



## PRESS RELEASE

### International Recognition of the HKDSE Remains Unchanged as More Overseas Institutions Update Admission Requirements

In response to the optimising measures on the core subjects of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) (the optimising measures), the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) has been in close contact with universities and higher education institutions around the world on updating their latest admission requirements. No university has refused to accept the HKDSE qualification for admission purposes from 2024 onwards.

Enjoying widespread local and overseas recognition, the HKDSE is currently recognised by over 600 overseas higher education institutions. Among them, more than 300 institutions have published their admission requirements for HKDSE holders on the [HKEAA website](#) for students' reference. The number has increased steadily since the inaugural HKDSE in 2012.

As part of the optimising measures, the results for the new core subject of Citizenship and Social Development will be reported using a single level, 'Attained', which differs from other Category A subjects in which candidates' results are reported in five levels. Therefore, overseas institutions that previously considered HKDSE core subject results as general admission requirements need to make updates accordingly.

Since early 2022, the HKEAA has worked closely with overseas universities and higher education institutions to facilitate this updating process. As of today (29 January 2024), about 270 institutions have updated their general admission requirements. They include world-renowned institutions such as Yale University and New York University in the USA, the University of Cambridge and University College London in the UK, the Australian National University and the University of Sydney in Australia, and the University of Toronto and Simon Fraser University in Canada. For instance, the [University of Cambridge](#) recently released its updated general admission requirements for HKDSE holders on its website, which states that applicants with HKDSE results should have achieved the 'Attained' level for Citizenship and Social Development. The about 30 remaining institutions will also update their general admission requirements in due course.

Moreover, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) in the United Kingdom updated its online application system last year to facilitate 2024 HKDSE candidates and beyond, enabling them to submit results in the Citizenship and Social Development and other subjects for application to universities and higher education institutions in the UK.

The HKEAA will continue inviting more institutions from around the world to provide their general admission requirements for HKDSE candidates and make necessary updates to accommodate the latest developments in the HKDSE curriculum. The HKEAA is dedicated to making continuous and diligent efforts to uphold the international recognition of the HKDSE.

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