

Home Affairs Bureau

Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship 2018

Information Note for Applicants

INTRODUCTION

In 2014, the HKSAR Government decided to launch the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship (MES) to support local students studying the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) curriculum who excel in sports, arts and / or community service to pursue undergraduate studies in universities and locally-accredited degree-awarding institutions in Hong Kong. The scholarship aims to promote a culture of multi-faceted excellence and convey to society the message that academic results are not the sole criterion for measuring the success of young people. It provides talented students with an alternative admission channel to higher education.

In a bid to further promote multi-faceted excellence, the Government has decided to double the annual quota of the MES from around 20 to around 40 starting from 2018 (i.e. starting from the cohort who will commence undergraduate studies at the beginning of the 2018/19 academic year).

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for the MES, applicants must meet the following criteria –

- (i) have the right of abode or right to land in Hong Kong, or have entered Hong Kong on One-way Permits;
- (ii) study the HKDSE curriculum; and
- (iii) simultaneously and on their own, apply for admission to universities / locally-accredited degree-awarding institutions in Hong Kong to pursue publicly-funded or self-financing undergraduate studies commencing in the 2018/19 academic year through the Joint University Programmes Admission System (JUPAS) or by direct application (for undergraduate programmes not covered by JUPAS; commonly known as “non-JUPAS”).

TARGET BENEFICIARIES

The target students are local HKDSE graduates who (i) excel in sports, arts and / or community service; and (ii) have met all the basic requirements of university admission and / or any further requirements stipulated by individual faculties and departments.

THE SCHOLARSHIP

The annual quota of the MES is around 40. Under the MES, universities / institutions are provided with additional resources to cover the costs of admitting the Scholars. We will directly reimburse the relevant universities / institutions for the tuition costs of the Scholars. Therefore, Scholars will not be required to pay any tuition fees to their universities / institutions for the normal duration of the undergraduate programme concerned. Scholars will not be subjected to means testing.

APPLYING FOR THE MES

All applicants must be nominated by their respective secondary school principals. Each school principal may nominate **up to two** HKDSE students in his / her school with outstanding achievements in sports, arts and / or community service. The two nominated applicants should excel in two different major areas of achievements (please refer to Assessment Criteria below). Applicants should indicate **up to three** JUPAS Band A Choices and / or **up to one** non-JUPAS Programme Choice for the purpose of application for the MES. There are no restrictions on the disciplines of study.

Completed application forms, together with all required documents and materials, should reach the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) by hand or by post **at or before 5:00pm on 29 December 2017**.

SELECTION

(i) **Preliminary screening (December 2017 to January 2018):** Upon receipt of

the applications, HAB will conduct a preliminary screening based on the achievements stated in the applications (such as honours, qualifications and prizes obtained), with reference to a set of objective criteria. Although there are no restrictions on the disciplines of study, applicants with achievements or talents matching their choice of undergraduate programme(s) will be given extra credit. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interviews with the Assessment Panel.

(ii) Interviews (February to March 2018): Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview with the Assessment Panel, some of whom will subsequently be selected for a second-round interview. The Assessment Panel comprises well-respected figures in the fields of education, sports, arts and community service. Members of the Assessment Panel will assess the credentials of the applicants via face-to-face interviews and select around 40 or more candidates to recommend to universities / institutions. The decisions of the Assessment Panel on the recommended candidates shall be final and there is no appeal mechanism for the outcomes.

(iii) Matching with universities / institutions (May to July 2018): Candidates recommended by the Assessment Panel will be referred to the relevant universities / institutions¹ for consideration. If necessary, universities / institutions may conduct interviews with the recommended candidates for further assessment. Universities / institutions enjoy autonomy in student admission and will issue conditional admission offers to candidates whom they find suitable. Candidates who cannot secure any conditional offers from the relevant universities / institutions should consider their applications for MES unsuccessful. They will continue to be considered under the normal JUPAS / non-JUPAS admission processes of the universities / institutions concerned.

(iv) Release of HKDSE results (July 2018): Recommended candidates whose HKDSE results do not meet the conditions of conditional admission offers made by universities / institutions should consider their applications unsuccessful.

(v) Release of MES results (August 2018): Subsequent to the release of the

¹ This refers to universities / institutions that correspond to the JUPAS / non-JUPAS programme choices indicated by the candidates for the purpose of application for the MES.

JUPAS / non-JUPAS admission results, recommended candidates who are admitted to the undergraduate programmes specified in their conditional admission offers will be awarded the MES². HAB will inform candidates in writing the outcomes of the MES applications.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Selection of awardees under the MES is merit-based, having regard to their achievements in sports, arts (including music) and / or community service, their interview performance, etc. Applicants should choose one area among sports, arts (including music) and community service as the major area of achievements, and submit **at most two items** to illustrate their achievements. In addition, applicants can also submit **at most one item** of achievement in a non-major area of achievements. Generally speaking, the following criteria are adopted in assessing achievements in sports, arts, music and community service:

Sports, Arts and Music

Applicants with achievements in sports, arts and music should provide details of the prizes / honours attained in competitions. Achievements will be assessed based on the rankings / honours acquired and the scale / significance of the competitions. Extra credit will be given to those who obtained achievements in international or regional competitions. Besides, applicants may provide details on performances / exhibitions they previously participated in. We will assess the achievements with reference to the scale / significance and participation eligibility of the events.

Community Service

Applicants with achievements in community service should give an overview of their community service experience. The achievements will be assessed based on a host of factors, such as initiatives taken by the applicant, originality of the services, geographical coverage of the services, the number and spectrum of beneficiaries, public recognition, etc. The service history and accumulated service hours of the applicants will also be taken into consideration.

² If a MES candidate does not place his / her programme choice(s) with conditional offer(s) as a top choice in the JUPAS system, this may result in the candidate being admitted to other programmes not specified in his / her MES application, thus rendering the candidate unsuccessful for the MES.

Extra Credit

Extra credit may be given to students who demonstrate leadership experience or receive well-justified recommendation letters from non-related individuals other than school principals and teachers (recommendation letters must be submitted together with the application forms; separate submissions will be disregarded).

Home Affairs Bureau
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