

Third cohort of School Nominations Direct Admission Scheme open for applications in October

The Education Bureau (EDB) today (September 25) announced that the third cohort of the School Nominations Direct Admission Scheme (SNDAS) will be open for applications by local Secondary Six students who will be taking the 2024 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination and commencing their undergraduate studies in September 2024.

A spokesman for the EDB said, "Launched in the 2022/23 academic year, the SNDAS is a scheme that recognises the exceptional talent of students in specific disciplines that may not be fully assessed by the HKDSE Examination by allowing students with special and diversified talents to be matched with programmes that suit their potential. It provides opportunities for these students to be considered for direct admission to local universities."

The nomination period of the third cohort of the SNDAS will run from October 5 to December 6, 2023. Students who intend to apply for their interested programmes through the SNDAS must be nominated by their secondary schools. Each local secondary school can nominate two students with exceptional talents and interests in specific disciplines/areas, and each student nominee can apply for admission to one designated University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded undergraduate programme participating in the SNDAS.

Participating universities will arrange interviews for all students nominated for the SNDAS and make firm offers to successful students prior to the release of the 2024 HKDSE Examination results.

The eight UGC-funded universities have designated over 220 publicly funded undergraduate programmes to participate in the third cohort of the SNDAS and set admission criteria that are not based on HKDSE Examination results for individual programmes. Details of the SNDAS and specific admission requirements of the participating programmes have been uploaded onto the scheme's website (www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/postsecondary/policy-doc/SNDAS/index.html).

The EDB adds that the SNDAS is introduced to provide an additional pathway to university for students with exceptional talents. Those who have been nominated for the SNDAS, like other Secondary Six students, are required to apply for admission to universities through the Joint University Programmes Admissions System in parallel and sit for the HKDSE Examinations so as not to limit their opportunities for further studies.

The EDB set up the Task Force on Review of School Curriculum in November 2017 to holistically review the primary and secondary curricula. The review report submitted by the Task Force to the EDB in September 2020 put forward six directional recommendations, including the implementation of a new direct

admission scheme to enhance flexibility in university admissions. The EDB accepted the recommendation and introduced the SNDAS since the 2022/23 academic year.