

**For information
on 3 February 2015**

Legislative Council Panel on Security

**2015 Policy Address
Policy Initiatives of Security Bureau**

This paper elaborates on the Security Bureau's initiatives in the 2015 Policy Address and Policy Agenda.

New Initiatives

Relaxation of the Upper Age Limit (65 years) of Category B Security Personnel

2. In line with the Population Policy to extend the working life of citizens and unleash the potential of local workforce, the Government will propose to the Security and Guarding Services Industry Authority (SGSIA) to suitably relax the upper age limit of Category B Security Personnel. At present, most of the security personnel perform Category B security work, which has a wide coverage including security work for different types of premises. The upper age limit for Category B security work is currently 65.

3. In accordance with the Security and Guarding Services Ordinance (Cap. 460), the criteria for issuing a security personnel permit has to be laid before and approved by the Legislative Council before it takes effect by publishing in the Gazette.

Attracting talent from outside Hong Kong

4. To meet the population challenges of an ageing population and declining workforce, we must build up human capital by complementing our local workforce with non-local talent, professionals and entrepreneurs. Having considered the latest situation in Hong Kong and views collected during the Public Engagement Exercise conducted by the Steering Committee on Population Policy, we will –

- (i) implement a pilot scheme to attract the second generation of Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents who have emigrated overseas to return to Hong Kong;

- (ii) relax the stay arrangements for entrants under the General Employment Policy (GEP) and the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals to facilitate the entry and stay of professionals and entrepreneurs;
- (iii) relax the stay arrangements for entrants under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS), adjust the QMAS scoring scheme to attract quality migrants with an outstanding education background or international work experience; and
- (iv) list clearly the factors to be considered under the GEP investment stream.

We have also suspended the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme with effect from 15 January 2015. Details of the above measures are at [Annex](#).

Ongoing Initiatives

Mutual Use of e-gate

5. To further enhance immigration handling capacity and efficiency, the Immigration Department (ImmD) has entered into arrangements for reciprocal use of automated clearance services with Korea (since December 2013), Germany (a pilot scheme was introduced in September 2014, with full implementation in November 2014), Singapore (since September 2014) and Australia (details to be announced). The ImmD will continue to liaise with countries and regions with close relationship with Hong Kong on tourism and economic development to implement reciprocal use of automated immigration clearance service for visitors. We believe that this will allow greater travel convenience for people in Hong Kong and our partnering economies, which in turn will enhance the economic, social and cultural ties between the places.

Engaging Ethnic Minorities (EM) Communities

6. The Police will continue to organise various programmes for EM in different Police Districts, including engaging EM as Police Community Liaison Assistants in 14 Police Districts, to strengthen the liaison with the EM communities and promote police services and fight crime initiatives to them.

Enhancing Junior Police Call (JPC) activities

7. Through different types of JPC activities, the Police will continue to plan and provide a variety of physical, discipline and team building training for the youths, in order to build their self-confidence, develop their leadership skills and self discipline and promote their sense of responsibility and spirit of

servicing the community. The number of EM JPC members increased from around 1 900 to around 2 500 in the past year. Police will continue to encourage them to participate in JPC.

Expansion of Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) Cadet Corps

8. The Cadet Corps was established in 2011 under the AMS. It currently has an establishment of 1,400 members. Since its inception, it has been well received by young people and their parents. In the next financial year, we aim to recruit more cadets, bringing the total to 1,800. Through participation in diverse training, group activities and community service with the Cadet Corps, they can acquire useful techniques and leadership skills, develop confidence, sense of responsibility and self-discipline, and broaden their horizons.

Anti-drug efforts

9. On the anti-drug front, we have to ensure that anti-drug policies and measures could respond to the evolving drug situation. Notwithstanding the improvement in the drug situation in the past few years, there is a worsening situation of the hidden drug abuse problem. This calls for measures which enhance community awareness of the drug abuse problem and promote early identification of drug abusers to enable the provision of timely assistance.

10. Moreover, we will continue to implement suitable anti-drug measures and programmes on the basis of the five-pronged strategy to ride the changing circumstances. For instance, on the preventive education and publicity front, we will continue to take forward suitable programmes, including the “Anti-drug Community Awareness Building Programme” of the Beat Drugs Fund, to promote community awareness of the drug problem. To promote early help-seeking, we have introduced the “98 186 186” instant messaging service, following the service enhancement of the 24-hour anti-drug hotline “186 186”. We will continue to further enhance such services. As regards preventive education among young people at schools, we would, on a trial basis, provide anti-drug education to students through a new format of interactive drama. We will also continue to promote the Healthy School Programme with a voluntary drug testing component in secondary schools to cultivate a drug-free environment in school. On the treatment and rehabilitation front, we will continue to enhance collaboration across sectors, including engaging stakeholders in formulating the “Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong (2015-2017)”, with the aim of more effectively assisting those with drug problems. As regards legislative action, two types of new drugs were brought under legislative control in 2014. We will continue to monitor the drug trend and initiate legislative action in a timely manner. On law enforcement, we will continue to coordinate co-operation with law enforcement agencies and relevant departments, as well as monitoring the

local and overseas drug situation, so as to combat any drug trafficking activities through an intelligence-led approach.

Continue to improve ageing penal facilities

11. We will continue to consider redevelopment projects and improvement works to address the problem of overcrowding and ageing facilities in some of the penal institutions so as to meet the custodial and rehabilitative service needs of persons in custody. Works of the partial redevelopment programme of the Tai Lam Centre for Women commenced in mid-2012 and will be completed in end-2016. Efforts will continue to be made to enhance other penal facilities, such as setting up a central visit room complex at Hei Ling Chau to provide a more convenient location for visitors and to improve the visiting facilities.

Sexual Conviction Record Check (SCRC) Scheme

12. Following the Law Reform Commission's recommendation, we have implemented the SCRC scheme through the Police since 1 December 2011. Under the SCRC scheme, the employers of organisations or enterprises of persons undertaking child or mentally incapacitated person (MIP)-related work can check whether their prospective employees have any criminal conviction records against a specified list of sexual offences. The purpose of the SCRC scheme is to enhance protection for children and MIPs against sexual assaults.

13. In 2014, the Police processed over 38 800 new applications and over 7 600 renewal applications for checking. We have extended the validity period of the check result for new applications submitted on or after 2 May 2014 from 12 months to 18 months to facilitate the employment needs of the applicants. Furthermore, we will expand the scope of the SCRC Scheme with effect from 1 April 2015 to cover contract renewal staff of private tutorial centres and private interest/activity institutions to allow the existing staff who are engaged in child or MIP-related work in these institutions and who need to renew their contracts to undergo SCRC.

Reduction of the Frontier Closed Area (FCA)

14. In response to the calls from the public and local communities, the Government announced in 2008 to substantially reduce the land area of FCA from about 2 800 hectares to about 400 hectares. The first and second stages of the FCA reduction were implemented in February 2012 and June 2013 respectively, releasing more than 1 450 hectares of land from the FCA. The last stage of the FCA reduction, covering the section of the boundary between Ng Tung River and Lin Ma Hang, is scheduled for implementation this year.

Enhancing emergency rescue and ambulance services

15. We will continue to make the best use of resources and improve emergency rescue and ambulance services of the Fire Services Department (FSD). FSD currently provides simple post-dispatch advice on several types of common injuries/sickness to callers of emergency ambulance services. As a further improvement, FSD plans to develop a computer system which will enable the provision of more comprehensive and suitable post-dispatch advice to callers of emergency ambulance services. In addition, FSD's new Fire and Ambulance Services Academy at Pak Shing Kok, Tseung Kwan O is expected to be completed by end of this year. The new campus will be equipped with various simulation training facilities which will allow fire services personnel to receive realistic training in a safe simulated setting, so as to better equip them with fire-fighting and rescue techniques to enhance their operational efficiency. The new campus will also enable firemen and ambulancemen trainees to be trained together, thereby enhancing their coordination and response capability in responding to disasters.

Security Bureau
January 2015

**Measures to attract talent, professionals and entrepreneurs
from outside Hong Kong**

INTRODUCTION

According to projections, Hong Kong's labour force will start declining in 2018 due to an ageing population. In view of this, we need to ensure that our admission schemes can attract and retain talent, professionals and entrepreneurs from outside Hong Kong to support our economic development.

2. Having considered the views received during the public engagement exercise held by the Steering Committee on Population Policy between October 2013 and February 2014, and the views of relevant bureaux and departments, we will implement the following measures –

- (a) introduce a pilot scheme to attract the second generation of Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents (HKPRs) who have emigrated overseas to return to Hong Kong;
- (b) relax the stay arrangements for entrants under the General Employment Policy (GEP) and the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTP);
- (c) relax the stay arrangements for entrants under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS), adjust the QMAS scoring scheme;
- (d) list clearly the factors to be considered under the GEP investment stream; and
- (e) suspend the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme (CIES)¹.

¹ The CIES has been suspended with effect from 15 January 2015.

ENHANCEMENT TO TALENT ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

(A) *Pilot scheme for admission of the second generation of Chinese HKPRs*

3. Due to historical reasons, many Hong Kong residents emigrated in the 1980s and 1990s. We estimate that from 1980 to 2013, some 840 000 Hong Kong residents emigrated, with almost 90% to the US, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the UK. Their second generation born overseas (second generation) may not have HKPR status² and therefore cannot freely return to work in Hong Kong. Under the existing immigration policies, there is no dedicated scheme to facilitate their return to Hong Kong. With their knowledge of foreign languages and culture, the second generation of Hong Kong emigrants with a good education background will be a valuable source of vibrant workforce. Given their family ties with Hong Kong, they may have a higher incentive to return and seek development opportunities here. We will hence implement a pilot scheme to facilitate the entry of the second generation of Hong Kong emigrants from overseas. The arrangements have made reference to the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG).³

4. Applicants under the new scheme will have to meet, apart from the normal immigration requirements, the following criteria –

- (a) aged between 18 and 40 and born overseas (i.e. countries/territories outside the Mainland, the HKSAR, the Macao SAR and Taiwan);
- (b) having at least one parent who is the holder of a valid Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card at the time of application and was a Chinese national⁴ who had settled overseas at the time of the applicant's birth;

² According to Article 24(2)(3) of the Basic Law and the interpretation adopted at the Tenth Session of the Standing Committee of the Ninth National People's Congress on 26 June 1999, persons of **Chinese nationality** born outside Hong Kong to HKPR parents who were, at the time of birth of the persons, Chinese citizens (i) born in Hong Kong or (ii) having ordinarily resided in Hong Kong for a continuous period of not less than seven years, are HKPRs. According to Article 5 of the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China, any person born abroad whose parents are both Chinese nationals and have both settled abroad, or one of whose parents is a Chinese national and has settled abroad, and who has acquired foreign nationality at birth **shall not have Chinese nationality**. Therefore, such persons not having Chinese nationality cannot acquire HKPR status under Article 24(2)(3) of the Basic Law.

³ Implemented in 2008, the IANG aims at attracting non-local graduates of full-time locally-accredited local programmes to stay and work in Hong Kong. Non-local fresh and returning graduates are allowed to stay or return to Hong Kong to look for or take up employment. A confirmed job offer is not required for fresh graduates. Entrants are granted stay on time limitation only on the "1+2+2+3" stay pattern.

⁴ According to Paragraph 1 of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Explanations adopted at the 19th Session of the Standing Committee of the 8th National People's Congress on 15 May 1996, "where a Hong Kong resident is of Chinese descent and was born in the Chinese territories (including Hong Kong), or where a person satisfies the criteria laid down in the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China (Chinese Nationality Law) for having Chinese nationality, he is a Chinese national". They will not be regarded as Chinese nationals only if they have made a declaration of change of nationality to ImmD or obtained approval for renunciation of Chinese nationality under Article 11 of the Chinese Nationality Law.

- (c) having a good education background, normally a first degree, but in special circumstances, good technical qualifications, proven professional abilities and/or relevant experience and achievements supported by documentary evidence may also be accepted;
- (d) being proficient in written and spoken Chinese (Putonghua or Cantonese) or English; and
- (e) having sufficient financial means and are able to meet the living expenses for the applicant's (including his/her dependants, if any) maintenance and accommodation without recourse to public funds.

The stay pattern under the pilot scheme will be “1+2+2+3” years. Applicants will not be required to have secured a job offer before entry. However, upon application for extension of stay, the applicant must have secured an offer of employment at a level commonly taken up by degree holders and the remuneration package is set at market level. Successful applicants may bring in dependants according to the prevailing dependant policy. There will be no quota under this scheme.

(B) Relaxation of stay arrangements for entrants under the GEP and ASMTP

5. Currently, successful applicants of the GEP and ASMTP will be granted an initial stay of one year (or in accordance with the duration of their employment contract, whichever is shorter) and are required to apply for extension of stay every two to three years thereafter. The typical stay pattern is “1+2+2+3” years. Having ordinarily resided in Hong Kong continuously for not less than seven years, entrants may apply for HKPR status in accordance with the law. GEP and ASMTP entrants are required to seek the Immigration Department (ImmD)'s approval before changing employment.

6. Having HKPR status provides more flexibility and incentives for admitted talent and professionals to stay and develop in Hong Kong. To encourage more quality entrants to stay in Hong Kong, we will relax the stay pattern from “1+2+2+3” years to “2+3+3” years.⁵ Also, top-tier GEP and ASMTP entrants meeting the criteria in paragraph 7 below may be granted, upon application for the first extension, a six-year extension on time limitation only without other conditions of stay. Such entrants will not have to seek prior approval from ImmD for change of employment and will only need to notify ImmD of the change for record purpose from time to time. Such arrangements

⁵ The period of stay granted for initial entry or subsequent extensions of stay will normally follow the revised stay pattern. However, such periods may be shorter subject to the actual duration of the employment contract in question.

will give quality entrants the liberty to switch jobs freely, facilitating their long-term development in Hong Kong.

7. The eligibility criteria, apart from fulfilling the normal immigration requirements⁶, for top-tier entrants⁷ will be as follows –

- (a) having worked in Hong Kong for at least two years under the GEP or ASMTP; and
- (b) having an assessable income for salaries tax above a certain level in Hong Kong. At the initial stage, we intend to set the level at an assessable income for salaries tax of not less than HK\$2 million in the previous year of tax assessment, subject to review by the Secretary for Security from time to time.

Based on the 2013 statistics, it is estimated that about 2 800 GEP and 65 ASMTP entrants will benefit from this arrangement, representing 10% and 1% of annual GEP and ASMTP approvals respectively. The relaxation will be non-quota and non-sector specific.

(C) Relaxation of stay arrangements for entrants under the QMAS and refinement of the QMAS point-scoring scheme

8. In line with the above proposed stay pattern for GEP and ASMTP entrants, we will relax the stay pattern from “1+2+2+3” years to “2+3+3” years for QMAS entrants under the General Points Test (GPT). Similarly, top-tier entrants meeting the following criteria may be granted a duration of stay in the pattern of “2+6” years –

- (a) having resided in Hong Kong for at least two years under the QMAS; and
- (b) having an assessable income for salaries tax of not less than HK\$2 million in the previous year of tax assessment, subject to review by the Secretary for Security from time to time.

To attract persons with outstanding achievements, those admitted under the Achievement-based Points Test (APT) may be granted a stay of eight years

⁶ Such as holding a valid travel document with adequate returnability to his/her country of residence or citizenship; be of clear criminal record and raise no security or criminal concerns to the HKSAR; have no likelihood of becoming a burden on Hong Kong, etc.

⁷ The relaxation for top-tier entrants does not apply to nationals of Afghanistan, Cambodia, Cuba, Laos, Korea (Democratic People’s Republic of), Nepal and Vietnam who are currently in general excluded from entry under the GEP. The list of excluded countries will be reviewed from time to time for the purposes of security and immigration control.

upon entry. In 2014, 348 people were allotted quotas under the GPT and 25 under the APT.

9. In order to attract talent with excellent educational background or international work experience to come to Hong Kong, we will adjust the point-scoring scheme under the GPT as follows⁸ –

- (a) **Academic/Professional Qualifications:** Academic/professional qualification is a very important factor in assessing applicants, especially those with less work experience. One of the shortcomings of the existing GPT is that it cannot distinguish qualifications obtained from renowned institutions. In order to attract talent with an outstanding academic background, we will award an additional 30 points to applicants who are graduates of a renowned institution recognized internationally.⁹ A comparison of the existing and the new scores are tabulated below –

	Existing	<i>New</i>
<i>Two or more doctoral degrees</i>	45	<i>N/A</i>
Doctoral degree / Two or more master's degrees	40	40
Master's degree / Two or more bachelor's degrees	35	20
Bachelor's degree / Professional qualification awarded by a nationally or internationally recognized or acclaimed professional body which demonstrates that the holder has a very high level of technical expertise or skill	30	10
<i>Bonus points awarded for: Bachelor's degree or above awarded by a renowned institution recognized internationally</i>	N/A	30
Maximum Points	45	70

- (b) **Work Experience:** To sustain Hong Kong's competitiveness as an international city and business hub for multinational companies to establish regional headquarters and offices, we should aim to attract talent with international exposure to enhance our human capital. We will therefore award an additional 15 points to applicants with two years or more of expatriate work experience. A comparison of the

⁸ Currently, apart from being assessed according to the point-scoring scheme, QMAS applicants must meet prerequisites such as aged 18 or above; able to support himself/herself and his/her dependants without relying on public assistance; without criminal record or adverse immigration record in Hong Kong or elsewhere, etc. Applicants who have met all the prerequisites may choose to be assessed under the GPT or APT. This arrangement will remain applicable under the revised scoring scheme.

⁹ Institutions listed in the top 100 in any of the following four well-recognized university ranking lists will be regarded as a renowned institution recognized internationally –

- Times Higher Education World University Rankings;
- QS World University Rankings;
- Shanghai Jiao Tong University Academic Ranking of World Universities; and
- US News and World Report Best Global Universities Rankings.

Institutions listed in the top 30 of the US News and World Report National Liberal Arts Colleges Rankings will also be regarded as a renowned institution recognized internationally. We may consult relevant experts or professional bodies on sector-specific renowned institutions which may not be included in these ranking lists.

existing and the new scores are tabulated below –

	Existing	<i>New</i>
Not less than 10 years' graduate or specialist level work experience, including at least 5 years in a senior role	50	40
Not less than 5 years' graduate or specialist level work experience, including at least 2 years in a senior role	40	30
Not less than 5 years' graduate or specialist level work experience	30	15
Not less than 2 years' graduate or specialist level work experience	10	5
<i>Bonus points awarded for:</i> <i>Not less than 2 years' graduate or specialist level work experience with international exposure</i>	N/A	15
Maximum Points	50	55

There will be no changes to the remaining three scoring factors, i.e. age, language proficiency and family background.

10. With the new scoring scheme, the maximum points under the GPT will increase from 165 to 195. As for applicants who are not eligible for the bonus points, the maximum score will be 150 points at most. We will therefore maintain the current minimum passing mark of 80 points. The revised point-scoring scheme is at the [Appendix](#). The above changes have no impact on the APT side of the scheme, where applicants will be screened in or out without detailed breakdown in scores.

11. The Secretary for Security will keep the point-scoring scheme under review to ensure that the QMAS remains effective in attracting talent that meets Hong Kong's needs.

(D) *The GEP investment stream*

12. Currently, in processing GEP applications under the investment stream,¹⁰ ImmD will consider whether applicants can “make substantial contribution to the economy of Hong Kong”. To make the scheme more transparent and to respond to the call for facilitating the entry of entrepreneurs who can bring economic benefits to Hong Kong, we will specify the consideration factors under the GEP investment stream, such as the business plan, financial resources, business turnover, investment sum, number of jobs created locally, introduction of new technology or skills, etc. Applicants who wish to establish or join in start-up businesses supported by government-backed programmes (after a rigorous vetting and selection process) would also be favourably considered.¹¹ The targeted beneficiaries will be limited to the

¹⁰ In 2013, there were 310 approved applications under the GEP investment stream.

¹¹ Examples of start-up applicants that may be favourably considered by ImmD are:
i. semi-finalists of the StartmeupHK Venture Programme administered by InvestHK;

proprietor(s) or partner(s) of the start-up business company and those key researchers (as identified and supported by the relevant department/authority/agency) of the project in question. Other staff or researchers recruited from outside Hong Kong will be assessed subject to the normal criteria for employment under the GEP or ASMTP. Similar to entrants under the GEP employment stream, the duration of stay pattern for entrants under the investment stream will be relaxed to “2+3+3” years on employment status.

(E) *Suspension of the CIES*

13. The CIES has been suspended with effect from 15 January 2015. When the CIES was implemented in 2003, Hong Kong’s economy was in recession. The primary policy objective then was to attract new capital into Hong Kong to stimulate economic growth and promote economic and financial activities. The situation has changed since then. Amid the abundant liquidity in the Hong Kong investment market, attracting capital investment entrants should no longer be our priority. Instead, our focus should be on attracting talent and professionals to join our workforce, and innovative entrepreneurs to contribute to our economy. We have therefore decided to suspend the CIES until the need to reinstate it arises.

14. The suspension will also help the ImmD in clearing the over 12 000 CIES applications under processing.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Implementation Timetable

15. The CIES has been suspended with effect from 15 January 2015. The rest of the enhancement measures will be implemented in the second quarter of 2015.

Transitional arrangements

16. For GEP and ASMTP entrants admitted before the relaxation, they may also benefit from the new arrangements set out in paragraphs 6 and 7 above upon implementation. Their extension of stay applications will be granted in

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- ii. participants of various incubation programmes, including the Incu-App, Incu-Bio and Incu-Tech programmes, administered by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation;
 - iii. participants of the Cyberport Incubation Programme;
 - iv. participants of the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) administered by the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) (SERAP is expected to be replaced by the new Enterprise Support Scheme in early 2015); and
 - v. participants of the Design Incubation Programme administered by the Hong Kong Design Centre.

line with the new extension of stay pattern and eligible entrants may also apply for the “2+6” extension pattern. Similarly, QMAS entrants admitted before the relaxation may benefit from the new stay arrangements (see paragraph 8); entrants under the GEP investment stream admitted before the relaxation may benefit from the new duration of stay pattern (see paragraph 12).

17. Under the existing Scheme Rules of the CIES, applicants are allowed to take into account the required investment made within six months prior to the date of lodging an application or within six months after being granted the approval-in-principle. In view of this, as a transitional arrangement, applications will be accepted after the suspension date if they involve investment of no less than HK\$10 million made within six months immediately before the suspension date and such applications are made within six months of the investment. This arrangement is subject to the applicant meeting the other CIES eligibility criteria. The suspension of the CIES will not affect applications received before the suspension date, whether already approved (including approval-in-principle and formal approval) or still under processing.

Publicity

18. ImmD will develop a package of materials, including on-line materials, to facilitate public understanding of the various admission schemes and to enable economic and trade offices, the Beijing Office and the Mainland and overseas offices of InvestHK to promote the admission schemes outside Hong Kong. Separate announcements will be made on the details by ImmD shortly prior to the implementation of the various enhancement measures in the second quarter of 2015.

BACKGROUND

19. Hong Kong’s existing talent admission schemes adopt largely a market-driven, non-sector specific approach. For entry for employment, overseas, Taiwan and Macao residents may apply under the **GEP** while Mainland residents may apply under the **ASMTP**. Applicants must have secured a job relevant to his academic qualifications or work experience that cannot be readily taken up by the local workforce with a remuneration package commensurate with the prevailing market rate. Overseas entrepreneurs and investors may also come and establish or join in business in Hong Kong under the GEP.¹² Entrants will be granted an initial stay of one year with subsequent extensions of stay granted for two to three years. Applicants may bring in their spouse and unmarried dependent children under 18. Upon seven years of continuous ordinary residence, entrants (and their spouse and dependants) may

¹² Entry by way of investment is not allowed under the ASMTP.

apply for permanent residence in Hong Kong. As at the end of 2014, there were around 83 000 GEP and ASMTP talent on long-term employment¹³ in Hong Kong, amounting to around 2.3% of the total labour force (excluding foreign domestic helpers).¹⁴

20. For highly-skilled and talented persons, they may also enter Hong Kong for residence under the **QMAS** without first securing an offer of local employment before their entry. There are two points-based tests under the QMAS – GPT and APT – both with a total mark of 165 points. The former has five point-scoring factors (namely age, academic/professional qualifications, work experience, language proficiency and family background) while the latter only has one and is entirely dependent on the applicant’s achievements (e.g. Olympic medal, Nobel prize, national/international awards). Applicants who meet all prerequisites and attain at least 80 points under the GPT or 165 points under the APT will be short-listed for assessment by the Advisory Committee on Admission of Quality Migrants and Professionals, which will decide whether to recommend to the Director of Immigration to approve the application. There is an annual quota of 1 000. As at the end of 2014, the number of quota allotted was 3 097.

21. The **CIES** was launched in October 2003 to facilitate entry for residence by capital investment entrants who wish to make capital investment rather than running any business in Hong Kong. The scheme applies to non-Mainland residents and Chinese nationals with overseas permanent residence. Following a review in 2010, the threshold of investment was raised from HK\$6.5 million to HK\$10 million and real estate has been suspended temporarily as a class of Permissible Investment Assets (“PIAs”).¹⁵ Since its implementation, 41 802 applications have been received up till the end of 2014, of which 25 504 have been granted formal approval, bringing HK\$216 billion of capital investment into Hong Kong.

¹³ Long-term employment refers to employment for more than 12 months.

¹⁴ For reference, as at June 2013, Employment Pass holders made up 5% of Singapore’s workforce, engaging in managerial, executive or specialized jobs.

¹⁵ PIAs include equities, debt securities, certificates of deposits, etc.

**New Point-scoring Scheme for the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme
General Points Test
[effective from second quarter of 2015]**

	Factors	Points
1	Age	
	18-39	30
	40-44	20
	45-50	15
	51 or above	0
	Maximum Points	30
2	Academic/Professional Qualifications	
2.1	Doctoral degree / Two or more master's degrees	40
	Master's degree / Two or more bachelor's degrees	20
	Bachelor's degree / Professional qualification awarded by a nationally or internationally recognized or acclaimed professional body which demonstrates that the holder has a very high level of technical expertise or skill	10
2.2	<u>Bonus points</u> awarded for: Bachelor's degree or above awarded by a renowned institution recognized internationally	30
	Maximum Points	70
3	Work Experience	
3.1	Not less than 10 years' graduate or specialist level work experience, including at least 5 years in a senior role	40
	Not less than 5 years' graduate or specialist level work experience, including at least 2 years in a senior role	30
	Not less than 5 years' graduate or specialist level work experience	15
	Not less than 2 years' graduate or specialist level work experience	5
3.2	<u>Bonus points</u> awarded for: Not less than 2 years' graduate or specialist level work experience with international exposure*	15
	Maximum Points	55
4	Language Proficiency	
	Being proficient both in written and spoken Chinese (Putonghua or Cantonese) <u>and</u> English	20
	Being proficient in at least one foreign language (written and spoken), in addition to written and spoken Chinese (Putonghua or Cantonese) or English	15
	Being proficient in written and spoken Chinese (Putonghua or Cantonese) <u>or</u> English	10
	Maximum Points	20

	Factors	Points
5	Family Background	
5.1	At least one immediate family member (married spouse, parents, siblings, children) is a Hong Kong permanent resident residing in Hong Kong	5
5.2	Accompanying married spouse is educated to the equivalent level of a degree or above	5
5.3	5 points for each accompanying unmarried dependent child under the age of 18, maximum 10 points.	5 / 10
	Maximum Points	20
	Maximum Points (Total)	195

* *Work experience outside the applicant's home country/territory*