Applications are invited for the 2020-2021 Sir Robert Black Trust Fund Scholarships for Postgraduate Studies ("the Scholarships")\(^1\) for individuals to pursue postgraduate courses or other training programmes, local and overseas.

2. The primary aim of the Scholarships is to provide opportunities for people of exceptional merit, who have demonstrated their potential to serve the community through the qualities of personal leadership, to develop their initiative and character, so that they may acquire greater social usefulness. Priority will therefore be given to candidates of proven ability and experience in fields which have a significant impact on community life, e.g. medical studies, journalism, social work, education, arts, politics, sciences, etc.

Eligibility

3. Candidates are required to propose their own programmes of study or training, and must be supported by a person in a competent position to certify their academic and professional achievement and leadership qualities, thus relatives of the candidates are not considered suitable in this regard. The length of proposed studies should be less than five years and the projected study expenses should be supported by quotations and relevant course brochures wherever practicable. The amount of the Scholarships will vary depending on the nature of the programmes and may not necessarily cover full expenses. Before submitting any application, candidates should have resided in Hong Kong for at least five consecutive years. Awardees may be required to undertake to return to Hong Kong to work for a specified period of several years upon completion of the proposed study or training, depending on the amount of scholarships offered, duration of courses/programmes taken or other factors as decided by the Selection Panel appointed by the Sir Robert Black Trust Fund Committee ("Selection Panel") on a case-by-case basis.

4. As competition for the Scholarships is invariably keen, applications will be short-listed by the Selection Panel. Only candidates with good Honours degree from recognized institutions and proven working experience of at least four years in their profession would be invited to attend an interview, which will be held in June or July 2020 tentatively. For applicants who propose to study overseas when the same or similar programmes are offered by local institution(s), they would be accorded a lower priority.

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\(^1\) The scheme for 2020-2021 is subject to the endorsement of the Sir Robert Black Trust Fund Committee at the coming Annual General Meeting which will be held tentatively in May 2020.
Application procedures

5. Application forms can be obtained from http://www.hab.gov.hk/en/public_forms/forms.htm or the Secretariat at 34/F., Wu Chung House, 213 Queen’s Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong. The original application must be submitted either by mail or by hand to reach the Secretariat on or before 5pm, 13 March 2020. Applications submitted via e-mail or by fax, incomplete applications, or late submission would not be processed. The following documents should be submitted for each application:

   (i) The Application Form;
   (ii) The Proforma;
   (iii) The Recommendation Form; and
   (iv) Quotations on projected study expenses and relevant course brochures.

All documents submitted will not be returned. Acknowledgements would be sent to the applicants by email within 2 weeks upon receipt of the applications by the Secretariat.

Remarks

6. The selection results for the Scholarships will be announced tentatively in August 2020. The proposed course or training due for commencement prior to September 2020 or later than August 2021 will not be considered.

7. For applicants employed by the Hong Kong Government (whether under civil service or contract terms), they should submit their applications through their Heads of Departments. Likewise, applications from Hospital Authority staff members should be submitted through the Human Resources Division of Hospital Authority Head Office (Tel.: 2300 7697/Fax: 2515 2299). These applications should also reach the Secretariat on or before 5pm, 13 March 2020, and those failing to route through the concerned organizations will not be considered.

Enquiries

8. Enquiries concerning the Scholarships should be addressed to:

   The Secretariat
   Sir Robert Black Trust Fund Committee
   34/F, Wu Chung House
   213 Queen’s Road East
   Wanchai, Hong Kong
   Tel No.: 3718 6801

Secretary
Sir Robert Black Trust Fund Committee

February 2020