The University of Hong Kong
Centre of Development and Resources for Students
Frequently Asked Questions on Student Visa Matters

Section 7  Change of Educational Institutions/Programmes and Termination of Study

Q47  Can I change to another educational institution?

Student visa holders are imposed with a condition of stay to take up a prescribed course in the prescribed educational institution. Any change in condition of stay requires the prior approval from the Hong Kong Immigration Department. Application for change of educational institution may be approved provided that you continue to fulfill the eligibility criteria for study. If the change of educational institution is approved, you will be issued with an appropriate label specifying the name of the new educational institution subject to payment of the label fee.

Q48  Can I change from one programme to another within HKU?

You may apply to switch your study from one programme to another within the same educational institution if you continue to fulfill the eligibility criteria for study. But any change in condition of stay requires the prior approval from the Hong Kong Immigration Department. If the change of study programme is approved, you will be informed in writing. Please contact the Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS) for advice on the procedure.

Q49  What should I do if I have any change of visa status during my studying period?

It is the responsibility of individual students to maintain a valid and legitimate visa status throughout their studies at HKU. Should there be any circumstantial or personal changes leading to the termination of the student’s prevailing visa status, the concerned student is required to report the changes immediately to the Hong Kong Immigration Department and to apply for a fresh visa for study. Pursuing study without a valid visa is a breach of the law.
Q50  Can I continue to stay in Hong Kong after termination of my studies?

Eligible graduates can apply to stay in HKSAR under the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates Scheme (IANG) or you can apply to the Immigration Department directly to extend your stay in Hong Kong as visitor with a good reason. Unless with such prior approval from the Hong Kong Immigration Department, all student visa holders are required to leave Hong Kong within 4 weeks from the date of termination of studies. Please refer to the reply of the Hong Kong Immigration Department under Q19 of “Frequently Asked Questions”. 