

Government revises eligibility criteria for government-subsidised post-secondary student subsidies Q&As

Calculation of fulfillment of residency requirement	
Q1.	How is the two-year period calculated for the purpose of residency requirement? What is the typical start date and end date of the two-year period?
A1.	Under the revision of the eligibility criteria for government-subsidised post-secondary student places and subsidies announced by the Government on 31 July 2025, holders of dependant visa/entry permit who were below 18 years old when first issued with such visa/entry permit by the Immigration Department of Hong Kong (ImmD) should have resided in Hong Kong for two years <u>immediately preceding</u> the first day of their respective programmes, before they become eligible for government-subsidised post-secondary student places and subsidies. The Government has put in place a transitional arrangement for the above-mentioned revision, whereby the residency requirement for the 2027/28 academic year (its application cycle commencing in October 2026) will be set at one year. The two-year residency requirement will be implemented starting from the 2028/29 academic year. Regarding the residency requirement for JUPAS applications for government-subsidised first-year-first-degree student places, applicants are required to provide the following proof- (a) proof from the applicant that he or she is enrolled as a full-time student in a school offering a formal curriculum in Hong Kong for the two-year period ending on May 31 in the year in which his or her respective programme begins; or (b) for those who cannot provide the proof in (a) above, a statement of travel records of the applicant which can be obtained at a fee from the ImmD covering the two-year period to demonstrate that the applicant is not absent from Hong Kong for a maximum of 90 days in each year of the two-year period. For item (a) above, two-year period should cover two academic years in the conventional sense prior to the 31 May in the year in which the applicant's programme begins. A list of secondary schools that are considered to be offering a formal curriculum in Hong Kong can be found on EDB's website as follows- ● Government secondary schools and Government-aided secondary schools: https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/student-parents/sch-info/sch-search/schlist-by-district/index.html ● Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools: https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/edu-system/primary-

	secondary/applicable-to-primary-secondary/direct-subsidy-scheme/index/school_list%20_e_tc.pdf or https://dsssc.org.hk/en/full-list-of-hong-kong-dss-schools/ ● International schools / private independent schools / DSS schools offering non-local curriculum: https://internationalschools.edb.gov.hk/en/about/our-schools.html For item (b) above, the information shown on the Statement of Travel Records issued by ImmD should cover the period from the 1 June two years prior to the 31 May in the year in which the applicant's programme begins. Regarding other government-subsidised post-secondary student places, including those in relation to sub-degree, senior year undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes of UGC-funded universities, the relevant institutions are required to process the applications in an approach similar to the above-mentioned one.
Q2.	How is the maximum 90 days of absence from Hong Kong in each year of the two-year period calculated? Is same-day travel outside Hong Kong calculated any differently from multiple-day travel outside Hong Kong?
A2.	For the purpose of assessing the fulfillment of residency requirement under the revised eligibility criteria, the number of days of absence from Hong Kong is calculated as follows – ● Same-day travel that involves departing from Hong Kong and returning on the same day is counted as one day of absence. In other words, if an applicant leaves Hong Kong on 1 February and returns on the same day (regardless of the exact time of return), the number of days of absence is one. ● For travelling outside of Hong Kong that lasts more than one day, the number of days of absence is calculated from the day of departure from Hong Kong, and the day of return to Hong Kong is not counted. For example, if an applicant leaves Hong Kong on 1 February and returns on 10 February, the number of days of absence is nine days. If an applicant leaves Hong Kong at 11:30pm on 10 February and returns at 00:30am on 11 February, the number of days of absence is one (even though he/she leaves Hong Kong before midnight and returns to Hong Kong right after midnight and the duration of such leave is less than 24 hours).
Q3.	Should the deferment of studies and overseas learning and teaching activities (including but not limited to exchange, immersion, internship, and field experiences) be counted towards the residency requirement?

	In a similar fashion, would undertaking of studies delivered by post-secondary institutions outside of Hong Kong be counted towards the residency requirement?
A3.	To demonstrate his/her fulfillment of residency requirement under the revised eligibility criteria, an applicant may provide proof that he/she is enrolled as a full-time student in a school offering a formal curriculum in Hong Kong for the two-year period ending on 31 May in the year in which his/her respective programme begins. Applicants who are able to provide such proof from a school are not subject to the counting of absent days from Hong Kong during the two-year period, irrespective of the purpose of such absence. Such proof may also be provided by a post-secondary institution offering sub-degree, undergraduate and/or postgraduate programmes <u>in Hong Kong</u>; inclusive of any period attended by the applicant before he/she has fulfilled the residency requirement, and irrespective of the type of visa / entry permit held by the applicant during such period so long as his/her stay in Hong Kong is lawful. EDB appreciates that there exist various ways by which a post-secondary programme may be delivered by institutions. In considering admission applications, institutions should clarify with applicants and/or the institution(s) concerned if there is doubt as to the place of study or the student status of an applicant. Alternatively, an applicant who fails to provide the above-mentioned proof from a school or a post-secondary institution may demonstrate his/her fulfillment of the residency requirement by way of a Statement of Travel Records issued by ImmD to show that he/she is not absent from Hong Kong for a maximum of 90 days in each year of the period concerned.
Q4.	In a hypothetical case, a holder of dependant visa (first issued when he/she was below 18 years old) has fulfilled the two-year residency requirement by having enrolled as a full-time student at a school offering formal curriculum in Hong Kong. Before university enrolment, he/she takes one gap year during which he/she may travel, work or engage in other activities, all the while maintaining his/her primary residence in Hong Kong. In this case, is the two-year residency requirement considered fulfilled regardless of the gap year, provided that the residency was completed before age 18? Or does the gap year between secondary education and university entry in any way affect this applicant's eligibility for government-subsidised post-secondary student places and subsidies?

A4.	Under the revised eligibility criteria, holders of dependant visa/entry permit who were below 18 years old when first issued with such visa/entry permit by ImmD should have resided in Hong Kong for two years <u>immediately preceding</u> the first day of their respective programmes, before they become eligible for government-subsidised post-secondary student places and subsidies. Regarding first-year student places, to facilitate institutions' admission procedures, the two-year period will be specified appropriately by the JUPAS Office or the institutions concerned having regard to the first day of the respective programmes. To satisfy the revised eligibility criteria, the residency in Hong Kong should take place immediately preceding the first day the applicant commences the relevant programme. The revised eligibility criteria do not stipulate a particular age before or after which an applicant should fulfill the residency requirement. For a holder of dependant visa/entry permit (which was first issued when he/she was below 18 years old) taking a gap year after completion of secondary education and before commencement of post-secondary education, he/she will be eligible for government-subsidised post-secondary student places and subsidies on condition that he/she is able to provide proof that he/she is not absent from Hong Kong for a maximum of 90 days during the gap year.
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