

# **Education**

Since its establishment, the Macao SAR Government has actively optimised non-tertiary and tertiary education in Macao, with a view to implementing the administration directions of “developing Macao through education” and “cultivating talents for the development of Macao” in various aspects, including institutions, resource allocation and planning. In addition, in adhering to the principle of diversity in tertiary education, the Government supports the autonomy of tertiary institutions, and coordinates the development of different tertiary institutions, to train talented persons who are internationally competitive.

## **Non-tertiary Education**

Macao is the first region in Greater China that provides 15 years of free education.

Since the promulgation of the Fundamental Law on Non-tertiary Education in 2006, non-tertiary education in Macao has been classified into two types: formal education and continuing education. The former includes kindergartens, primary schooling, secondary schooling, and special education; the latter includes family education, recurrent education, community education, vocational training and other education activities. Vocational and technical education, which may be implemented as part of formal education or recurrent education, are only offered at senior secondary school level. The Macao school system comprises a free education network of public schools and subsidised private schools, together with private schools.

Private schools in Macao can be classified into two types: those following the local education system and those following a non-local education system. Non-profit private schools that follow the local education system may apply for entry into the free education network. The Government encourages schools to develop their own characteristics and style in terms of mission, curriculum and teaching mode according to their backgrounds. The Government also supports

the development of a diversified school system, to nurture more talent for society.

According to Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) statistics, there were 77 schools in Macao during the 2015/2016 academic year, of which 10 were public schools, while the remaining 67 were private. Among the 67 private schools, 64 offered formal education, and three offered only recurrent education. Among the 74 schools (including 10 public schools and 64 private schools) that offered formal education, 64 were under the free education network, while the remaining 10 were under the paid education network.

During the 2015/2016 school year, 74,550 students received non-tertiary education. There were 6,309 teachers in non-tertiary education during the 2015/2016 school year, an increase of 6.9 percent over the 2014/2015 school year.

## **Non-Tertiary Education Welfare**

The free education policy was launched in the 2007/2008 school year, covering three years of kindergarten, six years of primary education, three years of junior secondary education and three years of senior secondary education.

### **Free Education Subsidies and Tuition Fee Subsidies**

The Government offered free education subsidies to private schools within the free education network. Students studying in schools that did not provide free education were provided tuition fee subsidies. The amounts of both types of subsidies were continuously increased.

Education Level	2015/2016 Academic Year Free Education Subsidies (patacas)	2015/2016 Academic Year Tuition Fee Subsidies (patacas)
Kindergarten	880,100 per class	17,800 per student
Primary	971,000 per class	19,800 per student
Junior Secondary	1,180,000 per class	22,000 per student
Senior Secondary	1,342,300 per class	22,000 per student

In addition, the Government continued to offer textbook allowances in the 2015/2016 academic year to students who are Macao residents receiving formal education in Macao. The textbook allowances for secondary school students increased to 3,000 patacas per head. The allowance each primary school pupil received increased to 2,600 patacas, while the allowance for each kindergarten pupil remained at 2,000 patacas.

To create favourable conditions for small-class teaching, the Government has reduced the number of pupils for each class from 35-45 pupils to 25-35 students. This began in the 2007/2008 academic year, initially covering the first year in preschool education, and was subsequently expanded to cover more senior levels in the following academic years. By the 2015/2016 academic year, the ceiling for pupils per class had been expanded to include the first year in senior secondary education.

The Government established the Education Development Fund in 2007, to support and drive programmes and projects with good development prospects in non-tertiary education. In 2015, the subsidies offered by the Education Development Fund totalled 649 million patacas.

## **Life-long Learning**

As the Continuing Education Development Plan achieved expected results from 2011 to 2013, the Government launched the second phase of the plan in 2014. By 31 December 2015, the second phase of the Continuing Education Development Plan had provided over 410 million patacas in subsidies to more than 100,000 residents who had participated in the second phase of the plan. Applications for a total of 62,904 continuing education programmes and certification examinations provided by 327 local organisations had been approved and recognised under the plan, providing over 743,974 places. There were also 19,620 applications for subsidies for participation in local tertiary education and overseas programmes.

## **Tertiary Education**

Macao has 10 tertiary educational institutions. Four of them are public and six are private. The four public ones are the University of Macao, Macao Polytechnic Institute, Institute for Tourism Studies, and Academy of Macao Public Security Forces; while the private ones include the Asia International Open University, Macau Inter-University Institute (IIUM), Kiang Wu Nursing College, Macau University of Science and Technology, Macau Institute of Management, and Macau Millennium College. During the 2015/2016 academic year, there were 2,015 teaching staff and 31,970 registered students.

Macao only started to develop modern tertiary education some 30 years ago. Since there were only a few tertiary education institutions in the early days, the range of programmes and disciplines offered by these institutions were relatively limited. However, as the number of institutions increased, and society demanded different types of expertise, the types of programmes have diversified. During the 2015/2016 academic year, there were 267 programmes in operation including doctorate, master's and bachelor's degree programmes, higher diplomas, postgraduate certificates and diploma programmes. In addition, overseas institutions were granted approval in 2015 to offer 41 tertiary educational programmes.

In 2015, the Government continued to promote the stable development of tertiary education by following up on and improving related regulations, as well as strengthening student support by increasing the quota and amount of scholarships for graduate students.

In 2015, the Government provided a 3,000 patacas allowance for textbooks and stationery to each local tertiary and postgraduate student studying in Macao and overseas. 32,686 satisfied the requirements and were granted the allowance.

***For more information:***

*Statistic and Census Service (<http://www.dsec.gov.mo>)*

*Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (<http://www.dsej.gov.mo>)*

*Tertiary Education Services Office (<http://www.gaes.gov.mo>)*