

Towards 2+2 Transfer: General Education Credit Recognition

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Every year, publicly-funded institutions provide senior-year intake (SYI) places for graduates of sub-degree (Associate Degree and Higher Diploma) programmes offered by publicly-funded and self-financing providers. According to the 2014 Policy Address, the HKSAR Government will increase the annual SYI from 4,000 places in 2014/15 academic year to 5,000 places for the 2015/16 to 2018/19 academic years.

As part of the credit recognition process, publicly-funded institutions have to assess the General Education (GE) courses completed by sub-degree graduates. In 2013, FSTE published the General Education Guidebook (as one of the deliverables of a Quality Education Grant Scheme project) which was hoped to 'serve as a platform for the development of common credit transfer for General Education in the degree sector in the future.'

This paper investigates the GE credit exemption assessment processes used by publicly-funded institutions. It looks at the procedures used by publicly-funded institutions to determine credit units allowed for GE courses completed at sub-degree providers, highlighting challenges faced by publicly-funded institutions (and applicants) in the approval process of GE credits. Possible initiatives which may facilitate the process are also proposed for consideration by stakeholders such as the HKSAR Government, publicly-funded institutions, and the sub-degree sector.