

16 Oct 2009

## **Other Learning Experiences (OLE) for University Admissions**

**The JUPAS Board of Management, the Education Bureau (EDB)** and school council representatives met on 15 October 2009 to discuss how schools could submit their students' "Other Learning Experiences (OLE)" information to universities for admission purposes under the 334 Academic Reform (334).

Under the 334, universities will look at students' OLE for admission purposes. Every student will have a SLP which record their OLE and achievements in other areas, supplementing their results acquired from the new Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE). The JUPAS Board of Management also confirmed that the SLP is an important reference document containing students' learning experiences in the admissions process under the new 334.

**The Heads of Universities Committee (HUCOM)** in October 2008 presented a Joint Statement giving broad support to the implementation of OLE. The Joint Statement from HUCOM states that:

“ ... These experiences are conducive to the all-round development of the students and indispensable to the nurturing of active, informed and responsible citizens who respect plural values, lead a healthy lifestyle, and abide by positive work ethics in the pursuit of their career aspirations. ”

Students' OLE includes a comprehensive range of activities and participation. Universities, schools and students are highly concerned about how students would submit their information, and how universities would use such information. The JUPAS Board of Management, after consulting school councils and principals, has designed a template to aid students in the submission of information pertaining to their OLE and achievements for reference by universities. Such information, which is likely to be based on individual SLPs, can be sent to JUPAS through an electronic interface via schools. With the adoption of such a summary template, the submission of SLP to JUPAS is optional. Students who wish to submit their portfolios to individual programme may do so when they are invited for interviews.

“To encourage students to participate in extra-curricular activities is an important aspect of the Academic Reform, the spirit of which is widely supported by the public. Under the new HKDSE, more students will have results that cluster around the middle range, scoring similar grades. When considering students for admission, universities will make reference to their performances in extra-curricular activities. As such, the OLE and SLP of students is an important source of additional reference information and could be used as a framework for discussions during interviews.” **Mrs. Grace M.Y. Chow, Chairman of the JUPAS Board of Management** points out, “To handle a large quantity of student’s data will inevitably increase the workload of both the universities and schools. However, as long as all parties concerned work together and support each other, I believe such difficulties can be overcome. We also hope that with these arrangements students will realise the importance of OLE and benefit from their participation in them.”

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