



香港大學

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



cedars

Centre of Development and Resources for Students  
學生發展及資源中心

# A GLIMPSE OF STUDENT LIFE @ HKU

FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS 2026-2027





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# Welcome

Welcome to The University of Hong Kong (HKU), the oldest university in a unique territory! At HKU, we believe that university education is more than just academics; it is about ***whole person development, cultural exposure, and lifelong learning***. We and other support units are dedicated to helping students make the most of their time here. From academic achievement to personal growth, we offer a wide range of services and resources to enrich your experience. This booklet provides a glimpse into student life at HKU, and we cannot wait to work with you to create a truly rewarding and unforgettable journey.

Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS)

May 2026

# Must-know Facts about HKU

Founded in 1911, HKU is the oldest tertiary institution in Hong Kong SAR. With a population of over 45,000 students, there were over 25,000 non-local students (excluding exchange-in students) in 2025/26.

HKU is a comprehensive university. It offers a wide spectrum of high-quality programmes with an emphasis on encouraging a flexible approach to studies.

HKU receives well-deserved recognition from prestigious global institutions. It ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in Hong Kong<sup>1</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> in Asia<sup>2</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> in the World<sup>3</sup>, and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Most International University in the World<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> *THE World University Rankings 2026*

<sup>2</sup> *QS Asia University Rankings 2026*

<sup>3</sup> *QS World University Rankings 2026*

<sup>4</sup> *THE Most International Universities in the World 2026*

HKU prides itself on its diverse and international community of students and staff, fostering a vibrant and dynamic campus life for everyone. Students can immerse themselves in a truly global experience, both on campus and through HKU's myriad of worldwide exchange programmes, summer schools and overseas internship opportunities.

Learn more: [www.hku.hk](http://www.hku.hk)



# Introducing the Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS)



The Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS) is committed to fostering an intellectually stimulating and culturally diverse campus to enrich students' total learning experience at HKU. Bridging the boundary between the classroom and the world, we provide support services, resources and educational programmes to facilitate students' learning.

Cedars are ornamental trees with durably scented wood and evergreen leaves; they signify growth, development and shelter which are the goals of our work for students. At CEDARS, we hope to nurture students with a durable scent of the intellect so that they are forever young and fresh.

As the one-stop student service and resources centre, and co-curricular learning hub, CEDARS provide comprehensive student services such as housing, financial support, employment preparation, professional counselling, SEN support as well as a spectrum of co-curricular learning and service opportunities.

## CEDARS

Website: [www.cedars.hku.hk](http://www.cedars.hku.hk)

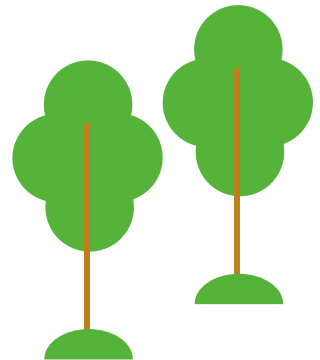
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/hku.cedars](https://www.facebook.com/hku.cedars)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/hku.cedars](https://www.instagram.com/hku.cedars)

YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/hkucedars-official](https://www.youtube.com/hkucedars-official)



[www.cedars.hku.hk](http://www.cedars.hku.hk)



# Academic and Admission Matters

HKU offers a wide range of programmes to provide students with a rich academic experience. Beyond academics, students have the opportunity to gain valuable internship experiences, build personal and professional networks, and enjoy the vibrant city life of Hong Kong SAR. Prospective students interested in applying to our programmes can find detailed information from the following websites:

- 1) **Undergraduate programmes:** [www.admissions.hku.hk](http://www.admissions.hku.hk)

## **Admissions Office**

Address: MG14, G/F, Main Building, The University of Hong Kong  
Contact: [www.admissions.hku.hk/contact-us](http://www.admissions.hku.hk/contact-us)

- 2) **Taught postgraduate programmes:** <https://portal.hku.hk/tpg-admissions>

- 3) **Research postgraduate programmes:** <https://gradsch.hku.hk/>

## **Graduate School**

Address: Room P403, Graduate House, The University of Hong Kong  
Contact: [gradsch@hku.hk](mailto:gradsch@hku.hk)

- 4) **Academy for the Talented (Pre-university programmes):** <https://talented.hku.hk/>

## **Admissions Office**

Address: MG14, G/F, Main Building, The University of Hong Kong  
Contact: [talented@hku.hk](mailto:talented@hku.hk)

- 5) **Summer programmes:** [www.summerinstitute.hku.hk](http://www.summerinstitute.hku.hk)

- 6) **China Vision programmes:** [www.chinavision.hku.hk](http://www.chinavision.hku.hk)

- 7) **Exchange and Visiting programmes:** <https://intlaffairs.hku.hk>

## **Academic Liaison Office**

### International Affairs Office

Address: 9/F, Knowles Building, The University of Hong Kong  
Contact: [goabroad@hku.hk](mailto:goabroad@hku.hk)

### Mainland Affairs Office

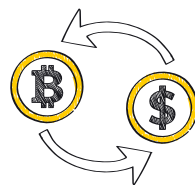
Address: 9/F, Knowles Building, The University of Hong Kong  
Contact: [mainlandaffairs@hku.hk](mailto:mainlandaffairs@hku.hk)

### Summer Institute

Address: G/F, Fong Shu Chuen Amenities Centre, The University of Hong Kong  
Contact: <https://summerinstitute.hku.hk/faq>



# Finances



## Budget

You may consider the following items in your budget planning. **The actual costs will increase for the year of 2026/27.**

Major expenditure (in HK dollar)		
Items	Undergraduate Students	Postgraduate Students
Academic Expenses		
<b>Tuition fees</b>	\$47,000 p.a.* (for local students) / \$224,000 to \$249,000 p.a. (for non-local students)  *This is for UGC-funded programmes in 2026/27 only. For self-financing courses, the fees vary from programme to programme.	For students of taught courses, you need to check the tuition fees with the Faculty Office as fees vary from programme to programme.  For research students: \$47,000 p.a.
<b>Caution money and other expenses</b>	\$350 Caution money \$100 Student activity fee <sup>^</sup>	\$350 Caution money \$100 Student activity fee <sup>^</sup>
<b>Books and supplies (excluding personal computers &amp; accessories)</b>	Around \$8,940 - \$43,430 p.a.	Around \$11,440 - \$55,600 p.a.
	Some courses also involve significant expenses relating to overseas field trips and special equipment.	

<sup>^</sup> Student activity fee is applicable to all full-time students and collected annually to provide support for activities of student societies and campus-wide student events.

For the updated fees and charges, please refer to the following online student handbooks:

Undergraduate: <https://handbook.hku.hk/ug/>

Taught Postgraduate: <https://handbook.hku.hk/tpg/>

Research Postgraduate: <https://gradsch.hku.hk> (prospective students)



Items		Undergraduate Students	Postgraduate Students
<b>Housing Expenses</b>			
<b>University's residential halls &amp; colleges</b>	Lodging fees	\$24,000 - \$49,000 p.a. (from the end of August to the end of May)	\$27,000 - \$92,000 p.a.
	Hall miscellaneous charges	\$2,000 - \$3,000 p.a.	
		These include students' association membership fees, compulsory high table fees, room and/or smartcard deposits, etc., excluding air-conditioning charge which varies with individual lifestyle and seasons (approximately \$200 per month in summer).	
	Compulsory hall meal charges	\$9,000 - \$12,000 p.a. (not all meals are covered)	
<b>CEDARS-administered non-hall housing</b>	Lodging fees	\$20,000 p.a. - \$120,000 p.a.	
<b>Other Expenses</b>			
<b>Food, groceries, transportation and others</b>	Around \$6,100 per month up (depending on your lifestyles and if you go grocery shopping around the campus)		
<b>Other personal expenses</b>	You also need to budget for your phone services, entertainment, overseas travel, insurance and medical expenses, etc.		

<b>Estimated Cost of Living Outside Campus by Month (Per Person) for reference only</b>	
*All figures are estimates for 2026/27 and subject to inflation and lifestyle.	
	<b>HKD</b>
Rent for Off-Campus Accommodation (depending on the size, location and type of accommodation)	\$8,000 - 20,000
Utilities	\$1,000
Food	\$6,000
Local Transportation	\$500
Personal Miscellaneous	\$1,500
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$17,000 - 29,000</b>

## Other Expenses to Consider When Renting Outside Campus

### 1. Agent Commission

Only payable if you rent through an agent. Typically **50% of one month's rent** (e.g., \$5,000 for a \$10,000/month property). No commission if renting directly from the landlord.

### 2. Deposit

Usually **2 months' rent**. This is held by the landlord and refunded after the tenancy ends, provided all costs are settled.

### 3. Stamp Duty

A government fee for stamping the tenancy agreement. Shared equally between landlord and tenant. For a \$10,000/month rental, the tenant pays around **\$300**.

### 4. Miscellaneous Expenses

Moving-in costs like furniture and household items. Plan ahead and budget accordingly.

The following tables give you some reference figures on common meal and transportation items:

## Meal Expenses

On campus, eateries are located at convenient locations that offer a wide range of cuisines including Hong Kong local delicacies, Chinese, western food, SE Asian, halal food, coffee, pastries and vegetarian food at a reasonable price. Typically, students would expect spending an average of HK\$25 – HK\$65 per meal, depending on the time of the day and personal food preference. You may visit <http://www.cedars.hku.hk/catering> to take a look at the list of catering outlets on campus and the current food offering.

Although the University Main Campus is located in mid-level Pokfulam, the campus is very close to the vibrant downtown Shek Tong Tsui, Kennedy Town, and Sai Ying Pun, where the local community resides. These areas can be easily accessed by MTR or a short walk from our campus, and you can find a variety of local and international flavours, interesting cafeterias, traditional shops and more. You may expect that the average spending would be around 10% - 20% higher comparing to a campus eatery.

Note:

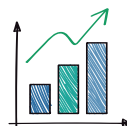
- Apart from Ricci Hall, St. John's College and University Hall, there is currently no meal plan available at on-campus eateries.
- The above costs are for reference only and are subject to change.



# Transportation Cost

Frequent routes	Fare per ride (HK\$)	Means of public transport
Sassoon Road to Main Campus	2-7	By University shuttle bus
	5.1 – 14.5	By bus or minibus
Main Campus to Central	5.9 – 9.4	By bus or MTR
Main Campus to Causeway Bay/ Mongkok	5.9 – 20	By bus, minibus or MTR

The above costs are for reference only and are subject to change.



## Financial Resources

HKU students have access to financial resources provided by the University, including financial assistance and scholarships (eligibility criteria apply).

Learn more: [www.cedars.hku.hk/cedars-financial-resources](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/cedars-financial-resources)

### Government Financial Assistance (for local students only)

Eligible students who need financial support for their university studies are encouraged to apply for the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme and the Non-means Tested Loan Scheme administered by the Student Finance Office of the HKSAR Government.

Learn more: [www.cedars.hku.hk/finance/govt.html](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/finance/govt.html)

### University Financial Assistance (for local students only)

In general, university funds are to supplement Government grants and loans for local students. Applications for these funds are typically invited in early September each year, while emergency assistance is available year-round.

Learn more: [www.cedars.hku.hk/finance/ufa.html](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/finance/ufa.html)

## Scholarships

Postgraduate scholarships are available for eligible students pursuing an MPhil or a PhD degree.

Learn more: <https://gradsch.hku.hk>

Students applying for undergraduate admissions will be considered for entrance scholarships when they submit applications to HKU. The result will be announced at the same time when students receive an offer of admission. No separate application is required.

Learn more: <https://admissions.hku.hk>

Students may also apply for other scholarships after they are admitted to HKU.

Learn more: [www.scholarships.hku.hk](http://www.scholarships.hku.hk)



# Students Under 18



You may still be under the age of 18 at the time of admission to HKU. In this case, your parent/guardian is required to sign the online consent form ([http://www.ase.hku.hk/age18/consent\\_form.pdf](http://www.ase.hku.hk/age18/consent_form.pdf)), without which the University may have difficulties in arranging some of the teaching and learning activities, and accommodation for you.

You will be generally treated as an adult and are expected to lead your academic and social lives in HKU as other students do. The University will correspond directly with you, but not your parent/guardian, on things related to you such as course enrolment, payment status of fees, academic status, results and grades, etc. Your parent/guardian will only be contacted in case of emergency or other situations where potential risks are involved.

Things to note:

## 1. Banking arrangement

Students under 18 must be accompanied in person by their parent or legal guardian to open a bank account at one of the local banks. The University is not able to act as your guardian in this context.

## 2. Parental responsibility

For important information for parents/guardians of students who will be under the age of 18 years at the time of admission to the University, please visit the following:

- [Important Information For Parents/Guardians Of Students Who Will Be Under The Age Of 18 Years At The Time Of Admission To The University](#)
- [Guide for completing the online Parent/Guardian Consent Form for Student under the Age of 18](#)
- [A Sample of the Online Consent Form](#)

For non-local students, please refer to [p.31](#) for more details.



# Equality, Diversity and Sustainability

## Equal Opportunities

HKU is committed to creating, promoting and maintaining an environment which provides equality of opportunity for members of the University community and is free of any discrimination/harassment. We support equal opportunity and strongly oppose discrimination/harassment. We will take whatever action may be needed to prevent, and if necessary, discipline behaviour which violates the Equal Opportunity Policy.

Learn more: [www.eounit.hku.hk](http://www.eounit.hku.hk)

## Handling Discrimination/Harassment Complaints

Our Equal Opportunity Policy forbids discrimination/harassment in activities carried out in the course of employment, education, provision of goods and services, or other activities organised by the offices of the University. Procedures for handling complaints of discrimination and harassment can be found on the website of the Equal Opportunity Unit.

Learn more: [bit.ly/43YRYid](http://bit.ly/43YRYid)

## Parenting Needs

Facilities such as washrooms with a baby-changing table at amenities centres, and baby care rooms on the Main Campus, Centennial Campus, Sassoon Road Campus and the Prince Philip Dental Hospital are available to parent students during their time on campus.


Learn more: [www.cedars.hku.hk/campuslife/student-amenities/baby-care-rooms](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/campuslife/student-amenities/baby-care-rooms)

## Procedures for the Resolutions of Grievances of Students

We have a set of procedures for students who wish to make a complaint about an administrative or academic matter. To learn more, please refer to the online handbook for undergraduate/taught postgraduate/MPhil and PhD programmes for information.

## Religious Needs

The Halal Food Corner is not merely a catering space for the Muslim community on campus, it is also a platform for the promotion of cultural diversity and interaction among university members. A multi-faith prayer room for students and staff members is also available on 1A11(1/F) of Fong Shu Chuen Amenities Centre. It offers an option for those who are in need of a special praying venue during the day.



## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual (LGBTQIA+)

CEDARS is committed to fostering a diverse campus to enrich your learning experience at HKU. It takes an affirmative approach on gender and sexual diversity (GSD).

CEDARS-Counselling and Person Enrichment (CEDARS-CoPE) provides counselling and psychological services. It welcomes anyone with struggles or questions on sexuality or gender identity to speak with their psychologists or counsellors.

Learn more about CEDARS-CoPE: [www.cedars.hku.hk/cope](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/cope)

## Sustainability

The Sustainability Unit of the Estates Office is dedicated to advancing HKU's institutional vision, commitments, and goals by integrating sustainability principles into all aspects of the University's facilities, operations, and activities.

The GreenU Reward Scheme encourages students to engage in sustainability actions and events by offering rewards for their participation.

Learn more: <https://www.wastereduction.hku.hk/greenu-reward-scheme>

Learn more about the sustainability efforts at HKU:

<https://www.estates.hku.hk/eo-general/sustainability>

Learn about sustainability facilities: <https://www.wastereduction.hku.hk/re-facilities>

# Smoke-free Campus

HKU is a smoke-free campus. Smoking is not allowed on campus, both indoors and outdoors.



# Campus Facilities

## Amenities Centres

CEDARS manages three amenities centres ([www.cedars.hku.hk/campuslife/student-amenities](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/campuslife/student-amenities)). The facilities are open for use by students and staff as individuals, groups and student bodies. Some facilities can be booked online for exclusive use.



<b>Chong Yuet Ming Amenities Centre</b> Email: <a href="mailto:cymac@hku.hk">cymac@hku.hk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.cedars.hku.hk/campuslife/student-amenities/CYMAC">www.cedars.hku.hk/campuslife/student-amenities/CYMAC</a>	Multi-purpose room, meeting rooms, music rooms, band room, baby care room, shower rooms, vending hub, co-working space and study room, banner sties, supermarket, cafeteria, restaurants
<b>Fong Shu Chuen Amenities Centre</b> Email: <a href="mailto:fscac@hku.hk">fscac@hku.hk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.cedars.hku.hk/campuslife/student-amenities/FSCAC">www.cedars.hku.hk/campuslife/student-amenities/FSCAC</a>	Multi-purpose rooms, meeting rooms, music rooms, prayer room, coffee lounge, relaxation hub, banner sites, restaurants
<b>Pokfulam Amenities Centre</b> Email: <a href="mailto:pflac@hku.hk">pflac@hku.hk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.cedars.hku.hk/campuslife/student-amenities/PFLAC">www.cedars.hku.hk/campuslife/student-amenities/PFLAC</a>	Games room, baby care room, Assembly Hall



# Chong Yuet Ming Cultural Centre

Chong Yuet Ming Cultural Centre (CYMCC) is located on 3/F to 5/F above the Chong Yuet Ming Amenities Centre on the Main Campus.

The Centre houses meeting rooms and performance venues, including an auditorium, a studio and busking areas, for use by students.

Enquiries:

Tel: (852) 39178006

Email: [cymcc@hku.hk](mailto:cymcc@hku.hk)

Learn more: [www.cedars.hku.hk/CYMCC](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/CYMCC)



# Catering

There are plenty of dining options available on campus to suit all tastes and preferences. You can choose from quick service canteens that offer local and regional delicacies, cafeterias serving western dishes and sandwiches, a south-eastern Asia restaurant, a vegetarian restaurant, a Halal food corner, coffee shops serving specialty coffee and pastries, and even quick bites at kiosks. For those who want to try local delicacies, there is also Cha Chaan Teng.

Learn more:

<http://www.cedars.hku.hk/catering>

Please refer to the campus map of HKU at <http://www.maps.hku.hk>



## Libraries

The [HKU Libraries](#) consists of the [Main Library](#), [Dental Library](#), [Fung Ping Shan Library](#), [Ko Wong Wai Ching Wendy Fine Arts Digital Library](#), [Lui Che Woo Law Library](#), [Music Library](#), [Tin Ka Ping Education Library](#), [Yu Chun Keung Medical Library](#) and [Library 24](#). Of scholarly interest is the newly combined establishment of [University Archives](#) and [Special Collections](#) – the former houses the unique, historic institutional records of the University; and the latter collects a wide scope of Hong Kong materials, rare books, and odd size objects.

HKU Campus Wi-Fi services are available throughout the Libraries connecting patrons to the HKU network and to a number of printers throughout the Libraries. Scanners are also available, and payment for the peripheral usage can easily be made by using uPrint.

Located on the ground floor, second floor and third floor of the Main Library, the Think Tank, Ingenium and Level 3 (respectively) are learning commons style facilities providing a variety of spaces suitable for different learning styles, including reflective self-study as well as collaborative study. The Virtual Lending Services Counters on the 2/F provide face-to-face support in the use of the facilities and in searching the myriad information resources subscribed by the Libraries or available on the Internet.

Learn more: <https://lib.hku.hk/>



# Learning Spaces

A variety of learning spaces are provided for individual, collaborative and self-paced learning. These include individual workstations, quiet study areas, group study rooms, and collaborative group study tables. It offers a technology-rich, communal space where students, teachers and other HKU members can come together to interact and participate in various kinds of learning activities.

Central Learning Spaces are managed by Learning Environment Services (LES) under co-branding strategy between Information Technology Services (ITS) and University Libraries, including:

- Chi Wah Learning Commons (Central Podium Levels, Centennial Campus)
- Main Library (Library Building, Main Campus)
  - Level 3 — Learning Commons Style Space
  - Library Innovation Centre — Maker Space
  - Ingenium — Interdisciplinary area with Exhibition and Event Space
  - Tin Ka Ping Education Library
  - Ko Wong Wai Ching Wendy Fine Arts Digital Library
- Music Library (11/F, Run Run Shaw Tower, Centennial Campus)

Learn more: <https://its.hku.hk/services/teaching-learning/learning-space>



# Information Technology Services (ITS)

Information Technology Services (ITS) runs 24-hour, non-stop system and network services to support the IT needs of the University. All students are given a computer account, identified uniquely by an HKU Portal UID (User Identification) and an associated PIN (Personal Identification Number), for accessing a wide range of network services and applications conveniently.

HKU Portal provides a one-stop interface for University members to access all the centrally provided IT services, including Student Information System (SIS), email, Moodle (Learning Management System) and Library services.

A variety of software is available for students to facilitate their learning in their entire study life in HKU.

Orientation courses are offered to new students at the start of each academic year. Regular IT seminars, induction courses and training workshops on popular IT topics and commonly used software are also held throughout the year. Students may contact ITS Service Desk through the multiple channels described at [www.its.hku.hk/service-desk](http://www.its.hku.hk/service-desk) to get assistance in using the central computing and network services.

Learn more: [www.its.hku.hk](http://www.its.hku.hk)

## Daily Life Necessities

HKU offers a wide variety of facilities and services to meet the daily life necessities of students. Some examples are:

- Baby care rooms
- Banking
- Bookstores
- KMB fare saver kiosk
- Lockers
- Newspapers
- Photocopying and printing
- Postal services
- Shuttle bus service
- Stationery shops
- Supermarket
- And more...



Please refer to the campus map of HKU at <http://www.maps.hku.hk>

# Student Sports and Recreation

The Centre for Sports and Exercise (CSE) offers a wide range of sports and fitness programmes, including:

- Uni-Sports (<https://cse.hku.hk/phyact.asp?pageid=141>)
- Uni-Adventure (<https://cse.hku.hk/phyact.asp?pageid=140>)
- Active Health Fitness Classes (<https://ahc.hku.hk/active-health-fitness-classes>)
- Exercise is Medicine on Campus (a partnership with University Health Service (UHS) and CEDARS) to promote physical activity as a vital sign of health via a medical-to-exercise referral network (<https://www.eim.cse.hku.hk>)

The CSE also manages the following sports facilities:

- Stanley Ho Sports Centre (SHSC) at Sandy Bay (mainly outdoor sports facilities)
- Henry Fok Swimming Pool at Stanley Ho Sports Centre
- Six tennis courts and four pitches at Stanley Ho Sports Centre
- Three Fitness Centres located at Henry Fok Health & Fitness Complex (SHSC), CSE Active (Centennial Campus), and HKU B-Active (Shek Tong Tsui, MTR HKU Station Exit B1)
- Active Health Clinic located at HKU B-Active (<https://www.ahc.hku.hk>)
- Multi-purpose rooms / mini-gym at Ho Tim Hall and Suen Chi Sun Hall

## Competitive Sports - TeamHKU

Intramural Competitive sports opportunities are provided through inter-hall and inter-faculty competitions. Some of the student sports clubs and their respective University Teams represent HKU at Interuniversity Competitions. The University's **Sports Scholarship Scheme** and **Top Athletes Direct Admission Scheme** allow talented local athletes to balance their studies and athletic development.

### Sports Coaching Bursary Programme and Sport Volunteering Placements Programme

The Sports Coaching Bursary provides up to \$5,000 for students to gain a recognised coaching qualification and apply their learning by supporting a CSE programme. Additionally, the Sport Volunteering Placements programme offers mentorship from CSE staff to help students develop sport at HKU through areas like social media, event management, and health & fitness.

Learn more: [www.cse.hku.hk](http://www.cse.hku.hk)



# Student Support and Resources

## Student Housing

Our residential halls and colleges are more than a place to sleep – they are a fun and essential part of the HKU experience. As members of halls and colleges have to learn to be independent and interact closely with students of various backgrounds under the same roof, halls are a community of students seeking social and intellectual enrichment.

CEDARS also provides housing places at residences, as housing alternatives not bound by the rich traditions of Halls and Residential Colleges. Student residents enjoy a varied hostel experience in a range of room type options including single rooms, twin rooms, shared flats, and family units (for married couples). The sharing of basic facilities (e.g. bathroom and kitchen) of a small household size provides better networking and interpersonal development among flatmates. Closer attention from staff and resident tutors provides conveniences and quick responses that students expect nowadays.

Each hall/college/residence has its own tradition, culture and unique characteristics. Other accommodation options like hotels, hostels and privately rented off-campus housing are available to suit different lifestyles and budgets of students. The university also offers free non-university housing rental information and advisory services for students who cannot secure on-campus accommodation or prefer to live off-campus.

Learn more: <https://housing.cedars.hku.hk/>



# Health and Wellness

## University Health Service (UHS)

The University Health Service (UHS) has an on-campus clinic providing health and dental care services to students. Primary care service at the UHS is provided by a team of highly qualified and experienced doctors. In general, medical consultation is free of charge, but some investigations and medication are at a cost. A notional charge is also levied for dental treatment and physiotherapy treatment at the University clinic.

For non-local students, please refer to [P.36](#) for information on the fees and charges applicable for specialist care and hospitalisation.

Email: [uhealth@hku.hk](mailto:uhealth@hku.hk)

Learn more: [www.uhs.hku.hk](http://www.uhs.hku.hk)

## Counselling and Person Enrichment

CEDARS-Counselling and Person Enrichment (CEDARS-CoPE) is committed to empowering students to develop social capability and emotional resilience, to capitalise on their character strengths, and to live a fulfilling and psychologically healthy life so that they are able to achieve personal success, overcome life challenges and contribute to the community by demonstrating integrity, sensitivity and leadership.

CEDARS-CoPE offers:

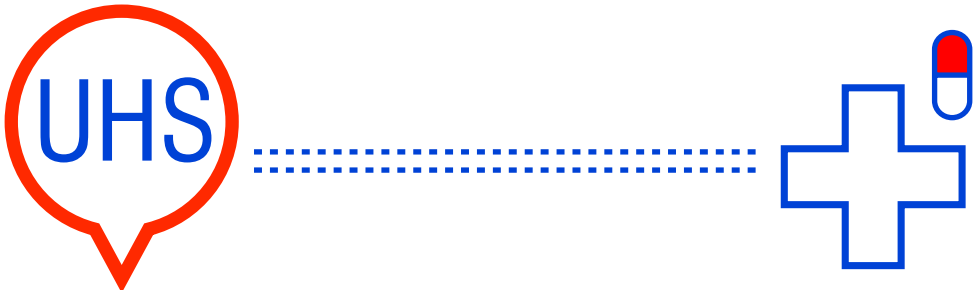
- Professional, confidential and free of charge counselling and psychological services
- Comprehensive service and support for students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Semester-based person enrichment programmes

Email: [cedars-cope@hku.hk](mailto:cedars-cope@hku.hk) (Counselling and Psychological Services)

[cedars-SEN@hku.hk](mailto:cedars-SEN@hku.hk) (SEN Support)

[cedarspe@hku.hk](mailto:cedarspe@hku.hk) (Person Enrichment Programmes)

Learn more: [www.cedars.hku.hk/cope](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/cope)



# Support for Students with Disabilities and/or Special Educational Needs (SEN)

CEDARS is committed to supporting students with disabilities or Special Educational Needs (SEN) in overcoming barriers and achieving successful university education. We are the one-stop service unit for students with physical and sensory disabilities, learning and developmental disabilities, mental illnesses, chronic medical illnesses or multiple disabilities.

We provide comprehensive service and support to facilitate students' university adjustment and learning:

- Career preparation and opportunities
- Counselling service
- Information on campus accessibility
- Information on scholarship and financial support
- On-loan learning aids / equipment
- Peer buddies matching
- Peer support events and activities
- Special classroom and examination arrangements
- Special library support
- Study skills coaching
- Support for application for special housing arrangements
- And more...

For registration or more details about SEN support, please contact CEDARS-SEN Support. Please note that relevant medical and/or supporting documents is required when applying for this service.

Email: [cedars-SEN@hku.hk](mailto:cedars-SEN@hku.hk)

Learn more: [www.cedars.hku.hk/cope/sen-support](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/cope/sen-support)



## Careers and Placement

CEDARS – Careers and Placement nurtures students to become global talent with enduring capabilities to create possibilities and embrace opportunities. We are passionate about supporting HKU students in unleashing their potential in a modern workplace, exploring different career configurations and continually upskilling through diverse career-driven learning experiences. We also collaborate seamlessly with employers and community partners to identify and groom future-ready graduates who bring positive impacts on different organisations in Hong Kong and beyond.

Email: [careers@hku.hk](mailto:careers@hku.hk)

Learn more: [www.cedars.hku.hk/cp](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/cp)

## Language Support

**The School of Modern Languages and Cultures** offers credit-bearing language courses in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Thai and Turkish.

Learn more: [www.smlc.hku.hk](http://www.smlc.hku.hk)

**The Centre for Applied English Studies (CAES)** provides English language support through a wide range of credit-bearing and elective courses, and self-directed learning opportunities. English support is also offered beyond the classroom by our Communication Support Services (CSS) through writing and speaking consultations as well as workshops and discussions. Every summer, courses focusing on various English skills and IELTS preparations are offered through the CAES Summer Programme as well.

Learn more: <https://caes.hku.hk> and <https://www.caescss.hku.hk>

**The Chinese Language Centre (CLC)** of the School of Chinese offers credit-bearing courses in Cantonese, Putonghua (Mandarin), as well as Chinese language and cultural courses for international undergraduate, exchange and visiting students. The CLC also offers the Chinese Help Desk (CHD) services which provide various non-credit bearing activities, such as 1:1 consultation, study groups and themed workshops with the primary aim to improve the students' Chinese proficiency in the various skill areas.

Learn more: [www.clc.hku.hk](http://www.clc.hku.hk) and [www.clc.hku.hk/chd](http://www.clc.hku.hk/chd)

**The Peer Impact Network (PIN)** offers individual **Peer Tutoring Programmes**, namely the “Survival Cantonese” and the “Peer English Tutoring” are offered to help newcomers better adjust to the learning and social environment at the University and to facilitate greater integration of local and non-local students.

Learn more: [www.cedars.hku.hk/cope/peer/peer-language-tutoring-programmes](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/cope/peer/peer-language-tutoring-programmes)



# Student Life @HKU

## Student Groups and Networks

### **Co-curricular Support Office (CCSO)**

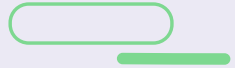
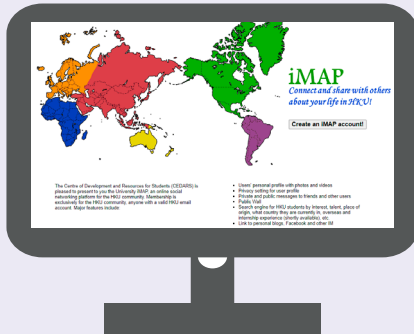
The CCSO is an administrative unit to facilitate the provision of resources and facilities to support the co-curricular activities and events of our student community. A list of registered student bodies is available at the CCSO website.

Learn more: [www.ccsso.hku.hk](http://www.ccsso.hku.hk)

### **Societies and Activities**

In HKU, there are over 140 student organisations and each with distinctive objectives and functions that cater to the diverse interest of the student population. Serving from undergraduates to postgraduates, we have various categories of student bodies in service, including but not limited to academic groups for a particular faculty/department/discipline, halls and colleges, as well as various groups related to sports, culture and other specialised areas of interests.

A list of student societies is available at <https://leaf.cedars.hku.hk/student-societies/>



## iMAP

iMAP is an online social networking platform for the HKU community exclusively. Members can search for private accommodation nearby, look for flatmates and other fellow students by interests, talent, nationality, current location and overseas experience, etc. They can also stay in touch with the rest of the HKU community and share their travel experience while abroad.

Learn more: [www.cedars.hku.hk/imap](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/imap)

## Induction Activities

At the start of every academic year, Faculties, Departments and other University Offices (e.g. CEDARS, Information Technology Services (ITS), the HKU Libraries, etc.) organise induction activities for new HKU students. The Induction Programme series of CEDARS, the Inauguration Ceremony and Weeks of Welcome (WoW) are just some of the exciting examples on offer. All these activities are designed to help you integrate with the rest of the University and to cultivate your sense of identity as a member of HKU.

Learn more: <http://firstyear.hku.hk>



# Crisis and Emergency

HKU provides physical and mental health services and financial assistance to students who are in urgent need:

## **University Health Service (UHS)**

Address: 2/F and 3/F, Meng Wah Complex

Mon to Fri: 9am – 1:00pm; 2pm – 5:45pm

**Medical Appointment: (852) 2549 4686**

**Dental Appointment: (852) 3917 2511 / 3917 2512**

When the clinic is closed, please go to the nearest Accident and Emergency Department at Queen Mary Hospital, 102 Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong.

Learn more: [www.uhs.hku.hk](http://www.uhs.hku.hk)

## **CEDARS-Counselling and Person Enrichment (CoPE)** **Counselling and Psychological Services**

Address: Room 301-323, 3/F, Main Building

Mon to Thu: 9am – 5:45pm; Fri: 9am – 6pm

To make an appointment, please call (852) 3917 8388, email [cedars-cope@hku.hk](mailto:cedars-cope@hku.hk) or visit Room 301-323, 3/F, Main Building.

### **SEN Support**

Address: Room 123, 1/F, Main Building

Mon to Thu: 9am – 1pm; 2pm – 5:45pm; Fri: 9am – 1pm; 2pm – 6pm

Contact and register for CEDARS – SEN Support at 3910 3200 or [cedars-SEN@hku.hk](mailto:cedars-SEN@hku.hk).

During after-office hours, please go to the nearest medical doctor or Accident and Emergency Department at the hospital for immediate support.

Learn more: <http://www.cedars.hku.hk/cope/cps/reach-out-for-help>





## **CEDARS**

### **University Financial Assistance - Emergency Assistance**

Address: 3/F, Meng Wah Complex

Mon to Thu: 9am – 5:45pm; Fri: 9am – 6pm

**Call CEDARS at (852) 3917 2305 for an appointment to meet a Student Advising Officer for assessment of your needs.**

Learn more: [www.cedars.hku.hk/campuslife/finances/ufa-emergency-assistance](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/campuslife/finances/ufa-emergency-assistance)

## **Estates Office**

### **24-hour Security Control Centre**

Address: Room 310, 3/F, Pao Siu Loong Building

Tel: (852) 3917 2882

Learn more about our security services: <https://www.estates.hku.hk/our-services/facility-management/security>



You may also find the following useful:

- Lost and Found Tel: (852) 3917 2883
- Public Health, Pandemic, Epidemic Diseases Preparedness and Response: <https://phpedpr.hku.hk>

## Insurance Coverage

HKU has arranged the following two insurance policies for its registered students:

- (i) The Corporate Travel Insurance provides coverage for students travelling outside Hong Kong on a bona fide business or study trips organised or arranged by the University in connection with the University business, such as exchange programmes, field trips or overseas study visits, etc.
- (ii) The Group Personal Accident (“GPA”) policy provides coverage for students against accidental bodily injury sustained while participating in activities organised, arranged, or approved by the University in connection with the University business, in Hong Kong or overseas, such as field trips, project work, or site visits, etc.

Students are not required to apply for the above insurance coverage or to make any declarations of their trip details to the insurer in advance. **Please note that the University provides standard travel insurance coverage only for the University-related business trips and activities. The University does not insure students’ personal cash or property under any circumstances. If additional or special insurance coverage is required, students are strongly recommended to arrange their own insurance at their own expense.** Since many insurance policies operate strictly on a reimbursement basis, students may be required to settle the expenses first before submitting a claim to the insurance company. It is therefore important to check carefully with the insurance company regarding the scope of coverage and claim procedures, and to set aside sufficient funds for any contingencies. For further information about the insurance coverage arranged by HKU, please visit the FEO intranet or contact the Finance and Enterprises Office at [feo\\_insurance@hku.hk](mailto:feo_insurance@hku.hk).

## Emergency Assistance When Travel Overseas

Travelling outside Hong Kong (including exchange programmes, overseas internships, career learning trips, service learning, competitions, academic activities, etc.) may involve potential health and safety risks. HKU has a range of resources and information available to support you in planning a trip and coping with a crisis outside Hong Kong. The one-stop “Crisis and Emergency Outside Hong Kong” webpage ([www.cedars.hku.hk/overseasemergencyassistance](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/overseasemergencyassistance)) brings together information and support services available at the University such as insurance coverage and arrangement, engagement of the Global Travel Emergency Assistance Programme (GTEA) for provision of general assistance, local information and travel advice, key contact information of the University and Consulates, reminders before departure, and other useful tips and precautions.



# Information for Non-local Students

CEDARS as a whole provides a range of support services to non-local students and CEDARS is your first contact. We offer you specific support upon admission into HKU.

## Campus Life Support

- We provide information and assistance on non-academic matters
- We give assistance and guidance on:
  - Housing services
  - Orientation programmes (Weeks of Welcome)
  - Information on pre-arrival, arriving Hong Kong and settling-in
  - Social and networking opportunities

## Why talk to us?

- We are experienced in helping students
- We understand the university system
- We have knowledge of issues affecting non-local students
- All discussions are confidential
- We can refer you to other services, if necessary

## CEDARS

Address: 3/F, Meng Wah Complex

Email: [cedars@hku.hk](mailto:cedars@hku.hk)

Learn more: [www.cedars.hku.hk/wow](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/wow)



# Visa Matters

## **Who should apply for a student visa?**

Generally speaking, if you wish to study in Hong Kong and you do not have the right of abode or right to land in Hong Kong, you need to apply for a student visa/entry permit to Hong Kong.

It is the responsibility of individual students to check and confirm the eligibility and validity of their own visa for study purpose with the Hong Kong Immigration Department (ImmD) by themselves.

## **When to apply?**

You should proceed with your student visa application after you receive a conditional/confirmed offer of admission.

Please do not submit your visa application too early or too late. Please apply for your visa not more than six months from the start date of your studies. Your application will be put on hold if you submit your application too early.

## **Visa sponsor office**

For all non-local students, you are required to apply for your student visa/entry permit through Admissions Office (AO). Please refer to the AO website for detailed information on the visa application procedure.

Learn more: [www.studentvisa.hku.hk](http://www.studentvisa.hku.hk)

Contact: <https://www.studentvisa.hku.hk/contact-us>



# Family Matters

## Should I bring along my own family?

Before making a decision whether or not to bring your family to Hong Kong, it is important to consider the following issues:

- The airfare expenses for your family to and from Hong Kong
- Additional accommodation expenses as you may need to rent a larger flat
- Extra cost for food, clothing and other necessities
- Restricted employment opportunities for your spouse
- Provision of child care facilities
- Whether your children will adjust well to schools in Hong Kong
- English-speaking schools are mostly privately run and expensive
- The impact on you and your studies if your family is not settled in Hong Kong
- Whether you will come to Hong Kong first and arrange things for your family, or bring your family to Hong Kong together with you



# Financial Matters

## **How can I transfer money to Hong Kong for use on arrival if I do not have a bank account in Hong Kong?**

This can be done, either

- by instructing an overseas bank one to two weeks prior to your departure to send money in your name to a bank in Hong Kong (both HSBC and the Bank of East Asia have branches on the HKU campus); or
- by carrying traveller's cheques or bank drafts for deposit into a local account (personal cheques can also be deposited but may take up to three weeks to be cleared).

## **How much money should I bring to Hong Kong?**

There are usually significant extra expenses in the first month of your stay, such as rental charges, household items and textbooks. On top of the tuition fees, expenses for the first month can amount to HK\$10,000 or more for a student. It is important to have a realistic idea of the amount of money you need and plan accordingly.

You are advised to bring enough cash, traveller's cheques, or bank drafts to cover expenses for at least your first month. Do not, however, carry too much cash at any time.

You can obtain a bank draft or transfer money to a bank account in Hong Kong through your local bank. Keep in mind that it may take some time to cash a bank draft with a large amount of money. Money transfers should be arranged well before your departure.

The official currency of Hong Kong is Hong Kong Dollar (HK\$). You can exchange Hong Kong Dollars with foreign currency or traveller's cheques according to the daily exchange rates at banks or money exchange shops in Hong Kong.

## **Will I have access to banks and automated teller machines (ATM) on campus?**

There are two banks and a few ATMs located on campus:

- |                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| HSBC branch + ATMs                  | (Tel: (852) 2233 3000) |
| The Bank of East Asia branch + ATMs | (Tel: (852) 3609 1812) |
| Bank of China branch (ATM only)     |                        |

Check their locations at [www.maps.hku.hk](http://www.maps.hku.hk).



## **Documents for opening a savings account**

- Passport/travel document
- Student card and letter of admission to HKU
- Proof of your permanent address in your own country (e.g. original bank statement in English/Chinese, issued in the last three months, latest driving license in English/Chinese) and/or proof of your current address (if any) (e.g. a letter from office of student residences, tenancy agreement, etc.)
- Introducer or referee letter from home country's bank in English/Chinese (if any)
- Hong Kong Identity Card (if any)

### *Note:*

- *Please check with individual banks or their websites for the latest changes in guidelines or policies.*
- *Banks may require additional documents for account opening or reject applications from individuals from certain countries. Please allow extra time for your bank account to be processed.*
- *For students under 18, please refer to p. 11 for more information.*

## **Can I take up part-time employment and summer jobs?**

According to Hong Kong Immigration Department (ImmD), starting from 1 November 2024, full-time non-local undergraduate and postgraduate students would be temporarily exempted from the restrictions on taking up employment in Hong Kong SAR. Eligible students will be notified of the internship, part-time on-campus employment and/or summer job arrangement individually by a No Objection Letter (NOL) which will spell out the type(s) and conditions of employment which the student may take up.

For details, please refer to the NOL issued by the Hong Kong Immigration Department (ImmD) attached to your visa permit. You may find such guidelines on the ImmD website: [www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/study.html](http://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/study.html) (After Applying → Conditions of Stay).

While some students can earn extra money from part-time and vacation work, the availability of suitable jobs is not guaranteed.

## **Hong Kong Identity Card**

Students who are permitted to stay in Hong Kong for more than 180 days are required to register for an identity card within 30 days of arrival or upon acquiring such permission to stay. For details, please refer to the website of the Hong Kong Immigration Department at [immd.gov.hk/eng/services/hkid.html](http://immd.gov.hk/eng/services/hkid.html). You must carry your HK identity card, passport/travel document as an identity document with you all the time in Hong Kong.

# Medical Care

## Primary Health Care on Campus

University Health Service (UHS) has an on-campus clinic providing health and dental care services to entitled students. Primary care service at the UHS is provided by a team of highly qualified and experienced doctors. In general, medical consultation is free of charge, but some investigations and medication are at a cost. A notional charge is also levied for dental treatment and physiotherapy treatment at the University clinic.



## How do I access to specialist care or hospitalisation?

When specialist care or hospitalisation are required, you can consider using the services provided at (i) public clinics and general wards of government hospitals or (ii) private clinics and hospitals in the market.

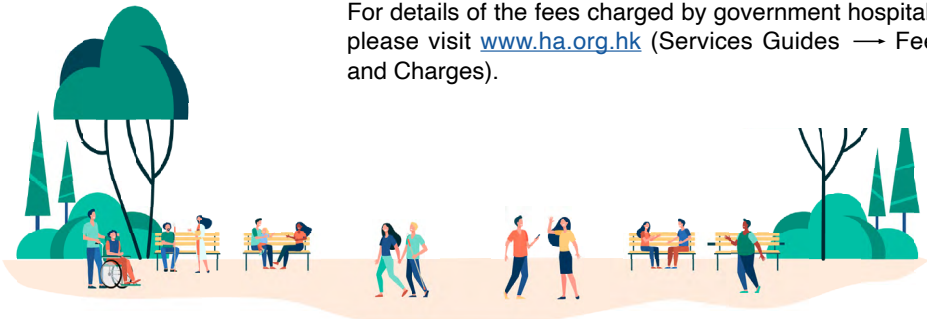
To be eligible for receiving subsidised public healthcare services in public hospitals/clinics, non-local students who have been permitted to remain in Hong Kong for more than 180 days **MUST** present a valid Hong Kong Identity Card when attending public hospitals/clinics for registration.



For non-local students whose length of stay in Hong Kong is less than 180 days, they **MUST** present a valid travel document and visa permit issued by the Hong Kong Immigration Department with the label/sticker/stamp indicating that “one is not a visitor” and “one has not overstayed”.

Non-local students without the aforesaid document(s) are required to pay full fees for services and hospitalisation in government hospitals.

For details of the fees charged by government hospitals, please visit [www.ha.org.hk](http://www.ha.org.hk) (Services Guides → Fees and Charges).



# Medical Insurance



Do I need to get my own medical insurance?

The demand for the subsidised public services is very high and may not meet your urgent or special medical needs. Given that the University would only provide primary healthcare services, it is therefore **strongly recommended for all non-local students irrespective of your length of stay in Hong Kong to get your own medical and hospitalisation insurance before your departure from your home country**. If you plan to travel to other countries for personal business during your study at HKU, you are advised to purchase an insurance policy with worldwide coverage.

Learn more: [www.cedars.hku.hk/wow](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/wow)



## Weeks of Welcome (WoW)

### **What kinds of induction activities are available?**

A series of induction activities for newly arrived non-local students are available. The activities, which are a mixture of fun, fact-finding, visits and tours, aim to help the newly arrived students to settle down, induct into the local way, enhance cross-cultural experience and sharing, as well as explore new environment and people. Local students will serve as student hosts to lead these activities and introduce HKU and Hong Kong to new students.

Learn more: [www.cedars.hku.hk/wow](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/wow)





## GLOCAL Connectors (buddies)

CEDARS engages current students to serve as GLOCAL Connectors (buddies) for incoming non-local undergraduates. These Connectors will:

- Share firsthand experiences of campus life,
- Answer questions, and
- Help new students adjust to university life.

Together with CEDARS, the Connectors will organise events and activities to foster connections and build a supportive community. Stay tuned for our email announcement with further details.

Please note email is the University's official channel of communication with students.

Learn More: <https://gconnect.cedars.hku.hk/>

## Beware of Scams

Scams targeting students have surged in recent years, with many losing significant amounts of money. Don't become the next victim.

Take action now:

- ✓ Read emails from HKU and CEDARS
- ✓ Complete the mandatory anti-scam training quiz as early as possible after completing online master registration.
- ✓ Study the resources on
  - the CEDARS Anti-Scam Hub (<https://wp2.cedars.hku.hk/anti-scam/>)
  - the website of Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (<https://www.adcc.gov.hk/en-hk/alerts.html>)
- ✓ Attend anti-scam talks and workshops
- ✓ Stay vigilant against suspicious requests

Educate yourself—don't become the next victim.



# Non-local Students under the age of 18

## What information do I need to know if I am under 18?

### 1. Student visa application

Your parent needs to nominate a local Hong Kong resident to be your guardian when applying for a student visa. Details of such nomination can be found on the guardian nomination form. Please consult the Admissions Office (see [p.32](#)) if you have further enquiries.

### 2. Hong Kong Identity Card

If your parent has nominated a relative to be your local guardian to the Hong Kong Immigration Department, you should be accompanied by that local guardian when you submit your Hong Kong Identity Card application at the Hong Kong Immigration Department.

If your parent has nominated “The University of Hong Kong” to be your local guardian, you can just submit your application to the Hong Kong Immigration Department on your own. You will be asked to fill in a declaration form there.

### 3. Banking arrangement

Students under 18 must be accompanied in person by their parent or legal guardian to open a bank account at one of the local banks. The University is not able to act as your guardian in this context.

### 4. Age restrictions

You should observe the laws and regulations for age-restricted products, services, or activities in Hong Kong, e.g. alcohol, tobacco, tattoo, indecent materials, admission to Category III films, entering premises where bets are accepted, etc. Make sure you look for information regarding restrictions for underage persons and act responsibly.



*cedars*

Centre of Development and Resources for Students  
學生發展及資源中心



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