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

**Section 1  General Policy**

**Q1  Can I study in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)?**

With effect from 2005, The Hong Kong Immigration Policy on Study stipulates that nationals from Afghanistan, Cuba, Laos, Korea (Democratic People’s Republic of), Nepal and Vietnam are not allowed to undertake studies in HKSAR.

*Part-time programme*

If you are admitted to a part-time programme, the Hong Kong Immigration Department will still accept your entry student visa application. They however will take the actual teaching dates of your programmes into consideration during the assessment stage. It is very likely that the Hong Kong Immigration Department will only permit you to stay in Hong Kong as a student on those dates that you need to attend classes at the university. For the rest of the week, you are expected to leave the HKSAR territory and return to your city of domicile.

**Q2  Do I need to apply for a HKSAR student visa?**

All visitors who do not have a right of abode in Hong Kong are required to apply for a student visa. The general rule is that if you are not in possession of a "Permanent Hong Kong Identity Card" (as distinguished from a "Hong Kong Identity Card"), you have to apply for a HKSAR student visa for the purpose of education.

Mainland students enrolled in taught postgraduate courses, undergraduate courses, exchange, short term programmes and overseas students enrolled in summer programme should apply to the China Affairs Office (Email: visaapp@hku.hk) for visa sponsorship.

Students whose courses commence in September can start sending in student visa applications in April. Those whose courses commence in January can start sending in applications in September of the previous year.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**
Students should not commence study before the student visa has been issued and activated.
Q3 I have checked that I don't have to apply for an entry visa to HKSAR, do I still need to apply for a student visa?

While HKSAR government allows some nationals entering Hong Kong without having any ENTRY visa, you are still required to apply for a STUDENT visa if you intend to undertake educational activities including elective attachments, exchange studies, summer programmes, full-degree programmes in Hong Kong. You are expected to apply for a HKSAR student visa irrespective of the duration of your educational activity or programme.