8 deserving candidates for the Trust's consideration.

The PolyU candidates may then be invited to attend a final interview with the Trust's selection panel tentatively in March 2026, at a designated timeslot assigned by the Scholarships Secretariat.

All candidates MUST attend the selection interview(s) with no exception, if invited.

9. Results

Successful applicants will be informed of the application result in writing tentatively in April 2026. If applicants do not receive any award notifications by the end of June 2026, their applications are deemed unsuccessful.

10. Key Dates (2025/26 Cohort)

Date	Key Event
19 January 2026	Application Deadline
5 – 10 February 2026	Internal Selection Interview (for shortlisted applicants)
March 2026 (tentative)	Selection Panel interview (if invited)
April 2026 (tentative)	Announcement of application results

11. Annual Review of Scholarship Award

The award of the Compassionate Leader Scholarship will be reviewed on an annual basis subject to:

- The JC Scholar's continued enrolment in the same institution;
- Participation and achievements in community services; and
- Recommendation by the institution.

12. Letter of Undertaking

Successful applicants are required to sign a Letter of Undertaking on the terms of the Compassionate Leader Scholarship.

13. Concurrent Awards

Upon acceptance of the Compassionate Leader Scholarship, awardees should not (1) accept or receive any other academic scholarships, awards, or funding that subsidise their local tuition fees, academic expenses and living expenses or overseas studies covered by the HKJC Scholarships during their normative study period; nor (2) apply for financial grant or assistance provided by the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme - Publicly-funded Programmes and the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students, administered by the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency.

To maintain the exclusivity and prestige of the JC Scholar title, current HKJC Scholarship awardees shall not hold concurrent honorary scholar titles from other scholarships or awards during their normative study period (which is supported by the HKJC Scholarships).

14. The Jockey Club Scholar Experience

The HKJC Scholarship awardees will become a member of a network of past and current JC Scholars and enjoy various privileges, such as exclusive opportunities to participate in learning, networking and community service programmes.

All JC Scholars are expected to actively support the Trust's activities to the best of their abilities. Most importantly, they are required to attend the award presentation ceremony, welcome and induction programmes and certain learning activities organised by the Scholarships Secretariat for their cohort.

JC Scholars are also automatically enrolled as a member of The Jockey Club Scholars Alumni Association, a self-running, Trust-supported organisation that was established to mobilise JC Scholars to serve the community.

15. Interpretation

The Hong Kong Jockey Club reserves the right to the final interpretation of these Regulations.

For enquiries, please contact SAO at sao.sch@polyu.edu.hk.

Guidelines on Completing Scholarship Application Form

Scholarship applicants are advised to take note the following points before submitting your application:

- 1) Please read the scholarship information sheet carefully and make sure that you have fulfilled all eligibility requirements and can fulfill the award conditions (if any) before submitting your application;
- 2) Please provide the supporting documents (e.g. Certificate of Participation, Verification Letter/Email, Volunteer Service Hours Log-sheet) for the community services and/or extra-curricular activities listed on the application form. The listed activity or service without valid proof will not be considered. The following items are not considered as valid proof:
 - Event photo as a proof on participation
 - Verification letter/email without the applicant's name
 - Screenshots/cropped images cannot serve as proper proof. All emails or information on webpages should be converted into pdf file by 'printing' the email/webpage with header/footer and 'saving' it as pdf.

Please note that the creation or use of a fake document constitutes forgery and is subject to legal consequences.

- 3) The following items are not considered as community service or extra-curricular activity:
 - Participation in any academic programme required activity (e.g. WIE internship, service project for fulfilling the requirement of PolyU service-learning subject, final-year project, academic research project, etc.)
 - Non-local study programme (including the academic exchange programme and self-initiated study programme)
 - Any activity/job/internship with remuneration (e.g. salary, wages, subsidy, etc.)
 - Scholarship and Academic Prize/Award
 - Attending an academic conference
 - Being a member (the membership) of PolyU student organisations or academic professional bodies (e.g. HKICPA, HKIE, HKIS, etc.) will not be considered. However; serving as Executive Committee member or helper of the activity/service organised by the student organisations/professional bodies will be considered.
 - Attending language proficiency course and examination (e.g. IELTS, TOEFL, Putonghua Shuiping Ceshi 國家語委普通話水平測試)
 - Attending driving test
- 4) Please note that your disciplinary records with PolyU (including the Student Halls of Residence) will be taken into consideration when your application is processed. Students who have been put on "disciplinary probation" cannot receive honour from the University or engage in activities such as eligibility for scholarships/awards/prizes, candidatures of being selected as outstanding students during the disciplinary probationary period. Please refer to the [Regulations on Student Discipline](#) (also stated on Part 11B of the Student Handbook) for details;
- 5) Please save a copy of the application form before submission. The submitted form and supporting documents will not be returned to the applicants;
- 6) Please submit your application preferably at least one day BEFORE the application deadline and do not wait until the very last minute. **Late application will NOT be accepted;** and
- 7) Selection results are usually considered as final and should be respected by all applicants. In case you wish to file for an appeal, please double-check carefully if you really have fulfilled the selection criteria before you proceed. Whether an appeal on the selection result will be accepted and processed should be entirely up to the selection panel. Applicants should always respect the panel's decision. Please bear in mind that being eligible for the scholarship does not guarantee a successful application.