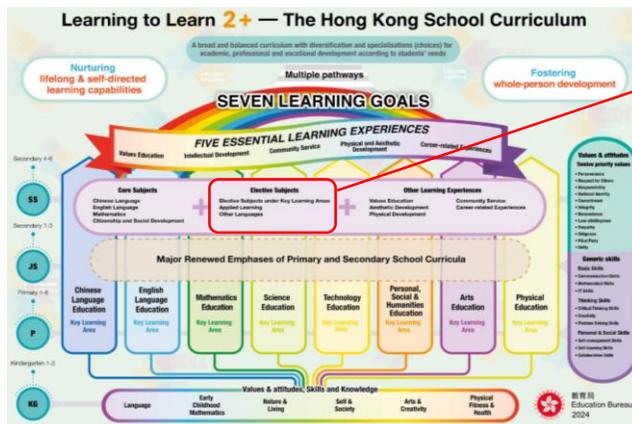


Applied Learning Equipping Yourself, Realising Aspirations



Applied Learning Section
Curriculum Development Institute
Education Bureau

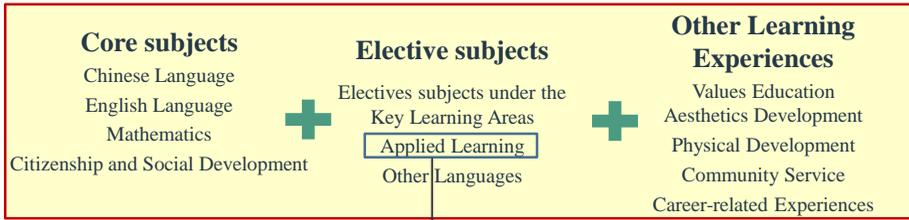
The School Curriculum Framework



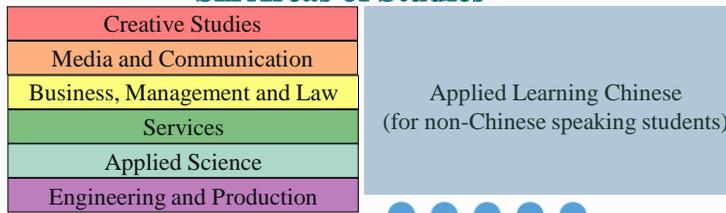
Elective Subjects
Elective Subjects under Key Learning Areas
Applied Learning
Other Languages

Note:
The major renewed emphases of primary and secondary school curricula cover: values education, good use of learning time, STEAM education and media and information literacy (MIL), etc.

Components of the Senior Secondary Curriculum



Six Areas of Studies



List of Applied Learning Courses (2026-28 Cohort ; 2028 HKDSE)



應用學習課程一覽表
(2026-28 年級 ; 2028 年香港中學文憑考試)
(2026-28 Cohort ; 2028 HKDSE)

課程類別 Area of Studies	課程名稱 Course Name	課程代碼 Course Code	課程科目 Subject	課程語言 Language	課程時數 Credits	課程費用 Fee
創意研習 Creative Studies	工業設計 Industrial and Creative Product Design	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	30,300		
	時裝設計 Fashion Image Design	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	17,800		
	電腦繪圖及網頁設計 Computer Graphics and Animation Design	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,000		
	電腦繪圖及網頁設計 Computer Graphics and Animation Design	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,000		
	數碼遊戲設計及製作 Digital Game Design and Production	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,000		
	音樂製作 Popular Music Production	HKCT	中文 Chinese	23,000		
	攝影及電視製作 Photography and TV Production	HKAPL	中文 Chinese	22,800		
	攝影及電視製作 Photography and TV Production	HKAPL	中文 Chinese	21,400		
	攝影及電視製作 Photography and TV Production	HKAPL	中文 Chinese	21,400		
	攝影及電視製作 Photography and TV Production	HKAPL	中文 Chinese	21,400		
傳媒及溝通 Media and Communication	數碼媒體製作 Digital Media and Radio Production	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,000		
	數碼媒體製作 Digital Media and Radio Production	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,200		
	數碼媒體製作 Digital Media and Radio Production	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,300		
	數碼媒體製作 Digital Media and Radio Production	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	28,200		
	數碼媒體製作 Digital Media and Radio Production	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	28,200		
	數碼媒體製作 Digital Media and Radio Production	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,700		
	數碼媒體製作 Digital Media and Radio Production	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,700		
	數碼媒體製作 Digital Media and Radio Production	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,700		
	數碼媒體製作 Digital Media and Radio Production	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,700		
	數碼媒體製作 Digital Media and Radio Production	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,700		
語言及文化 Language and Culture	應用學習中文 Applied Learning Chinese	VTC	中文 Chinese	20,400		
	應用學習英文 Applied Learning English	HKU	英文 English	20,400		
	應用學習日語 Applied Learning Japanese	LFE	日文 Japanese	20,400		
	應用學習韓語 Applied Learning Korean	LFE	韓文 Korean	18,800		
	應用學習法語 Applied Learning French	LFE	法文 French	18,800		
	應用學習德語 Applied Learning German	LFE	德文 German	18,800		
	應用學習意大利語 Applied Learning Italian	LFE	意大利文 Italian	18,800		
	應用學習西班牙語 Applied Learning Spanish	LFE	西班牙文 Spanish	18,800		
	應用學習葡萄牙語 Applied Learning Portuguese	LFE	葡萄牙文 Portuguese	18,800		
	應用學習越南語 Applied Learning Vietnamese	LFE	越南文 Vietnamese	18,800		

課程類別 Area of Studies	課程名稱 Course Name	課程代碼 Course Code	課程科目 Subject	課程語言 Language	課程時數 Credits	課程費用 Fee
商業、管理與法律 Business, Management and Law	會計學 Accounting	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	市場推廣 Marketing	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	商業管理 Business Management	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	商業管理 Business Management	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	商業管理 Business Management	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	商業管理 Business Management	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	商業管理 Business Management	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	商業管理 Business Management	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	商業管理 Business Management	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	商業管理 Business Management	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
服務 Services	餐館服務 Restaurant Services	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	20,400		
	酒店服務 Hotel Services	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	20,400		
	航空服務 Aviation Services	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	20,400		
	航海服務 Maritime Services	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	20,400		
	旅遊服務 Tourism Services	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	20,400		
	零售服務 Retail Services	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	20,400		
	美容服務 Beauty Services	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	20,400		
	健康服務 Health Services	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	20,400		
	法律服務 Legal Services	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	20,400		
	社會服務 Social Services	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	20,400		
應用科學 Applied Science	應用科學 Applied Science	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	應用科學 Applied Science	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	應用科學 Applied Science	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	應用科學 Applied Science	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	應用科學 Applied Science	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	應用科學 Applied Science	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	應用科學 Applied Science	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	應用科學 Applied Science	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	應用科學 Applied Science	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	應用科學 Applied Science	VTC	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		

課程類別 Area of Studies	課程名稱 Course Name	課程代碼 Course Code	課程科目 Subject	課程語言 Language	課程時數 Credits	課程費用 Fee
其他學習經歷 Other Learning Experiences	職業培訓 Vocational Training	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	職業培訓 Vocational Training	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	職業培訓 Vocational Training	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	職業培訓 Vocational Training	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	職業培訓 Vocational Training	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	職業培訓 Vocational Training	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	職業培訓 Vocational Training	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	職業培訓 Vocational Training	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	職業培訓 Vocational Training	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		
	職業培訓 Vocational Training	HKU	中文或英文 Chinese or English	18,500		

List of Applied Learning Courses (2026-28 Cohort ; 2028 HKDSE)

Area of Studies	Course Cluster	No. of courses
Creative Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Studies • Media Arts • Performing Arts 	8
Media and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Films, TV and Broadcasting Studies • Media Production and Public Relations • Language and Culture 	13
Business, Management and Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting and Finance • Business Studies • Legal Studies 	7
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Services and Management • Hospitality Services • Personal and Community Services 	8
Applied Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Science • Medical Science and Health Care • Psychology • Sports 	10
Engineering and Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering • Information Engineering • Services Engineering 	10
Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students)		3
Total no. of courses		59



Applied Learning : Learning through Doing



Taking a Chance on Dance
Learning through performing on stage



Film Production
Learning through filming



Law Enforcement in Hong Kong
Learning from sharing by practitioners



Pâtisserie and Café Operations
Learning through making pâtisserie



Health Care Practice
Learning through simulated nursing ward



Aviation Studies
Learning in the flight simulator



ApL — A Valued Senior Secondary Elective Subject

- Focuses on practical learning elements linked to **broad vocational and professional fields with dual emphasis on theory and practice**
- **Complements subjects under Category A (subjects under the Key Learning Areas) and Category C (Other Languages)** to form a flexible subject combination that helps enrich students' subject choices and cater for learner diversity
- Develops students' **knowledge, generic skills, proper values and attitudes** through simulated or authentic contexts, as well as enhances students' understanding of vocational and professional education and training (VPET), preparing them for further studies and work in future.
- **ApL is NOT pre-vocational training**



*Applied
The Learning*



7



ApL — A Valued Senior Secondary Elective Subject (Cont.)

- The duration of ApL course is **180 contact hours**;
The duration of Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (“ApL(C)”) course is 270 contact hours
- **Category B subjects** of the HKDSE Examination
- ApL courses are **developed by course providers and delivered by tutors** recognised by the course providers
- There is **no public examination** for ApL subjects. Assessments are conducted by course providers while HKEAA is responsible for moderation of assessment results



*Exploring
The Future*



8

Recognition

- The reporting of students' performance in ApL subjects is by three levels

Attained with Distinction (II)

(deemed comparable to **Level 4 or above** of Category A subjects of the HKDSE Examination)

Attained with Distinction (I)

(deemed comparable to **Level 3** of Category A subjects of the HKDSE Examination)

Attained

- For ApL(C), students' performance is reported as "Attained" and "Attained with Distinction".

Recognition (Cont.)

- In addition to the HKDSE qualification, students who have successfully completed ApL courses that are registered in the Qualifications Register (as certificate programmes at QF Level 3) will obtain **QF certificates** issued by the course providers.
- ApL(C) is pegged at QF Level 1 to Level 3, and ApL(VocE) at QF Level 2 to Level 3.** Students taking ApL(C) / ApL(VocE) will obtain the respective QF certificate(s) issued by the course providers upon meeting the assessment and attendance requirements of different QF levels of the courses.

Qualifications Framework (QF)



Category A and Category B Elective Subjects

	Category A (KLA Subjects)	Category B (ApL Subjects)
Learning content	Around 20 subjects under different key learning areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 50 courses under 6 Areas of Studies • Focus on practical learning elements linked to broad vocational and professional fields • Dual emphasis on theory and practice
Lesson time	250 hours	180 hours
Mode of assessment	Public examination	No public examination. The assessment of each ApL subject comprises six to ten tasks undertaken within the period of study.
Reporting of students' performance	Level 1 to 5**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attained • Attained with Distinction (I) • Attained with Distinction (II)

Further Studies

Student admission in post-secondary institutions has followed the principle of institutional autonomy

Undergraduate programmes

- Post-secondary institutions value the learning experiences that students acquire in ApL
- ApL subjects are recognised as **elective subjects, or considered for award of extra bonus or additional information**, varying by individual institutions, faculties or programmes.

Sub-degree programmes

- The minimum entrance requirements for Associate Degree or Higher Diploma programmes are **Level 2 in five HKDSE subjects (including Chinese Language and English Language)**. Students are allowed to use ApL subjects to apply for the programmes.

ApL(C)

- For the purpose of admission to post-secondary education programmes, ApL(C) is in general **accepted as an alternative Chinese Language qualification, but it is not considered an elective subject**. Currently, University Grants Committee-funded universities and most post-secondary institutions accept ApL(C) as an alternative qualification in Chinese Language for the admission of NCS students with “Attained” as the minimum grade required.





For Work

The Civil Service Bureau

- accepts students' ApL results in the HKDSE (including “Attained” and “Attained with Distinction”, up to a **maximum of two ApL subjects**) in civil service appointments.
- accepts “Attained” and “Attained with Distinction” in ApL(C) as **meeting the Chinese language proficiency requirements of relevant civil service ranks**



*Expressing
Our Talents*



Latest Development

- The number of ApL courses has increased from 41 for the 2020-22 cohort to the latest 59 for the 2026-28 cohort
- New courses this year include “Pet Care and Grooming”, “UAV and Low-altitude Economy”, “Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) – Communicative Chinese”, etc.
- After the implementation of the optimising measures of the four senior secondary core subjects, there has been a marked increase in the number of student enrolment in ApL courses from about 5 400 for the 2021-23 cohort to about 9 800 for the 2025-27 cohort.



Taking Applied Learning Courses



How long does an ApL course last? Which year level of students can apply for the ApL courses?

- In general, each course spans two years at the senior secondary level
 - Application at S3: Commencing at S4 (to be completed at S5)
 - Application at S4: Commencing at S5 (to be completed at S6)

How ApL lessons are arranged?

- Schools may adopt the following two non-exclusive modes in implementing ApL courses to suit their school contexts:
 - **Mode 1:** Lessons to be held mainly on Saturdays at the venues of the course providers and delivered by tutors recognised by the course providers.
 - **Mode 2:** Classes are open only to students from eligible schools having entered into special agreements with the relevant course providers. Lessons can be held on weekdays or Saturdays and are taught by tutors recognised by the course providers. Subject to the facilities and equipment required for the individual courses, lessons can be held in schools and/or at the venues of the course providers.

Remarks: The ApL courses and year levels to be offered are subject to school's decision



How do students choose ApL courses?

- Students should have some ideas of the learning content and assessment requirements of the ApL courses before making a decision to take them as elective subjects
- Students should choose suitable ApL courses in accordance with their **interests, abilities, and aspirations.**

Do students need to pay the course fees for ApL courses?

- Students in aided, government and caput schools, schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme and special schools with senior secondary classes studying the senior secondary curriculum prepared by the Curriculum Development Council and published for use in schools by the EDB will be fully subsidised by the EDB to take ApL courses.



Application Procedures

- ApL courses for the 2026-28 cohort are 2028 HKDSE subjects
- Students intending to take ApL courses for the 2026-28 cohort (i.e. the cohort of students sitting the 2028 HKDSE) can commence their study at S4 in the 2025/26 school year (remarks: relevant application procedures had been completed and the courses had commenced in September / October 2025) or commence their study at S5 in the 2026/27 school year (students should submit application via schools from 23 February to 10 April 2026)
- **Students must apply through their school.** Each student can take a maximum of **TWO** ApL courses as elective subjects throughout his/ her studies at the senior secondary level (NCS students meeting specified circumstances (see remarks) can also take one ApL(C) course).

Remarks: Students who have learned Chinese Language for less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education; or students who have learned Chinese Language for six years or more in schools, but have been taught an adapted and simpler Chinese Language curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in local schools.



ApL Course-related Activities, Publicity and Reference Materials



Taster Programmes of ApL

- Course introduction, demonstration and workshops are provided by course providers to enable students to **experience the learning of ApL courses and ApL(C) courses**; and provide students with **a taste of the related industries / professions**.
- Target students: **S2 , S3 and S4** students



[Video on the highlight of activities]

ApL Extension Programmes for Workplace Experience

- Duration of each extension programme is **60 hours** to provide **add-on learning opportunities with workplace experience** on top of regular ApL courses
- To help students get better prepared for career development and further explore their career aspirations
- Target students: **for S5 and S6 students taking Applied Learning (ApL) courses**
- Period: **July – August** each year
- The EDB will fully subsidise the programme fee (Students are required to meet the attendance requirements)



[Video on the highlight of activities]



“Education and Careers Expo 2025” and “Learning & Teaching Expo 2025”

- The ApL Section participated in the “Education and Careers Expo 2025” and “Learning & Teaching Expo 2025” from 22 to 25 January 2025 and from 2 to 4 July 2025 respectively
- A booth was arranged to promote Applied Learning. Student ambassadors shared with visitors their personal stories on how ApL had helped them explore their career aspirations and the path of lifelong learning.



Education and Careers Expo 2025



Student ambassadors shared with the Secretary for Education



Course Provider: HKU(SPACE)
(Medical Laboratory Science)



Learning & Teaching Expo 2025



Course Provider: CICE
(Health Care Practice)

Reference Materials

ApL Promotional Videos



API



ApL graduates' success stories



Taster Program Applied Lear



Prospectus and leaflet for courses



Applied Learning E Programmes for W Experience



ApL Online Resource Platform



ApL graduates' success stories



ApL course: Child Care and Education (2022-24 cohort)

Current study: Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education and Special Education, The University of Hong Kong

The Applied Learning course "Child Care and Education" provided Jovy with a deeper understanding of the early childhood profession and helped her identify her future study and career aspiration. Through the "Learning-by-practicing" approach, Jovy acquired fundamental knowledge and practical skills essential for working with young children. By participating in activities such as "Creative Bread Lesson", "Puppet Experience Lesson", and "Colour Sensitive Lesson", she not only developed her creativity and communication skills, but also enhanced her understanding of children's developmental needs.

In recognition of her outstanding performance in ApL, Jovy was nominated for and accepted into the Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education and Special Education through the School Nominations Direct Admission Scheme (SNIDAS).



ApL course: Digital Comic Design and Production (2021-23 cohort)

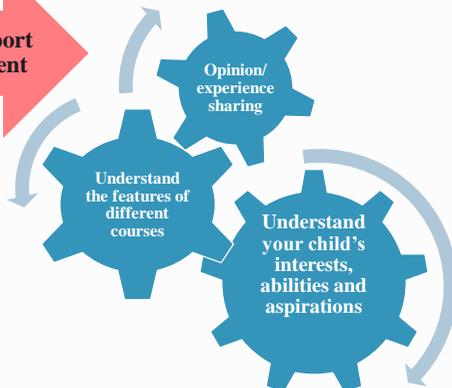
Current study: Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Creative Arts and Culture and Bachelor of Education (Honours) (Visual Arts), The Education University of Hong Kong

The Applied Learning course "Digital Comic Design and Production" enabled Tiffany to acquire practical knowledge and fundamental skills in comic design and production, as well as to gain an in-depth understanding of the workflow within the comic industry. This experience not only strengthened her aspiration to pursue a career in creative arts and arts education, but also provided her with a clear direction for further studies and career development.

Tiffany is now studying the Bachelor of Arts in Creative Arts and Culture and the Bachelor of Arts in Visual Arts Education. She actively participated in various art projects to further enhance her learning. She designed the Easter e-greeting cards for the Applied Learning Section of the Education Bureau, which fully demonstrated her creative potential in the arts.

Roles of Parents

Accompany, support and encouragement



Help your child make informed choices and choose suitable ApL courses





APPLIED LEARNING
UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL



www.edb.gov.hk/apl
3698 3186

