

Upward Mobility Scholarship 2015

Encourages youths who counter adversity with a positive attitude and demonstrate prominent progress in academic or other areas

Future Stars • Launched by the Commission on Poverty and supported by the business, social service and education sectors • Administered by The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Future Stars programme under the Commission on Poverty

The Commission on Poverty (CoP), chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, promotes poverty alleviation work through, among others, encouraging cross-sector collaboration among the community, the business and professional sectors and the Government. The CoP is launching the “Future Stars” programme, which aims at helping youths from less privileged families to develop their full potential without being constrained by their present socio-economic status. There are three projects under the “Future Stars” programme, namely Upward Mobility Booster, Upward Mobility Formula and Upward Mobility Scholarship, which mobilise the business, professional, social service, education and public sectors with an aim of creating a favourable environment for less privileged youths in their pursuit of upward mobility, assisting them to overcome obstacles as they strive to climb the social ladder.

Upward Mobility Scholarship

Upward Mobility Scholarship is one of the projects under the “Future Stars” programme. Youths who have demonstrated a positive attitude in countering adversity may be nominated by schools and the social service sector for the scholarships, which are raised from all walks of the community. Nominated candidates must be Secondary 3 to 6 students studying full-time in local secondary schools (including government-aided and government secondary schools, aided special schools, Direct Subsidy Scheme schools or private secondary schools) or in Vocational Training Council institutions.

Awarded students can utilise the scholarship amounting to HK\$5,000 each to realise their goals and plans, which may include bringing about an improvement in their learning environment and seeking further learning opportunities. Their experience will be shared with their sponsor in the form of essays, videos or other creative media. Sponsors or sponsoring organisations are welcome to provide students they have sponsored with further learning or mentoring opportunities, if agreed by both parties.

Nomination guidelines for Upward Mobility Scholarship

Upward Mobility Scholarships are for students who have demonstrated that he/she has the following attributes:

1. A positive attitude and persistence in the face of adversity;
2. A positive value and attitude towards life;
3. Aspiration and determination to climb the social ladder; and
4. Potential and prominent progress in academic performance and/or personal growth.

Schools are also encouraged to nominate students who have a strong interest in learning in practical subjects and have an intention to apply his/her knowledge in his/her future career.

Each nominated student must share his/her thoughts in respect of the following two topics in the form of a short essay (of not more than 300 words), video (of not more than 3 minutes) or other creative media:

1. I hope to constantly enrich myself and set aspirations for my future while I am at school; and
2. Although my family may not be able to provide adequate material support, I believe I am able to realise my dreams if I continue to strive with a positive attitude.

Nominated students will not be subject to asset assessment. Nevertheless, schools are strongly encouraged to nominate students who are encountering adversities and whose families are unable to provide adequate material support, such as those receiving financial assistance under schemes of the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency.

Schools are encouraged to nominate students who have not been awarded the Upward Mobility Scholarship previously so that more students may benefit. Nevertheless, if schools would like to nominate past awardees to receive the scholarship this year, they could do so by submitting in writing their reasons for the nomination.

Implementation of Upward Mobility Scholarship

Step 1 (School principals): Deadline for application 6 February 2015

Invitations will be sent, by post and by e-mail through the CoP Secretariat, the Education Bureau and The Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS), to school principals of all local secondary schools (including government-aided and government secondary schools, aided special schools, Direct Subsidy Scheme schools and private secondary schools) and Vocational Training Council institutions, inviting them to participate in the programme. School principals are required to provide details of a contact person and bank account name in the application form (**Form 1**), for issue of cheques of the scholarship monies to schools in due course, and return **Form 1** in pdf format to HKCSS by e-mail. Scholarship monies will be released by schools to their awarded student(s). HKCSS will also send e-mails to all social workers in schools to invite them to participate.

Step 2 (School teachers and social workers):

School teachers and social workers are invited to nominate suitable students and complete **Form 2** in Word format. School teachers/social workers will be required to notify the students they nominate and invite them to fill in **Form 3** in Word format. Nominated students must return the completed **Form 3** to their sponsoring school teachers/social workers, after which the school teachers/social workers will submit the forms to the school principal for consideration.

Step 3 (School principals): Deadline for nomination 20 March 2015

Upon receipt of the completed forms from school teachers/social workers and students, school principals will consider all applications and recommend a maximum of **four** students to be awarded the scholarships, by filling in their names according to their priority in **Form 4** and submitting **Forms 2, 3** (in Word format) and **Form 4** (in pdf format) to HKCSS by e-mail for processing.

The final number of scholarships to be awarded to each school will be conditional upon individual student's fulfilment of the nomination criteria of the scholarship, and the final number of scholarships that may be raised for the year.

Step 4 (HKCSS): HKCSS will collect all application forms from schools and verify the information provided. HKCSS will then consolidate and submit a list of nominated students to a scholarship committee formed by major donors (the Scholarship Committee) for final approval. HKCSS will allocate the scholarships donated by different sponsors to awarded students by random. Students will be notified of the results and the names of their respective sponsors by their schools.

Disbursement arrangements of Upward Mobility Scholarship

Sponsors will deposit their donations to the bank account of WiseGiving Charitable Trust (the Trust). The Trust was set up by HKCSS WiseGiving Limited, a subsidiary of HKCSS, with the Bank of East Asia (Trustees) Limited as the trustee. Upon completion of the nomination and selection process followed by the approval of the Scholarship Committee, the trustee will send a cheque for the scholarship monies (HK\$5,000 each, with a maximum of four scholarships amounting to HK\$20,000) to each school which will be responsible for disbursement to awarded student(s). Names of awarded students and their schools will be included in the website and publications of the "Future Stars" programme.

Sharing by awarded students

Awarded students can use the scholarship to fulfill their goals and plans, which may include fulfilling a learning plan, bringing about an improvement in their learning environment, or seeking a learning or life

experience. Each student is required to share their learning experience and after thought by submitting to HKCSS by e-mail a short essay (of not more than 300 words), video (of not more than 3 minutes) or other creative media on or before 18 September 2015. HKCSS will send the students' submissions to their respective sponsors for their information. A scholarship commendation ceremony will be organised by the CoP Secretariat in around the 4th quarter of 2015 in which awarded students and their sponsors will be invited to attend.

Enrichment learning opportunities

Sponsors will be notified of the names of their respective beneficiary schools and students. If sponsors/sponsoring organisations would like to offer additional learning or work experience opportunities to awarded students, arrangements could be made through HKCSS and schools with the agreement of the students. Students who would like to express their gratitude to their sponsors could also do so through their schools and HKCSS.

Privacy of awarded students

Awarded students, their parents and their schools must consent to the publication of the names of the students and their schools on the website and in publications of the "Future Stars" programme. Their other details will remain confidential. Sponsors who wish to contact the awarded students must do so through HKCSS and schools after obtaining agreement of the students and their parents. In accordance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, HKCSS shall not use or share the personal data of students for purposes other than this programme.

Schedule

	By the following dates
The CoP Secretariat, the Education Bureau and HKCSS issue letters and e-mails to all local secondary schools	9 January 2015
School principals submit the completed application form (Form 1) in pdf format with the provision of details of contact person and bank account name	6 February 2015
School teachers/social workers submit contents of nominations (Form 2 and Form 3 in Word format) to school principals, who will then propose a maximum of four students to be awarded the scholarship by completing Form 4 and submitting Forms 2 and 3 (in Word format) and Form 4 (in pdf format) by e-mail to HKCSS	20 March 2015
HKCSS verifies collected information and consolidates a list of awarded students for approval by the Scholarship Committee	Mid-May 2015
Trustee of WiseGiving Charitable Trust sends cheques for scholarship monies to schools	Early June 2015
Disbursement of scholarships to students through schools	Mid-June 2015
Awarded students submit to HKCSS by e-mail their learning experience and reflection in the form of a short essay, video or other creative media	18 September 2015
Awarded students and sponsors to be invited to a scholarship commendation ceremony organised by the CoP Secretariat	4th quarter of 2015

Enquiry

Should you have any questions/enquiries, please contact Ms Coey Tse of The Hong Kong Council of Social Service (Telephone: 2876 2471 / E-mail: scholarship@hkcss.org.hk)

Form 1 (To be completed by the school principal)

To: The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Please complete and return this form in pdf format by e-mail to scholarship@hkcss.org.hk on or before **6 February 2015**.

Our school would like to participate in the Upward Mobility Scholarship launched by the Commission on Poverty of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. According to the guidelines, a maximum of **four** students of Secondary 3 to 6 can be nominated. Each awarded student will receive a scholarship of HK\$5,000 with an aim to encourage them to counter adversity with a positive value and attitude towards life. I will circulate the application form to school teachers and social workers and invite them to nominate suitable students.

Please contact:

Name of school: (English) _____

(Chinese) _____

Contact person: (English) _____

(Chinese) _____

Position: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

School address: _____

Bank account name: _____

(For the purpose of issuing cheques for the scholarship monies to schools for disbursement to awarded student(s) in due course)

Signature of school principal: _____

Name of school principal: _____

Date: _____

Form 2 (To be completed by the school teacher or social worker) Confidential

To: The Principal

I have read the information about the Upward Mobility Scholarship launched by the Commission on Poverty of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and hereby nominate (Name of student) _____ of _____ class for the scholarship for your consideration. I have known the student for _____ years and is/was his/her _____. Should I nominate more than one student, I am of the view that he/she should be ranked number _____ (1 as top priority).

Nomination guidelines	Comments/Examples
1. Student has demonstrated a positive attitude and persistence in the face of adversity (E.g. Being attentive in class, always punctual in handing in assignments, never late or absent from class)	
2. Student has demonstrated a positive value and attitude towards life (E.g. Actively participating in school or community activities and willing to help others despite encountering difficulties)	
3. Student has aspiration and determination to climb the social ladder (E.g. Having a well thought-out plan to realise one's aspiration)	
4. Student has potential and has shown prominent progress in academic performance and/or personal growth	
5. (If applicable) Student has a strong interest in learning in practical subjects and an intention to apply his/her knowledge in his/her future career	

Name of nominating school teacher/social worker*: _____

Name of school: _____

Date: _____

* Delete as appropriate

Please submit one form for each of the students nominated. Please make duplicates of this blank form if required.

Form 3 (To be completed by the nominated student) Confidential

This form may be completed in Chinese or English (students with special educational needs may complete the form with the assistance of a school teacher/social worker). **This form should be completed by each nominated student. Please make duplicates of this blank form if required.**

To: The School Teacher/ Social Worker

I _____ (of _____ class) would like to thank my school teacher/social worker for nominating me for the Upward Mobility Scholarship and putting forward my application for consideration by the Scholarship Committee. Please find below my sharing and reflection on the following two topics (Please express in the form of a short essay of not more than 300 words, or in the form of a video of not more than 3 minutes, or other creative media).

- 1. I hope to constantly enrich myself and set aspirations for my future while I am at school. (Briefly describe your aspirations and dream job); and
- 2. Although my family may not be able to provide adequate material support, I believe I am able to realise my dreams if I continue to strive with a positive attitude. (Briefly describe how you plan to reach your goal step by step).

(NOTE: The Scholarship Committee is not looking for students with the greatest and most outstanding dreams. Instead, it encourages students to set goals, search for their own career path and work towards them according to their aspirations and strengths.)

I hereby consent to the publication of my name and the name of my school on the "Future Stars" website and in publications in relation to the programme if I am awarded the scholarship. I understand that save for the above, my other details will remain confidential.

Name of student: (English) _____ (Chinese) _____

Name of school: _____

Date: _____

Form 4 (To be completed by the school principal) Confidential

To: The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Please return this form (**Form 4**) in pdf format, together with the nomination for proposed awarded student(s) made by school teachers/social workers (**Form 2**) and the form completed by the student(s) (**Form 3**) in Word format, by e-mail to scholarship@hkcss.org.hk on or before **20 March 2015**.

Our school would like to participate in the Upward Mobility Scholarship launched by the Commission on Poverty of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. After careful consideration of the nominations made by our school teachers/social workers, I hereby recommend the following student(s) to accept the Upward Mobility Scholarship with an aim to encourage him/her/them to counter adversity with a positive value and attitude towards life.

Priority ranking	Name of student (Please provide BOTH English and Chinese names)	Class
1	(English) (Chinese)	
2	(English) (Chinese)	
3	(English) (Chinese)	
4	(English) (Chinese)	

(Please complete if applicable) (Name of student) _____ has previously been awarded the Upward Mobility Scholarship. Nevertheless, we would like to nominate him/her for the scholarship again in 2015 for the following reason(s):

We hereby consent to the publication of the names of the student(s) and of our school on the "Future Stars" website and in publications in relation to the programme if he/she/they is/are awarded the scholarship.

Signature of school principal: _____

Name of school principal: _____

Name of school: (English) _____

(Chinese) _____

Date: _____