

Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme opens for applications

The Education Bureau (EDB) announced today (June 1) that the Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme (MUSSS) 2020/21 will, from today until September 21, be open for applications from eligible Hong Kong students pursuing undergraduate studies in 186 designated Mainland institutions.

Eligible students may apply for a means-tested subsidy (only for those students who have passed the means test) or a non-means-tested subsidy under the MUSSS. The subsidy under the MUSSS is granted on a yearly basis. The subsidised period covers the normal duration of the undergraduate programme pursued by the student concerned in the designated Mainland institution. Eligible applicants may only receive either a means-tested subsidy or a non-means-tested subsidy in the same academic year.

For the 2020/21 academic year, the means-tested subsidy under the MUSSS is HK\$16,800 (full-rate) and HK\$8,400 (half-rate). The non-means-tested subsidy is HK\$5,600. There are 186 designated Mainland institutions, including 122 institutions participating in the 2020/21 Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions. The MUSSS is not subject to any quota.

A spokesperson for the EDB said, "It is envisaged that the MUSSS will benefit most Hong Kong students who pursue undergraduate studies on the Mainland and have different financial needs. Hong Kong students who receive and complete a senior secondary education in Hong Kong, including those studying the local or non-local curriculum, as well as non-Chinese speaking students who meet other criteria, may apply for the subsidy."

Details of the MUSSS and the application form are available at the EDB website (www.edb.gov.hk/musss). Eligible students are required to submit the completed application forms to the EDB by post on or before August 14 (for students who entered the designated Mainland institutions before the 2020/21 academic year), or on or before September 21 (for students who will first enter the designated Mainland institutions in the 2020/21 academic year). The EDB will notify individual applicants of the application results by the first quarter of 2021.

Government relaxes requirement for

Technology Voucher Programme project commencement

The Innovation and Technology Commission announced today (June 1) that the requirement for Technology Voucher Programme (TVP) projects to obtain approval before commencement has been relaxed with immediate effect. The aim is to facilitate the applicants' early adoption of the relevant technological services or solutions for improving business operation and enhancing competitiveness.

Under the new arrangement, applicants may choose to commence their projects while their applications are still under vetting and start their projects on the day following the submission of the application at the earliest. Applicants should also note that they will have to bear the full costs of their projects themselves if their applications are subsequently not approved.

Under the Innovation and Technology Fund, the TVP aims to subsidise local enterprises and organisations to use technology to improve productivity, or upgrade or transform their business processes. Details are available on the TVP website (tvp.itf.gov.hk). For enquiries, please contact the TVP Secretariat (Tel: 3523 1170; email: tvp@enquiry@itc.gov.hk).

Occupational safety and health courses open for applications

The Kwun Tong Occupational Safety and Health Centre of the Labour Department (LD) will launch a wide range of occupational safety and health courses in the second half of 2020. The courses aim at enhancing the working population's understanding of the occupational safety regulations, and their awareness of occupational health.

The courses cover a wide range of topics, including:

1. Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance and Regulations
2. Gas Poisoning in Manholes
3. Confined Spaces Regulations
4. Major Safety Regulations Related to Working in Catering Trade
5. Dangerous Substances Regulations
6. Safety Management Regulation
7. Safety Regulations on Manual Handling Operations
8. Regulations Related to Safety in Hotel Industry

9. Safety Regulations on Working in Times of Inclement Weather and Hot Environment
10. Major Safety Regulations Related to Accident Prevention in Office Work
11. A Brief Introduction to the Regulation on Display Screen Equipment
12. Office Workstation Setup
13. Air Monitoring in the Workplaces
14. Lighting Assessment in the Workplaces
15. Guidance Notes on Standing at Work
16. More Exercise, Smart Work
17. Strategies for the Prevention of Occupational Diseases
18. Occupational Health in Catering Industry
19. Chemicals and Occupational Health
20. Medical Examinations for Workers Engaged in Hazardous Occupations in Industrial Undertakings
21. Manual Handling Operations and Prevention of Back Injuries
22. Occupational Health for Security Guards
23. Chemicals and Occupational Health in Hotel Industry
24. Health Hazards of Hot Environment at Work
25. Occupational Health for Office Workers
26. Health Hints on the Use of Computer
27. Prevention of Upper and Lower Limb Disorders
28. Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders for Office Workers
29. Occupational Health for Cleansing Workers
30. Occupational Contact Dermatitis
31. Manual Handling Operations and Prevention of Back Injuries for Workers of Residential Care Home
32. Occupational Health for Professional Drivers
33. Work and Common Gastrointestinal Diseases
34. Occupational Stress Workshop
35. Work and Healthy Lifestyle
36. Work and Diabetes Mellitus and Hypertension
37. First Aid in the Workplaces (including demonstration and practice of bandaging)
38. A Brief Introduction to Noise at Work Regulation
39. Noise Hazards and Prevention of Hearing Loss

The courses will mainly be conducted in Cantonese at the LD's Occupational Safety and Health Centre, G/F, Kwun Tong Community Health Centre Building, 60 Hip Wo Street, Kwun Tong. Enrolment is free.

Application forms are available at the centre or offices of the Occupational Health Service of the LD. They can also be downloaded from the department's website (www.labour.gov.hk/eng/osh/content6.htm). For enquiries, please call 2361 8240.

Provisional registers of electors and omissions lists released today

2020 provisional registers of electors and omissions lists were released today (June 1) for inspection by specified parties until June 24. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) appeals to members of the public to log in to the Online Voter Information Enquiry System (www.voterinfo.gov.hk) to check their own latest registration particulars and whether they are listed on the omissions lists. Members of the public may also call the REO hotline on 2891 1001 during office hours to check the above-mentioned information. For enquiries, they should inform the REO by June 25.

About 4 455 300 registered electors are contained in the 2020 provisional register for geographical constituencies, which represents a net increase of about 322 400 electors compared to the figure of last year, after taking into account about 401 900 newly registered electors and the deletion of the electoral records of about 22 600 and 56 500 electors that have been listed on the omissions lists due to death and after the completion of the inquiry process respectively. In addition, the REO has received 1 051 200 applications for updating particulars from registered electors of geographical constituencies.

For functional constituencies, about 4 188 000 registered electors in the District Council (second) functional constituency, commonly known as the Super District Council, are listed in the provisional register, whereas for the other traditional functional constituencies, the number of registered electors is about 248 000. These figures have taken into account the newly registered electors, electors who have changed to register between the District Council (second) functional constituency and other traditional functional constituencies, and electors listed on the omissions lists due to death or as a result of the inquiry process.

"The REO will issue written registration notices by post after completion of processing the applications for new voter registration or change of registration particulars. In addition to written registration notices, electors who have applied for change of registration particulars will also be notified by SMS/email (if the electors have provided such information) that their registration particulars have been updated," a spokesman for the REO said.

"On the other hand, the REO has issued reminder letters to electors who have been listed on the omissions lists, to remind them once again to take appropriate remedial actions. The envelope is beige in colour and stamped with a red reminder message, 'Immediate action required. Your voting right is at stake.' The letter seeks to remind the recipients to reply on or before June 25 to confirm the validity of their registered addresses or update their registered addresses by returning a reply slip, so that they can resume their voter registration. Upon approval by the Revising Officer, their names and

residential addresses will be included in the final register," the spokesman said.

The spokesman also reminded members of the public/registered electors that if they receive registration notices, SMS or emails from the REO regarding applications for new voter registration or change of registration particulars but they have not made such applications, they should return the registration notices to the REO and inform the REO for its follow-up. In addition, if members of the public receive letters issued by the REO and find that the addressee does not live at that place, they should write "no such person" on the envelopes and promptly return the letters to the REO via the Hongkong Post. Alternatively, the public may inform the REO by sending a photo of the letters to reoenq@reo.gov.hk for its follow-up.

In addition, the REO received a large number of new registration applications in the last few days before the statutory deadline. Since it needs time to verify information in some of the applications or to request supplementary information from the applicants, the particulars of about 27 000 applications for new registration or updating of registration particulars may not be shown on the 2020 provisional registers of electors. The REO will contact the applicants and remind them to provide the supplementary information requested. If the applicants meet the registration requirements, the REO will, upon the approval of the Revising Officer, include their particulars in the 2020 final registers of electors."

Anyone who has applied to be registered as an elector but does not find his or her name in the relevant register, or who finds his or her particulars incorrectly recorded, may lodge a claim in person with the REO. If anyone considers that a registered person is not eligible to be registered, he or she may also lodge an objection in person with the REO.

The specified forms for claims and objections can be obtained from the REO (10/F, Harbour Centre, 25 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, or 13/F, Kowloonbay International Trade & Exhibition Centre, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon) and all Home Affairs Enquiry Centres. They can also be downloaded from the REO website (www.reo.gov.hk/en/voter/appeal.htm).

"The statutory deadline for lodging a claim or objection is on June 25 (Thursday). As that day is the Tuen Ng Festival public holiday which is outside of the Electoral Registration Officer's ordinary business hours, special arrangements will be made by the REO to open its office located at 10/F, Harbour Centre, 25 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, and 13/F, Kowloonbay International Trade & Exhibition Centre, 1 Trademark Drive, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon, to receive the applications for claims and objections from 9am to 6pm on that day. The Revising Officer will then consider the evidence provided by the applicant and make a ruling in accordance with the legislation," the spokesman said.

To enhance transparency, and assist the persons concerned and members of the public to attend the hearings, information on the hearings of the claims and objections (including the date, time and venue of the hearings, and the

names of the claimants/objectors/electors being objected to) will be uploaded to the REO website (www.reo.gov.hk/en/voter/appeal.htm) before the day of the hearing.

Full copies of the provisional registers for geographical constituencies, functional constituencies (other than the District Council (second) functional constituency) and Election Committee subsectors and respective omissions lists will be placed at REO's two offices located at 10/F, Harbour Centre, 25 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong and 13/F, the Kowloonbay International Trade & Exhibition Centre, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon. In accordance with the judgment of the judicial review case of the Junior Police Officers' Association handed down by the Court of Appeal on May 21, 2020 and the order made at the hearing on May 27, 2020 [Case no.: CACV 73/2020], the aforementioned registers of electors and the relevant omissions list are available for inspection during the REO's ordinary business hours from June 1 to 24 by members of the press (for operational considerations, REO adopts the list of subscribers of the Government News and Media Information System) and political parties (i.e. political bodies/organisations which meet the specified requirements). As for the parts of the provisional registers for functional constituencies and the Election Committee Subsectors which do not show the linked information of individual electors (i.e. their names and principal residential addresses), they are available for public inspection.

The REO will provide six inspection time slots (30 minutes for each time slot) on each working day. Eligible organisations/persons/members of the public may make appointments for inspection on a first-come, first-served basis. Each eligible organisation/person/member of the public may reserve one time slot per day. Applicants may make appointments to inspect the registers of electors by calling 2891 4082/2891 2070 during ordinary business hours starting from June 1. Upon completion of the initial reservation by phone, the applicant is required to fill in and return an official reservation form to the REO by a specified deadline to confirm the reservation.

The REO's ordinary business hours are from 9am to 12.30pm and from 1.30pm to 6pm, Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays).

Statistical information about the provisional registers is available on the voter registration website (www.voterregistration.gov.hk).

The REO will publish the final registers of electors on or before July 25, 2020.

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected

cocaine and suspected ketamine (with photos)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (May 30) seized about 7 kilograms of suspected cocaine and about 18.5 grams of suspected ketamine at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and Tsuen Wan respectively with an estimated market value of about \$7.9 million in total.

Customs officers inspected an air cargo consignment arriving in Hong Kong from the Netherlands at HKIA yesterday. The batch of suspected cocaine was found concealed inside 12 powdered formula cans.

After follow-up investigation, Customs officers arrested a 21-year old man suspected to be in connection with the case at a warehouse in Tsuen Wan on the same day, where the batch of suspected ketamine was further seized.

The arrested man has been charged with two counts of trafficking in a dangerous drug. He will appear at West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (June 1).

Although the air passenger traffic has reduced recently, Customs still continues to step-up enforcement actions against drug trafficking activities through air cargo, postal parcel and express courier channels, as well as to maintain close contact with Hongkong Post and the logistics industries with a view to intercept the inflow of drugs to Hong Kong.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).

