

Higher Education in Hong Kong

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PHOTO: TRIPSAVVY / CATHERINE SONG

Comparison graphics:
[Local Studio HK Facebook page](#)

 Chinese can only keep Chinese passport, which is dismissed by the Chinese as worthless.	 Hongkongers have the right to have more than one passport.
CHINA	HONG KONG
 There is no heart in their love (爱 means heart) (the 'Love' character in Simplified Chinese)	 Hong Kong keep traditional culture in the character. (the 'Love' character in Traditional Chinese)
CHINA	HONG KONG
 RMB China uses Chinese Yuan.	 HKD Hong Kong uses Hong Kong Dollar.
CHINA	HONG KONG
 Chinese use "Wechat" on smart phone.	 Hongkongers are busier than Chinese.
CHINA	HONG KONG

Hong Kong is a special administrative region of China
 We have our own government, visa policies, education system and legal system



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At a Broader Context: Key differences in the higher education systems

	Hong Kong SAR	Mainland China
Universities / institutions	22 degree-awarding higher education institutions	2 000+ universities and colleges
Leading institutions	8 Public Universities: HKU, CUHK, HKUST, PolyU, CityU, HKBU, EdU and Lingnan (first 5 ranked top 100 in QS)	C9 League, China's equivalent of the Ivy League (e.g. Tsinghua University, Peking University)
Language of Instruction	English	Most programs are taught in Mandarin Chinese, but an increasing number of English-taught programs
Official languages of the government	Both traditional Chinese and English	Simplified Chinese
History of international admissions	For over two decades	Relatively short
% of non-local/ international students	In 2024/25, 18.5% of full-time UG enrollment in all 8 public universities are non-local students PolyU (UG 17 290 incl 7 785 non-local students (21.9%))	In 2021, less than 1% of total UG enrolments nationally (link) Tsinghua University (UG 16272 incl 742 intl student (4.5%))

Hong Kong as the International Hub for Higher Education

Highlights of Hong Kong's supportive initiatives for international students

-  Doubling the enrolment ceiling for students from outside of Hong Kong in UGC-funded taught programmes
-  Expanding scholarship schemes
-  Increasing hostel capacity
-  Enhancing job opportunities



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Hong Kong: Non-Local Student Quota

In Oct 2023 Study in Hong Kong

- Doubled non-local student quotas
- Provide Scholarships and other incentives

HONG KONG

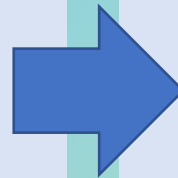
Non-local student quota doubles as city promotes hub status

Yojana Sharma 25 October 2023

[Share](#) [Post](#) [Share 2](#)

The quota of non-local undergraduate students from overseas and mainland China at Hong Kong's public universities **is set to double from 20% to 40%**, according to an announcement on Wednesday 25 October by Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee in his annual policy speech.

This is part of a raft of measures he announced to position Hong Kong as an international hub for education as well as a centre for innovation and research.



In Sep 2025 Update

- Even go beyond the increased quota of 40%

Education in Hong Kong Hong Kong / Education

Exclusive | Hong Kong universities' non-local student quota can go beyond 40%: minister

Education chief Christine Choi says room to expand once supply of student hostels starts to grow and more academics are recruited

Reading Time: 3 minutes

Why you can trust SCMP



MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA 2025

HK Admissions: Local vs Non-Local

Status:	Local	Non-Local	
Citizenship/ Nationality:	Hong Kong	Mainland Chinese	International
Quota:	Quota provided by HK Government for each year	40% on top of local students; with rooms to expand	
Student Visa:	Do not require student visa to study in HK	Require student visa	
Tuition fee:	Pay local fee: ~USD6,026 per year	Pay non-local fee: varies by institutions	
Admissions:	Relatively more competitive due to quota	Relatively more competitive due to overwhelming interest	Relatively less competitive

The student's status is based on their citizenship or nationality, regardless of their location of study

Hong Kong as the International Hub for Higher Education

Highlights of Hong Kong's supportive initiatives for international students



Doubling the enrolment ceiling for students from outside of Hong Kong in UGC-funded taught programmes

From 20% to 40% starting from 2024/25



Expanding scholarship schemes

Annual quota of Belt and Road Scholarships increased by 50%; Over 700 scholarship schemes for non-local students by 8 public U



Increasing hostel capacity

About 13,500 additional hostel places will be provided by 2027



Enhancing job opportunities

Attracting top-notch talents; Establish \$30 billion Co-Investment Fund for attracting enterprises to set up operations in HK



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Hong Kong as the International Hub for Higher Education

Promising Prospects: Empowering Growth and Success



Record-high Salary

Graduates of full-time UGC-funded undergraduate programmes recorded an average salary of **HK\$314,000 (about US\$40,300)** in 2022/23



Cultivating Global Competency through Diversified Experience Learning

Rich tapestry of immersive experiences, from local and international exposure to service-learning, entrepreneurship, and internships



UGC's HK\$100M Fund for Future-Ready Education

Fund for Innovative Technology-in-Education to prepare students to thrive in a changing landscape



Extended Post-graduation Work Authorisation for Non-local Graduates

Non-local graduates may leverage up to 2 years of post-graduation work authorisation in Hong Kong, with flexibility to extend visa with employer sponsorship

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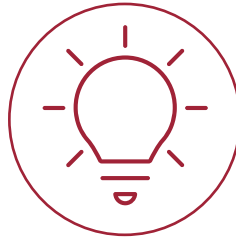


University required courses to nurture future-ready students



AI and Data Analytics (AIDA)

interdisciplinary and integrated programmes to equip students with a strong foundation in computer science, statistics and mathematics



Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IE)

prepare the first-year students with an entrepreneurial mindset and apply innovative strategies to find creative solutions that benefit both organizations and society in the age of digital transformation



Option to make AIDA or IE as the secondary major

- **Work-integrated Education (WIE): a compulsory work-based learning experience**
 - ✓ Internships available in HK/ Mainland/ overseas
 - ✓ Enhance professional competence
 - ✓ Build connections in the related field
- **98.1% Graduate Employment Rate**
- **Average starting salary HK\$25,476 / US\$3,266**

(PolyU Graduate Employment Survey 2024)



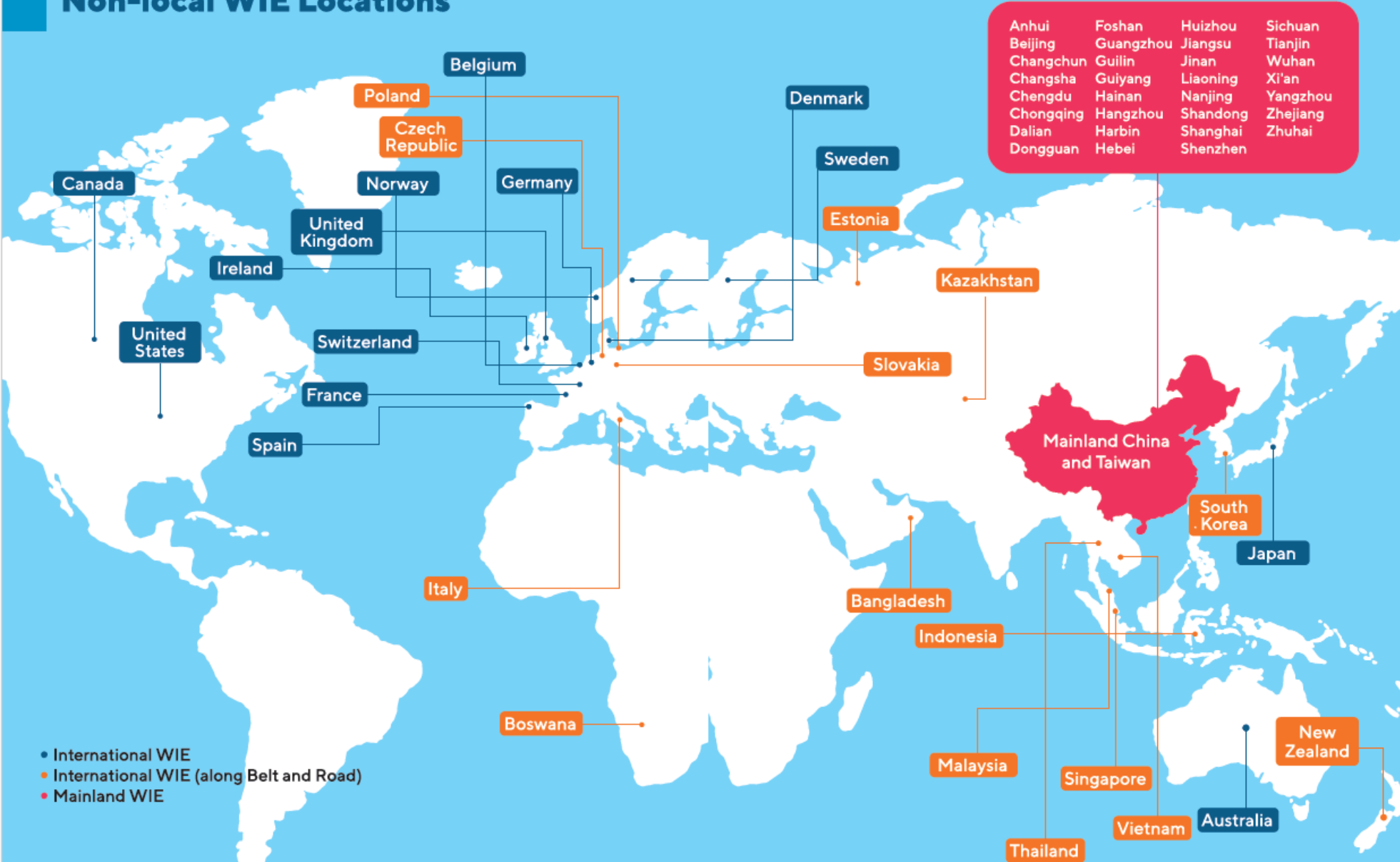
Build your professional connection globally



Partnering companies/
organisations
500+

WIE countries/
regions covered
30+

Non-local WIE Locations



Student Visa and Post-graduation stay

- Universities will support the student visa application process.
- Students are allowed to take up part-time and internships during their studies.
- Graduates will be granted up to 24 months' stay without other conditions provided that normal immigration requirements are met.
- Permanent residency after 7 years of stay in the city, including the 4 years of UG study and 2 years of student visa extension.



Home to Eight World-Class Government Funded Universities



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	 香港城市大學 City University of Hong Kong	 香港浸會大學 HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY	 香港中文大學 The Chinese University of Hong Kong	 香港中文大學 The Chinese University of Hong Kong	 香港中文大學 The Chinese University of Hong Kong	 香港中文大學 The Chinese University of Hong Kong	 香港科技大學 THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	 香港科技大學 THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Business	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Engineering	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
Science	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Art & Design	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Humanities Lang. & Comm.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Education			✓	✓	✓			✓
Social Sciences / Political Science / Law	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Medical and Health Science	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓

Choosing programmes that require clinical training (e.g MBBS, Physiotherapy, Nursing etc.) expect students to be proficient in Cantonese. Students may choose health science programmes such as radiography, medical laboratory science and biological / biomedical science etc.



Admission Key facts

1. The academic year of universities in Hong Kong starts in September. Students should apply one year prior to the start of their university study.
2. Each university in Hong Kong has its own application system, fees and deadlines. Students should submit applications to the university directly.
3. Universities in Hong Kong enjoy a high degree of autonomy in admission of students, requirements for student admission may vary from university to university, and from programme to programme.



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Admission Key facts

4. In general, admission requirements are composed of (a) national/international qualifications and (b) English requirements. Some programmes may require extra assessment (e.g. portfolio, interview, personal statement).
5. No university entrance exam.
6. All universities may issue conditional offers. Students are encouraged to apply with his/her predicted grades (if any).
7. Universities offer their own entry scholarships. Majority of scholarship awards are merit-based and do not require separate application.



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UG students (intl)	12 361 (2 072)	7 580 (1 218)	3 180 (557)	18 101 (2 564)	5 952 (599)	17 290 (3 785)	10 990 (2 207)	18 745 (4 204)
26/27 Tuition per year: (US\$7.8=HK\$1)	~US\$24 359 (vet prog: ~US\$ 50 256)	~US\$20 513 (2026/27 to be reviewed)	~US\$20 512 (2026/27 to be reviewed)	~US\$27 436	~US\$23 080	~US\$25 641	~US\$28 000	(non-STEM) ~US\$28 718 (STEM) US\$31 923
Academic entry scholarship:	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Non-academic entry scholarship:	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Diversity scholarship:	✓					✓		
Maximum award amount:	Full tuition plus living allowance per year							

The above information may be changed without prior notice. Please check with the university for the most updated info.

Entry Scholarships for Non-Local Students

The Hong Kong Government

The Belt and Road Scholarship

Successful applicants will receive an entrance scholarship valued at **the full tuition amount or higher for non-local students.**

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University – University-level

i. Academic Entry Scholarship

ii. Non-academic Entry Scholarship

Special Talent Admissions and Recognition Scheme (STARS)

- Sports
- Arts and Culture
- Leadership and Community Services
- STEM

- Favorable admission conditions
- STARS Residential College

Renewable awards

- Full-tuition scholarship plus living allowance per year
- Full-tuition scholarship per year
- Half-tuition scholarship per year

iii. Cultural Ambassador Scholarship

- Up to HK\$50,000 (~US\$6,410) renewable to students who contribute to the University's diversity

iv. Exchange Scholarship

- HK\$30,000 (~US\$3,846) for academic entry scholarship awardees

v. Individual departments offer top-up scholarships for non-local students

Resources & Contacts – HK Universities

	 香港城市大學 City University of Hong Kong	 香港浸會大學 HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY	 香港中文大學 The Chinese University of Hong Kong	 香港中文大學 The Chinese University of Hong Kong	 香港教育大學 The Education University of Hong Kong	 香港理工大學 THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY	 香港科技大學 THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	 香港大學 HONG KONG UNIVERSITY
Admissions requirement:	https://www.cityu.edu.hk/international/admissions/entrance-requirements	https://admissions.hkbu.edu.hk/en/international.html	https://www.ln.edu.hk/admissions/ug/overseas/apply/admission-requirements	https://admission.cuhk.edu.hk/application/overseas-other-qualifications-non-local-international-team/requirements/	https://www.apply.edu.hk/hk/ug/nonlocal	https://www.polyu.edu.hk/study/ug/admissions/international-other-qualifications	https://join.hku.hk/admissions/international-qualifications	https://admissions.hku.hk/apply/international-qualifications
Admissions website:	https://www.cityu.edu.hk/international/	https://admissions.hkbu.edu.hk/en/international.html	https://www.ln.edu.hk/admissions/ug/overseas	https://international.cuhk.edu.hk/	https://www.apply.edu.hk/hk/ug/	https://www.polyu.edu.hk/study/ug	https://join.hku.hk/	https://admissions.hku.hk/
Contact point:	Admission Office ugadm.intl@cityu.edu.hk	Admission Office ardirect@hkbu.edu.hk	Office of Global Education nonlocaladm@LN.edu.hk	Office of Admissions and Financial Aid https://cloud.itsc.cuhk.edu.hk/webform/view.php?id=13640221	Global Affairs Office ugstudies@eduhk.hk	Global Engagement Office International.study@polyu.edu.hk	UG Recruitment & Admission Office ugenquiry@ust.hk	Admissions Office counsellors@hku.hk

Resources (official websites)

- Study in Hong Kong [here](#)
- Voices of international students in Hong Kong [here](#) and [here](#)
- Lifestyle and Career opportunities in Hong Kong [here](#) and [here](#)
- International students at PolyU [here](#)



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