

Educational Research Award Scheme (2025/26)

Information Sheet

Background

1. Since its inception in June 2013, the Committee on Professional Development of Teachers and Principals (COTAP) has been working towards building shared vision, mission and objectives for enhancing the professional development of teachers and school leaders in Hong Kong. To achieve these goals, COTAP has launched T-excel@hk, an overarching project which comprises eight areas of focus¹.
2. The Educational Research Award Scheme (“the Scheme”) is an initiative under T-share, which is one of the focus areas under T-excel@hk.

Objective

3. The Scheme aims to encourage teachers to try out, improve and share new or effective pedagogical practices through educational research; further enhance teachers’ professionalism and support their continuous professional development; and promote a research culture within the education sector.

Eligibility for Application

4. All full-time regular teachers^{2 & 3} serving in local kindergartens, primary and secondary schools (including special schools) (except English Schools Foundation schools, international schools and private schools offering non-formal curriculum) are eligible to apply for participation in the Scheme.
5. Participating teachers shall remain in employment with the same school/kindergarten as full-time regular teachers until the deadline for submission of research reports.

¹ The eight areas of focus are T-standard⁺, T-dataset^{PD}, T-train^B, T-surf^{24/7}, T-craft³, T-share, T-applause and T-bridge.

² In the context of Direct Subsidy Scheme schools and private schools, “regular teachers” refers to regular members of the teaching staff in school.

³ For teachers applying for participation in the Scheme (2025/26) as a group, the principal researcher must be a full-time regular teacher in the 2025/26 school year. Teachers applying individually will have to be a full-time regular teacher in the 2025/26 school year.

Quota and Award⁴

6. The quota for the Scheme (2025/26) is 20. Each research group with its research report accepted will receive an award of HK\$10,000⁵ and a certificate. Selected reports will be incorporated into an education publication to be released online.

Application and Selection

7. The Scheme (2025/26) will be open for applications from 2 to 31 October 2025. Interested teachers may submit an application together with a research proposal to the Secretariat of the Working Group on the Educational Research Award Scheme (“the Secretariat”) on or before the deadline (31 October 2025). The application should be recommended by the Principal of the applicant’s/applicants’ school/kindergarten.
8. Applicants are free to choose any education themes, including student learning, pedagogical approaches, teaching tools/materials, classroom dynamics, teachers’ professional development, professional learning community and student support. They are also advised to make reference to the priority themes of the Quality Education Fund (www.qef.org.hk).
9. Eligible teachers can apply individually or as a group.
10. Research group should comprise not more than five teachers, who should be from the same school/kindergarten. Each group should select among themselves a principal researcher, who will serve as the point of contact with the Secretariat for all future communications and the payee of the monetary award if the research report is accepted. Should the principal researcher withdraw from the research, his/her vacancy can only be filled by another member of the research group listed on the application form.
11. Only one application is allowed for each teacher in a single school year; each school/kindergarten can submit no more than two applications in a single school year.

⁴ Removal of an awardee’s status will be considered if:

- (a) his/her teacher registration has been cancelled by the Education Bureau; or
- (b) he/she has committed professional misconduct and received punishment imposed by the Education Bureau. Each case will be recommended by the Education Bureau for the acceptance of the Working Group on the Educational Research Award Scheme.

⁵ Awarded research groups have to decide on the share of the monetary award apportioned to each group member.

12. The application shall be accompanied by a research proposal, which will be vetted by the Working Group on the Educational Research Award Scheme (“the Working Group”). Shortlisted research groups will then conduct their research and submit an educational research report, in either Chinese or English, on or before 31 August 2026. The report should not exceed 8 000 words, including all tables, figures, diagrams, footnotes and references (excluding appendices). The report will be vetted by the Working Group holistically with regard to various considerations including implementation of the research, discussion and analysis of data, presentation and contributions to the education profession, etc. Adhering to the principle of fairness, only applications and reports received by the specified deadline will be assessed. Any supplementary information submitted after the aforementioned deadlines and/or announcement of the assessment results will not be accepted.

Briefing Session

13. A briefing session will be arranged to provide interested teachers with details pertaining to the Scheme. Details are as follows:

Date: 14 June 2025 (Saturday)

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Venue: Room W424, 4/F, West Block

EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre

19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong

14. Teachers are required to enrol through the Training Calendar System (TCS) on or before 30 May 2025 (TCS Course ID: PDT020250058).

Undertaking

15. Before submitting their research reports, research groups should ensure that the reports have not been and will not be submitted elsewhere. Furthermore, research groups have to declare that their research reports are original and that all sources have been properly acknowledged. Qualifications for candidacy will be revoked if the report is found to have infringed copyright.
16. Once accepted, the copyright of the research reports will be transferred to and hereafter retained by the Secretariat. The Secretariat reserves the right to make editorial changes and publish the reports.

Enquiries

17. For enquiries about the Scheme, please contact the Secretariat at 3698 3698. Adhering to the principle of confidentiality and fairness, once the research proposal and report assessment procedures have started, the Secretariat will not respond to any enquiries regarding the decision of the assessment until the assessment results have been announced.