

SIR ROBERT BLACK TRUST FUND
Grants for Talented Students in Non-academic Fields 2023-24
Information Notes

The Sir Robert Black Trust Fund Committee (“the Committee”) now invites nominations from all primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong for Grants for Talented Students in Non-academic Fields 2023-24 (“the Grants”).

Scope of the Grants

2. The Grants for Talented Students in Non-academic Fields were first introduced in 2006-07. It is a **non-renewable** grant which aims to encourage students from secondary and primary schools who might not be academically-oriented but are talented in either of the following areas for pursuing further studies in areas they excel :-

- (a) Visual arts and performing arts (including drama, dancing, etc.);
 - (b) Music (including composing, conducting, etc.);
 - (c) Design / innovations or inventions;
 - (d) Sports;
 - (e) Information technology;
 - (f) Media production / film art; and
 - (g) Others (e.g. public speaking, debate, cookery and embroidery, etc).
- * Courses/trainings conducted by private tutors or applications for covering expenses related to participation in competitions or transportation fees for course/training will **not** be considered.

The Grants cover regular course/training fees only and any other expenses such as purchase of equipment, examination fees, administration fees, transaction fees, transportation fees, materials fees and annual fee, etc, are **not** eligible items.

Selection Criteria

3. A successful grantee is expected to be of good character with vision to contribute to Hong Kong. Selection of the grantees will be based on the following criteria –

- (a) Performance, potential and creativity of the students in the relevant non-academic field(s);
- (b) Circumstances of the family of the students; and
- (c) Recommendation of the schools.

Nominations

4. Each school may nominate **up to 3 students** for the Grants with due regard to the selection criteria (Please see paragraph 3(a) and (b)).

Nomination Form

5. Nominations should be submitted online **by schools** via <https://eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/hab008/en/>. Students and schools have to complete the relevant sections respectively in the online Nomination Form and upload the necessary supporting documents (if any). A printed copy of the online Nomination Form which are duly signed by the guardian and school principal with school chop, together with the documents submitted online, should be sent to the office of the Secretariat before the stipulated closing date (Please see paragraph 11).

Completing the Form

6. Students should think thoroughly before deciding the courses/trainings they intend to enroll, the Committee will **not** consider any request for change of courses/trainings once the applications are submitted. Incomplete or faulty applications will affect the chance of selection and amount of grant adversely. Each student should only apply for **ONE** course/training and any application for more than one course/training will not be considered. All documents, including the Nomination Form, will not be returned once submitted and students are advised to make their own copies for future reference before submission.

Selection of Grantees

7. All nominations will be vetted by the Committee for the purpose of selecting grantees. Where necessary, the nominees may be required to attend interviews.

Award of the Grants

8. The amount of each grant will normally not exceed HK\$5,000. In exceptional and deserving cases, the Committee may consider awarding grants of up to HK\$10,000 on case by case basis. Any application for **exceeding HK\$5,000 must be substantiated with a detailed statement from the school principal, in addition to Part B of the online Nomination Form, explaining why the Committee's special consideration is warranted and such statement should be uploaded when submitting the online application.** The Grants will be disbursed by means of reimbursement. Successful grantees are required to submit necessary documents via their schools upon completion of the courses/trainings. The list of the required documents will be provided by the Secretariat to the successful nominees in due course.

9. The Committee will only consider sponsoring courses/trainings which will take place **from February 2024 until January 2025**. For students who are in the graduating class in the academic year of 2023-24, i.e. Primary 6 / Senior Secondary 3 / Grade 12, the sponsoring period will be **from February 2024 to July 2024** or the expected date of completion of courses/trainings (whichever is earlier), if they are selected. Except for courses/trainings of a continuous nature, those due for commencement prior to the formal announcement of the results of the Grants will not be considered.

10. The Committee reserves the right to disqualify the applicant(s) on the grounds that the applicant(s) has/have engaged, is/are engaging, or is/are reasonably believed to have engaged or be engaging in acts or activities that are likely to cause or constitute the occurrence of offences endangering national security or otherwise the exclusion of the eligibility of the applicant(s) is necessary in the interest of national security, or is necessary to protect the public interest of Hong Kong, public morals, public order or public safety.

Deadline for Nominations

11. The online Nomination Form will be closed at **5:00 p.m. on 27 October 2023**. To complete the nomination, printed copy of the online Nomination Forms duly signed and stamped with school chops and **all documents as set out in paragraphs 5 and 8 (if any)** should be submitted **by schools** to the office of the Secretariat (34/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, and **please mark "Nomination for Grants for Talented Students in Non-academic Fields 2023-24" on the envelope**) **within 5 working days from the date of online submission**. Otherwise, the nomination will be considered incomplete and will not be processed. Schools making more than one nomination (no more than 3 nominations for each school) should submit all applications **at the same time**.

Announcement of Results

12. Results of the Grants will be announced tentatively in **January 2024**.

Enquiries

13. Enquiries concerning the Grants should be addressed to:

Secretariat of the Sir Robert Black Trust Fund Committee
34/F, Wu Chung House
213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel. No. : 3718 6830 or 3718 6801

Secretary of the Sir Robert Black Trust Fund Committee
September 2023