



Education & Training

Teaching is a great responsibility and teachers are an invaluable resource within the education system. They are primarily responsible for preparing students for adult life by encouraging them to solve problems, express themselves in both Chinese and English, and develop a set of useful skills. This is the challenge of being an educator.

Whether it is at the primary or secondary school level, the demand for teachers is growing. There are three basic categories of primary and secondary schools: government, aided and private.

There are an estimated 200 private schools in Hong Kong and they are allowed to set their own standards and conditions subject to the Education Ordinance. Attendance is free from Primary 1 to Secondary 3 in government schools. Staffs at these schools are technically civil servants.

The aided schools form the largest group, comprising more than 1000 primary and secondary establishments. These schools receive government funds but are run by non-profit making organisations, attendance is also free from Primary 1 to Secondary 3.

POSITIONS

A degree from a Hong Kong university or a postgraduate certificate in education enables a graduate to go straight from campus to the classroom as Graduate Master/Mistress (GM) in aided schools or Assistant Education Officer (AEO) in government schools.

Graduates may also consider teaching in one of the many special schools, practical schools and skills opportunity schools for students who are mentally or physically challenged or have other learning difficulties. Some primary and secondary schools also provide special education classes for students with less serious learning difficulties.

Other career paths within the education field include career advisers, youth and community officers, education welfare officers and educational psychologists.





EDUCATION & REQUIREMENTS

A relevant degree, a desire to teach others and a willingness to spend a major part of each day with young people are all necessary. Teachers of special education classes have to adapt teaching techniques and methods of instruction to suit individual abilities and needs.

Besides teaching academic, practical and cultural subjects, they have to develop their students' social and personal skills so that the students can find employment and adjust to society.

Teachers in special schools or who teach special education classes may have to attend training courses on special education in addition to the usual professional teacher training.

SALARY & BENEFITS

The salary for teachers can vary depending on the school and the teacher's qualifications and experience. A graduate entering the teaching profession will receive a basic salary of approximately \$9,000-\$12,000 per month.

FURTHER TRAINING

The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd) was formed through the merger of four colleges of education, including the Institute of Language in Education. HKIEd is the only University Grants Committee-funded institution dedicated solely to professional teacher education in Hong Kong.

As the largest teacher education provider in Hong Kong, HKIEd offers professional training for non-graduate teachers as well as programmes to serving primary, secondary and kindergarten teachers with modern teaching methods and approaches.

The University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong also offer postgraduate certificates in education for graduates who wish to become teachers or teachers who wish to improve their skills in areas such as curriculum innovation, resource development, educational psychology, student guidance and counselling, professional development of teachers and educational administration.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the teaching profession may be obtained from the HKIEd at:

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