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**EDUCATION**



## 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 to provide 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 development and teaching mode. The Government also supports the development of a diverse 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 2016/2017 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, 65 were under the free education network, while the remaining nine were under the paid education network.

During the 2016/2017 academic year, 76,171 students received non-tertiary education, with 74,375 of them receiving formal education. Of these, 17,757 (23.3 percent) attended kindergartens, 28,438 (37.3 percent) attended primary schools, 27,473 (36.1 percent) attended secondary schools, 980 (1.3 percent) received vocational and technical education, and 707 (0.9 percent) were enrolled in institutions for children with special educational needs. Some 1,796 students were receiving recurrent education, including 83 primary school pupils (0.1 percent) and 1,713 secondary school students (2.3 percent). Of the secondary students receiving recurrent education, 322 (0.4 percent) attended vocational schools.

During the 2016/2017 academic year, there were 6,714 teaching staff for non-tertiary education,

representing an increase of 6.4 percent over the 2015/2016 academic year.

## Education and Youth Affairs Bureau

The DSEJ is a government department responsible for developing, directing, coordinating, administering and evaluating non-tertiary education. It is also responsible for issues concerning young people, and for supporting youth associations and similar organisations.

## Education Development Fund

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 2016, the Education Development Fund provided subsidies amounting to 706 million patacas. Amendments were made to the regulations of the School Development Plan for the 2016/2017 academic year, including a readjustment of subsidy categorisation and addition of programmes that promote students' physical and mental development, as well as the establishment of subsidy caps for programmes under this plan. Other subsidised projects include large-scale campus reconstruction and expansion, and various learning and teaching activities.

## Compulsory Education

Compulsory education is defined as universal education that is compulsory for all minors aged from five to 15. It begins in the first academic year when a child turns five years old, and finishes with the end of the academic year in which he or she reaches 15 years of age, or when he or she completes junior secondary education with a pass. The Government and education institutions are obliged to ensure that school-age children complete such education.

## 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 2016/2017 academic year, the ceiling for pupils per class had been expanded to include the second year in senior secondary education.

In the 2016/2017 academic year, the class-teacher ratios in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools were enhanced to 1:2.0, 1:2.1, and 1:2.7, respectively. Also, the teacher-student ratios in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools were enhanced to 1:14.7, 1:13.5 and 1:10.1, respectively.

## Subsidy and Financial Aid Schemes

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	2016/2017 Academic Year Free Education Subsidies (patacas)	2016/2017 Academic Year Tuition Fee Subsidies (patacas)
Kindergarten	913,600 per class	18,400 per student
Primary	1,007,900 per class	20,500 per student
Junior Secondary	1,226,000 per class	22,800 per student
Senior Secondary	1,394,600 per class	22,800 per student

In addition, during the 2016/2017 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 2015/2016 academic year, the eligibility for the subsidies was extended to Macao high school students and preschool pupils studying in Zhuhai, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Guangzhou and Foshan.

The subsidy for each senior secondary school student was up to 4,000 patacas per academic year, while the subsidy for each kindergarten pupil was up to 6,000 patacas per academic year. In addition to provision of tuition fee subsidies, the scheme also organised summer courses and study visits in Macao for high school students. It also organised visits to Macao tertiary educational institutions so that students could plan for their further education. In 2016, 1,706 students were granted tuition fee subsidies amounting to about 8.87 million patacas.

Starting from the 2012/2013 academic year, the Government has launched the Subsidy Scheme for Enrolment of Outstanding Students to Pedagogical Programmes, to subsidise outstanding students to study in bachelor's degree programmes with pedagogical training. The students are required to work as teachers in public or private schools in Macao after completing the programmes. In the 2016/2017 academic year, it was estimated that 357 students would be subsidised to study in the programmes, and the subsidies would total over 28 million patacas.

In the 2013/2014 academic year, the Subvention Scheme for Training Portuguese-speaking Teachers and Language Experts was launched, to subsidise high school graduates for enrolment to bachelor's degree programmes in Portuguese and Spanish languages, master's degree programmes in education, and bachelor's degree programmes and/or master's programmes in applied foreign languages in Portugal. The Government and the Catholic University of Portugal have also reached a cooperation agreement on organising preparatory courses on Portuguese language and culture for Macao students who will continue their studies in Portugal. Students who pass these courses will be directly enrolled in the above programmes.

In the 2016/2017 academic year, 13, 21 and 30 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. 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.

## **Vocational and Technical Education**

To facilitate further development of vocational and technical education, the Education Development Fund continues to subsidise courses organised by private schools that cover vocational and technical skills with the schools' own characteristics and in accordance with the adequate diversification of Macao's economy. In the 2016/2017 academic year, subsidies totalling over 15 million patacas were granted to 10 schools, which organised 82 classes under 33 programmes. Ten schools participated in the Applied Learning – School-based Applied Courses programme, and organised courses on 17 subjects related to applied skills. A total of 77 classes were organised; subsidies totalling over 1.33 million patacas were granted.

The DSEJ commissioned a professional agency to study the Development Mode of Vocational and Technical Education in Macao. Based on the suggestions and analyses in the study report, the DSEJ liaised with relevant departments on the amendment to regulations regarding the vocational and technical education system. It established the approach to and details of the amendment, and prepared for a consultation regarding the system.

## **Education for Pupils with Special Needs**

During the 2016/2017 academic year, there were a total of 1,841 pupils in Macao with special needs; 1,134 of them studied in inclusive classes, and 707 were in small special education classes and special needs classes.

## **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 2016, the second phase of the Continuing Education Development Plan had provided over 700 million patacas in subsidies to more than 160,000 residents who had participated in the second phase of the plan. Applications for a total of 50,000 continuing education programmes and certification examinations

provided by 367 local organisations had been received. There were also around 30,191 applications for subsidies for participation in local tertiary education and overseas programmes.

Recurrent education has provided education opportunities to residents who did not complete formal education at the normal age. During the 2016/2017 academic year, two public schools and eight private schools offered recurrent education. The DSEJ provides recurrent education subsidies to private schools offering recurrent education. These subsidies amounted to a maximum of 786,000 patacas, 949,000 patacas and 1,073,000 patacas per class for primary, junior secondary and senior secondary schools, respectively.

To raise the public's awareness of life-long learning and enhance their motivation to learn, the DSEJ, in collaboration with the Macao Institute of Learning Organization and Macao Association of Community Learning and Reading Promotion, joined hands with the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, Macao Institute of Adult Education and Macao Association for Adult Education in organising the Life-long Learning Week 2016, with nearly 100 activities, in October 2016.

In 2016, the Life-long Learning Incentive Award Scheme organised more than 3,000 learning activities of various types, providing nearly 100,000 places, and 119 organisations joined the network. The cumulative total of scheme participants reached 3,754. There were 243 awardees.

## **Open Campus Campaign**

Through the provision of subsidies by the Education Development Fund, schools cooperating in the Open Campus Campaign are encouraged to open their facilities for public use during non-working hours, so they can be used by students and citizens. In the 2016/2017 academic year, there were 21 participating schools.

## **Curriculum Reform and Development**

In 2016, Order No. 19/2016 of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture regarding the Approved Details of Requirements of Basic Academic Attainments in Primary Education was issued. In the 2016/2017 academic year, the by-laws on the Framework of Formal Education Curriculum and the Requirements of Basic Academic Attainments in Formal Education were extended to cover the first three years of primary education.

The reform of primary education curricula includes: focus on students' all-round and balanced learning experience; allow not less than 150 minutes of sports for students every week; and help them pick up leisure time activities that they are interested in and skilled at, in order to facilitate their healthy growth and academic achievement. Besides, every school must base their programmes on the requirements of basic academic attainments in terms of organisation and implementation of teaching plans, in order to alleviate any unnecessary burden of learning on students, thereby ensuring their basic development in knowledge, skills, abilities, emotions, attitudes and values.

## **Professional Development of Teaching Staff**

In 2016, 414 teaching staff training activities were organised, providing 18,598 training places.

The Education Development Fund launched the Subvention Scheme for School-based Training, the Subvention Scheme for Off-the-Job Training and the Subvention Scheme for Study Leave. In 2016, 24,099 teachers participated in the Subvention Scheme for School-based Training.

In 2016, more than 951 teaching staff participated in the open classes under the teaching design award scheme. Also, subsidies were given to 338 teaching staff for enrolment in pedagogical training programmes organised by tertiary institutions.

To support the professional development of leaders and management of schools in Macao, one semester of a training programme for potential school leaders and two semesters of a training programme for potential mid-level and senior-level school management were organised in 2016, attracting participation by 22 and 90 teaching staff, respectively.

### **Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)**

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), drawn up by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), assesses the performance of 15-year-old school pupils of participating countries/economies in reading, mathematical and scientific literacy once every three years. Starting from 2003, Macao has participated in five PISA assessments.

Macao maintained a quality and fair education system. The result of PISA 2015, which focused on assessing scientific literacy, was released in December 2016. Macao students at the age of 15 showed steady improvement in mathematical, scientific and reading literacy in PISA 2015. Among the 72 countries/economies, Macao was ranked sixth in scientific literacy, with a score of 529; 12th in reading literacy, with a score of 509; and third in mathematical literacy, with a score of 544. Macao was also recognised by OECD as one of the five countries/economies that could provide quality and fair education to students.

### **Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)**

The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) is organised by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), and has been administered every five years since 2001. Its aim is to scientifically assess the reading literacy and level of primary-four pupils, and to explore factors that affect students' literacy. Results of the study are used as the basis for improving education policy on reading, teaching methods and reading habit, with an aim to further raise the reading literacy of students.

The Government participated in this international study for the first time in 2016, and completed the assessment in May the same year. A total of 4,059 primary-four pupils from 56 schools participated in the study, the results of which will be announced in late 2017.

### **National Education**

More than 1,000 people from 46 schools and 19 youth organisations participated in the Flag-raising Ceremony for the May Fourth Youth Day for Macao Students in 2016. Winners of the May Fourth Movement Pen Calligraphy Competition, in which more than 500 entries were received from 26

participating schools, were presented book vouchers as prizes after the ceremony. The Beijing-Hong Kong-Macao Exchange Summer Camp – Youth Hong Kong and Macao Tour 2016 was attended by 72 students and teachers from 25 schools in Macao, while the National Education Course 2016 – a Study Visit to Macao and an Exploration Tour to the Silk Road and Xi’an, attracted participation by 103 high school students from 31 schools.

The Government held the Revisiting Macao through the Silk Road for Cultural Inheritance and Development - “Belt and Road” Photo Exhibition from November 2016 to September 2017, attracting about 30,000 visitors from a total of 45 schools. The photos were also shown in the DSEJ education activity centre and youth centre, during a period when the centre was attended by about 20,000 people.

The organising committee on Macao for May Fourth youth programmes that was formed by several youth organisations held five events. The committee was also subsidised to launch six commemorative activities with the themes of the 97th anniversary of the May Fourth Movement and the 150th anniversary of Dr Sun Yat-sen’s birthday; these attracted a total of about 2,000 participants.

To further develop patriotic education, the DSEJ rolled out a wide array of activities, such as the Promotion of Diplomatic Knowledge Campaign, National Education Programme for Teenagers in Macao, Understanding and Loving China Study Tour Subsidy Scheme. In the 2015/2016 academic year, there were more than 13,000 participants.

Also, educational camps of various themes were organised, including an education camp on national defence and a military summer camp for young Macao students. In the 2015/2016 academic year, more than 6,700 students participated in these educational camps.

## Arts Education

In 2016, the DSEJ continued implementing the Students Popular Arts Education Scheme, covering primary 6 students to 3rd-year senior secondary school students. Cantonese opera was added to the opera programme for 3rd-year senior secondary school students. The DSEJ also continued organising various arts education schemes and activities, including the Arts Education Snowball Project and the Macao School Bands Show.

## Student Welfare Fund

The Student Welfare Fund aims to subsidise social and educational activities to ensure that all Macao students can enjoy equal opportunities, and create a safe and healthy learning environment for students. At present, student welfare mainly covers tuition fee subsidies, meal allowances, allowances for textbooks and stationery, free insurance, and the milk and soy milk programme.

To encourage students to continue pursuing tertiary education and nurture professionals for the development of Macao, the DSEJ supports students whose families are experiencing financial difficulties and encourages outstanding students through the Tertiary Scholarship Scheme. It was expected that this scheme would benefit about 6,500 students in the 2016/2017 academic year. The DSEJ also joined hands with banks to launch its Interest Subsidies for Student Loans Scheme, which benefited some 1,155 students in 2016 by subsidising 70 percent of payable loan interest

during their studies. The remaining 30 percent of the subsidy will be issued to the students upon completion of their tertiary education courses.

## **Non-tertiary Education Council**

The Non-tertiary Education Council is a consultative body with representatives from many sectors of the community. Through participation, coordination, cooperation and reviews, the members work together to promote the development of education.

## **Teaching Staff Professional Committee**

The Teaching Staff Professional Committee comprises school leaders, representatives of education organisations, representatives of the DSEJ, people with well-recognised education achievements, and experts in the education sector and teachers.

The Teaching Staff Professional Committee established a dedicated group for the preliminary review of the presentation of the Outstanding Teacher Award in the 2015/2016 academic year. It invited reputable education experts and scholars from across the strait, Macao and Hong Kong to form the specialist panel, which was responsible for reviews and judging. A total of 15 teachers, including secondary, primary, preschool and special education teachers, were granted Outstanding Teacher Awards.

## **Youth Affairs**

### **Youth Affairs Council**

The Youth Affairs Council is a consultative body that is responsible for providing professional advice and recommendations on formulating relevant policies, and evaluating the results of their implementation. The 2015 Youth Activity Award and Civic Education Award were awarded in accordance with the Regulations on Presentation of Youth Awards.

## **Macao Youth Policy**

The Macao Youth Policy (2012-2020) is a forward-looking and systematic policy document compiled by the Government to facilitate the all-round development of young people in Macao. In 2016, the Government commenced an interim review, while the cross-departmental coordination system continued exhibiting synergy through organising a one-month promotion campaign, Basic Law for Teens, to raise legal awareness among teenagers, and organised 15 events with the theme of the Basic Law, with more than 24,000 participants. Besides, the Government managed to keep a close track of the development needs of young people through the Youth Affairs Council.

## **Youth Indicators and Studies**

To understand the situation of young people in Macao and promote the development of youth studies,

the DSEJ continuously follows up on research and collection of information related to Macao Youth Indicators. In 2016, the Social Survey on Macao Youth Indicators 2016 was completed, enabling a more comprehensive understanding of the situation of young people in Macao, and serving as a reference for reviewing the effectiveness of youth-related policies.

## **Youth Activities and Sponsorships**

In 2016, subsidies of about 9.36 million patacas were provided to youth organisations or associations which were registered with the DSEJ and applied for funding under the Annual Subsidy Scheme for Activities of Youth Groups, to organise a total of 508 projects or activities. The DSEJ continued to run the Caring for Growth of Youngsters subsidy scheme, to support organisations to develop programmes aiming to spread positive energy, and subsidised 54 groups to organise 91 activities. The subsidies totalled about 4.5 million patacas. Besides, the DSEJ organised the 1st Award Presentation Ceremony for Youth Volunteer Award Programme, in which 216 youth volunteer awards were presented. The DSEJ also held the International Youth Dance Festival 2016. More than 600 young people from a total of 17 overseas dance teams around the world and 10 local dance teams participated in the festival.

## **School Sports, Cultural, Recreational, Mathematics and Popular Science Activities**

The DSEJ arranges various sports, cultural, recreational, mathematics and popular science activities and competitions every year. It also sends school delegations to national and international competitions.

In 2016, the DSEJ organised the Schools Interport Basketball Competition and nine external inter-school sports competitions. Macao school sports teams were the first runner-up in the women's shot put in the 34th Youth Olympic Games; second runner-up in mixed doubles in the Asian School Table Tennis Championship; received a first-class award in rope skipping in the National Youth "Future Star" Sunshine Sports Games; and were overall first runners-up in men's and women's groups and men's individual first runner-up in the Schools Interport Country Run.

Regarding activities related to mathematics and popular science, through arrangements by the DSEJ, Macao school delegations joined 19 regional, national and international competitions in 2016, and achieved remarkable results in many of them, winning a total of 207 prizes.

## **Youth Facilities and Services**

Under DSEJ's administration, there are two youth hostels and four youth centres. The two youth hostels are Cheok Van Youth Hostel and Hac Sa Youth Hostel; 16,825 people stayed in these hostels in 2016. The four youth centres are Areia Preta Youth Centre, Experiential Centre for Young People, Outer Harbour Youth Centre and Bairro do Hipodromo Youth Centre. The Bairro do Hipodromo Youth Centre and Experiential Centre for Young People continued providing night services till 2 am and 12 am, respectively, to cater for the different needs of young people using the facilities.

Aiming to provide services that support group development, leisure education, arts education, and recreational and sports development, the four centres continued organising a wide variety of activities that help young people to grow and develop, and provided youth counselling services and training for volunteer workers. In 2016, about 850,000 people participated in the activities organised by the four youth centres and used their facilities.

The DSEJ continued to provide more venues for use by youngsters for exhibitions and performances through the Juvenile Arts Exhibition and Performance Hall under its administration. In 2016, the Juvenile Arts Exhibition and Performance Hall held 23 exhibitions and 26 (27 sessions) performances, attended by 11,438 people.

In 2012, the DSEJ began providing subsidies for schools to set up wellness centres. By December 2016, 30 fitness centres had been set up.

## Tertiary Education

Macao's modern tertiary education has flourished over the past 30 years. At present, there are 10 tertiary institutions in Macao – four public and six private institutions. There are universities with a mix of comprehensive teaching and research, professional polytechnic institutes that focus on practical teaching and learning, as well as specialist academies that cultivate talents in tourism and convention and exhibition, specialists in the gaming industry, professional nursing personnel, and senior managers.

To keep in line with Macao's rapid social and economic development, tertiary institutions have organised a wider variety of tertiary education programmes with consideration of social and academic development, in order to cultivate talents required by the community.

To further promote the development of Macao's tertiary education and to keep in line with international practice, the Government took active steps to improve the establishment of systems, including expediting the second reading of the bill on the Tertiary Education System in 2016, and commencing the drafting of regulations on the system for assessing tertiary institutions, tertiary education regulations, the tertiary education foundation, the tertiary education council, and the credit system for tertiary education. The first phase of adjustment of the organisation and structure of the department charged with overseeing tertiary education was also completed.

During the 2016/2017 academic year, there were 2,247 teaching staff and 32,750 registered students in these institutions, with 267 programmes including doctorate, master's and bachelor's degree programmes, higher diplomas, postgraduate certificates and higher diploma programmes.

In addition, overseas institutions were granted approval to offer a total of 40 tertiary educational programmes in Macao in 2016.

## The Tertiary Education Services Office

Established in 1992, the Tertiary Education Services Office is a government department that coordinates, follows up on and develops tertiary education in Macao.

## **Processing Applications to Launch and Revise Programmes**

In 2016, the Tertiary Education Services Office processed 52 applications by Macao tertiary educational institutions intending to launch new programmes or revise old ones. It approved 31 of these applications; two were withdrawn by the institutions concerned, and 19 applications were pending. The office also handled 24 applications from overseas tertiary educational institutions seeking to establish, revise or continue running programmes. A total of 20 such applications were approved, and four were pending by the year-end.

## **Promoting Exchanges and Cooperation in Tertiary Education**

The Tertiary Education Services Office continues to facilitate various external cooperation projects within the tertiary education field, including the promotion of cooperation between Macao and mainland China in tertiary education, by coordinating related work with mainland China authorities in accordance with the framework agreement on the joint construction of Cuiheng New District, Zhongshan and the projects on educational exchange and cooperation between Zhongshan and Macao; and the implementation of various agreements entered into with the Ministry of Education, the State Ethnic Affairs Commission, Guangdong Province and Portugal, to continue expanding the scope of external cooperation regarding Macao's tertiary education.

The founding ceremony of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao University Alliance was held in Guangzhou on 15 November. The alliance comprises 26 higher education institutions, which will cooperate to establish a "one-hour academic circle" for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, for deeper cooperation in talent cultivation, scientific research and collaborative innovation. Among the 26 institutions, 10 are from Guangdong Province, nine from Hong Kong and seven from Macao (the University of Macau, Macao Polytechnic Institute, the Institute of Tourism Studies, Macau University of Science and Technology, City University of Macau, the University of Saint Joseph, and Kiang Wu Nursing College of Macau).

Also, in October, the Tertiary Education Services Office was invited to participate in the Third Jiangsu-Macao-Portuguese-speaking Countries Cooperation Joint Conference, which was organised by the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education and held by Yangzhou University. During the conference, the constitution of the Jiangsu-Macao-Portuguese-speaking Countries University Alliance was approved; joint projects were discussed; and a cooperation agreement was signed.

The Tertiary Education Services Office arranged for delegations of Macao tertiary institutions to visit Taipei in February, to participate in the College and Vocational Institution Admission Expo; and to join the Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange of the Ministry of Education during its visit to Bangkok in November, to participate in Thailand's OCSC International Education Expo, with a view to promoting Macao's tertiary education.

## **Coordination of Student Enrolments in Programmes of Macao Tertiary Educational Institutions Conducted on the Mainland**

During 2016, with approval from the Ministry of Education, the University of Macau, Macao

Polytechnic Institute, the Institute for Tourism Studies, Macau University of Science and Technology, City University of Macau and Kiang Wu Nursing College of Macau continued to recruit students from 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in mainland China.

During the 2016/2017 academic year, 13,936 mainland China students applied to the above-mentioned six tertiary educational institutions in Macao. Of the 4,358 newly registered students, 458 enrolled in doctorate degree courses, 1,636 in master's degree courses, 2,264 in bachelor's degree courses and 114 in university foundation courses.

## **Coordinating the Admission of Macao Students to Mainland Tertiary Institutions**

The Tertiary Education Services Office is one of the bodies that process the admission of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan undergraduates and postgraduates to China tertiary educational institutions. In the 2016/2017 academic year, 387 and 441 students sat the Joint Examination for Admission to Mainland Universities (Macao) and the examinations for admission of students by recommendation to undergraduate programmes, respectively. In addition, 334 students sat examinations for admission (Macao) to postgraduate programmes in general tertiary educational institutions in mainland China.

## **Tertiary Education Information and Admission Services**

The Tertiary Education Services Office has established a tertiary education information website to provide information about tertiary education, public examinations and employment to the public. It also provides telephone and e-mail enquiry services to answer related queries. In 2016, it handled 187 relevant cases. In addition, the Tertiary Education Services Office cooperated with various community groups and organisations in organising diverse activities that provided information about tertiary education and vocational preparation.

On 8 November 2013, the Tertiary Education Services Office set up a service centre for university students. It serves as a comprehensive service desk for tertiary students and Macao citizens who intend to pursue tertiary education. Between January and December 2016, there were 12,484 visitors, 57.39 percent of whom were tertiary students.

## **Tertiary Student Activities**

The Tertiary Education Services Office actively establishes exchange platforms for students of tertiary institutions, with a view to developing their worldview, strengthening their general knowledge and language competence, and encouraging them to go abroad for exchanges and learning, to broaden their global vision.

To enrich the extracurricular life of tertiary students and facilitate their all-round development, the Tertiary Education Services Office organises a wide variety of competitions and activities for them every year. It also works with different community groups and organisations in organising various competitions and activities related to culture, sports and professional skills.

## Subsidies for Tertiary Student Activities

The Tertiary Education Services Office encourages student organisations to organise activities that meet students' interests through the Tertiary Student Activity Fund. In 2016, 62 organisations (including non-profit tertiary student groups and community groups) and seven tertiary students were subsidised to organise and participate in 379 tertiary student activities. The subsidies amounted to about six million patacas.

## Disbursing Postgraduate Scholarships

The Tertiary Education Services Office is responsible for supporting the disbursement of postgraduate scholarships provided by the Postgraduate Scholarships Grants Committee to Macao residents.

During the 2016/2017 academic year, there were 126 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 one was for integrated bachelor's and master's programmes. The amounts of these scholarships were 79,000 patacas, 69,000 patacas, 57,000 patacas and 50,000 patacas per year, respectively. In the 2016/2017 academic year, a total of 698 candidates applied to the scheme.

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 2016/2017 academic 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 2016/2017 academic year, 16 people were granted scholarships.

## Textbooks and Stationery Allowances for Tertiary Students

In 2016, 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 33,310 applicants, 32,068 satisfied the requirements and were granted the allowance.

## Tertiary Education Quality Assurance

The purpose of the tertiary education quality assurance is to further optimise the tertiary education system in Macao, and to promote the continuous improvement in the quality of its tertiary institutions.

The Government has progressively commenced the establishment of the quality assessment system for tertiary institutions. It completed the first phase of the Program Accreditation pilot scheme, and made necessary amendments to the Program Accreditation Guidelines and the Guidelines for External Quality Assurance Agencies. Together with the Institution Accreditation Guidelines and

the Institution Quality Certification Guidelines, four guidelines have been made available to the public on the website of the Tertiary Education Services Office. The Tertiary Education Services Office has also commissioned a professional research team to commence the Institution Quality Certification pilot scheme, to study the feasibility of the guidelines, and allow the institutions to have hands-on experience of the scheme. It has also commissioned an overseas professional agency to compile the Program Review Guidelines for Macao.

To strengthen its connection with international quality assurance organisations, the Tertiary Education Services Office sent delegations to Fiji to participate in the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies (INQAAHE) Conference and a seminar of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) in May 2016, to discuss issues related to ensuring tertiary education quality, and keep up with the latest information and development trends.

### **Verification of Qualifications**

In 2016, the Tertiary Education Services Office handled 49 written queries and 16 and telephone queries from government departments. It handled a total of 305 queries from the public, 22 of which were made in person, 248 by telephone, and 35 by e-mail.

### **Processing Applications for Subsidies for Macao Tertiary Institutions and Professional Development Subsidies for Teaching and Research Staff**

To assist tertiary institutions with improving their teaching equipment and facilities, the Government has begun working on raising education quality, and encouraging the institutions' teaching staff to actively participate in and commence academic and professional activities that are conducive to their personal and professional development. The Tertiary Education Services Office processes applications for subsidies for Macao tertiary institutions and subsidies for professional development of tertiary teaching staff in Macao.

In 2016, subsidies of about 21.96 million patacas were granted for 12 projects on the optimisation of teaching equipment and improvement of teaching and scientific research quality, 23 projects on professional development of teaching staff, and four projects on activities related to tertiary education organised by student organisations.

### **Macao Academic Library Alliance**

As proposed by the Macao Library and Information Management Association, nine tertiary institutions held the Opening Ceremony of the Macao Academic Library Alliance on 3 December 2014. With a mission to “Build together, Plan together, Share together and Use together”, the alliance endeavours to allow the use of resources to the fullest through sharing resources and information among the libraries of the tertiary institutions.

In 2016, the Government granted a subsidy of about 13.5 million patacas for procuring an electronic database for shared use by the nine institutions of the alliance. It also supported the alliance in overseas visits.

## **Macao Tertiary Institution Gender Equality Promotion Board**

Through coordination by the Tertiary Education Services Office, the 10 tertiary institutions in Macao established the Macao Tertiary Institution Gender Equality Promotion Board, to provide further assistance for Macao tertiary institutions in improving the on-campus mechanisms on gender equality and against sexual harassment, thereby optimising the relevant policies and ensure continuous improvement in this regard.

## **Chinese and Portuguese Bilingual Talent Training, Education and Research Cooperation Subsidy Scheme for Macao Tertiary Institutions**

To promote the development of cultivation of talents who are bilingual in Chinese and Portuguese, and to facilitate cooperation among Macao, mainland China, other Asia-Pacific regions and Portuguese-speaking countries in tertiary education, the Tertiary Education Services Office launched the Chinese and Portuguese Bilingual Talent Training, Education and Research Cooperation Subsidy Scheme for Macao Tertiary Institutions in 2016, and provided subsidies of nearly 1.95 million patacas to 22 eligible projects that applied for funding.

## **Tertiary Educational Institutions**

### **University of Macau**

The University of Macau is an international public integrated university. Its faculties are Arts and Humanities; Business Administration; Education; Health Sciences; Law; Social Sciences; Science and Technology; Institute of Applied Physics and Materials Engineering; Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences; and Honours College. It provides degree, master's degree and doctoral degree programmes. The major medium of instruction is English, while some programmes are taught in Chinese, Portuguese or Japanese.

In recent years, the University of Macau has been dedicated to raising its academic and research capabilities, pursuing teaching and research excellence, expanding its international network, and implementing the four-in-one mode of education. The University of Macau was the first university in Asia to fully adopt a residential colleges system, aiming to enrich the university experience and provide all-round cultivation for students to develop their soft skills in tandem with academic achievements. During 2016/2017, the University of Macau was ranked among Times Higher Education's top 400 universities in the world, ranking second in Portuguese-speaking countries and regions. This shows an impressive enhancement of the university's soft and hard power and its remarkable development momentum.

During the 2016/2017 academic year, the University of Macau offered 131 doctorate programmes, master's degree programmes, bachelor's degree programmes, and postgraduate diploma programmes. It had 580 teaching staff and 9,987 registered students.

### **Macao Polytechnic Institute**

Founded in September 1991, the Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) is a public and multidisciplinary

tertiary educational institution offering practically-oriented programmes. It is the first institution in Macao that has passed the assessment of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). It has numerous teaching departments, including schools of Languages and Translation; Business; Public Administration; Physical Education and Sports; Arts; Health Sciences; and several research centres and vocational training institutes. It also offers six joint master's degree programmes and one doctorate programme in cooperation with renowned universities overseas.

During the 2016/2017 academic year, the institute offered 22 bachelor's degree programmes (including supplementary programmes). It had 373 teaching staff and 3,144 registered students.

## **Institute for Tourism Studies**

The Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) is a public tertiary education institution that was officially established in 1995. It was the first institute to obtain the TedQual Certification from the United Nations World Tourism Organization. IFT's mission is to cultivate talents and leaders with professional knowledge and skills in the tourism industry.

It offers degree and professional programmes in a wide range of tourism-related disciplines, such as hospitality, tourism business, heritage, events, retail and marketing, leisure and entertainment, sports and recreation, creative and cultural studies, and culinary arts. IFT also provides various programmes at the executive level in partnership with leading schools in the world. Regarding research, the institute is entrusted by local authorities to conduct policy level research related to tourism planning and development.

During the 2016/2017 academic year, the institute offered 11 bachelor's degree programmes and higher diploma courses. It had 136 teaching staff and 1,576 registered students for its tertiary education programmes.

## **Academy of Macao Public Security Forces**

Established in July 1988, the Academy of Macao Public Security Forces is a training department under the Secretary for Security, as well as one of the tertiary education institutes in Macao. The Police/Fire Service Officers' Training Programme organised by the academy is a four-year programme, followed by six months of practical training. Students passing the examinations are awarded a Bachelor's degree in Police Sciences or Protection and Safety Engineering.

The Security Force Training Course offered by the academy's training centre provides professional technical training for trainees of the public security forces, so that they can meet the requirements for ethics, physical fitness and professional techniques. Also, the academy provides on-the-job training for promotion and professional development of public security force officers.

From 2016 to 2017, there were 37 students in the Police/Fire Service Officers' Training Programme and 615 students in the Security Force Training Course. In 2016, the Academy of Macao Public Security Forces organised 54 programmes, talks and seminars, with a total of 3,268 participants.

## **The City University of Macau**

The City University of Macau received its name in 2011 after a transfer of ownership in September 2010. It is a private university providing tertiary education. The university comprises Faculties of Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Tourism and Management, Education, Law, Urban Management and Studies, the School of Continuing Studies, as well as the Open Institute. In the 2015/2016 academic year, the main campus was relocated to the Taipa new campus.

During the 2016/2017 academic year, the university offered 26 doctoral, master's and bachelor's degree programmes, as well as postgraduate certificate programmes. It had 223 teaching staff, and 5,834 registered students.

## **University of Saint Joseph**

The predecessor of the University of Saint Joseph, the Macau Inter-University Institute (IIUM), was established in 1996 and renamed University of Saint Joseph in December 2009. It is a private university established with Faculty of Religious Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Administration and Leadership, Faculty of Psychology and Education, Faculty of Creative Industries, Institute of Science and Environment, and Lifelong Learning Office.

In the 2016/2017 academic year, the university offered 31 doctoral, master's and bachelor's degree, as well as postgraduate diploma programmes. It had 146 teaching staff and 1,063 registered students.

## **Kiang Wu Nursing College of Macau**

The Kiang Wu Nursing College of Macau was formerly the Kiang Wu Nursing and Midwifery School, and it was established in 1923. This college is the oldest nursing institute in Macao. In the institutional quality audit conducted by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) from the United Kingdom, the QAA placed confidence in four aspects of good practice. The college has conducted a curriculum reform, further implemented bi-literate and trilingual (English, Cantonese and Putonghua) teaching, enhanced interdisciplinary learning, and facilitated outcome-based education.

During the 2016/2017 academic year, the college offered two bachelor's degree and postgraduate diploma programmes. It had 36 teaching staff and 297 registered students.

## **Macau University of Science and Technology**

The Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) is a private university established in March 2000. It was the first non-profit integrated university for training gifted students in applied technology established since the founding of the MSAR. The university consists of the Faculty of Information Technology, School of Business, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Chinese Medicine, Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Humanities and Arts, School of Pharmacy, and University International College. It also includes the School of

Graduate Studies, School of Continuing Studies, Department of General Education, Macau Academy of Cinematic Arts, Macao Institute for Applied Research in Medicine and Health, the Space Science Institute, the State Key Laboratory for Quality Research in Chinese Medicine (Macau University of Science and Technology), the Lunar and Planetary Science Laboratory of the MUST (partner state key laboratory of the Ministry of Science and Technology), and various research centres. The University Hospital, a subsidiary of the Macau University of Science and Technology Foundation, provides facilities for clinical teaching, scientific research and clinical practice by the Faculty of Chinese Medicine and Faculty of Health Sciences.

During the 2016/2017 academic year, the university offered 50 doctorate, master's and bachelor's degree programmes. It had 546 teaching staff and 10,373 registered students.

### **Macau Institute of Management**

Macau Institute of Management (MIM) was established in 1988. It is the academic arm of the Macau Management Association, specialising in providing education and training services. With Government approval in July 2000, MIM was upgraded to become a higher education institution offering degree programmes in management and accounting to people working in different industries in Macao, so as to nurture business talents. The institute offers a four-year Bachelor of Business Administration Degree Programme, a two-year Associate of Business Administration Diploma Programme, and a one-year Professional Diploma Programme adopting the integrative learning approach. In addition to face-to-face teaching, it provides electronic learning. Students can arrange their online class time according to their own schedule. It also works with an overseas university in jointly organising a master's degree programme.

The institute offered 10 bachelor's degree, associate degree and higher diploma programmes during the 2016/2017 academic year. It had 27 teaching staff and 215 registered students.

### **Macau Millennium College**

The Macau Millennium College is a private tertiary education institution established in August 2001. To accommodate the needs of shift workers, the college offers "shift classes for shift workers". The two shift classes have identical lecture content. Students can choose to attend either the morning or evening sessions. Lecturers are mainly internationally renowned professors from the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

During the 2016/2017 academic year, the college offered two bachelor's degree and associate degree programmes, taught by 45 teaching staff for 182 registered students.

*Note: Except for the University of Macau, Macao Polytechnic Institute and Academy of Macao Public Security Forces, the above statistics for teaching and administrative staff, students and programmes of Macao tertiary educational institutions were provided by the Tertiary Education Services Office. Statistics for the 2016/2017 academic year were collected on 31 October 2016.*



**International Youth Dance Festival**

The International Youth Dance Festival is a distinguished biennial dance event, which was first held in 1987, and in celebrating its 30th anniversary. Several dance teams from Macao and the rest of the world were invited to perform on stage, showcasing various dance cultures from across the world in Macao. Apart from allowing audiences to enjoy astonishing dance performances, this festival also provides a platform for local dancers to develop friendships, engage in cultural exchanges and perform various dances.



