

Reference Guidelines

Education Requirement for Applicant for Tourist Guide Licence or Tour Escort Licence

1. Under section 42(2) of the Travel Industry Ordinance (Cap. 634) (the Ordinance), the Travel Industry Authority (the Authority) must not issue a tourist guide licence or tour escort licence unless an applicant meets the specified requirements, including the education requirement set out in Schedule 8. Under section 1 of Schedule 8, the education requirement is as follows:

- (a) completion of Form 5 education under the (Hong Kong) five-year secondary academic structure, or Senior Secondary 3 education under the (Hong Kong) New Senior Secondary academic structure (or equivalent);
- (b) for education completed outside Hong Kong, the applicant must prove, to the satisfaction of the Authority, that it is equivalent to completion of the education specified in subparagraph (a).

2. The Authority considers the following education qualifications to be equivalent to the qualifications mentioned in paragraph 1(a):

- (a) passes in five different subjects of the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE)¹;
- (b) specified results in five different subjects in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination²;
- (c) completion of the Hong Kong Yi Jin Programme / Diploma Yi Jin;

¹ Namely attainment of Grade E or above, or Level 2 or above under the Standards-referenced Reporting scheme since 2007.

² The five subjects must include at least three Senior Secondary subjects (attaining Level 2) and Other Language subjects (attaining Grade E), and at most two Applied Learning subjects (with results reported as “Attained”).

- (d) International Baccalaureate Diploma; and
- (e) Others: to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

3. For education completed outside Hong Kong as mentioned in paragraph 1(b), the Authority considers the following education qualifications to be equivalent to the qualifications mentioned in paragraph 1(a):

- (a) Mainland China: Senior Secondary 3;
- (b) Australia: Grade 12;
- (c) Canada: Grade 12;
- (d) New Zealand: Grade 12;
- (e) United Kingdom: Year 12 or Form 5;
- (f) USA: Grade 12;
- (g) Japan: Senior Secondary 3;
- (h) Korea: Senior Secondary 3; and
- (i) Other regions / countries: to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

4. For education qualifications (especially those of a vocational nature) obtained outside Hong Kong and different from those mentioned in paragraph 3, the Authority will request the applicants to have their education qualifications assessed by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) in order to ascertain whether their education qualifications meet the education requirement.

Documents required

5. For the education qualifications mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3, the Authority only accepts the original documents issued by the following institutions or copies certified by a practising solicitor in Hong Kong:

- (a) documents issued by recognized education institutions indicating the level of education completed (such as

graduation certificates, transcripts, confirmation letters, etc.); or

- (b) documents issued by recognized examination or assessment institutions indicating the subjects passed (such as the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination).

Recognized education institutions, and recognized examination or assessment institutions

6. For the recognized education institutions, and recognized examination or assessment institutions mentioned in paragraph 5, the Authority considers that they must belong to any of the following categories:

- (a) those registered with the governments (such as secondary schools registered with the Hong Kong Education Bureau);
- (b) those listed in an official qualifications register (such as those listed in the registers of the qualifications framework of Hong Kong, or other regions or countries);
- (c) institutions authorized by governments or their agencies to confer qualifications;
- (d) institutions authorized by statute of the regions or countries to confer qualifications; or
- (e) officially recognized accreditation institutions (such as the HKCAAVQ; accreditation institutions recognized by the relevant departments of the regions or countries).

7. If the documents submitted by an applicant lack the relevant information or are in a language other than Chinese or English, the Authority will request the applicant to submit further information and/or documents, including translated texts by a person or institution recognized by the Authority.