

Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fellowships and Scholarships for Overseas Studies 2025/26

Information Note

1. The Sir Edward Youde Memorial (SEYM) Fund Council (the Council) is offering awards of Fellowships / Scholarships to finance outstanding Hong Kong students for overseas studies commencing in the 2025/26 academic year.

2. Successful candidates will be those with excellent scholastic achievements and strong leadership abilities demonstrated in their extra-curricular activities. They are expected to have a strong sense of commitment to Hong Kong and should be ready to contribute significantly to the society after graduation from overseas studies.

3. Those who expect to commence full-time postgraduate or undergraduate studies in any tertiary institution outside Hong Kong in the 2025/26 academic year and who meet the eligibility criteria set out in this Information Note may apply. Application for a study programme leading to a second Undergraduate / Master's / Doctoral degree or a study programme that is currently being pursued will not be considered. Moreover, the study programme should only commence within one year after the formal announcement of the selection result in April 2025, i.e. between April 2025 and March 2026. Given the very high standard set for this Award, no award will be granted if candidates are considered not meritorious enough.

4. Further details of the Award are given below –

Name of Award : (a) Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fellowships for Overseas Studies (for studies leading to a postgraduate degree either by research or by coursework).

(b) Sir Edward Youde Memorial Scholarships for Overseas Studies (for studies leading to an undergraduate degree).

Duration of Award : (a) For Fellowships, up to three years for a Doctoral degree or two years for a Master's degree depending on the length of the proposed study programme and subject to the progress of the successful candidates being deemed satisfactory by the Council.

(b) For Scholarships, up to three years subject to the progress of the successful candidates being deemed satisfactory by the Council.

Eligibility : (a) An applicant for the **Fellowship** must fulfil the following criteria –

(i) be a permanent resident of Hong Kong;

(ii) has received at least 7 years of continuous full-time education in Hong Kong;

(iii) be responsible for fulfilling all application procedures and admission requirements at the institution of his / her choice and be offered a place subsequently;

(iv) holds a good Honours degree obtained in Hong Kong or equivalent qualification OR expects to obtain such a degree or equivalent qualification before 31 December 2025; and

(v) be proficient in English and Chinese and has a good mastery of the language in which his / her studies will be undertaken.

(b) An applicant for the **Scholarship** must fulfil the following criteria –

- (i) be a permanent resident of Hong Kong;
- (ii) has received at least 5 years of continuous full-time education in Hong Kong;
- (iii) be responsible for fulfilling all application procedures and admission requirements at the institution of his / her choice and be offered a place subsequently; and
- (iv) be proficient in English and Chinese and has a good mastery of the language in which his / her studies will be undertaken.

Maximum Value of Award per year (subject to review) : The maximum values of award are –

(a) Fellowship: **HK\$300,000 per year**

(b) Scholarship: **HK\$280,000 per year**

The Council may adjust downward the value of the fellowship / scholarship taking into account the actual university fees, necessary living expenses and other awards held concurrently by the fellow / scholar to finance his / her studies overseas.

Conditions of Award : A successful candidate will be required to comply with or agree to comply with the conditions of award should he / she decide to accept any award made under this scheme. A guarantor acceptable to the Council will also be required. In the event of non-compliance in the course of the sponsored studies, the Council may at any time prematurely terminate the Fellowship / Scholarship and demand the awardee to repay such sum, not exceeding the total value of the award so received, and upon such terms as the Council deems appropriate.

Please note that the Fellowship / Scholarship is granted to selected candidate on the basis of the intended university(ies) / institution(s) and programme(s) as provided / updated by him / her in the section of “Choice of Study” of the electronic application form (E-form) before the selection interview. If there is any subsequent change in the intended university / institution and / or programme **after the selection result is announced and / or presentation of award is made**, justifications, including but not limited to the results of the applications for admission to the intended institutions originally proposed, have to be provided for seeking approval of the Council. The Council reserves the right not to grant the award under such circumstances.

The Council will adopt a merit-based approach to selection, targeting the best and most outstanding Hong Kong students who are admitted to world renowned universities / institutions and programmes. In assessing whether the university(ies) / institution(s) and programme(s) applied is / are deemed as world renowned university(ies) / institution(s) and programme(s), the Council will draw reference to the top 100 universities / institutions in each of the four world university ranking tables published by QS, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Times Higher Education and US News and World Report; and the top 30 colleges in the National Liberal Arts Colleges Rankings published by the US News and World Report. The Council will refer to the version(s) of each of the Ranking Tables valid within the application period. For each of the choices that does not conform to this requirement, the applicants are required to provide justifications.

In any case, the award of the aforesaid Fellowship or Scholarship is conditional upon the candidate being successfully admitted into at least one of the intended universities / institutions and programmes as proposed by the candidate in the section of “Choice of Study” of the E-form and the candidate’s meeting all the requirements stipulated by the institution, language, health and immigration requirements.

- Application** : (a) All application forms have to be completed and submitted through the GovHK website at <https://eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/sfo031/en/>. The closing date for applications is 6 September 2024. Late applications will **not** be considered.
- (b) When submitting the E-form, applicants are required to sign a Declaration. Applicants are encouraged to register and use “iAM Smart+” to digitally sign the Declaration. For more details on “iAM Smart+” registration, please visit the thematic website of “iAM Smart” (<https://www.iamsmart.gov.hk/en/>). In addition, applicants are required to submit the relevant supporting documents within **7 calendar days** from the date of submission of E-form.

Applicants without “iAM Smart+” are required to print and sign the Declaration. Signed Declaration should be submitted together with the supporting documents required within **7 calendar days** from the date of submission of E-form.

- (c) Copy of relevant supporting documents and the Declaration (if any) should be submitted through the drop-in box at / by post to –

Address: Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fund Council Secretariat
Room 1217, 12/F
Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road
Kowloon, Hong Kong

- (d) Papers and documents submitted should be in A4 size and English translation must be provided if the papers and documents submitted are not in English. Otherwise, submission of any papers / documents in foreign language may not be considered.
- (e) To allow more time for the referee(s) / school principal to make their assessments, the referee statement(s) / school principal’s assessment, and **only** these statement(s) / assessment, may be returned to the Council Secretariat **not later than 20 September 2024**. For details, please refer to “Annex C” and / or “Annex D”.
- (f) Applicants who submit the supporting documents by post should state clearly his / her HKID Card No. on the back pages of the supporting documents and affix sufficient postage on the envelopes. Any underpaid mail items will **not** be accepted and will either be returned to the sender or disposed of by the Hongkong Post.

- Selection Procedure** : Shortlisted applicants will be requested to attend a first round of interview scheduled for January 2025 in Hong Kong. Suitable applicants will be invited for a final interview to be held in around February / March 2025 in Hong Kong. Any applicant who has not received an invitation to attend an interview by January 2025 may assume that his / her application has been unsuccessful. The decision of the Council shall be final.

- Handling of Information and Personal Data supplied in application** : The Council is serviced by the Student Finance Office (SFO) of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (WFSFAA). The personal data collected in this exercise will be used for activities relating to the processing of application for an award under this Fellowship / Scholarship scheme, which may be transferred to local / overseas university(ies) / institution(s), and the compilation of the relevant statistics to facilitate reviews of the award scheme.

The Council may publicise the personal data of a successful candidate (such as name, gender, age, education background, public examination results, academic and non-academic achievements, extra-curricular activities / community services participated and employment history, etc.) and any photos or videos capturing his / her image (limited to those taken when he / she attends the official events organised by the SEYM Fund in the public domain (such as the website of and publications issued by the SEYM Fund, the SFO of the WFSFAA and other bureaux / departments and their advisory bodies and agencies of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) for the purpose of promoting or publicising the SEYM Fund.

The Council may also publish the pre-recorded video taken with the awardees (which may capture the photographs, video clips, sound recordings and other records provided by the awardees, including those from the third parties) in the public domain for the purpose of promoting or publicising the SEYM Fund.

The personal data provided in the application forms for this Fellowship / Scholarship will ONLY be disclosed to relevant parties –

- (a) for the purposes mentioned in the preceding paragraphs; and
- (b) for any other purposes with the consent of the data subjects unless such disclosure is permitted under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance without the consent of the data subjects.

In accordance with Sections 18 and 22 and Principle 6 of Schedule 1 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, applicants have the rights to request access to and the correction of the data provided subject to payment of the necessary administrative charges.

General enquiries which include obtaining access and making corrections to the personal data supplied in this application should be addressed to –

Access to Information Officer
Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
General Administration Section
19/F, 181 Hoi Bun Road
Kwun Tong, Kowloon
Hong Kong

Enquiries : For enquiries, please contact the Council Secretariat:

Telephone Numbers: (852) 2150 6110 or 2150 6097.

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday 8:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

(Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays)

Email Address: seymfc_sfo@wfsfaa.gov.hk

Website: <https://www.wfsfaa.gov.hk/sfo/seymf/en/whatwedo/index.htm>

<p>This note is for information only and has no legal binding effect. The legal binding terms and conditions under which awards are granted are contained in the award letter.</p>
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