



Developing Hong Kong into an International Education Hub

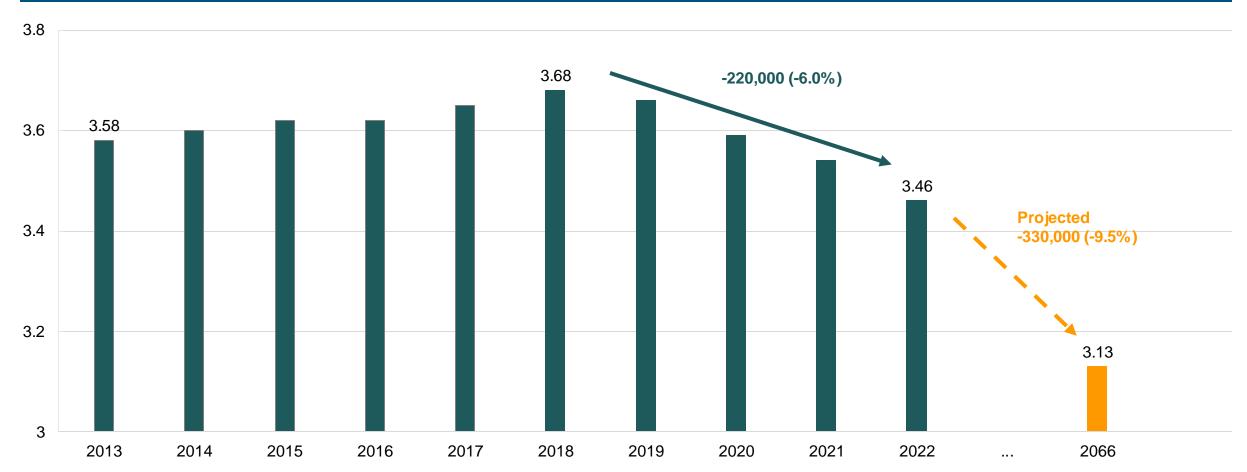
Our Hong Kong Foundation

September 2023



Hong Kong is facing talent shortage

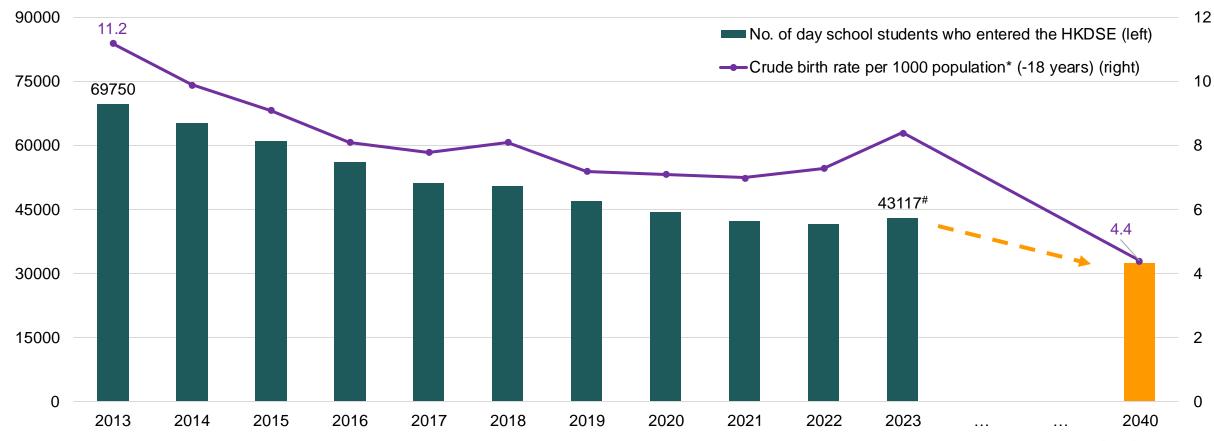
Shrinking labour force over the years (million)



Note: excluding foreign domestic helpers; 2066 number is based on C&SD 2017 labour force projections for 2017-2066 feature article, and have not taken into account the recent immigration policies Source: Census and Statistics Department

Hong Kong is facing talent shortage

Number of HKDSE day school candidates falling as a result of lower birth rate



Note: *crude birth rates included are 18 years before the year of DSE, assuming most students are 18 years old when they take the exam #2023 data includes candidates from all schools. The data for day school candidates is not available at the time of writing Sources: Census and Statistics Department; Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority

Predicted using no. of birth in 2022

Worldwide national policies trend: From basic education to gearing talent and economic development



United Kingdom
Initiative for International
Education since 1999 to increase
international students, contribute
to economy



Australia

International education became Australia's biggest services export in **2007**; set up specific Council for International Education in **2016**



South Korea

Decided to build "the best education hub in Northeast Area" in Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ) in 2007



Japan

"300,000 foreign students plan" in 2008 & MEXT implemented "Global 30" in 2009 to develop unis as internationalization hubs to attract foreign students

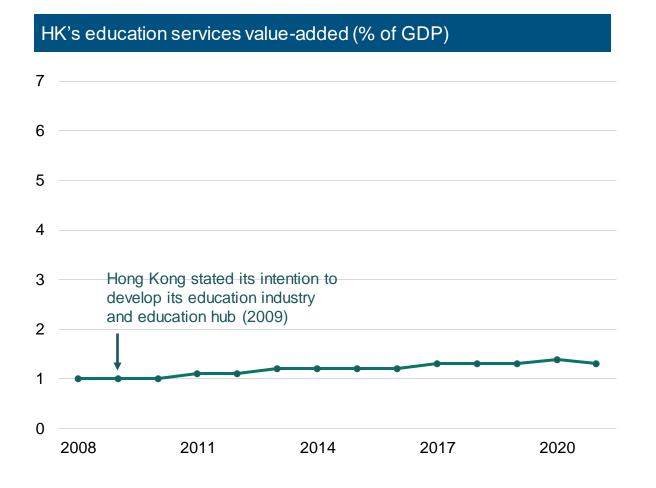




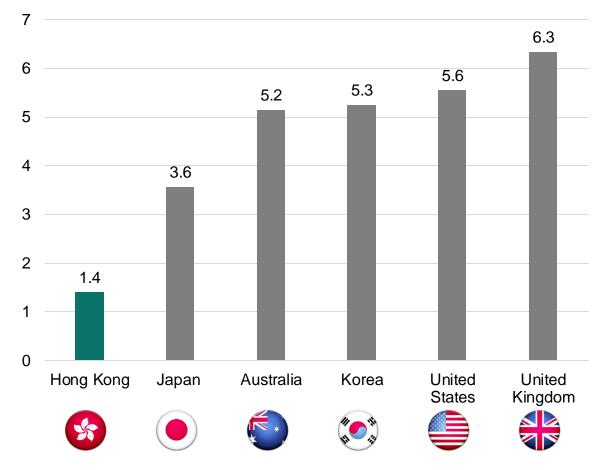




However, HK's education industry today is arguably still not well-developed

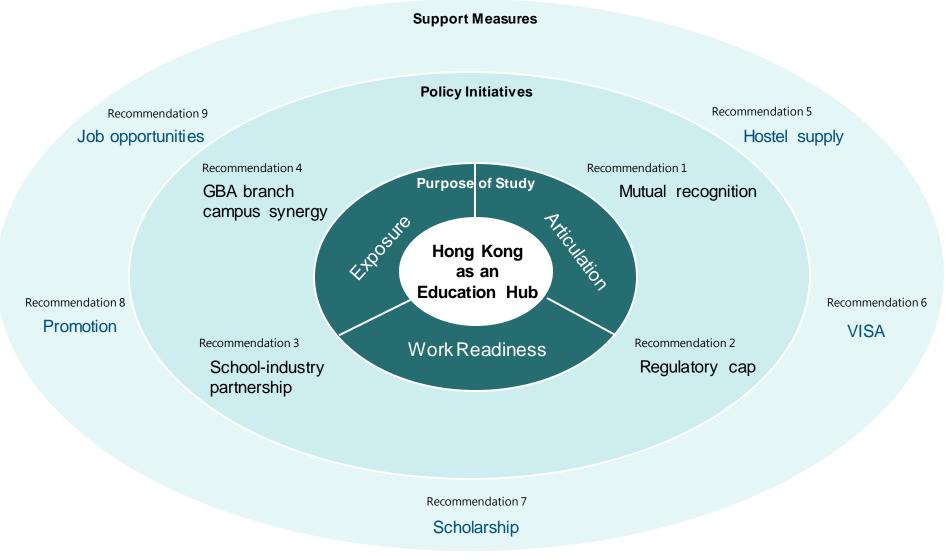


Education services value-added internationally (% GDP) (2020)



Source: Census and Statistics Department

Strategy to develop HK as an education hub, with a focus on Higher Education





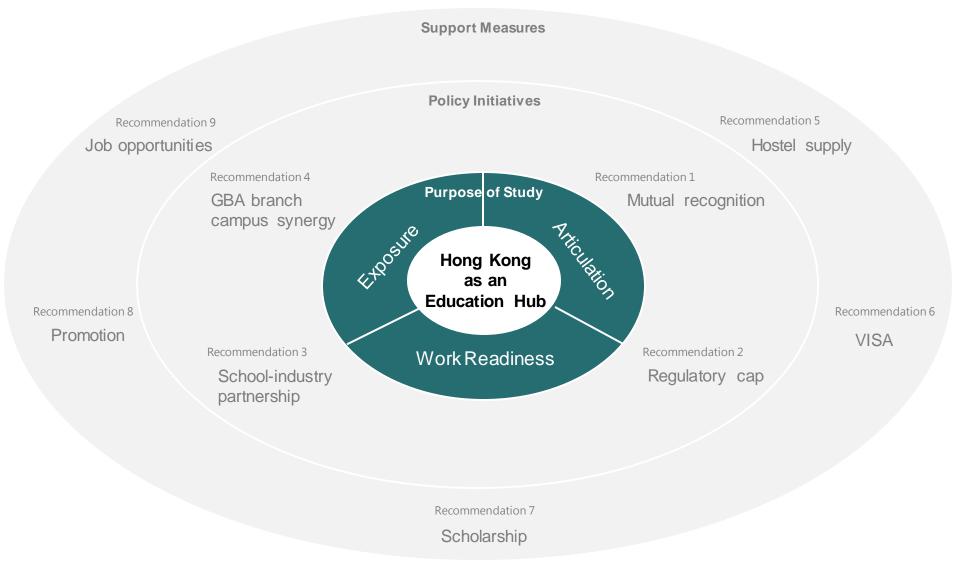




Why do international students come to HK?

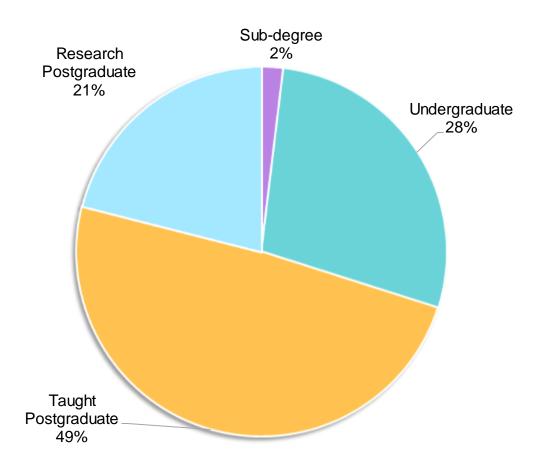


Why do international students come to Hong Kong?

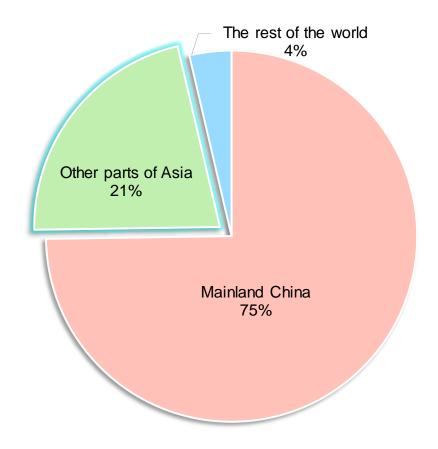


Who are the non-local students?

Level of study (UGC-funded unis & SFIs)

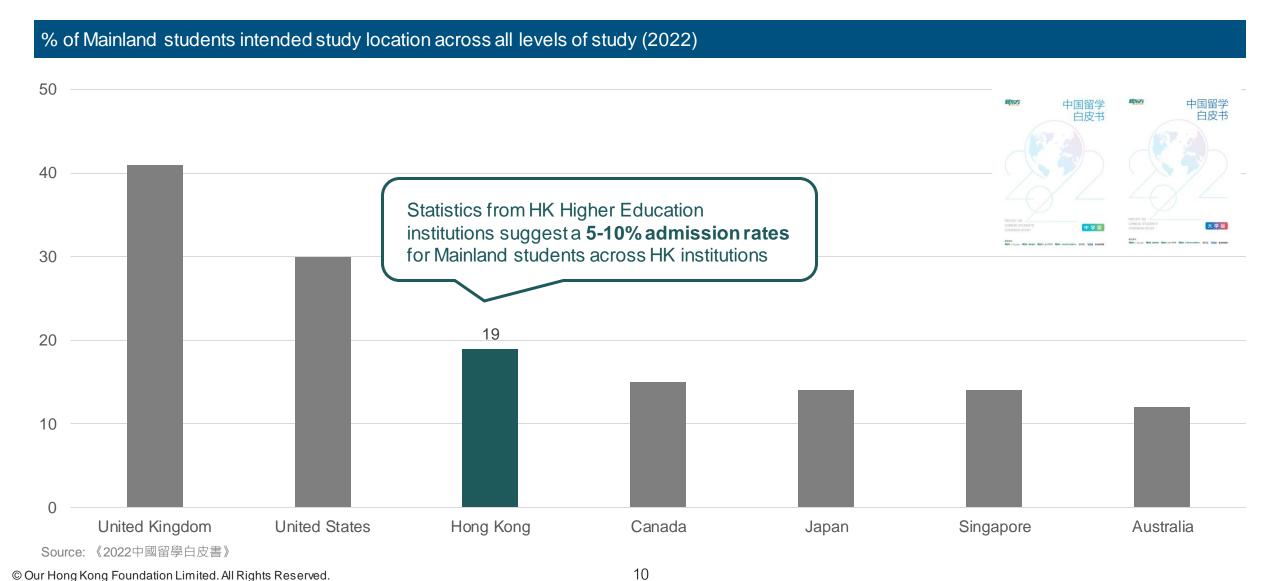


Enrolment by place of origin (UGC-funded unis)



Source: Concourse (2022/23 Academic Year)

1. Articulation pathway for further studies



1. Articulation pathway for further studies

A trend where more overseas students are going to East Asia

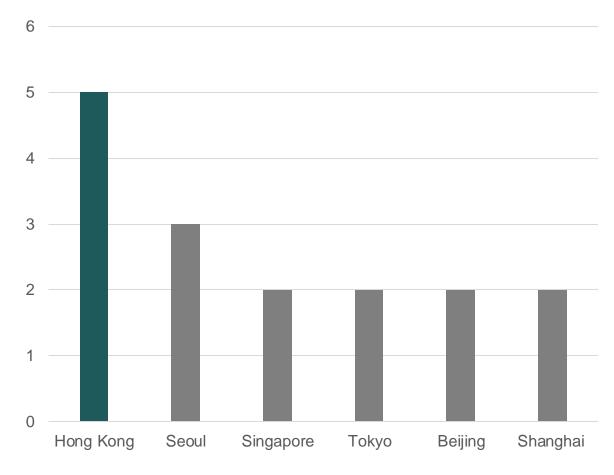


What we're now going to see is a shift of part of the [student] traffic that was going into North America, western Europe, the UK and Australia, going into other East Asian countries. That effect is likely to be permanent.

- Leading global higher education scholar (Simon Marginson from University of Oxford, Director of the Centre for Global Higher Education)

Source: Times Higher Education (2020)

Asian cities with highest density of QS Top-100 universities (2023)



Source: QS World Rankings (2023)

2. Work readiness facilitated by school-industry partnership

Nurturing future talent for the development of "Eight Centre"



International Financial Centre

BASc in FinTech





International Innovation & Technology Hub

BSc (Hons) Biomedical Engineering





Centre for International Cultural Exchange

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Creative Arts and Culture





International Trade Centre

BBA (Honours) in Global Supply Chain Management





International Shipping Centre

BA (Honours) in International Shipping and Transport Logistics





International Aviation Hub

BEng in Aerospace Engineering





International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services

Centre for

BSocSc (Government and Laws) & LLB





Regional Intellectual Property Trading Centre

Master of Laws in Technology & Intellectual Property



School-industry partnership for talent cultivation



HKUST – China Unicom Joint Laboratory on Smart Society HKUST – Huawei Joint Laboratory









Aviation Services Research Centre









Partnership Research Programme on smart GeoAl solutions for mosquito-borne diseases





Source: Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Lingnan University

3. Hong Kong as a bridge for both mainland and global exposure

Hong Kong International Rankings

World No. 1	Economic Openness	
World No. 1	Investment environment	
World No.1	Public transit system	
World No.5 Asia-Pacific No.1	Hub for development of new technology	
Asia No.2	Talent competitiveness	



"2022 Global City Index"

Top 10 Leading Global Cities 4th in Asia Pacific

1st Global services firm

1st Number of international schools



"2022 International Communication Center City Index"

Top 6 International Communication Center City 3rd in Asia

5th Connectivity

6th City attractiveness and influence

Source: Brand Hong Kong (2023), Kearney (2022), 清華大學中國發展規劃研究院&德勤中國國際交往中心研究院 (2023)



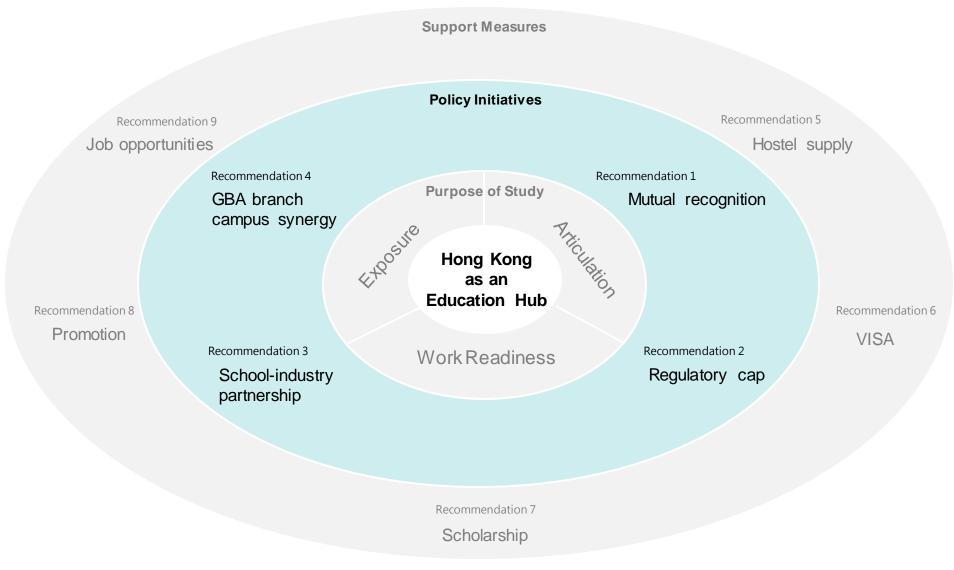


Part 2: Policy Initiatives

To amplify their purpose of studying in HK



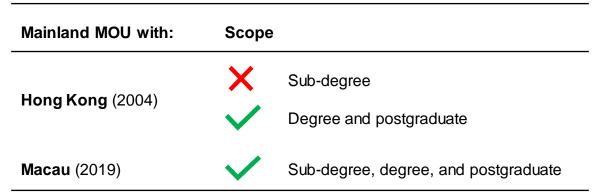
Targeted policy initiatives to amplify their purpose of studying in HK



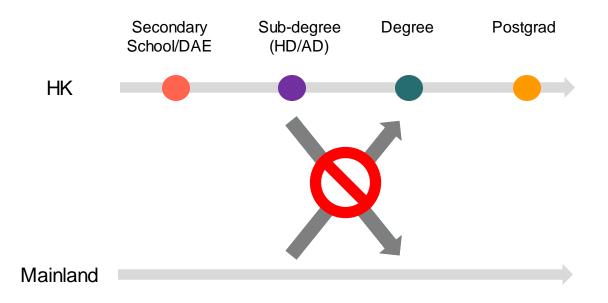
Recommendation 1: Seek mutual recognition of Higher Diploma qualifications between HK & Mainland

Existing mutual recognition agreement does not cover sub-degrees





Inability to use mainland sub-degree qualification in HK & vice versa



Few Mainland students come to Hong Kong to pursue sub-degrees, due to the impracticality of the qualification.

- A Hong Kong Sub-degree Education Provider

Source: Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China

Recommendation 2: Raise the cap for non-local students across UGC-funded universities & SFIs

Regulatory caps limit the school places supply for non-locals

	UGC-funded	SFIs ¹	
Sub-degree	20%	MMT ² : 10-20%	
Degree	20%	MMT: 10-20%	
Postgraduate	No limit ³	No limit	

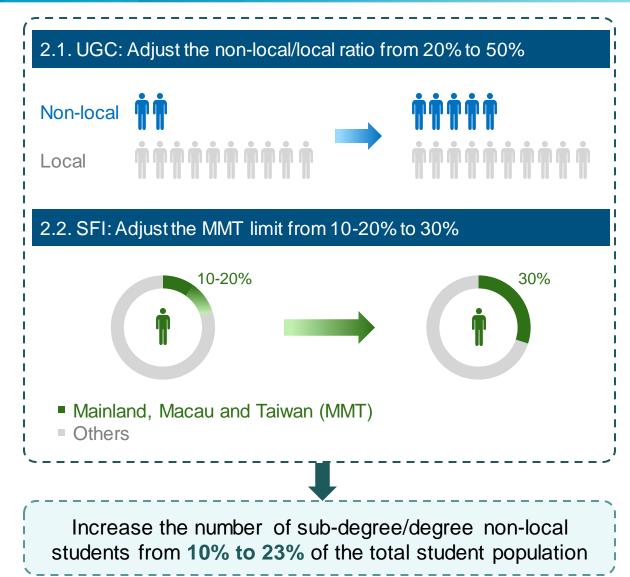
¹SFIs: self-financing institutions ²MMT: Mainland, Macau, Taiwan

³Except a 20% cap for publicly-funded taught postgraduate programmes

Source: info.gov.hk (2022b)

The 20% UGC cap is the main barrier limiting undergraduate programmes' non-local student intake and has room to expand.

- Faculty Dean at a UGC-funded university



Recommendation 2: Raise the cap for non-local students across UGC-funded universities & SFIs

No regulatory caps for non-locals at DAE/ secondary school level

Diploma of Applied Education / Secondary Schools

No such mechanism

	UGC-funded	SFIs
Sub-degree	20%	MMT: 10-20%
Degree	20%	MMT: 10-20%
Postgraduate	No limit	No limit

Create a financially viable mechanism for admitting overseas student

Quota

- Pilot schools
- Balancing supply for local students

Financial Sustainability

Tuition level referencing unit costs

Living facilities

Creation of "boarding schools"





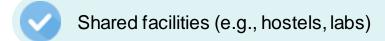
Diploma of Applied Education

Secondary Schools

Recommendation 3: Leverage Northern Metropolis to boost school-industry partnership

3.1 University complex to foster closer school-industry partnership







Internships and experiential learning



Example: Incheon Global Campus (IGC)



Under the South Korea Government's **Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ)** development, IGC was developed in 2007 as a core strategy to build "the best education and research hub in Northeast Asia".

Rich school-industry partnership

- Physically located next to IFEZ
- IGC universities have MOU with leading companies (e.g., SAMSUNG Biologics and Celltrion)

Shared facilities

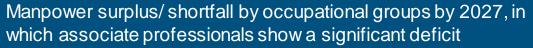
 E.g., housing, library, auditorium, classroom, health centres

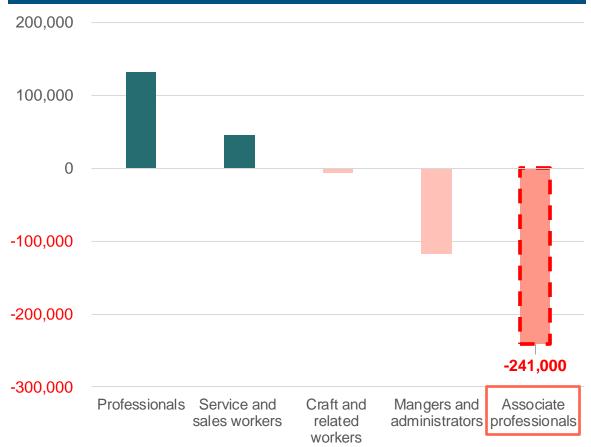
Unique programme model

E.g., same degree as home campus,
 1-year home campus experience

Source: Incheon Global Campus

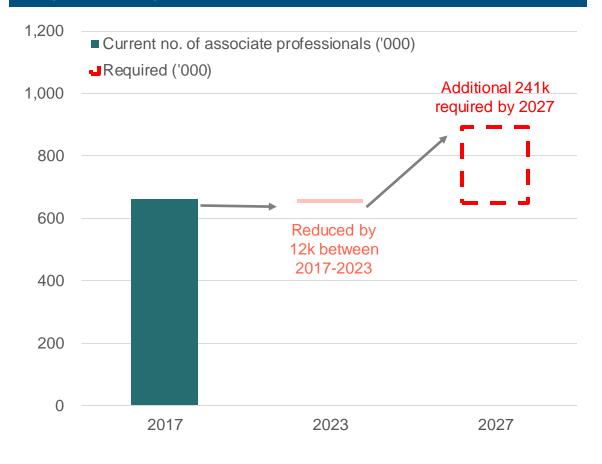
Recommendation 3: Leverage Northern Metropolis to boost school-industry partnership





Sources: Census and Statistics Department; Labour and Welfare Bureau (2019)

3.2. Integrated complex for paraprofessional training in order to bridge the skills gap



Sources: Census and Statistics Department (2023b); Labour and Welfare Bureau (2019)

Recommendation 4: Enhance the synergy between HK & GBA branch campuses

Current GBA branch campuses in operation







Chinese
University of
Hong Kong
(Shenzhen)



The Hong Kong
University of
Science and
Technology
(Guangzhou)

	College		
Partnering University	Beijing Normal University	Shenzhen University	Guangzhou University
Year of stablishment	2005	2014	2022
City	Zhuhai	Shenzhen	Guangzhou

- Financially & legally independent
- Credit transfer arrangements, e.g., for exchange programmes
- Visiting professor arrangements

Strategic directions to deepen cross-campus synergy



Recommendation 4.1

Expand dual-degree programmes

 Reference CUHK x CUHK (Shenzhen)



Recommendation 4.2

Enable faculty joint appointment arrangements, including tax arrangements

 Reference HKU and HKU-Shenzhen Hospital arrangement



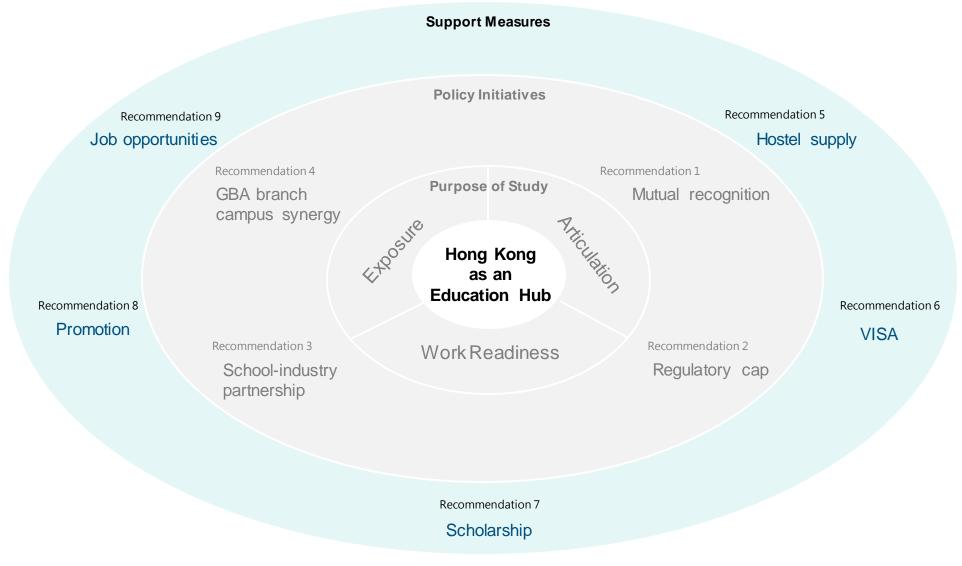


Part 3: Support Measures

To attract & retain non-local talent



Support measures necessary to attract & retain non-local talent



Recommendation 5: Increase the supply of commercially-run student hostels

University-run hostels are insufficient to accommodate demand

Leverage public-private partnership for sustainable supply



Long construction time

- LegCo
- Donations (e.g., Matching Grant Scheme: \$1 government grant for every \$1 of private donations secured)
- Construction time 3-4 years



Specify required student hostel ratio

- to the Conditions of Sale in Government land tender & private lease modification/land exchange
- Reference Youth Hostel Scheme at Tung Chung Area 106A



Financially unsustainable

- Students' contribution mostly cover the operating cost
- On-campus hostel fees ranges from HK\$5,000 to HK\$15,000/ semester



Conversion of hotels, apartments, and unused schools into hostels

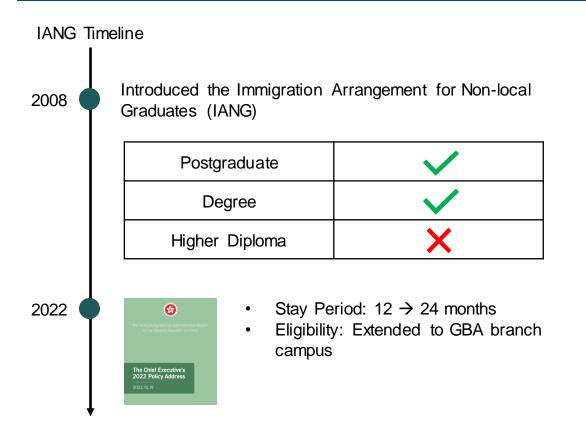
- Y83 (Hung Hom)
- Home² Youth Hostel (Tsuen Wan)
- BeLIVING Youth Hub (Wan Chai)

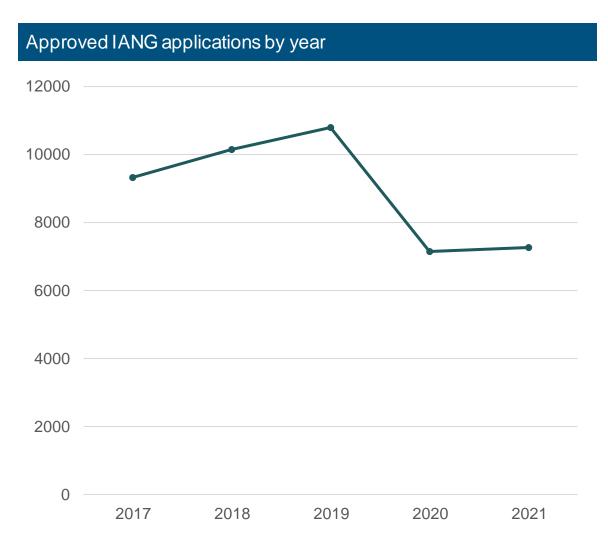
Note 1: Matching Grant Scheme: The matching of \$1 government grant for \$1 private donation up to \$60 million, beyond which is a \$1 for \$2 matching ratio, with an upper limit of \$600 million. Sources: Education Bureau; LegCo (2019); LegCo (2023).

Note 2: Home² Youth Hostel: 4 levels of Nina Hotel Tsuen Wan West converted into youth hostel. Note 3: BeLIVING Youth Hub: reprovisioned from the Hotel Ease. Sources: Development Bureau; Y83; Home² Youth Hostel; BeLIVING Youth Hub

Recommendation 6: Extend visa schemes for non-local graduates & trainees

6.1. Expand Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG) to Higher Diploma, to boost paraprofessional manpower





Source: Immigration Department, info.gov.hk (2022d)

Sources: info.gov.hk (2021); LegCo Research Office (2022)

Recommendation 6: Extend visa schemes for non-local graduates & trainees

Training opportunities in Hong Kong is yet to be fully utilised

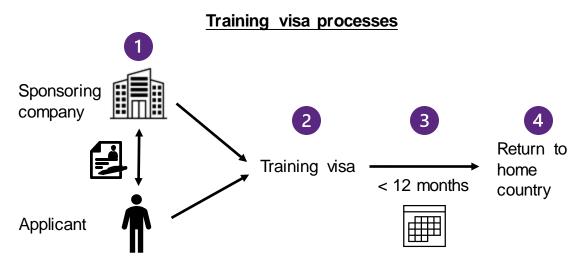
Hong Kong's institutions can be better utilised to provide training for non-locals to expand Hong Kong's role as an education hub. Enhancing training visa is a crucial step.

- Senior Management from an institutional training provider

6.2 Enhance the 12-month training visa



Extend training visa eligibility to Chinese residents



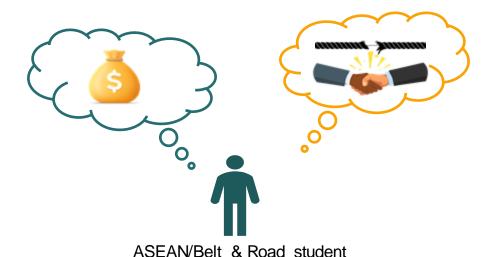


Enhance easier transition to work visa to retain talent

Sources: Immigration Department, info.gov.hk (2022d)

Recommendation 7: Expand scholarships for ASEAN and Belt & Road students

Financial & geopolitical considerations for non-local students



Example: **ASEAN Undergraduate Scholarship** funded by the Singapore Ministry of Education to attract students from ASEAN member states by lowering their cost of study.



- Offered by the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University
- Scholarship benefits e.g., tuition fees, annual living allowance and accommodation allowance

Increase Belt & Road scholarship to expand student diversity





Increase **Belt & Road Scholarship** quota for first-year publicly funded universities for Top 10% outstanding non-mainland students

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore

Source: Education Bureau

Recommendation 8: Facilitate macro-level promotion & planning to raise the attractiveness of Higher Education institutions

Lack of government-led macro-level promotion

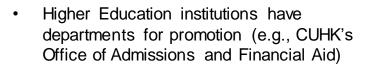




Disconnected macro-level promotion

- HKTDC's programmes for promoting Hong Kong's education services back in 2000s
- E.g., 8 UGC-funded Institutions participated in the European Association for International Education (EAIE) Conference & Exhibition in Basel in 2006

Lack of resources in SFIs



 Some SFIs are less well-resourced (e.g., SFIs stakeholders indicated their promotion in ASEAN countries were ineffective due to the lack of manpower) 8.1 Facilitate overseas macro-level promotion and planning

Government-led large scale overseas education fairs, conferences, & on-campus activities, especially in ASEAN and Belt & Road countries



China Education Expo

- Hosted by the China Education Association for International Exchange every year since 2000
- Active involvement by more than 20 national pavilions (e.g., the UK, Australia, France, Korea)

STUDY IN MALAYSIA EDUCATION FAIR

SRI LANKA 2023

19TH AUGUST 2023 I MANDARINA HOTEL, COLOMBO
20TH AUGUST 2023 I QUEENS HOTEL, KANDY
MALAYSIA

Study in Malaysia Education Fair

- Hosted by Education Malaysia Global Services, a company under the purview of the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia
- Series of education fairs in different countries (e.g., Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Indonesia)

Source: Education Commission (2011)

Sources: China Education Expo ; Education Malaysia Global Services

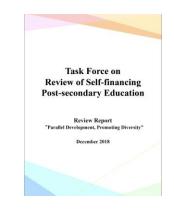
Recommendation 8: Facilitate macro-level promotion & planning to raise the attractiveness of Higher Education institutions

SFIs have the flexibility to scale up their programmes

8.2 Identify & empower SFIs develop unique programmes



- High flexibility (e.g., no regulatory cap for non-MMT students)
- But low number of non-local students due to relatively lower local & international reputation



- Macro-level coordination to "identify and develop SFIs distinct character & niche areas" (Task Force on Review of Selffinancing Post-secondary Education, 2018)
- Provide relevant financial support to help build SFI programmes targeted at non-local students

Self-financing institutions have more flexibility than UGC-funded universities to recruit non-local students. To attract them [non-local students], there's a need to target their specific interest (e.g., business, civil engineering).

- Associate Faculty Dean at a self-financing institution

Example:



B.Sc (Hons) in Architecture



BEng (Hons) in Aircraft Engineering



MSc in Global Supply Chain Management

Source: Task Force on Review of Self-financing Post-secondary Education (2018)

Recommendation 9: Enhance talent retention by coordinating job opportunities

Talent loss due to the lack of STEM employment opportunities

Most graduates leave HK after graduation because **HK** doesn't have many opportunities for STEM, accommodation is insufficient, and salary is not competitive, so they would rather go to other places for long-term development.

- Faculty Dean at a UGC-funded university

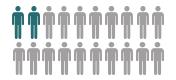


Leverage upcoming developments to increase job opportunities



Increasing and diversifying non-local students to build an education hub

1) Non-local sub-degree / undergraduate students



~10% of student population (18,000 out of 180,000)



~23% of student population (~45,000 out of 196,000)

2) Non-local taught postgraduate students



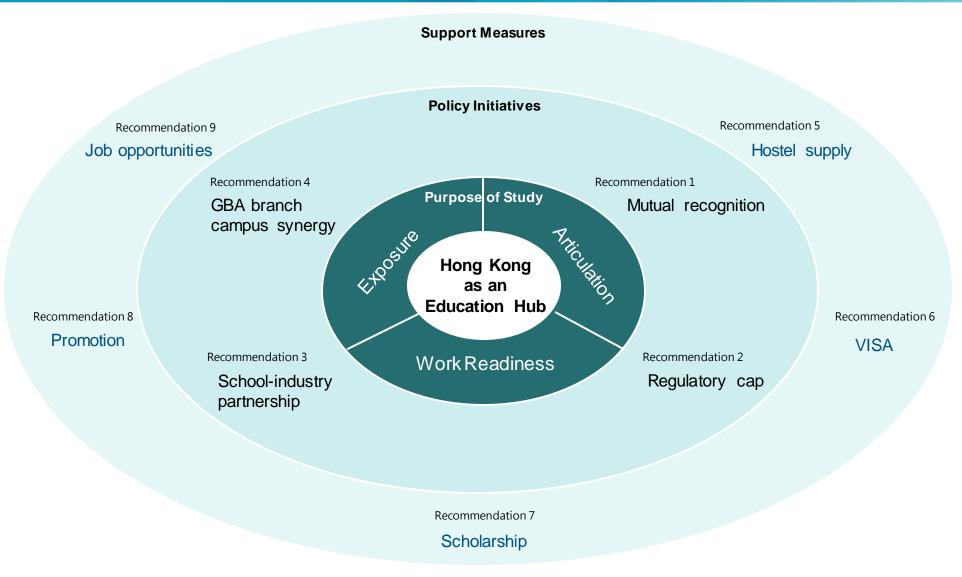
~54% of student population (24,000 out of 44,000)



~**70%** of student population (~48,000 out of 69,000)

Sources: Concourse for Self-financing Post-secondary Education; info.gov.hk (2022b)

Strategy to develop HK as an education hub







Thank you

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