Link University Scholarship for Year 2-4 University Studies

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Essential questions:

- The eligibility of the scholarship programme
- The definition of first amongst three generations of their families
- If my brother or sister has obtained/ is studying bachelor degree or above education, can I still apply for the scholarship programme?
- When are the application opening and closing date?
- If I have applied for/ was awarded the scholarship in previous years, can I apply for the scholarship again this year?
- If I received admission offer from a local university through "Non-JUPAS", can I apply for this scholarship?
- Will I be disqualified if I could not attend the interview?
- If I forget password/ login ID, what should I do?
- How to make the declaration issued by Home Affairs Department of the HKSAR?

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I. Eligibility

i General issue

1.   The Eligibility of the scholarship programme:

A：Student applicants must be:
i.   The first-generation university student from his/her family (i.e. his/her grandparents and parents do not hold any degree from any university) to study at one of the Hong Kong's universities[#], and is able to provide one of the following:
   - A recommendation letter by the principal or teacher of his/her previous secondary school (click here to download the template), or
   - A declaration* issued by Home Affairs Department of HKSAR (click here to download the template);
ii.   A full-time student who will continue their Year 2/3/4 full-time bachelor's study at one of the Hong Kong's universities[#] ;

iii.   Having a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and eligible for next year's admission by a Hong Kong university# ;

iv.   A local student*** (e.g. holder of HKID Card (Permanent) or Permit for Proceeding to Hong Kong and Macau (One-way Permit));

v.   Aged 25 below (i.e. born on or after 1 September 1999); and

vi.   Proactively participating in community services

* Student applicants can make the oath at any Home Affairs Enquiry Centre free of-charge, declaring they are the first amongst three generations of their families to study at university

** HKCSS will contact you or your relevant university to verify your latest CGPA

*** Definition of local student: Please click here

Twelve Universities are (in alphabetical order): City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong Metropolitan University, Hong Kong Shue Yan University, Lingnan University, Saint Francis University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Education University of Hong Kong, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, The University of Hong Kong

2.   **The definition of first amongst three generations of my families to study at universities?**
A : The grandparents and parents of the students do not hold any degree from any university in HK/mainland china/overseas, siblings of the applicant are excluded.

3.   **If my brother or sister has obtained/ is studying bachelor degree or above education, can I still apply for this scholarship programme?**
A : Yes. You can apply for the scholarship programme this year.

4.   **If I applied for/ was awarded this scholarship in previous years, can I apply for this scholarship again this year?**
A :   Yes, you are eligible to apply for this scholarship.

5.   **If I received admission offer from a local university through "Non-JUPAS", can I apply for this scholarship?**
A: Yes, both "JUPAS" and "non-JUPAS" student can apply the Scholarship this year.

6.   **How to make the declaration issued by Home Affairs Department of the HKSAR?**
A: You have to bring along with your documents to prove your identity (e.g. Identity Card) and the designated declaration document (click here) to approach any of Home Affairs Enquiry Centres in person and make the oath in front of the Commissioner for Oaths. The Commissioner for Oaths shall sign and append the seal of Home Affairs Department to the declaration document as confirmation. This document can be used as a proof of meeting the eligibility of the scholarship programme (including the first-generation university student from his/her family to study at one of the Hong Kong's universities#; aged 25 below; local student***). This service is free of charge.

If you wish to obtain more information about the declarations/ oaths service provided by Home Affairs Department, please visit their website.

7. **Can I submit the declaration issued by Home Affairs Department of the HKSAR in previous years?**

   A: No. You have to make a declaration in the current year and submit the latest declaration document in the application.

ii Exchange/Internship Programme/Gap Year

1. **If I am on exchange/ internship programme/ gap year/ non-academic leave, which year should I choose on application form?**

   A：Please contact us by email fgu@hkcss.org.hk

II .Scope of the scholarship

1. **The Scholarships target beneficiaries:**

   A： The first university# student amongst three generations of the family

   # Twelve Universities are (in alphabetical order): City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong Metropolitan University, Hong Kong Shue Yan University, Lingnan University, Saint Francis University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Education University of Hong Kong, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, The University of Hong Kong

2. **What is the scholarship amount?**

   A： A grant of HK$20,000 for each awardee

3. **How many scholarships will be awarded?**

   A： For Years 2-4 University Studies Scholarship, each year of study will have 30 Scholarship awards

4. **Are there any required conditions on the usage of scholarship money?**

   A： Awarded students can make use of the grant to realise their goals and plans for improving of their learning environment and/or seeking further learning opportunities.

5. **What are the obligations of awarded students?**

   A： Encourage participation in the Link Scholars Alumni activities, including the Scholarship Presentation Ceremony (if any), volunteer activities and other promotional activities organised by Link. We encourage students to continue to participate in community service activities. Attendance rate might be assessed in the next year's scholarship application.

6. **If I am awarded for this scholarship, can I still receive the scholarship if I decide to withdraw my study in the current bachelor's study?**

   A： At the time of awarding the scholarship, the awarded student must still be enrolled in a full-time undergraduate programme at a local university# in the 2024/25 academic year; in the meantime, Link reserves the right of final decision on scholarship arrangements

7. **If I am awarded for this scholarship, can I still apply for other scholarship schemes or subsidies at the same time?**

A： Yes. You can still apply for other scholarship schemes or subsidies at the same time.

III. Programme Schedule

1. **Where can I find the details of this programme?**

A： Please click here for the details of this scholarship programme

2. **When are the application opening and closing date?**

A：

Item	Schedule
Open online application	7 May – 17 July 2024 (before 11:59 pm)
Scholarship interview day	2 Nov (tentative)
Scholarship results announcement	Late Dec or before
Awarded students to attend Scholarship Presentation Ceremony	Jan or Feb 2025 (tentative)
Scholarship disbursement+ +At the time of awarding the scholarship, the awarded student must still be enrolled in a full-time undergraduate programme at a local university# in the 2024/25 academic year; in the meantime, Link reserves the right of final decision on scholarship arrangements	Late March 2025 or before
Note: Towards the application deadline, online system may be overloaded due to large volume of applications. To ensure timely completion of your online application, it is advisable to submit the application as early as possible.	

3. **What are the procedures?**

A：

1. Eligible applicants should submit application via online system (https://fgu.hkcsswg.org.hk) before 11:59 pm on 17 July. Late submissions will not be accepted.

2. HKCSS will coordinate all successful applications and verify the information submitted.

3. After first-round assessment, shortlisted students will be invited to the interview. The applications can be considered unsuccessful if applicants do not receive any invitation for interview.

4. Interview will be held in November 2024, and the results will be announced in late December or before. Awarded students will be notified.

4. **How can I access the online portal to apply for the scholarship?**

A： Please click here to apply the scholarship programme this year.

5. **If I have applied/was awarded this scholarship before, do I need to Sign Up again?**

A： Yes, you need to sign up again.

6. **Is there anything that I need to do after submitting the application form?**

A： Please note that we will verify your information after you have submitted the application. During this period,

we may ask for supplementary documents through email. If you have received this kind of email, please follow the instruction written in the email, otherwise we may not be able to continue the process of your application.

7. **When will be the result announcement?**
A： Interview will be held in November 2024 and result announcement will be in late December or before. An award notification will be sent to awarded students. Those who do not receive award notification may assume that their applications are unsuccessful.

8. **Will the application submitted after the deadline be accepted?**
A： Late application will not be considered.

9. **Once I have submitted my application, may I edit my application or upload supplementary information?**
A：Once your application is submitted, no edit, update, or supplementary information resubmission will be permitted.

10. **Apart from this online platform, may I submit my application by fax, post or other methods?**
A：Sorry, we only accept online applications through https://fgu.hkcsswg.org.hk.

IV. Selection and Interview

1. **Will all student applicants be invited for interview?**
A： The first-round assessment will be conducted by Link and HKCSS based on the information and academic result provided by applicants/universities. The scholarship is non-means-tested. Shortlisted students will be invited to the interview. The interview panel will be comprised of representatives from the government, business, academics, social welfare services and the Link. The applications can be considered unsuccessful if applicants do not receive any invitation for interview.

2. **When will be the interview?**
A： Interview will be held in November 2024. After first-round assessment, shortlisted students will be invited to the interview.

3. **Will I be disqualified if I could not attend the interview?**
A： Student applicant shall be regarded as giving up their applications if they fail to attend interviews.

V.Technical Enquiries about Online Application

1. **If I forget the password, what should I do?**
A： Please press "Forgot Password" on the front page of Online Scholarship Application System and follow the written instructions on the page.

2. **If I forget the login ID, what should I do?**
A: The login ID is the email that you used for signing up this Online Scholarship Application System.

3. **What shall I do if I do not receive any email for set up / reset the password?**
A: Your email service provider's spam filters may mark our email as spam automatically. Please be reminded to check with your spam folders in your email account.

4. **What is the minimum IT requirement for this Online Scholarship Application System?**
A: You may access the Online Scholarship Application System is applicable for most of the internet browsers. In order to enjoy the best user experience, we recommend you use the following standard browsers e.g. Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Internet Explorer 9.

5. **Am I able to save my application for further editing before submission?**
A: Yes. You can press "Save" button in order to save your application. Please note that the Online Application System does not have an auto-save function. We recommend you to save the application constantly.

6. **If my internet connection was interrupted during the application process, what should I do?**
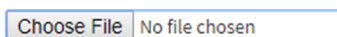A： Please log in the system again. The system will display your last-saved information. We recommend you to save the application constantly.

7. **How do I know whether the documents are successfully uploaded?**
A： If the documents are uploaded, it will display as below:
[The document has been uploaded, Click here to view it]

8. **If I wish to re-upload the document, what should I do?**
A： You can press the following button to re-upload the documents**.**

Choose File   No file chosen

Please note that the old document will be replaced by the new documents.

9. **If I have to amend something while I am on the confirming page, what should I do?**
A： You can still amend the information as long as you still haven't submitted the application.
Please click "Previous Page" to go back to the edit page to edit the information.

10. **Can I print the completed application form?**
A： Yes, you can. Once you have filled in all the items and confirmed the information, you can click "Print" at the bottom part of the confirmation page.

11. **How do I know the application has been successfully submitted?**
A： A notification email will be sent to you once we receive your application. If you have not received the notification email, please log in the Online Scholarship Application System and check whether you have properly submitted the application or not.

12. **Can I review or amend the submitted application?**
A： If you have submitted the application, you can ONLY REVIEW the application information. Please note that the information cannot be amended once the application is submitted.

VI. Data Privacy and Use of Personal Information

A：According to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, Link and HKCSS will use the personal data for various contact and verification purposes, and also for direct marketing of the Link Programmes defined in the Personal Information Collection Statement issued by Link at **HERE** and Guideline for the Use of Personal Data of HKCSS at **HERE**. If there is any inconsistency, Link's documents shall prevail.

Should you have any enquiries, please contact The Hong Kong Council of Social Service by email (Email: fgu@hkcss.org.hk).