

## **The Government's Major Prevailing Support Measures for the Self-financing Post-secondary Sector**

### **For institutions**

- The Land Grant Scheme: the Scheme provides land sites at nominal premium or vacant government premises at nominal rent to self-financing non-profit-making post-secondary institutions. Since the launch of the Scheme in 2002, a total of 11 land sites and eight vacant government premises have been granted to eligible institutions.
- The Start-up Loan Scheme: the Scheme provides interest-free loans to self-financing non-profit-making post-secondary institutions in support of the development of college premises, the reprovisioning of existing premises operating in sub-optimal environment, and the enhancement of teaching and learning facilities. Of the total commitment of \$9 billion, 40 loans amounting to about \$7.7 billion have been approved for 18 institutions as at November 2019. Moreover, the ambit of the Scheme has been extended since 2012 to support the development of student hostels.
- The Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund (SPEF): Since its establishment in 2011, the Fund has received a total Government injection of \$3.52 billion. Investment returns of the Fund are used to (i) provide scholarships and awards under the Self-financing Post-secondary Scholarship Scheme to outstanding students pursuing full-time locally accredited self-financing sub-degree or undergraduate programmes; and (ii) support worthwhile non-works projects under the Quality Enhancement Support Scheme to enhance the quality of self-financing post-secondary education. To date, over 31 000 students have been granted awards/scholarships and over 70 projects have been approved; over \$800 million has been provided under the Fund to benefit the sector.
- The Qualifications Framework (QF) Fund: The Designated Support Schemes for QF, which are supported by the QF Fund, encourage and assist education providers in seeking accreditation of their programmes and registering the qualifications and programmes on the Qualifications Register. All self-financing post-secondary education institutions can benefit from the Schemes. The Government injected an additional \$1.2 billion into the QF Fund in 2018 to further strengthen and drive the development of the QF.

- The Matching Grant Scheme (MGS) – Since 2003, the Government has launched seven rounds of the MGS to help higher education institutions diversify their funding sources, by providing public funds to match private donations secured by the institutions subject to specified criteria. Self-financing degree-awarding institutions started to join the MGS in the fourth round in 2008. The seventh round of the MGS accepted applications from August 2017 to July 2019, with an earmarked amount of and provided nearly \$500 million for local self-financing degree-awarding institutions.
- The Research Endowment Fund - The Government injected \$5 billion to this UGC-administered Fund in 2012, of which \$3 billion was earmarked to support the self-financing degree sector in enhancing its academic and research development. The investment income of the Fund is used to operate three research funding schemes that cater for the needs of the self-financing degree sector.

### **For students**

- The Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors (SSSDP): SSSDP subsidises about 3 000 students per cohort to pursue designated full-time locally accredited self-financing undergraduate programmes and about 2 000 students per cohort to pursue designated sub-degree programmes in selected disciplines, to nurture talent for industries with keen human resource demand such as health care, creative industries, etc. In the 2019/20 academic year, the annual subsidy amounts are up to \$72,800 (laboratory-based undergraduate programmes), \$41,700 (other undergraduate programmes), \$36,400 (laboratory-based sub-degree programmes), and \$20,850 (other sub-degree programmes) respectively.
- The Non-means-tested Subsidy Scheme for Self-financing Undergraduate Studies in Hong Kong (NMTSS): NMTSS provides a non-means-tested annual subsidy to eligible students pursuing full-time locally accredited local and non-local self-financing undergraduate (including top-up degree) programmes in Hong Kong offered by eligible institutions (save for those already benefitting under the SSSDP). In the 2019/20 academic year, the annual subsidy is up to \$31,300.
- Student finance – The Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency provides both means-tested and non-means-tested financial assistance to students in the self-financing post-secondary sector. The Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students was first introduced in 2001. It was improved in 2008 so that full-time students

pursuing locally-accredited, self-financing post-secondary education programmes have access to financial assistance in the forms of means-tested grant and non-means-tested low-interest loans, at a level comparable to their counterparts in the publicly-funded programmes.