

Press Release

8,700 university students participate in Common English Proficiency Assessment Scheme

The University Grants Committee (UGC) announced today (November 4) that about 8,700 final year students of UGC-funded undergraduate degree programmes had registered for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) under the third round of the Common English Proficiency Assessment Scheme (CEPAS). This is comparable to the number of participants in 2002-03 and 2003-04.

A UGC spokesman said the successful launch of CEPAS in 2002-03 was marked by the participation of over 7,300 final year students. In 2003-04, about 8,700 students joined the scheme. “With the assistance of our institutions, the third round of registration for the scheme in 2004-05 has just been successfully completed,” the spokesman said.

“We are pleased to see that the scheme has continued to attract a large number of students. About 8,700 final year students have submitted their applications this time. Given the voluntary nature of the CEPAS, the participation demonstrates that the students attach importance to their English proficiency.”

The UGC announced the adoption of IELTS as the testing instrument for CEPAS in July, 2002. This is the third year of implementation of the scheme, and registration was carried out from mid-September to late-October. A breakdown of the number of participants by institution is at the [Annex](#) for reference. The testing sessions will be run from November this year to May next year.

End/Thursday, November 4, 2004

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**Number of Participants in
Common English Proficiency Assessment Scheme in 2004-05**

<u>Institution</u>	2004-05	
	No. of Participants	Percentage of Projected Graduates
City University of Hong Kong	1,358	53%
Hong Kong Baptist University	791	54%
Lingnan University	483	65%
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	1,693	59%
The Hong Kong Institute of Education*	264*	58%*
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	1,214	55%
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	1,343	74%
The University of Hong Kong	1,524	56%
Total:	8,670	56%

* 261 of the 264 candidates from HKIED are full-time students, accounting for 58% of projected graduates from full-time programmes in 2004/05. The 264 candidates account for 26% of projected graduates of all programmes in 2004/05.