

## **Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund**

### **Annual Report in the 2020/21 Academic Year**

#### **Establishment of the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund**

The Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund (SPEF) with a commitment of \$2.5 billion was established in August 2011 to support worthwhile initiatives and schemes that aimed to enhance the quality of self-financing post-secondary education. An additional \$1 billion was injected into SPEF in 2012 to support more scholarships and awards in recognition of post-secondary students not only with outstanding academic performance but also achievements and talents in non-academic fields. Another \$20 million was injected into SPEF in 2013 to establish the Endeavour Scholarship (EDS) in recognition of deserving post-secondary students with special educational needs<sup>1</sup> (SEN) in their pursuit of excellence in academic and other areas.

2. SPEF was set up as a trust with the Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporated acted as its trustee. The investment income from SPEF was used to support the following two main schemes.

#### **(a) Self-financing Post-secondary Scholarship Scheme**

3. For the 2020/21 academic year, there were five types of scholarships/awards under the Self-financing Post-secondary Scholarship Scheme (SPSS), namely the Outstanding Performance Scholarship (OPS), the Best Progress Award (BPA), the Talent Development Scholarship (TDS), the Reaching Out Award (ROA) and EDS.

#### *OPS*

4. OPS was offered to students with –

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<sup>1</sup> SEN includes specific learning difficulties, intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, physical disability, visual impairment, hearing impairment, speech and language impairment, and others. Students usually declare their SEN with the institutions at their admission registration.

- (a) a high standard of academic performance;
- (b) demonstration of leadership and good communication skills;
- (c) valuable contribution to the institution/community; and/or
- (d) a strong commitment to the Hong Kong community.

For undergraduate and top-up degree students, the amounts of scholarship for each local and non-local awardee were \$40,000 and \$80,000 per year respectively. For sub-degree students, the amount of scholarship for each local or non-local student was \$30,000 per year.

#### *BPA*

5. BPA was established to encourage and recognise students with significant progress and improvement in their studies. Each undergraduate or sub-degree awardee would be granted \$10,000, irrespective of local or non-local students.

#### *TDS*

6. TDS gave recognition to students who had demonstrated achievements or talents in non-academic areas, and provided support for these students to further develop their talents and potential. Each undergraduate and sub-degree recipient would be granted \$10,000, irrespective of local or non-local students.

#### *ROA*

7. ROA supported meritorious students who were nominated by institutions to participate in learning, internship or service programmes, as well as national, regional and international events and competitions that were to be conducted outside Hong Kong and organised/endorsed by institutions. Each undergraduate or sub-degree awardee would be granted \$10,000, irrespective of local or non-local students.

#### *EDS*

8. EDS gave recognition to deserving post-secondary students with SEN in their pursuit of excellence in academic and other areas. Each undergraduate or sub-degree recipient would be granted \$15,000,

irrespective of local or non-local students.

### *Allocation of Award/Scholarship*

9. In the 2020/21 academic year, a total of 3 677 awardees, including 1 688 students studying sub-degree programmes and 1 989 students pursuing undergraduate programmes from 30 participating institutions, received about \$69.01 million under SPSS. Among them, 1 184 students were granted OPS, 344 students were awarded BPA, 924 students received TDS, 1 015 students were selected for ROA and 210 students obtained EDS.

### **(b) Quality Enhancement Support Scheme**

10. The Quality Enhancement Support Scheme (QESS) supported three types of projects, namely theme-based projects, open-ended projects, and industrial attachment projects. Under the category of theme-based projects, since the 2017/18 round of application, applicants are allowed to set their own themes for projects under this category as long as the proposals are collaborative in nature, i.e. proposed and undertaken by more than one eligible institution, to foster closer collaboration and synergy among institutions and benefit the sector as widely as possible.

11. In response to a relevant recommendation made by the Task Force on Promotion of Vocational Education in its report submitted to the Government in July 2015, a project category of industrial attachment was launched in January 2016 on a pilot basis to encourage institutions to increase students' employability by sourcing more internship opportunities for post-secondary students; and to enhance relevant institutional support for students. To encourage institutions to explore more initiatives to support students on industrial attachment, the industrial attachment category is expanded on a two-year pilot basis starting from the 2019/20 round of application. Under the expanded category, institutions may also submit applications on industrial attachment projects to be undertaken outside Hong Kong.

*Approved Projects in the 2020/21 Round of Application*

12. In the 2020/21 round of application, 1 theme-based project, 5 open-ended projects and 2 industrial attachment projects were approved. The total grant committed amounted to about \$24 million. The aims of the approved projects include improving teaching practices and learning effectiveness through adopting e-learning and interactive instructional approaches, establishing a system for quality assurance and enhancement, and enhancing students' employability through industrial attachment opportunities and industries-specific skills training. Details of the approved projects are at **Annex**.

**Secretariat, Committee on Self-Financing Post-secondary Education**

**Quality Enhancement Support Scheme  
Projects Approved in the 2020/21 Round of Application**

**Theme-based Project**

	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Grant Approved</b>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Hong Kong Polytechnic University - School of Professional Education and Executive Development (Principal Applicant)</li><li>• The Hong Kong Polytechnic University - Hong Kong Community College</li></ul>	Development of Virtual Reality (VR) Systems for Business and Tourism Education	\$6,176,000
<b>Sub-total:</b>			\$6,176,000

**Open-ended Projects**

	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Grant Approved</b>
1	Chu Hai College of Higher Education	Building Envelope Environmental Performance Optimization Teaching Platform (BEEP Optimization Teaching Platform)	\$1,986,463
2	Lingnan Institute of Further Education	Electronic Programme Management System for Quality Assurance Enhancement Project	\$2,395,920
3	The Chinese University of Hong Kong - School of Continuing and Professional Studies	InternVision – Virtual Reality System for Internship Training	\$2,394,000
4	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University - Hong Kong Community College	Development of a Web-based Remote Laboratory for Science and Engineering Education	\$2,399,200

	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Grant Approved</b>
5	The Open University of Hong Kong (now known as Hong Kong Metropolitan University)	Enhancing Interactive Learning and Teaching in Gait Assessment and Rehabilitation: A 3D Motion Capture & Age-Simulation Model Approach	\$2,199,326
<b>Sub-total:</b>			\$11,374,909

**Industrial Attachment Projects**

	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Grant Approved</b>
1	Hong Kong Baptist University - School of Continuing Education	Pilot Scheme on Global Workplace Experience (Business and Management Related Disciplines)	\$3,353,608
2	Hong Kong Shue Yan University	Enhancing students' work-related global competency through industrial attachment abroad activities	\$3,548,453
<b>Sub-total:</b>			\$6,902,061