

Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 174/2019

From: Secretary for Education

To: Supervisors/Heads of all
Secondary Schools

Ref: EDB/CDI/ApL/07-02-17

Date: 24 September 2019

Senior Secondary Applied Learning Courses (2020-22 Cohort)

(Note: This circular memorandum should be read by heads and teachers of all secondary schools – for necessary action.)

Summary

The purpose of this circular memorandum is to announce the implementation details for the senior secondary Applied Learning (ApL) courses (2020-22 cohort).

Details

Background

2. ApL is an integral part of the senior secondary curriculum, offering studies with equal emphasis on practice and theory linked to broad professional and vocational fields. For holistic learning, a flexible combination of ApL with core subjects, elective subjects and Other Learning Experiences helps provide theoretical and applied learning opportunities to cater for students' diverse learning needs. ApL can enhance students' understanding of Vocational and Professional Education and Training.

3. There are six areas of studies in ApL, namely, (1) Creative Studies; (2) Media and Communication; (3) Business, Management and Law; (4) Services; (5) Applied Science; and (6) Engineering and Production. Same as other school subjects, ApL courses focus on the development of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes. ApL aims to enable students to understand fundamental theories and concepts through application and practice and to develop their generic skills and beginners' skill set for further studies and work. ApL helps students explore their career aspirations and orientation for lifelong learning.

Study Arrangement

4. The above ApL courses (i.e. courses for the 2020-22 cohort) will commence in the 2020/21 school year. **All Secondary 4 students in the 2019/20 school year who study the senior secondary curriculum recommended by the Curriculum Development Council (CDC) may apply for studying ApL courses in Secondary 5 and 6, and opt to take a maximum of two ApL courses (excluding Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (ApL(C))) as elective subjects.** Schools piloting early commencement of ApL course(s) may commence the course(s) at Secondary 4 in the 2019/20 school year. Please refer to paragraph 20 for details.

5. For the 2020-22 cohort, 41 ApL courses, including three ApL(C) courses, provided by 11 course providers are approved by the Education Bureau (EDB). The ApL courses of the cohort are Category B subjects of the 2022 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination.

6. The duration of ApL course is 180 contact hours, generally spanning Secondary 5 to 6, whereas the duration of ApL(C) course is 270 contact hours, spanning Secondary 4 to 6. Information of the ApL courses and respective course providers is given at **Annex 1**. Schools may refer to the EDB website

(www.edb.gov.hk/apl/en) for course synopses (including the learning outcomes, content and organisation, articulation) of individual ApL courses. Please refer to the guidelines for nominating students for ApL courses at **Annex 2**.

Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students)

7. ApL(C) is introduced, starting from the 2014/15 school year, to provide an additional channel exclusively for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students fulfilling the specified circumstances to obtain an alternative Chinese language qualification to prepare them for further studies and career pursuits. ApL(C) is designed from the perspective of second language learners and provides a simulated applied learning context for students to learn Chinese through different modes of activities. In the language learning process, students apply reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in an integrative way and learn the target language in different contexts.

8. The Government is committed to encouraging and supporting the early integration of NCS students into the community, including facilitating their early adaptation to the local education system and mastery of the Chinese language. Schools admitting NCS students should consider whether to provide ApL(C) courses in Secondary 4 according to their learning progress, needs and intentions. Please refer to the guidelines for nominating students for ApL(C) courses and relevant information at **Annex 3** and on the ApL(C) website (www.edb.gov.hk/en/aplc).

Modes of Implementation

9. Schools may adopt different modes of implementation to offer ApL courses taking into account the learning needs of their students. The following are two non-exclusive modes of implementation for the reference of schools:

Mode 1: Courses take place mainly at the venues of course providers on Saturdays and are taught by the tutors who are recognised by the course providers. Schools should make arrangements for students to attend the courses according to the timetables set by the course providers.

Mode 2: Courses take place mainly in schools, with lessons collaboratively arranged by teachers of schools and tutors recognised by course providers. Schools should work out the detailed arrangements with course providers, such as sharing of teaching duties, providing assistance in classroom teaching, provision of venues and facilities. For the contact information of course providers, please refer to the EDB website (www.edb.gov.hk/apl/en/course-providers).

Collaboration of Schools

10. Besides the above modes of implementation, schools may also consider collaborating with other schools to offer ApL courses for their students with the support of course providers. For example, schools in the same district can collaboratively work out the implementation details of offering one or more ApL courses, such as conducting lessons in common venues at the same time slots to provide more options for students interested in taking these courses. The EDB will collect the intention of schools in due course and communicate with schools interested in collaboration on the feasibility of offering ApL courses.

Quality Assurance

11. To ensure that ApL courses are developed according to the design principles, the curriculum is delivered as planned, and the learning outcomes of students can meet the standards which are set, the EDB has been working in collaboration with the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) to put in place a quality assurance mechanism of ApL courses, which is overseen by the CDC Committee on ApL.

Assessment and Attendance Requirement

12. ApL courses are Category B subjects of the HKDSE Examination, and there is no public examination for ApL subjects. Assessments of student performance in ApL courses, including both formative and summative assessments¹, are undertaken by course providers and administered mainly by the respective course tutors. To keep schools informed of students' learning progress and facilitate the provision of necessary support to students, students' interim results and attendance reports will be made available to schools by the EDB on a regular basis.

13. To ensure the consistency of assessment standards, the HKEAA is responsible for the moderation of the assessment results submitted by course providers. The moderated results will be recorded on the HKDSE. In this connection, **schools should arrange their students who are taking ApL courses in the 2020-22 cohort to register with the HKEAA for entry to ApL subjects when applying for participation in the 2022 HKDSE Examination.** For details on registration for the HKDSE Examination, please refer to the announcements to be made by the HKEAA in due course.

14. Students taking ApL courses are required to attend lessons and participate in learning activities organised by course providers. The **minimum attendance requirement** of ApL courses is **80%** of the total contact hours. Schools should make arrangement and avoid compulsory school activities for students during the time of ApL lessons to support their learning. Schools should also remind students to attend ApL lessons punctually, in particular, those conducted outside schools.

Recognition

15. Effective from the 2018 HKDSE Examination², the reporting of student performance in ApL courses is refined to “**Attained**”, “**Attained with Distinction (I)**” and “**Attained with Distinction (II)**”. Performance of “Attained with Distinction (I)” is comparable to Level 3 while “Attained with Distinction (II)” is comparable to Level 4 or above of Category A subjects of the HKDSE Examination. For ApL(C), “Attained” and “Attained with Distinction” will continue to be used, and refinement of these levels would be considered when more data is collected. Candidates with performance below the standard of “Attained”, or attendance rates below 80%, will be designated as “Unattained”, which will not be reported on the certificate.

16. Most ApL courses are registered in the Qualifications Register as certificate programmes at Qualifications Framework (QF) Level 3 (please refer to **Annex 1**). Students will obtain a QF Level 3 certificate issued by course providers in addition to the HKDSE qualification upon successful completion of these ApL courses. ApL(C) is pegged at the QF Levels 1-3. In addition to the HKDSE qualification, students will obtain QF certificate(s) issued by course providers upon meeting the assessment and

¹ Assessment information regarding each ApL subject is available at the website of the HKEAA below.
(www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/HKDSE/assessment/subject_information/category_b_subjects/)

² For the 2012-2017 HKDSE Examinations, ApL results were reported in two levels, i.e. “Attained” and “Attained with Distinction”. Performance of “Attained” and “Attained with Distinction” in ApL courses are comparable to Level 2 and Level 3 or above of Category A subjects respectively of HKDSE Examination.

attendance requirements of different levels of ApL(C). Details are available on the Qualifications Register website (www.hkqr.gov.hk).

17. By design, ApL(C) is a language course using the vocational field as the context. It differs from the general ApL courses which focus on the beginners' skill set of relevant professional and vocational fields. Against this background, University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded universities and most post-secondary institutions accept ApL(C) as an alternative qualification in Chinese Language for the admission of NCS students with "Attained" as the minimum grade required. In view of this, ApL(C) cannot be treated as an elective subject (please refer to the EDB Circular Memorandum No. 40/2017 for details).

18. For details on recognition, please refer to the websites of individual institutions and the EDB website (www.edb.gov.hk/apl/en/quality-assurance-and-recognition).

19. The Civil Service Bureau (CSB) accepts candidates' ApL results in HKDSE (up to a maximum of two ApL subjects) for civil service appointment purposes. The CSB also accepts "Attained" and "Attained with Distinction" in ApL(C) as meeting the Chinese language proficiency requirements of relevant civil service ranks. Details are available on the website of CSB (www.csb.gov.hk).

Piloting Early Course Commencement

20. The piloting on early commencement of Mode 2 ApL classes has been implemented from the 2013/14 school year, aiming to explore different flexible arrangements of ApL implementation to cater for students' diverse learning needs. Schools are encouraged to try out different implementation arrangements such as ApL courses commencing in either the first or second term of Secondary 4 and completing at Secondary 5 or the beginning of Secondary 6. For schools interested in piloting early commencement of ApL courses in the 2019/20 school year, please contact the Applied Learning Section, EDB at 3698 3186. The EDB will work in collaboration with course providers to offer supports to the schools.

Funding Arrangement

21. All aided, government and Direct Subsidy Scheme secondary schools, caput schools and special schools operating senior secondary classes offering EDB-approved ApL courses (excluding ApL(C)) are eligible for the Diversity Learning Grant (DLG) while schools offering ApL(C) courses are eligible for the Student Grant for ApL(C). Details of the funding and accounting arrangements are provided at **Annex 4. All schools eligible for the above grants are NOT allowed to charge students any course fees.**

22. To streamline related school administration, schools are no longer required to draw up a three-year plan to broaden subject choices for a particular cohort of students starting from the 2019/20 school year.

Support for Students

23. Schools should provide opportunities for students to understand thoroughly the course content and study arrangement of ApL before making their choices on senior secondary subjects. For example, schools may arrange different activities for students to enhance their understanding of ApL and help them make informed decisions. Schools may also arrange related activities such as talks and briefing sessions for parents to understand more about ApL courses. Besides, schools should arrange students and parents to participate in the ApL course exhibition events co-organised by the EDB and course providers, and apply for the taster programmes for their students, so as to enhance their understanding of ApL.

24. Details of the course exhibition events and taster programmes for ApL courses of the 2020-22 cohort are as follows:

Course Exhibition Events

	Date and Time	Venue
Course Consultation cum Exhibition	13 to 15 February 2020* 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. * Open to 7 p.m. on 14 February (Friday)	InnoCentre (<i>Tentative</i>) 72 Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon Remark: Introduction and taster activities of ApL courses will be conducted on-site by course providers
Course Information Display	18 to 28 February 2020 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Young Achievers' Gallery Podium, West Block, EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon Remark: Board display of information on ApL courses

Taster Programmes

	Date	Remarks
ApL(C)	2 November 2019 (Saturday)	Course introduction, demonstration and workshops of ApL courses will be conducted by course providers to enable students to experience the learning of ApL courses. Details of the programmes and application forms will be sent to schools via the "Communication and Delivery System" in due course.
ApL	7 and 14 March 2020 (Saturdays)	

Support for Teachers

25. To support schools in implementing ApL courses, the EDB will organise the "Briefing Session on Senior Secondary Applied Learning Courses" (**Course ID: CGCDI020191318**) on **8 October 2019 (Tuesday)** to inform schools of the latest development and implementation of ApL (including ApL(C)) courses, as well as content of individual courses, etc. Professional development programmes for teachers will be organised by the EDB in collaboration with course providers and the HKEAA. Details will be announced through the Training Calendar System.

Application Procedures

26. Students intending to study ApL courses for the 2020-22 cohort should submit their applications through their schools, and participate in the interview processes to be arranged by course providers later. Application periods are as follows:

Course	Application Period
ApL(C)	15 October to 20 November 2019
ApL	25 February to 9 April 2020

27. Schools should submit applications for their students via the "ApL Module" in the WebSAMS **on or before the application deadlines** and may download the "User Manual for the ApL Module in WebSAMS" (cdr.websams.edb.gov.hk/ (path: home page > system documents > user manual >

Applied Learning)) and related forms from the EDB website (www.edb.gov.hk/apl/en/forms-download). If schools are non-WebSAMS users, they may contact the Applied Learning Section, EDB at 3698 3186 to make application arrangement. **For technical support on the WebSAMS, please contact our Systems and Information Management Section at 3125 8510.** The application procedures with key events and dates are given at **Annexes 5 and 6.**

Enquiry

28. For enquiry, please contact the Applied Learning Section, EDB at 3698 3186.

Gloria CHAN
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections – *for information*

高中應用學習課程（2020-22 年度）一覽表

List of Senior Secondary Applied Learning Courses (2020-22 Cohort)

學習範疇 Area of Studies	課程組別 Course Cluster	科目代碼 Subject Code	課程 課程 註一及註二 Course NOTE 1 & NOTE 2	課程提供機構 註三 Course Provider NOTE 3	教學語言 Medium of Instruction	課程費用 註四 Course Fee NOTE 4 (\$)
創意學習 Creative Studies	1. 設計學 Design Studies	701	展示及首飾設計 [△] Display and Jewellery Design [△]	HKBU (SCE)	中文 Chinese	18,000
		676	時裝形象設計 [△] Fashion Image Design [△]	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	15,300
		668	室內設計 [△] Interior Design [△]	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	14,350
	2. 媒體藝術 Media Arts	669	電腦遊戲及動畫設計 [△] Computer Game and Animation Design [△]	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	14,350
		707	數碼漫畫設計與製作 Digital Comic Design and Production	HKU (SPACE)	中文或英文 Chinese or English	15,500
	3. 表演藝術 Performing Arts	599	舞出新機－舞蹈藝術 [△] Taking a Chance on Dance [△]	HKAPA	中文 Chinese	19,500
677		由戲開始·劇藝縱橫 [△] The Essentials of Theatre Arts [△]	HKAPA	中文 Chinese	18,000	
媒體及傳意 Media and Communication	4. 電影、電視與廣播學 Films, TV and Broadcasting Studies	702	電影及超媒體 [△] Film and Transmedia [△]	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	14,110
	5. 媒體製作與公共關係 Media Production and Public Relations	697	創意廣告 [△] Creative Advertising [△]	CityU (SCOPE)	中文或英文 Chinese or English	15,500
		678	雜誌編輯與製作 [△] Magazine Editing and Production [△]	CUSCS	中文 Chinese	13,000
		708	公關及多媒體傳訊 PR and Multimedia Communication	HKCT	中文或英文 Chinese or English	13,800
商業、管理及法律 Business, Management and Law	6. 會計及金融 Accounting and Finance	703	電子商務會計 [△] Accounting for e-Business [△]	CityU (SCOPE)	中文或英文 Chinese or English	16,500
	7. 商業學 Business Studies	693	商業數據應用 Data Application for Business	HKIT	中文或英文 Chinese or English	10,400
		680	中小企創業實務 [△] Entrepreneurship for SME [△]	CUSCS	中文 Chinese	12,650
		681	市場營銷及網上推廣 [△] Marketing and Online Promotion [△]	CityU (SCOPE)	中文 Chinese	15,500
	8. 法律學 Legal Studies	672	香港執法實務 [△] Law Enforcement in Hong Kong [△]	HKBU (SCE)	中文或英文 Chinese or English	15,800
服務 Services	9. 食品服務及管理 Food Services and Management	688	甜品及咖啡店營運 ^{#△} Pâtisserie and Café Operations ^{#△}	HKCT	中文或英文 Chinese or English	17,640
		616	西式食品製作 ^{#△} Western Cuisine ^{#△}	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	15,100
	10. 款待服務 Hospitality Services	709	機場客運大樓運作 Airport Passenger Terminal Operations	HKCT	中文 Chinese	20,200
		611	酒店服務營運 ^{#△} Hospitality Services in Practice ^{#△}	CityU (SCOPE)	中文或英文 Chinese or English	17,800
		615	酒店營運 ^{#△} Hotel Operations ^{#△}	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	14,750
	11. 個人及社區服務 Personal and Community Services	704	幼兒發展 ^{#△} Child Care and Development ^{#△}	CICE	中文或英文 Chinese or English	15,900
		665	幼兒教育 ^{#△} Child Care and Education ^{#△}	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	14,110
		610	美容學基礎 [△] Fundamental Cosmetology [△]	CICE	中文 Chinese	13,540

學習範疇 Area of Studies	課程組別 Course Cluster	科目代碼 Subject Code	課程 Course 註一及註二 NOTE 1 & NOTE 2	課程提供機構 註三 Course Provider NOTE 3	教學語言 Medium of Instruction	課程費用 註四 Course Fee NOTE 4 (\$)
應用科學 Applied Science	12. 醫療科學及健康護理 Medical Science and Health Care	689	動物護理 [△] Animal Care [△]	CityU (SCOPE)	英文 English	24,800
		592	中醫藥學基礎 [△] Foundation in Chinese Medicine [△]	HKU (SPACE)	中文 Chinese	15,800
		618	健康護理實務 [△] Health Care Practice [△]	CICE	中文或英文 Chinese or English	14,800
		660	醫務化驗科學 [△] Medical Laboratory Science [△]	HKU (SPACE)	中文或英文 Chinese or English	17,000
	13. 心理學 Psychology	662	應用心理學 ^{#△} Applied Psychology ^{#△}	LIFE	中文或英文 Chinese or English	16,400
		691	實用心理學 ^{#△} Practical Psychology ^{#△}	HKBU (SCE)	中文或英文 Chinese or English	14,800
	14. 運動 Sports	674	運動及體適能教練 [#] Exercise and Fitness Coaching [#]	HKCT	中文或英文 Chinese or English	14,200
627		運動科學及體適能 ^{#△} Exercise Science and Health Fitness ^{#△}	HKBU (SCE)	中文 Chinese	18,000	
工程及生產 Engineering and Production	15. 土木、電機及機械工程 Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering	705	建構智慧城市 [△] Constructing Smart Cities [△]	HKU (SPACE)	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,000
		683	電機及能源工程 [△] Electrical and Energy Engineering [△]	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	14,500
	16. 資訊工程 Information Engineering	684	電腦鑑證科技 [△] Computer Forensic Technology [△]	HKU (SPACE)	中文或英文 Chinese or English	14,300
	17. 服務工程 Services Engineering	640	航空學 [△] Aviation Studies [△]	HKU (SPACE)	中文或英文 Chinese or English	15,500
		698	鐵路學 [△] Railway Studies [△]	HKCT	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,000
應用學習中文 (非華語學生適用) Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students)	695	商業服務中文 ^{#△} Chinese in Business Service ^{#△}	PolyU (SPEED)	中文 Chinese	43,500	
	700	實用情境中文 ^{#△} Chinese in Practical Context ^{#△}	HKBU (SCE)	中文 Chinese	42,000	
	699	實務中文 ^{#△} Practical Chinese ^{#△}	HKCT	中文 Chinese	37,800	

註一 NOTE 1

學生在同一個課程組別內只可修讀一科有「#」的課程。For courses marked with "#", only **ONE** course in the course cluster can be taken by a student.

註二 NOTE 2

有「△」的課程已載錄於資歷名冊，屬於資歷架構第三級的證書課程。學生成功完成有「△」的應用學習課程，除了會得到香港中學文憑資歷之外，亦會獲課程提供機構頒發資歷架構第三級證書。詳情可瀏覽資歷名冊網頁 (www.hkqr.gov.hk)。The courses marked with "△" are registered in the Qualifications Register as certificate programmes at Qualifications Framework (QF) Level 3. Students will also obtain a QF Level 3 certificate issued by Course Providers in addition to HKDSE qualification upon successful completion of these Applied Learning courses. Details are available at the Qualifications Register website (www.hkqr.gov.hk).

註三 NOTE 3

課程提供機構 Course Provider	
CICE	明愛社區書院 Caritas Institute of Community Education
CityU(SCOPE)	香港城市大學專業進修學院 School of Continuing and Professional Education, City University of Hong Kong
CUSCS	香港中文大學專業進修學院 School of Continuing and Professional Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
HKAPA	香港演藝學院 The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
HKBU(SCE)	香港浸會大學持續教育學院 School of Continuing Education, Hong Kong Baptist University
HKCT	香港專業進修學校 Hong Kong College of Technology
HKIT	香港科技專上書院 Hong Kong Institute of Technology
HKU(SPACE)	香港大學專業進修學院 School of Professional and Continuing Education, The University of Hong Kong
LIFE	嶺南大學持續進修學院 Lingnan Institute of Further Education
PolyU(SPEED)	香港理工大學專業進修學院 The School of Professional Education and Executive Development, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
VTC	職業訓練局 Vocational Training Council

註四 NOTE 4

所有在資助中學、官立中學、直接資助中學、按位津貼學校及設有高中班級的特殊學校修讀由課程發展議會所建議之高中課程的學生，將獲教育局全數資助課程費用。All students in aided, government and Direct Subsidy Scheme secondary schools, caput schools and special schools operating senior secondary classes following the senior secondary curriculum recommended by the Curriculum Development Council will be fully subsidised by the Education Bureau to take Applied Learning courses.

備註 Remark: 課程一覽表不包括應用學習試點課程「資訊科技精要」。「資訊科技精要」將於 2019/20 學年在已參與該課程學校的中四級試行，目的是探討應用學習的課程發展方向和推行模式，包括引入更多業界的參與。參與計畫的機構包括課程提供機構香港浸會大學持續教育學院及試行的學校。The course list does not include the pilot Applied Learning course "Tech Basics". "Tech Basics" will be tried out at Secondary 4 of the participating schools in the 2019/20 school year. It aims to explore the direction of curriculum development and implementation modes of ApL, including more engagement of industries. The participating organisations in the scheme include School of Continuing Education, Hong Kong Baptist University, the course provider, and the pilot schools.

Guidelines on Nominating Students for Senior Secondary Applied Learning Courses

(excluding Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students))

Schools may refer to the following guidelines in nominating students for Applied Learning (ApL) courses:

- Schools should provide guidance to students in choosing ApL courses according to their interests and aspirations, and provide students with broad and balanced learning experience in senior secondary education.
- Each student can apply for a **maximum of TWO** ApL courses (excluding Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students)). Students applying for more than one ApL course should list their choices in order of preference when submitting their applications. Students applying for ApL courses have to go through a selection process after which they may opt to accept offers from **one or two** ApL courses based on their preferences.
- For holistic learning, a flexible combination of ApL with core subjects, elective subjects and Other Learning Experiences helps provide theoretical and applied learning opportunities to cater for students' diverse learning needs. Schools should **NOT** prioritise their nominations simply based on students' academic results.
- For **students with special educational needs**, schools may opt to submit supplementary information, along with their applications for ApL courses, for reference of the course provider(s) concerned. The form can be downloaded from the website of the Education Bureau (EDB) (www.edb.gov.hk/apl/en/forms-download). The completed form should be sent to the EDB via FAX at **2714 2456** for transmission to the course provider(s) concerned as reference. The course provider(s) may contact schools to make special arrangements for selection interviews if deemed necessary. The EDB encourages schools to continue communicating with the course providers about the special educational needs of students, so as to support student learning in the ApL courses.

Guidelines on Nominating Students for Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students)

Schools may refer to the following guidelines in nominating students for Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (ApL(C)):

- ApL(C) is introduced to provide an additional channel exclusively for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students fulfilling the specified circumstances³ to obtain an alternative Chinese language qualification to prepare them for further studies and career pursuits.
- Schools should assist NCS students in considering applying for ApL(C) according to their language ability, interests and aspirations, and provide guidance and support for NCS students in choosing the appropriate Chinese language curriculum. Each NCS student can take **at most ONE** ApL(C) course. Generally, NCS students only take and register for either Chinese Language (Category A) or ApL(C) (Category B) in the HKDSE Examination.
- NCS students who aspire to study ApL(C) should have basic language competency to enable them to learn Chinese language through different modes of activities in a simulated applied learning context. At the point of entry, they are expected to have achieved most of the learning outcome of the “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework” (“Learning Framework”) at level 4 or above. Upon completion of courses, NCS students are expected to have achieved the relevant learning outcome of the “Learning Framework” at level 6 or above. Details of the “Learning Framework” are available at the website of the EDB (www.edb.gov.hk/tc/curriculum-development/kla/chi-edu/second-lang.html).
- For **students with special educational needs**, schools may opt to submit supplementary information, along with their applications for ApL(C) courses, for reference of the course provider(s) concerned. Please refer to the last bullet point of **Annex 2**.
- For details of ApL(C) courses, please refer to the ApL(C) website (www.edb.gov.hk/en/aplc).

³ Students who have learned Chinese Language for less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education; or students who have learned Chinese Language for six years or more in schools, but have been taught an adapted and simpler Chinese Language curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in local schools.

Funding and Accounting Arrangements for Senior Secondary Applied Learning Courses (2020-22 Cohort)

A. Diversity Learning Grant

1. The Diversity Learning Grant (DLG) supports all aided, government and Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) secondary schools, caput schools and special schools operating senior secondary classes, in offering a diversified curriculum to cater for students’ needs under the New Academic Structure. It is a cash grant for aided secondary schools, DSS secondary schools, caput schools and special schools. For government secondary schools, it is in the form of budget allocation. DLG is provided to support schools to offer Applied Learning (ApL) for their students.

2. The DLG will be provided for eligible schools on a yearly basis to support the implementation of ApL courses provided by course providers and approved by the Education Bureau (EDB). To streamline school administration, schools are no longer required to draw up a three-year plan to broaden subject choices for a particular cohort of students.

Funding Arrangement

3. Students in eligible schools studying the senior secondary curriculum recommended by the Curriculum Development Council are eligible for the DLG for ApL⁴. Each eligible student is entitled to funding for **a maximum of TWO** ApL courses. For students taking FOUR elective subjects with an ApL course as one of them, the ApL course will be regarded as the fourth elective subject and will **NOT** be subsidised by the DLG. **Schools eligible for the DLG are NOT allowed to charge students any course fees.**

4. With full subsidy provided, **schools will be allocated with an amount of DLG equal to the total course fee of ApL courses enrolled by eligible students.** If necessary and under special circumstances, schools can deploy the resources tabulated below for the payment of ApL course fees.

School Type	Resources to be Deployed by Schools
Aided Secondary Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Enhancement Grant (CEG) • Surplus in the General Domain of Operating Expenses Block Grant (OEBG) / Expanded OEBG • Substitute Teacher Grant / Teacher Relief Grant (TRG) • Senior Secondary Curriculum Support Grant (SSCSG) • Schools’ own funds
Government Secondary Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded Subject and Curriculum Block Grant • TRG • SSCSG
Caput Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEG • SSCSG • Fee Subsidy • Schools’ own funds

⁴ Students with changes in status at schools (e.g. students departed from schools) no longer meeting the requirements as stated in paragraph 3 above are not eligible for the DLG for ApL. However, if such students have successfully completed their first year study of ApL courses, they may continue their second year study of ApL courses at their own expense with the consent of the respective course providers and the EDB.

DSS Secondary Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEG • DSS Subsidy • Schools' own funds
-----------------------	--

5. Upon deployment of resources, if schools still have genuine financial difficulties in offering ApL courses to their students, schools may approach the Applied Learning Section of the EDB **on or before 30 June 2020** to set out their difficulties. The EDB will provide support as far as possible taking into account the specific situation of individual schools.

6. The DLG for ApL courses (2020-22 cohort) can only be used to subsidise students to take ApL courses of the 2020-22 cohort and cannot be mixed with the DLG for other cohorts of ApL courses. The funding must be used for the payment of ApL course fees to be charged by course providers. It must not be used for Other Languages and Other Programmes (which are supported by other categories of the DLG), and other purposes such as capital purchases, overheads or maintenance, etc.

7. Schools may apply to course providers for partial course fee reduction should they also provide venues, facilities, equipment or teachers contributing to the teaching of ApL courses, etc.

Accounting Arrangements

8. The DLG for ApL courses (2020-22 cohort) will be allocated to schools in **TWO** equal instalments. The first and second instalments of the DLG will be provisionally disbursed to schools in August 2020 and August 2021 respectively. For government secondary schools, the DLG will be provided to schools in the form of budget allocations. Adjustments to the DLG, if any, will be made by the EDB based on the actual number of students in ApL courses (2020-22 cohort) (as at **30 September 2020** and **30 September 2021** respectively) and the information submitted by schools.

9. Schools should make use of the DLG to pay course fees to course providers in **TWO** equal instalments. The first and second instalments of course fees would be calculated based on the number of students as at **30 September 2020** and **30 September 2021** respectively.

10. For aided secondary schools, DSS secondary schools, caput schools and special schools, a separate ledger account named "**DLG for ApL courses (2020-22 cohort)**" should be kept in the school ledger account under the **Government Fund** to properly record all income and expenditure chargeable to ApL courses. The surplus in the ledger account can be carried forward to the next school year until **31 August 2022**. Any unspent balance of the DLG will be clawed back. Any deficit in the ledger account should be made up by schools' deployment of other resources (as set out in Paragraph 4 above) at the end of each school year.

11. For government secondary schools, the expenditure should be charged to the user code assigned for ApL courses (2020-22 cohort). Unspent balance of the allocations as at the end of each financial year (i.e. **31 March 2021** and **31 March 2022**) cannot be carried forward to the subsequent financial year and will lapse. Any deficit should be covered by schools' deployment of other resources (as set out in Paragraph 4 above) at the end of each financial year.

B. Student Grant for Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (ApL(C))

12. Full subsidies will be provided to schools to support non-Chinese speaking students in taking ApL(C) courses. The Student Grant for ApL(C) will be provisionally allocated to schools in **THREE** equal instalments. The first installment will be provisionally disbursed to schools in January 2020, the second and third instalments of the Student Grant for ApL(C) will be provisionally disbursed to schools in August 2020 and August 2021 respectively. For government secondary schools, the Student Grant for ApL(C) will be provided to schools in the form of budget allocations. Adjustments

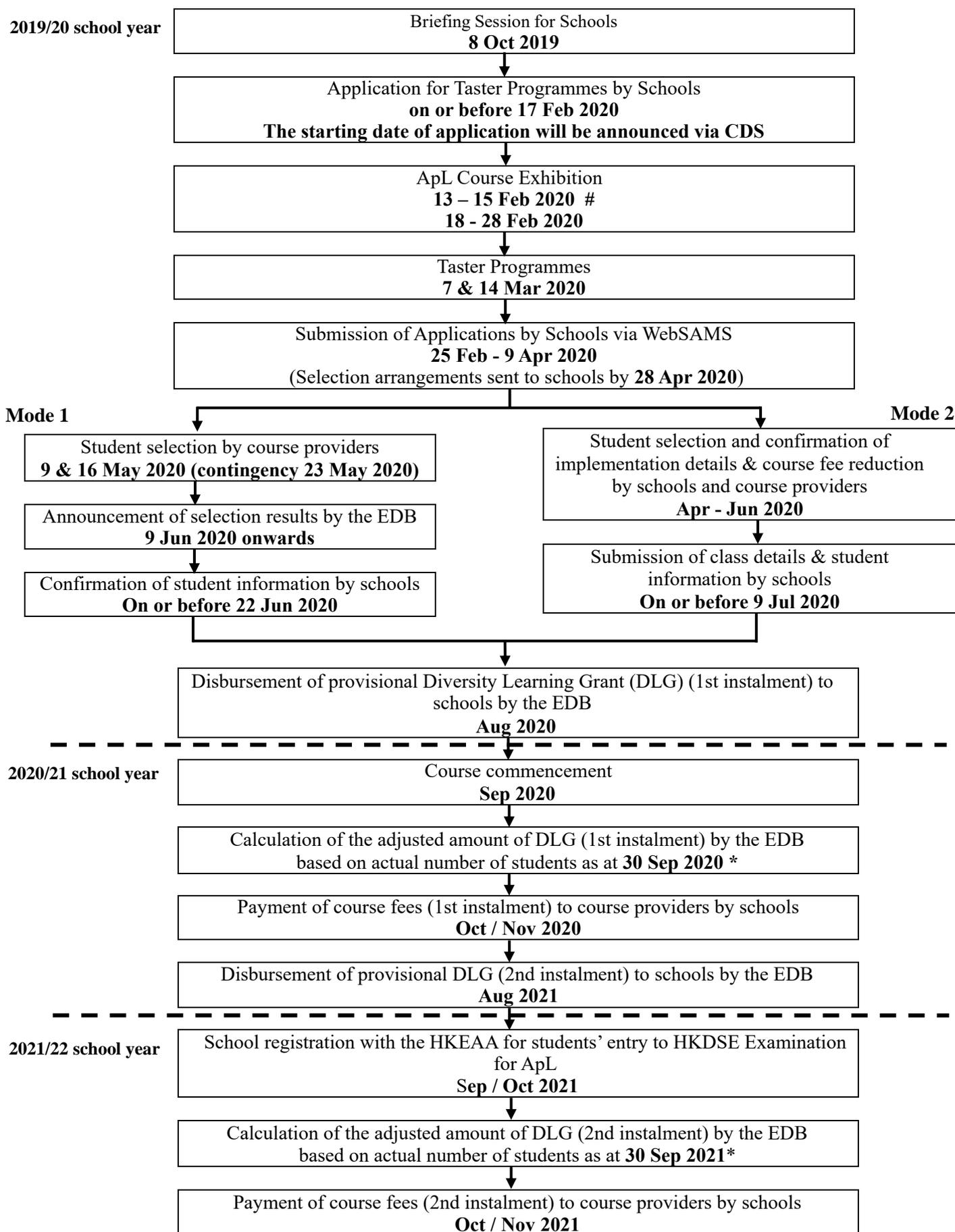
to the Student Grant for ApL(C), if any, will be made according to actual number of students (as at **29 February 2020, 30 September 2020** and **30 September 2021**) and the information submitted by schools.

13. Schools should make use of the Student Grant for ApL(C) to pay course fees to course providers in **THREE** equal instalments. The first, second and third instalments of course fees would be calculated based on the number of students as at **29 February 2020, 30 September 2020** and **30 September 2021** respectively.

14. For aided secondary schools, DSS secondary schools, caput schools and special schools, a separate ledger account named “**Student Grant for ApL(C) (2020-22 cohort)**” should be kept in the school ledger account under the **Government Fund** to properly record all income and expenditure. The surplus in the ledger account can be carried forward to the next school year until **31 August 2022**. Any unspent balance of Student Grant for ApL(C) will be clawed back.

15. For government secondary schools, the expenditure should be charged to the user code assigned for Student Grant for ApL(C) (2020-22 cohort). Unspent balance of the allocations as at the end of each financial year (i.e. **31 March 2020, 31 March 2021** and **31 March 2022**) cannot be carried forward to the subsequent financial year and will lapse.

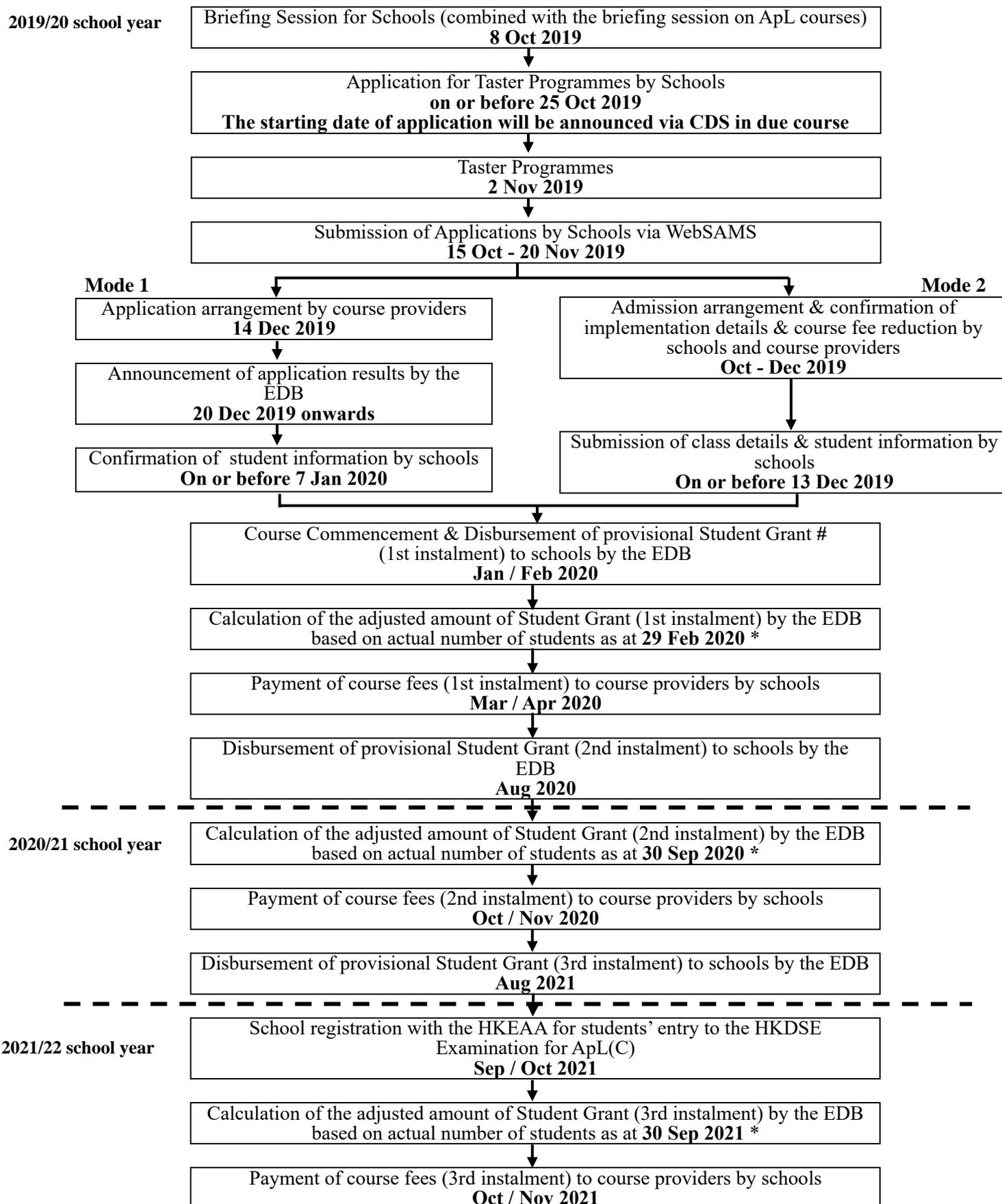
Important Dates



Introduction and taster activities of ApL courses to be conducted by course providers

* Adjustment of the 1st and 2nd instalments of the DLG will be made by the EDB before Jan 2021 and Jan 2022 respectively.

Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (2020-22 Cohort) Important Dates



Student Grant for Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students)

* Adjustment of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd instalments of the Student Grant will be made by the EDB before May 2020, Jan 2021 and Jan 2022 respectively.