

The first batch of students in Hong Kong's much awaited double-cohort year have received their examination results, which starts an unprecedented scramble for higher education places in Hong Kong and a one-off opportunity for UK institutions to recruit record numbers of students from the city.

Last week, the last cohort of Hong Kong Advanced Level students received their HKALE results. Amongst the 40,515 candidates sitting the exams from Secondary Seven, or as other candidates, around 18,725 achieved results that qualify them for the 15,150 publicly-funded undergraduate places, down from 18,972 last year. About 70 per cent passed the Use of English AS-Level, which is necessary for local university entry.

On 20 September, around 70,000 students completing Secondary Six under Hong Kong's New Academic Structure will be the first to receive Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) results. A further 15,150 publicly-funded undergraduate places will be available to them, to embark on new four-year degree programmes. The HKALE graduates, who completed seven years of secondary education compared with six for those graduating from the HKDSE, will be the last to enter three-year programmes. Universities, meanwhile, are bracing themselves to cope with double the number of undergraduates on campus in September.

With around 110,000 candidates completing the two qualifications, and another estimated 5,000 Hong Kong students completing other qualifications in Hong Kong and overseas, there is expected to be a shortfall of 21,900 places for all undergraduate, sub-degree and training courses. On July 20, the total shortfall for those qualifying for undergraduate places will be known.

UK universities are already seeing a sharp increase in applications from Hong Kong in the double cohort year. By March, UCAS applications were up 36.5 per cent, to 5297.

As this is the first year for the HKDSE examination, the British Council in Hong Kong is ready to provide advice to UK institutions in interpreting the results. It is also working closely with school guidance counsellors and agents to ensure information is shared and queries about results can be addressed. If you have questions, please contact the Hong Kong team at sophia.chan@britishcouncil.org.hk

Summer activities under the British Council Services for International Education Marketing will be focused on promoting UK options for the double cohort students. This has already started and culminates in the Education UK exhibition taking place on August 17-18 – opening the day local university places are confirmed.

More information about the results can be found at http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/Media/PR/20120628_HKALE_Results_ENG_FULL.pdf

More information about our marketing activities for double cohort students can be found at: juhanie.cheung@britishcouncil.org.hk

Tables

Table 1: Tertiary education places available for double cohort students

	Places available	No. of candidates
HKALE*		40,515
HKDSE		70,000
Other*		5,000
TOTAL candidates		115,515
Programme type		
UGC-funded UG places, for HKALE candidates	15,150	
UGC-funded UG places, for HKDSE candidates	15,150	
Self-financing degree places (for HKALE and HKDSE candidates)	7,400	
Government-funded sub-degree places	10,000	
Self-financing sub-degree places	27,500	
VTC diplomas	7,000	
Industry-related courses	11,200	
Total places available	93,400	
Shortfall	22,115	

* includes day school and other candidates who sat HKAL exams

** includes candidates applying from international schools and overseas

Table 2: Percentages of grades attained for all A-level subjects combined, 2012

	A	B+	C+	D+	E+	F+	U
All candidates (%)	4.3	11.9	25.6	51.2	76.3	91.6	8.4

Source: Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority

Table 3: No. and % of HKALE candidates who satisfy general entry requirements for tertiary education in Hong Kong, 2012

	Male	Female	Total
Day school candidates	8,373	9,839	18,212
%	57	60	58
All candidates	8714	10,011	18,725
%	44	48	46

Source: Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority