

Non-local Courses in Hong Kong

Points to note when enrolling in a non-local course



Education Bureau

General information

According to the Non-local Higher and Professional Education (Regulation) Ordinance, Cap 493 ("the Ordinance"), non-local higher and professional education courses ("non-local courses") are courses conducted in Hong Kong which lead to the award of non-local higher academic qualifications (i.e. sub-degree, degree, postgraduate or other post-secondary qualifications) by non-local institutions, or non-local professional qualifications (i.e. qualifications in respect of professions in disciplines specified in Schedule 2 to the Ordinance and include professional titles and memberships of professional bodies) by non-local professional bodies.

To protect local consumers by guarding against the launching of non-local courses in Hong Kong which do not fulfil the registration criteria, and to enhance Hong Kong's reputation as a community which values reliable and internationally recognized academic and professional standards, non-local courses are regulated by the Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation. The major areas of regulation concern the standard of the non-local courses, advertisements, payment and refund arrangements of the fee charged, and premises in Hong Kong in which the courses are to be conducted. All non-local courses are required to be registered or exempted from registration under the Ordinance.

Most of the non-local courses registered under the Ordinance are courses leading to the award of non-local higher academic qualifications. These registered courses have fulfilled the following major registration criteria -

- The institution to award the non-local qualification is a non-local institution recognized in the home country; and
- Effective measures are in place to ensure that the standard of the course is maintained at a level comparable with a course conducted in the home country leading to the same qualification and is recognized as such by that institution, the academic community in that country and the relevant accreditation authority in that country (if any).

Subject to the compliance with relevant requirements under the Ordinance, non-local courses conducted in collaboration with the local institutions of higher education specified in Schedule 1 to the Ordinance are exempted from registration.

Meanwhile, "purely distance learning courses" which are conducted solely through the delivery of mail, transmission of information by means of telecommunication or sale of materials in commercial outlets, etc. but without the institutions, professional bodies or their agents being physically present in Hong Kong to deliver any lectures, tutorials or examinations, etc. are not required to be registered under the Ordinance.

The registration or exemption from registration of a non-local course under the Ordinance, however, does not on its own confer any particular standing to the course or comparability to a locally-accredited local programme. The recognition of any non-local qualification for employment or further studies is a matter within the discretion of individual employers or academic institutions.

For more information about non-local courses, please visit the website of Non-local Higher and Professional Education Courses at www.edb.gov.hk/ncr, or contact the Non-local Courses Registry through the enquiry hotline at (852)2520 0255 or (852)2520 0559 or email address at enquiry_ncr@edb.gov.hk.

Points to note when enrolling in a non-local course

- Choose courses which are registered or exempted from registration. Do not pay any fee or charge before you make sure that the course is registered or exempted from registration.
- Check if the advertisement of a registered course bears the registration number and that of an exempted course has stated clearly that it is an exempted course.
- Check if the letter of acceptance bears the name of the operator, the non-local institution and the course.
- Check the payment and refund arrangements before signing any documents or making payments, and obtain receipts from the operator after making any payment.
- Understand that registration/ exemption from registration of a course does not on its own confer any particular standing to the course or comparability to a locally-accredited local programme, and that it is a matter of discretion for individual employers to recognize any qualification to which the course may lead.
- Understand that some of the registered/exempted courses are locally accredited by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework and listed on the Qualifications Register.
- If the course you are interested in is to be delivered in distance learning mode which does not require to be registered under the Ordinance, you are strongly advised to check with the course provider/operator on the course details, in particular the qualification to be obtained, the payment and refund arrangements of the fee charged before making payment.

Non-local Courses Registry
Education Bureau

在香港開辦的非本地課程

報讀非本地課程時須留意的事項



供學生
參閱的資料



教育局

一般資料

根據《非本地高等及專業教育（規管）條例》（第 493 章）（《條例》），非本地高等及專業教育課程（非本地課程）是指在香港開辦並令學員可獲由非本地機構頒授非本地高等學術資格（即副學位、學士學位、研究生或其他專上教育資格）或由非本地專業團體頒授非本地專業資格（即在《條例》附表 2 指明的學科的专业方面的資格，並包括任何專業稱銜及專業團體的成員身分）的課程。

非本地課程均受《條例》及其附屬法例規管，以保障本地消費者的利益，防止未符合註冊準則的非本地課程在香港開辦，及提高香港的聲譽，表明香港重視可靠及國際認可的學術及專業水平。規管的主要範疇為課程的水平、廣告內容、費用的支付及退還的安排和於香港開辦課程的處所。所有非本地課程必須根據《條例》註冊或獲豁免註冊。

大部份根據《條例》註冊的非本地課程都是可令學員獲頒授非本地高等學術資格的課程。該些經註冊課程已符合以下主要註冊準則：

- 頒授非本地資格的機構是在所屬國家獲認可的非本地機構；及
- 有有效的措施確保該課程的水平維持於可與在該機構所屬國家內進行並令學員獲取同一資格的課程比擬的水平；而與上述的課程的水平可相比擬此一事實亦獲該機構、該國家的學術群體及該國家的有關評審當局（如有的話）認同。

在符合《條例》有關規定的情況下，與在《條例》附表 1 指明的本地高等教育機構合辦的非本地課程可獲豁免註冊。

與此同時，僅透過郵遞、電訊傳遞或在商店發售資料等方式授課，而主辦機構、專業團體或其代理人實際上沒有在香港為修讀人士講課、導修或考試等「純遙距學習課程」無須根據《條例》註冊。

非本地課程根據《條例》經註冊或獲豁免註冊，並不表示該課程因而得到特別的地位，或等同已通過本地課程評審的本地課程。該等非本地資格在就業或升學時是否獲得承認，全由個別僱主或院校酌情決定。

要獲取更多關於非本地課程的資料，請瀏覽非本地高等及專業教育課程網頁 (www.edb.gov.hk/ncr)，或聯絡非本地課程註冊處（電話：(852) 2520 0255 或 (852) 2520 0559；電郵：enquiry_ncr@edb.gov.hk）。

報讀非本地課程時須留意的事項

- 選讀根據《條例》經註冊或獲豁免註冊的課程。未確定課程是否經註冊或獲豁免註冊前，切勿繳付任何費用或收費。
- 留意經註冊課程的廣告須述明課程的註冊編號。至於獲豁免註冊課程的廣告，則須聲明該課程是獲豁免課程。
- 留意取錄信中須註明課程主辦者、非本地機構及課程的名稱。
- 在繳交款項前，查明支付及退還的安排，及在繳款後向課程主辦者索取收據。
- 非本地課程經註冊或獲豁免註冊，並不表示該課程因而得到特別的地位，或等同已通過本地課程評審的本地課程。獲頒授的非本地資格在就業時是否獲得承認，全由個別僱主酌情決定。
- 部分經註冊或獲豁免註冊課程已通過香港學術及職業資歷評審局在香港資歷架構下之本地評審，並已載列於資歷名冊。
- 在報讀根據《條例》下無須註冊的純遙距學習課程前，必須先向課程提供者 / 主辦者查詢詳情，特別是所頒授的資格、費用的支付及退還的安排，在清楚詳情後方繳付款項。

教育局 非本地課程註冊處