

## **Education**

Since its establishment, the Macao SAR Government has actively optimised non-tertiary and tertiary education, with a view to implementing the goals 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 raise their academic quality.

### **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 2017/2018 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, 67 were under the free education network, while the remaining nine were under the paid education network.

During the 2017/2018 school year, 78,039 students received non-tertiary education. There were 6,962 teachers in non-tertiary education during the 2017/2018 school year, an increase of 3.7 percent over the previous school year.

## **Free Education**

Since the 2007/2008 academic year, free education has been extended to cover the entire 15-year period of compulsory education: three years of kindergarten, six years of primary, three years of junior secondary and three years of senior secondary schooling.

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 2017/2018 academic year, the ceiling for pupils per class had been expanded to include the second year in senior secondary education.

In the 2017/2018 academic year, the class-teacher ratios in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools were enhanced to 1:2.0, 1:2.2, and 1:2.7, respectively. Also, the teacher-student ratios in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools were enhanced to 1:14.5, 1:13.5 and 1:9.8, respectively.

## 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	2017/2018 Academic Year Free Education Subsidies (patacas)	2017/2018 Academic Year Tuition Fee Subsidies (patacas)
Kindergarten	918,200 per class	18,490 per student
Primary	1,012,900 per class	20,600 per student
Junior Secondary	1,234,600 per class	22,950 per student
Senior Secondary	1,404,400 per class	22,950 per student

In addition, during the 2017/2018 academic year the Government continued offering textbook allowances to students who are Macao residents receiving formal education in Macao. The textbook allowances for each kindergarten pupil, primary school pupil and secondary school student were 2,000 patacas, 2,600 patacas and 3,000 patacas, respectively.

According to the Framework Agreement on Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macao, Macao should gradually offer tuition fee subsidies to Macao pupil and students studying in kindergartens and primary and secondary schools in Guangdong. In light of this, the DSEJ launched a pilot scheme in the 2012/2013 academic year to provide tuition fee subsidies for Macao students who studied in full-time regular high schools or full-time secondary vocational schools (high school level) in Zhuhai and Zhongshan, Guangdong Province. In the 2016/2017 academic year, the eligibility for the subsidies was extended to Macao high school students and preschool pupils studying in Zhuhai, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Guangzhou, Foshan, Shenzhen and Dongguan. The subsidies for each senior secondary school student and kindergarten pupil were raised to 4,000 and 6,000 patacas per academic year, respectively. In 2017, 2,043 students were granted tuition fee subsidies.

In the 2017/2018 academic year, it was estimated that 411 students would receive subsidies under the Scheme for Enrolment of Outstanding Students to Pedagogical Programmes, and the subsidies would total over 33 million patacas. The students are required to work as teachers in public or private schools in Macao after completing the programmes.

In the 2017/2018 academic year, 17, 21 and 43 students were enrolled in the preparatory courses on Portuguese language and culture, bachelor's degree programmes in Portuguese and Spanish languages, and programmes in applied foreign languages, respectively, under the Subvention Scheme for Training Portuguese-speaking Teachers and Language Experts. The students

are obliged to serve in Macao as teachers of Portuguese language, or be engaged in other Portuguese language-related work after completing the programmes.

The Government established the Education Development Fund in 2007, to support and drive programmes and projects with good development prospects in non-tertiary education. The School Development Scheme is a major subvention scheme launched by the Education Development Fund. In 2017, the Education Development Fund disbursed nearly 780 million patacas in subsidies.

## **Life-long Learning**

The Government launched the first and second phases of the Continuing Education Development Plan from 2011 to 2016. To continue encouraging life-long learning, the Government launched the third phase of the Continuing Education Development Plan (2017-2019) during the year. By 31 December 2017, this phase entailed subsidies totalling around 200 million patacas to more than 100,000 eligible residents. There were also some 7,000 applications for subsidies for participating 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 Macau, 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 2017/2018 academic year, there were 2,303 teaching staff and 33,098 registered students.

During the 2017/2018 academic year, there were 274 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 2017 to offer 25 tertiary educational programmes.

In 2017, the Government continued to strengthen student support. During the 2017/2018 academic year, there were 127 new recipients of post-graduate scholarships, of which 20 were doctorate scholarships, five were for integrated master's and Ph.D programmes, 100 were for master's degree scholarships, and two was for integrated bachelor's and master's programmes. The amounts of these scholarships were 80,000 patacas, 70,000 patacas, 58,000 patacas and 51,000 patacas per year, respectively.

Besides, the Social Welfare Bureau added an extra quota to postgraduate scholarships, which was granted to the highest-scoring student studying in a master's degree programme related to social work in the 2017/2018 academic year. The Manpower Development Committee added two extra quotas to scholarships, which were granted to students studying in master's degree programmes at University of Coimbra in the same year.

To implement the initiatives in the Cooperation Agreement on Disbursement of Postgraduate Scholarships, which was entered into by the Government and the Ministry of Education and State Ethnic Affairs Commission, the Government nominates students who come to Macao for postgraduate programmes for scholarships (tuition fees, accommodation fees and living allowances). In the 2017/2018 academic year, 14 students were granted scholarships.

In 2017, the Government provided a 3,000-pataca allowance for textbooks and stationery to each Macao resident studying in tertiary and postgraduate programmes in Macao and overseas. Out of 35,310 applicants, 33,986 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>)*

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