

CENG Rating System for HKPFS Applications

This guideline sets out the CENG's rating system for submission of HKPFS applications. Departments should follow the requirements stipulated in this guideline when preparing their submissions.

1. Introduction

Six selection criteria with a total weighting of **120 points** will be adopted by RGC. Assessment of HKPFS applicants should be based on these six criteria, as shown below:

- A. Academic excellence (60 points)**
- B. Research ability and potential (20 points)**
- C. Cultural diversity (15 points)**
- D. Leadership ability and societal responsibility (10 points)**
- E. Communication and interpersonal skills (10 points)**
- F. University's support (5 points)**

While the CENG rating system basically adopts the selection criteria of the RGC, Departments should calculate the points for each of the above components based on their respective requirements as set out below.

2. Calculation of Points for Each Component

A. Academic Excellence (Capped at 60)

Includes the following 3 components:

- A1 - Academic Score for BSc (capped at 45)
- A2 - University Ranking Score for BSc (capped at 10)
- A3 - Additional Marks for MSc (capped at 5)

A1 - Academic Score for BSc (capped at 45)

1. For Mainland universities, must use average score out of 100.
2. For non-Mainland universities, can use average score or CGPA, whichever is stated in the official transcript.
3. Please enter the full mark (e.g. 100) or the maximum GPA (e.g. 4.0, 4.3, 4.5, etc.) in the respective column.
4. Please follow the grading system of the applicant's BSc University (i.e. average mark out of 100 or GPA out of 4.0 or 4.3) for input to the reply proforma. Do **NOT** convert the GPA (out of 4.0 or 4.3) to average mark (out of 100) or vice versa.
5. The score will be converted to a score **out of 45** automatically.

Additional Remarks for Calculating Mainland U Average Score

- Some mainland universities show both grades and marks on the transcripts. All courses taken, irrespective shown by grades or marks, should be included in calculating the "average marks". Grades should be converted as marks for the calculation.

If the grade refers to a range of marks, the medium of the range marks should be applied. For example, if the marks' range is 90 to 95, the marks of 92.5 should be used.

- Courses taken with results of Pass or Fail will not be included in the calculation of “average marks”.
- Some mainland universities only show grades without marks on the transcripts, AND the final results are only indicated with GPA. Please use the GPA for conversion to a score out of 100 for HKPFS cases.

A2 - University Ranking Score for BSc (capped at 10)

University ranking score for BSc will be added automatically based on the applicant's BSc University's category. Please refer to below:

For qualifications from mainland universities:

	Targeted Mainland Universities	BSc U Ranking Score
1	C9 League universities / UCAS	10
2	“Double First Class” universities (Cat A or Cat B)	5
3	Project 211 universities	2.5
4	Other Mainland universities	0

For qualifications from Taiwan universities:

Cat		Universities in Taiwan under the “Five-Year-Fifty-Billion” Project	BSc U Ranking Score
I	1	National Taiwan University (國立臺灣大學)	10
	2	National Tsing Hua University (國立清華大學)	
II	3	National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (國立陽明交通大學) <i>(founded in 2021 through the merger of two universities: National Yang-Ming University and National Chiao Tung University)</i>	5
	4	National Cheng Kung University (國立成功大學)	
	5	National Taiwan University of Science and Technology (國立臺灣科技大學)	
	6	National Taiwan Normal University (國立臺灣師範大學)	
III	7	National Sun Yat-sen University (國立中山大學)	2.5
	8	National Central University (國立中央大學)	
	9	Chang Gung University (長庚大學)	
	10	National Chengchi University (國立政治大學)	
	11	National Chung Hsing University (國立中興大學)	
Taiwan - Others		Other Taiwan Universities not listed in Cat I or Cat II or Cat III	0

Note:

For Taiwan Universities not listed in Category I, II, III, please select “Taiwan-Others” from the excel pull down menu, and a score of 0 will be automatically assigned.

For qualifications from other universities, including local universities (non-Mainland and non-Taiwan):

	Non-Mainland / Non-Taiwan Universities	BSc U Ranking Score
1	Top 100 Worldwide	10
2	Top 101 - 150 Worldwide	5
3	> Top 150 Worldwide	0

For considering the BSc U ranking, any of the four ranking systems, namely Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), Times Higher Education (THES), Shanghai Jiaotong World Ranking of Universities (ARWU), and US News, can be adopted. The most recent rankings at the time of the relevant admission recommendation should apply.

Note:

For overseas and local universities not ranked top 150 in any of the four ranking systems, please select "> Top 150 Worldwide" from the excel pull down menu, and a score of 0 will be automatically assigned.

A3. Additional Marks for MSc (Capped at 5)

- If the applicant has a Master Degree/is a final year student of Master's Degree, marks should be assigned according to the table below.
- In **adding the MSc additional marks**, please follow the grading system of the applicant's MSc University (i.e. average mark out of 100 or GPA out of 4.0 or 4.3). Do **NOT** convert the GPA (out of 4.0 or 4.3) to average mark (out of 100) or vice versa. The only exception is for GPA not out of 4.0 or 4.3 (in this case, please convert it to the average mark out of 100).

#Master Degree Qualification Type	Additional Marks for MSc
C9/UCAS/Double First Class $\geq 85/100$ average marks	5
C9/UCAS/Double First Class $\geq 80/100$ to $< 85/100$ average marks	2.5
Top 100 Worldwide GPA $\geq 3.5/4.0$ (or 4.3); or $\geq 85/100$ average marks	5
Top 100 Worldwide GPA $\geq 3.3/4.0$ (or 4.3) to $< 3.5/4.0$ (or 4.3); or $\geq 80/100$ to $< 85/100$ average marks	2.5

- If the applicant does not have any MSc Degree/is not a final year MSc student, please select "No additional point for MSc / No MSc" from the excel pull down menu, and a score of 0 will be automatically assigned.

B. Research Ability and Potential (Capped at 20)

Publication Score (Capped at 20)

Publication in top journal in the category as confirmed by respective AUs and authorship of the candidate will be scored as follows:

Ranking of Journal	Score
	First (co-first) or second or corresponding author
SCI Top 5%	20
SCI > Top 5% & \leq Top 10%	15
SCI > Top 10% & \leq Top 20%	10
SCI > Top 20% & \leq Top 50%	5

Please enter the **number of papers** in each category and the publication score will be calculated automatically.

C. Cultural Diversity (C1 + C2, Capped at 15)

- C1 - Cultural Diversity Score (Capped at 15)
- C2 - Cultural Diversity Bonus Score (Capped at 5)

C1. Cultural Diversity Score (Capped at 15)

The cultural diversity score should be assigned based on the applicant's **nationality**.

Category	Region/ Country/ City	Bonus Points
A	Mainland China	7.5
B	Taiwan	12.5
	Bangladesh	
	India	
	Iran / Iraq	
	Nepal	
	Nigeria	
	Pakistan	
	Philippines	
C	Hong Kong	15
	All American countries	
	All European countries	
	Australia	
	Egypt	
	Jordan	
	New Zealand	
	South Africa	
	UK	
	All other Asian, Middle East and African countries/Regions (except those listed in A, B)	

C2. Cultural Diversity Bonus Score (Capped at 5)

A bonus score of 5 points can be added to applicants who have obtained academic qualifications from **more than one country**.

Cap for Cultural Diversity

Although the cap for cultural diversity score (C1) and cultural diversity bonus score (C2) is 15 and 5 points respectively, the total cap for C1+C2 is **15** points.

D. Leadership Ability and Societal Responsibility (Capped at 10)

Points will be given to applicants with proven experience and outstanding record in **professional and/or extracurricular activities** showing strong leadership in many aspects. Also to applicants with **global outlook and long-term career plans** and a strong sense of societal responsibility (**Evidence based**).

Departments should **list out** all the experience / activities of the applicant in relation to his / her leadership ability and societal responsibility **in the reply proforma**. The applicant's role in the experience / activities should also be specified.

Example:

1. Student Union at xxx University 2022-2023 (President)
2. “Engineers Without Borders” from 2021- present (Group Leader)

Points should be assigned to this component according to the number of experience / activities of the applicant as set out below:

Number of Experience / Activities in relation to Leadership Ability and Societal Responsibility	Score
3 or above	10
2	7
1	4
No experience / record in this aspect	0

E. Communication and Interpersonal Skills (Capped at 10)

Description: Highly articulate candidate with **excellent presentation skills** to express ideas and concepts logically and convincingly in **written and oral** media.

- Research proposal
- Interview performance

Note: Departments should assign a score to this component based on the assessment of the applicant's communication and interpersonal skills according to the above description. Departments should provide **justification** for the assigned score **in the reply proforma** based on the research proposal and interview performance of the applicant (no more than 50 words).

F. University's Support (Capped at 5)

Description: Candidates with the strongest recommendation by the university with convincing and strong justification that **meets the objectives of the Fellowship Scheme backed by solid data**.

- HKPFS Application Evaluation Form

Note: For candidates nominated by departments, please assign 5 points for University's Support.

Total score for prioritization = A + B + C + D + E + F = (60+20+15+10+10+5) = 120 (maximum)
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3. Allocation of HKPFS Quotas to Departments

- This year, SGS allocated **39** HKPFS quotas to CENG.
- The quota allocated to each department is based on the percentage share of HKPFS nominees selected by RGC in the past three years added together.
- Based on the above principle, the quota allocated to each department is highlighted in **yellow** below:

Dept	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	Total	Percentage %	Allocated Quota for Submission to College
ACE	0	3	1	4	10.26	4
BME	3	1	4	8	20.51	8
CS	1	3	2	6	15.38	6
EE	2	1	2	5	12.82	5
MNE	3	2	1	6	15.38	6
MSE	4	3	2	9	23.08	9
SYE	1	0	0	1	2.56	1
Total	14	13	12	39	100.00	39

- Departments should rank their HKPFS applicants and submit them to College **in priority according to the total score out of 120**.

English Proficiency Requirement

- IELTS*: overall band score of 6.5; or
 - TOEFL*: 79 (internet-based); or
 - “English Proof” for both BSc and MSc
- Note: CET-6 NOT accepted for HKPFS

Note:

*TOEFL and IELTS scores are considered valid for two years from the test date and must be valid at the time of submission of application.

*‘TOEFL iBT Home Edition’ and ‘IELTS Indicator’ are **NOT** accepted for HKPFS 2024/25 as fulfilling the English Proficiency Requirement.

Score Adjustment

- UK Score Adjustment
 - A score adjustment scheme for UK universities: UK 70 = 81.4
→ **Score = 0.62 x (UK score) + 38**
 - Score adjustment for UK is NOT automatic. Departments need to show and include proof that **70 marks is cut off** for First-class Honour (BSc) / Distinction (MSc).
 - Please **highlight** in the reply proforma any score adjustment performed.

- Score Adjustment for Other Countries
 - For score adjustment for a particular institution in other countries, departments must provide justification and the proposed score adjustment formula. The proposal would need to be approved by SRD.
 - Please **highlight** in the reply proforma any score adjustment performed.

Plagiarism Checking

- In order to deter plagiarism, please conduct plagiarism checking for all research plans and vision statements of all your nominations and ensure that no applications with suspected plagiarism will be nominated.
- As suggested by SGS, regarding plagiarism checking, while sticking to below 5% of similarity is advised, 5% to 10% similarity may also be acceptable. However, regardless of whether it is below 5% similarity or between 5% and 10% similarity, the following practices are not acceptable.
 - Copying parts of a text word for word
 - Quoting so much from a source that it makes up the majority of the text
 - Reusing work previously submitted without citing yourself (self- plagiarism)
- Please be reminded to **exclude references** and the **headings/sub-headings** when conducting the plagiarism checking.

SGS's Documents on HKPFS

- Departments and faculty members are reminded to refer to SGS's materials on HKPFS:
 - Emails (memo and attached documents) on HKPFS dated **6 September 2023** and email on **20 October 2023** respectively; and
 - The PowerPoint slides of the "HKPFS Workshop" held on **26 October 2023** (email sent by SGS on 31 October 2023).