

HSBC Overseas Scholarship 2020/21

Application Guidelines and Criteria

I Allocation of scholarships

- Scholarship(s) is/are to be awarded to full-time undergraduate student(s) of invited universities in Hong Kong to study at a listed overseas university (see **Attachment A**) for **either one semester or one academic year**.
- The maximum amount to be awarded under the Scholarship for 2020/21 for all confirmed scholars is **HKD1,200,000**, with a maximum amount of HKD300,000 per scholarship. There is no pre-set number of scholarship awards for each university.
 1. Your university may nominate the designated number of candidates who best satisfy the Scholarship's eligibility requirements (see Section IV below).
 2. Please submit a list of nominated candidates with a recommended scholarship amount for each of them to HSBC no later than **13 January 2020** Please refer to **Attachments B and C**.
 3. As scholarships will be awarded only to candidates who fulfil all selection criteria and are selected by the HSBC panel, there is no guarantee that all or any of the candidate(s) nominated will be invited to the interview or will receive an award.
 4. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to HSBC for a selection panel interview, to be held in March 2020. HSBC will notify universities in advance on the date, time and other details of the selection interview.
 5. Conditional offers will be made in April 2020 by HSBC to candidates who fulfil all selection criteria, who are recommended by their respective school, and are selected by the HSBC interview panel.
 6. Offers are finalised upon the formal admission by the intended overseas universities and an application to participate in the Hong Kong Young Ambassador Scheme (HKYAS). HKYAS is jointly organised by the Tourism Commission of the Hong Kong Administration Region Government and The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, with the Hong Kong Association for Customer Service Excellence as a co-organiser. Please refer to <https://yas.hkfyg.org.hk/> for more information about HKYAS. Prior written approval from HSBC should be sought should candidates choose to attend another similar programme before their departure from Hong Kong.
 7. Preference will be given to eligible students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
 8. The decision of HSBC / the Hongkong Bank Foundation in relation to the HSBC Overseas Scholarship shall be final.

II Value of scholarships

The maximum total value for each scholarship is **HKD300,000**.

The recommended scholarship amount for each scholar can only go towards (1) tuition fees and mandatory college fees, (2) a minimum economy return airfare, (3) reasonable room and board costs, books, a small portion of living expenses, and visa application fees.

However, the scholarship amount does not cover insurance, clothing expenses, and other incidentals. Please refer to **Attachment D** for details.

III Approved bachelor degree disciplines

Students who are currently studying under any one of the following disciplines funded by the University Grants Committee may apply. To enable students to have more exposure in their fields of study, applicants will have the flexibility to major in a different discipline other than the one the applicant is currently studying while abroad. The discipline, however, will have to be listed in our approved bachelor degree courses listed as below.

All disciplines under architecture, business and economics, communication, computer science/information systems, construction and land use, dentistry, design, education, engineering, health care, hotel and tourism, law, medicine, science (basic and applied), social sciences, humanities, textiles, arts subjects (linguistics and languages, translation, history, geography, fine arts and applied arts etc), energy and environment, Asian and International Studies, and creative media.

IV Eligibility

The Scholarship is open to non-final year full-time undergraduate students who meet the following requirements:

1. Hong Kong permanent residents with the right of abode in Hong Kong.
2. Minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) score of 3.7 (first-class honours, or top 3% of class/department, or equivalent) in the first semester of 2019/20 academic year.
3. Well-rounded, participating in extra-curricular and community service activities.
4. No extensive experience of living or studying overseas.
5. Priority will be given to candidates who are in a financial situation that does not permit overseas study or extensive overseas travel.
6. Have a strong commitment to Hong Kong.
7. A minimum total TOEFL score of 90 (Internet-based test) with scores for individual sections not lower than 22 on listening, 17 on writing, 21 on reading, and 21 on speaking; or a minimum IELTS overall band score of 6.5, with no component below 6.0.

This requirement is irrespective of the admission requirement of the intended overseas universities. All tests must have been taken on 16 February 2018 or later. Test results will have to be ready on or before 13 January 2020.

V Scholarship announcement/publicity

Draft copies of electronic communications, posters, leaflets, newsletters and press releases plus any other form of publicity materials related to the Scholarship should be submitted to HSBC for approval prior to their release or production. Please allow at least 10 work days for clearance.

We would appreciate that The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited is acknowledged as the donor in all communications where possible and appropriate.

VI Application deadlines for 2020/21 scholarships

The following materials of recommended applicants should be submitted by your school on or before 13 January 2020 to HSBC. (An earlier deadline for students to submit information to your office is recommended judging from past experience in relation to students' overseas universities applications).

Please note that the following documents must be submitted **in soft copy by email to jaime.villanueva@hsbc.com.hk**. Incomplete submission will not be processed.

1. A completed **Attachment B** listing the names of all applicants for 2020/21.
2. A completed **Attachment C** for all shortlisted candidates signed by both the candidates and by your school, supported by the following documents:
 - Completed University Recommendation Form (**Attachment E**).
 - Completed Student Undertaking Form (**Attachment F**)
 - Transcript for the first semester of the academic year 2019/20 (Non-first year students should also include their transcripts for year 2018/19)
 - TOEFL or IELTS transcript (test must be dated 16 February 2018 or later)

VII Individual scholarship value and payment method

Your school should recommend a scholarship amount with a **maximum of HKD300,000** for each candidate with the attached pro-forma summary sheet (**Attachment G**). The cost breakdown must be endorsed by your office on or before **16 February 2020**.

VIII Conditional offer

Conditional offers will be extended to candidates selected by the HSBC panel with endorsement by the Foundation in April 2020. These offers will be confirmed upon receipt of the following documents:

1. The official admission letter from the overseas university;
2. An application form to the Hong Kong Young Ambassador Scheme or a similar programme that HSBC has approved in writing;
3. A letter from your university confirming the number of credits that the student will take during his/her semester or year abroad. This submitted figure should be regarded as final. Costs of any additional credits taken during the academic year will not be covered;
4. Evidence from the overseas university outlining the duration of the academic year and information on the number of courses/credits that a visiting or full-time overseas student should take.
5. A completed pro-forma summary sheet (**Attachment G**), providing a final cost breakdown that is reviewed by your university.
6. HSBC will compare cost information received from other scholars who study in the same university or country. The value of the scholarship award may differ from the recommended sum put forward. All candidates are reminded to provide an accurate projection of expenses before they submit the cost breakdown. The scholarship amount will be paid upon approval by HSBC. Please allow at least 14 working days for processing of payment.

The Hongkong Bank Foundation
July 2019

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