THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG Student Affairs Office

<u>Scheme for Non-means-tested Subsidy on Exchange to "Belt and Road" Regions</u> <u>for Post-secondary Students (Non-means-tested SSEBR)</u>

Background

Scheme for Non-means-tested Subsidy on Exchange to "Belt and Road" Regions for Post-secondary Students (Non-means-tested SSEBR) is established to encourage and support local students of full-time locally-accredited programmes at sub-degree and undergraduate (including top-up) levels to participate in exchange activities held in the Belt & Road regions, excluding the Mainland, Taiwan and Macao.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Students

- <u>Local</u> students enrolled in full-time locally-accredited sub-degree and undergraduate (including top-up degree) programmes at the time of application and throughout the duration of the subsidised exchange activity;
- Going to participate in an eligible exchange activity as detailed below; and
- Selected through a <u>merit-based mechanism</u> administered by EdUHK.

Eligible Exchange Activities

- Outbound exchange activity comprising substantive teaching and learning elements to be held in any B&R country/economy¹ excluding the Mainland, Taiwan and Macao;
- Organised and/or endorsed by EdUHK;
- Lasting for at least five days if the applicant is an undergraduate student; or lasting for at least five days and is related to his/her discipline/field of study if the applicant is a sub-degree student; and
- If the exchange activity is not organised by EdUHK, the host institution must be a recognised educational institution/body either in Hong Kong or in the exchange destination.

Subsidy for Students

The maximum amount of subsidy to be granted to an eligible student for participating in an exchange activity under Non-means-tested SSEBR varies according to the destination and duration of the exchange activity as set out below:

¹ The definition of B&R country/economy refers to the one listed at the Hong Kong Trade Development Council website at http://beltandroad.hktdc.com/en/country-profiles/country-profiles.asp. The list of B&R country/economy is subject to review and update from time to time without prior notice.

(A)	
Destination	Subsidy Amount (\$)
Asia (including Middle East, excluding the Mainland, Taiwan and Macao)	900
Africa	2,100
Oceania & Europe	2,400
Central & South America & Caribbean	4,500
(B)	
Duration (Days)	Subsidy Amount (\$)
5-13	1,050

1,800

3,000

7,500

13,500

14-28

29-90

91-180

Over 180

Selection Criteria

- In general, the duration of an exchange activity should cover the period from the commencement date to the completion date of the official programme of the exchange activity. <u>Travelling time back and forth between Hong Kong and the exchange destination should not be counted towards the duration of the exchange activity</u>.
- For each exchange activity, the maximum amount of subsidy to be granted to the student is calculated by adding up the subsidy under (A) and (B) above.

 For example: if a local student joins an exchange activity in New Zealand for 185 days, the
 - maximum subsidy to be granted under the Non-means-tested SSEBR would be \$15,900 (i.e. (A)\$2,400 + (B)\$13,500).
- The amount of subsidy granted to an eligible student under Non-means-tested SSEBR should not exceed the direct costs arising from his/her participation in the concerned exchange activity.
- EdUHK may, at its full discretion, adjust the actual amount of subsidy to be granted to the student downwards from that maximum amount, having regard to the actual travelling expenses and participation fees involved in the exchange activities, other subsidy/sponsorship received by the students, etc.
- Students are only eligible for assistance under the Non-means-test SSEBR <u>once</u> throughout his/her study in programmes at the same level of study in Hong Kong.
- Each student will <u>not</u> be eligible to receive subsidy under the SSE/Means-tested SSEBR/Non-means-tested SSEBR if he/she has received subsidy under any of these Schemes for <u>the same exchange destination</u>. Such restriction does not apply to the Non-means-tested MES.

^{*}For Student Exchange Programme (SEP) organised by EdUHK, duration is set at 91-180 days.

- Subject to the discretion by EdUHK, Non-means-tested SSEBR may be granted to students
 who have once received assistance under the Means-tested SSEBR with a different
 exchange destination, and vice versa during their study in programme(s) at the same level
 of study in Hong Kong.
- Students who have previously received assistance from other scholarships or support schemes wholly or partly funded by the Government are also eligible for assistance under Non-means-tested SSEBR.
- Students receiving assistance under Non-means-tested SSEBR may receive subsidies from other sources (including Government and private ones) to cover expenses in connection with the same exchange activity.
- Priority should be given to those who have not received any subsidy under scholarship / sponsorship / subsidy schemes wholly or partly funded by the Government.
- Subject to subsidy funding available in that academic year.

Application Procedure

- Eligible students should submit the application together with supporting documents 1) <u>SID</u> copy; 2) acceptance letter issued from the overseas exchange institution.
- Applicants should complete the application form, Declaration for Exchange Subsidy Claim
 Form and submit all documentary proofs (e.g. three major receipt copies) within one
 month after the outbound exchange activity programme end date, or by 31 August of the
 academic year in which they join the activity, whichever is earlier.
- The approved subsidy will be issued in one instalment, and will be disbursed in cheque in around 2 months after the submission of application and Declaration Form or upon completion of the exchange activity, depending on when the activity takes place.

Subsidy Recipient's Obligations

• Sign an online undertaking form to comply with respective terms and conditions.

EdUHK reserves the right to adjust the approved amount of subsidy or demand the return of the subsidy amount granted if the subsidy recipients do not fulfil any of the above conditions or the subsidy received is greater than the actual direct costs associated with the exchange activity.

Enquiries

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