

Guidelines on the use of publicly-funded academic space for self-financed activities and development of new privately-funded capital projects on institutions' campuses

Use of publicly-funded academic space

With the rapid expansion of the self-financed programmes within the institution proper over the last decade, there has been an increasing need for students of UGC-funded programmes to share academic space with students participating in self-financed programmes, in particular in the use of classrooms, libraries, campus facilities and amenities. This has created substantial pressure on campus facilities and other campus resources. As the publicly-funded academic space is primarily intended for the use of students and staff of UGC-funded programmes, it should not, as a matter of principle, be used for self-financed activities unless there is spare capacity to do so. Institutions should ensure that the use of the UGC-funded facilities for self-financed activities is contained at a scale so as not to adversely affect the normal use of the campus facilities by the students of UGC-funded programmes. In this regard, institutions should conduct regular reviews on the use of the publicly-funded campus facilities to ensure that this is the case. In the longer run, institutions should consider operating self-financed programmes on off-campus premises.

Privately-funded capital projects

Given the continued shortfall in institutions' academic space and student hostels and the limited land space within universities' campuses, institutions should ensure that the need for publicly-funded facilities has already been catered for when planning for privately-funded developments on campus. Institutions are required to inform UGC of any wholly privately-funded project within campuses before its commencement, and provide a master development plan of the campus showing how their long-term requirements for publicly-funded academic space and student hostels can be met and the proposed privately-funded development will not adversely affect the campus environment. Institutions should also note that the Administration will take into account their privately-funded projects when considering institutions' future requests for new sites for development and it would be difficult to justify the need for new sites when there is spare capacity within campus for privately-funded developments.
