

Future Stars - Upward Mobility Scholarship and Mentoring Programme 2021

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

- Launched by the Commission on Poverty
- Administered with the assistance of The Hong Kong Council of Social Service and The Salvation Army
- Supported by the business, education and social service sectors

Future Stars – Upward Mobility Scholarship

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 measures through, among others, encouraging cross-sector collaboration among the community, the business and professional sectors and the Government. The “Future Stars – Upward Mobility Scholarship”, launched by the CoP in 2014 and supported by the business, professional, education and social service sectors, aims at helping youths from less privileged backgrounds to develop their full potential by way of scholarships of HK\$5,000, such that they will not be constrained by their present socio-economic status. Further details may be found at the CoP website at www.povertyrelief.gov.hk.

Scholarships are raised by the CoP from all walks of the community. Candidates for the scholarship should be nominated by their school teachers or social workers, and 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 and private secondary schools) or in Vocational Training Council institutions, who demonstrate resilience in adversity and maintain a positive attitude towards life and learning.

Student awardees may use the scholarship of HK\$5,000 to realise their goals and plans, which may include bringing about an improvement in their learning environment and seeking further learning opportunities. They will be required to share their learning experience and reflection with their sponsor in the form of essay, video or other creative media. Student awardees may also enrol into the “Future Stars Mentoring Programme” (details as set out below), under which they will be matched with an experienced mentor from the community, from whom students may seek guidance on their future path and widen their exposure. Donors are also welcome to provide students they have sponsored with further internship or learning opportunities, if agreed by both parties.

Nomination guidelines for Upward Mobility Scholarship

Students nominated for the Upward Mobility Scholarship should have 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 on 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. My aspiration and goal towards my education and career development; and
2. If awarded, how I will use the scholarship to achieve my goals step-by-step.

Nominated students will not be subject to asset test. 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 strongly encouraged to disseminate information on the scholarship scheme to their Secondary 3 to 6 students to allow them the opportunity to put themselves forward for consideration.

In order to benefit more needy and eligible students, nomination of past awardees of the Upward Mobility Scholarship WILL NOT be considered by the Upward Mobility Scholarship Committee (the Scholarship Committee).

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Implementation of Upward Mobility Scholarship

Step 1 (School principals): Deadline for application 25 February 2021 (12:00 noon)

Invitations will be sent, by post and by e-mail, by the CoP Secretariat and The Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS), to 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, to invite them to participate in the programme. School principals are required to submit a completed and signed **Form 1: School Participation Form** containing, amongst others, the name and email address of a school contact person by email to HKCSS at scholarship@hkcss.org.hk by 12:00 noon on 25 February 2021. Upon receipt of the School Participation Form, a first time login password for the HKCSS Online Scholarship Application System (OSAS) (<https://ums.hkcsswg.org.hk>) will be sent by email to the contact person of the school on or before 4 March 2021. Such contact person may be a teacher, social worker or clerical staff, who will be responsible for handling the scholarship nominations, including submitting information via OSAS and acting as the key contact person for the programme.

Step 2 (School contact person): Deadline for application 25 March 2021 (12:00 noon)

Upon receiving the first time login password, the contact person of the school may submit nominations via OSAS (<https://ums.hkcsswg.org.hk>). A maximum of three students of Secondary 3 to 6 may be nominated for the scholarship and information on the student and commentary by the teacher/social worker should be submitted. Nominated students who would like to join the “Future Stars Mentoring Programme” **MUST** complete Parts (1) to (3) on Form 3: Student Form, as well as complete and sign the Future Stars Mentoring Programme - Personal Information Form for Students. Other nominated students need only complete Parts (1) and (3) on Form 3: Student Form. Please be reminded that completed applications for the scholarship scheme and the mentoring programme (if applicable) should be submitted to OSAS by 12:00 noon on 25 March 2021. Late applications **WILL NOT** be considered.

Step 3 (School principals/vice principals): Deadline for confirmation 1 April 2021

Upon successful submission of scholarship applications via OSAS, a confirmation form will be sent by email to the contact person of the school. The confirmation form should be signed by the school principal/vice principal, and a scanned version of such signed form in PDF or JPG format must be uploaded to OSAS (<https://ums.hkcsswg.org.hk>). **Nomination of past awardees of the Upward Mobility Scholarship WILL NOT be considered.**

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 applications from schools and verify the information provided. HKCSS will then consolidate and submit a list of nominated students to the Scholarship Committee formed by major donors 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 through their schools.

Disbursement arrangement 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 transfer the scholarship monies (HK\$5,000 each, with a maximum of three scholarships amounting to HK\$15,000) to each school, which will disburse the scholarship(s) to their awarded student(s). Names of awarded students and their schools will be included in the website and publications of the “Future Stars” programme.

Future Stars - Upward Mobility Scholarship and Mentoring Programme 2021

Sharing by student awardees

Student awardees may use their scholarship to fulfil 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 reflection by submitting to HKCSS a short essay (of not more than 300 words), video (of not more than 3 minutes) or other creative media via OSAS (<https://ums.hkcsswg.org.hk>) on or before **23 September 2021**. Students' submissions will be forwarded to their respective sponsors for their information.

Enrichment learning opportunities

Sponsors will be notified of the names of their respective beneficiary schools and students. If sponsors would like to offer additional learning or internship opportunities to student awardees, arrangements could be made through HKCSS and schools with the agreement of the students. Similarly, students who would like to express their gratitude to their sponsors could also do so through their schools and HKCSS.

Future Stars Mentoring Programme

We believe that when youths face challenges or are deprived of resources, in addition to providing them with material support, guidance and sharing with an experienced mentor would be invaluable to youths in enlightening them and helping them maintain a positive outlook. Against this background, the CoP launched a new “Future Stars Mentoring Programme” in 2019. Under the mentoring programme, motivated awardees of Upward Mobility Scholarship will be matched with experienced mentors from various sectors of the community, who will provide advice and guidance to our student awardees, enhance their exposure and help them develop a vision for their future. The mentoring programme each year runs from the latter half of June to January of the following year. Further details can be found in the mentoring programme brief.

Programme Brief: https://www.hkcss.org.hk/upload/wg/UMS/Programme_Brief.pdf

Points to Note: https://www.hkcss.org.hk/upload/wg/UMS/Points_to_Note.pdf

In order to provide youths with better mentoring experience and more opportunities in widening their exposure, students under the mentoring programme will meet one-on-one with their mentors, and there may also be outdoor activities involved. The mentoring programme would therefore be more suited to independent students capable of taking care of themselves.

Nominated students are requested to indicate whether they would like to participate in the Mentoring Programme in Part (2) of Form 3: Student Form. Those who are interested MUST complete, sign and submit the “Future Stars Mentoring Programme - Personal Information Form For Students” to provide more information for matching.

Participants of the Future Stars Mentoring Programme must be an awardee of Future Stars—Upward Mobility Scholarship. On the other hand, result of a student’s scholarship application **WILL NOT** be conditional upon his/ her application to participate in the Future Stars Mentoring Programme.

Applicants of the Future Stars Mentoring Programme **MUST** attend a group interview in May 2021. Selected applicants must undertake to attend all relevant activities and complete the entire mentoring programme, including mentees’ training session, launching ceremony cum mentor-mentee activities and mentee’s sharing sessions.

The CoP will endeavor to arrange individual mentors for interested student awardees under the mentoring programme. Nevertheless, as there is a large number of student awardees each year, and successful mentor-student matching may be subject to various factors, there is no guarantee that every student applicant can be successfully matched with a mentor under the mentoring programme.

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Privacy of student awardees

Student awardees, their parents and their schools must consent to the publication of the names of the students and their schools in the website and publications of the “Future Stars” programme. Sponsors who wish to contact their sponsored students must do so through HKCSS and their schools after obtaining agreement of the students and their parents. In accordance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, the organiser and supporting organisations of the programme shall not use or share the personal data of students for purposes other than in relation to this programme. For further details, please refer to the “Personal Information Collection Statement for the Future Stars Programme”.

https://www.hkcss.org.hk/upload/wg/UMS/Personal_Information_Collection_Statement.pdf

Schedule

	By the following dates
The CoP Secretariat and HKCSS issue letters and e-mails on the programme to all local secondary schools	Early February 2021
<u>School Participation Form Deadline</u> School principals are requested to provide the name and email of a contact person of the school, sign the <u>School Participation Form</u> and submit it by email to HKCSS at scholarship@hkcss.org.hk	25 February 2021 (12:00 noon)
Upon receipt of the School Participation Form, a <u>first time login password</u> will be sent by email by HKCSS to the contact person of the school	4 March 2021
Submission of nomination via OSAS completed by schools	25 March 2021 (12:00 noon)
Confirmation form signed by school principal/ vice principal and uploaded to OSAS	1 April 2021
HKCSS verifies collected information and consolidates a list of student awardees for approval by the Scholarship Committee	April to May 2021
The CoP Secretariat and HKCSS inform schools of the results of “Upward Mobility Scholarship”.	Early June 2021
The CoP Secretariat informs students (copied to their schools) of the results of “Future Stars Mentoring Programme”	Mid-June 2021
Trustee of WiseGiving Charitable Trust transfers scholarship monies to schools	End of June 2021
Disbursement of scholarships to students through schools	Mid-July 2021
Student awardees upload their learning experience and reflection in the form of a short essay, video or other creative media via OSAS	23 September 2021
Appreciation ceremony organised by the CoP Secretariat for student awardees and their sponsors	4th quarter of 2021

- For enquiries on Upward Mobility Scholarship, please contact The Hong Kong Council of Social Service (E-mail: scholarship@hkcss.org.hk).
- For enquiries on the Future Stars Mentoring Programme, please contact the Secretariat of the Commission on Poverty (E-mail: futurestars@cso.gov.hk).