

香港學人 HKScholars

Pilot Impact Report 2019/20



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Welcome



Collin Lau
Co-Founder

Welcome,

Due to the global pandemic, only the first semester of HK Scholars Programme has been held successfully in 2019/20. However, we are delighted to present the summary and impact report for this year. The pilot in Hong Kong supported 37 pupils from 3 local schools in Kowloon and the New Territories. For the pilot, we recruited, trained and placed 3 PhD researchers to lead university-style learning experiences to develop the knowledge, skills and ambition of primary and secondary school pupils.



Samuel Poon
Co-Founder

We hope you enjoy reading this impact report and learning more about our work. As our pilot reaches its end, we greatly value hearing feedback, so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any feedback about the programme or our impact.



Ben Mak
Co-Founder

Moving forward, we are looking forward to building the partnerships and support that will allow us to extend the work of HK Scholars. If you are already working with us, thank you for your hard work and support. If you are not yet, please get in touch to find out more about joining us in our mission to increase fair access to university for underprivileged young people.

Yours sincerely,

Collin Lau, Samuel Poon & Ben Mak
HK Scholars Co-Founders

About Us

Hong Kong Scholars exists to increase the number of underprivileged young people at university. We do this by recruiting and training PhD researchers who lead university-style learning experiences to develop the knowledge, skills and ambition of school pupils.



Hong Kong Scholars is part of the AccessEd network.

AccessEd exists to increase access to university for young people from under-served backgrounds globally. We are creating a global network of partner organisations committed to this mission, sharing with them our expertise, resources and support.



Partnerships and Impact

AccessEd has been established by the co-founders of The Brilliant Club in the UK, Jonny Sobczyk and Simon Coyle. The Brilliant Club is an award-winning and independently evaluated charity that exists to increase the number of pupils from under-represented backgrounds progressing to highly-selective universities in the UK. It does this by mobilizing the PhD community to share its academic expertise with state schools.

Since establishing The Brilliant Club in 2012, Jonny and Simon have grown a system-level organisation that is now active across the UK, working with over 30 leading universities and over 500 schools. This year, it will mobilise 600 PhD researchers to deliver programs of university-style tutorials in those schools to over 10,000 pupils.

As well as operating at a national scale, Brilliant Club programs also have credible evidence of impact. In the UK, only 11% of low-income school leavers progress to a highly-selective university. An evaluation by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) found that the average for The Brilliant Club in the UK is 58%. Further, the evaluation found that The Brilliant Club has a statistically significant impact on the likelihood a pupil will progress to a highly-selective university, compared to a control group.

AccessEd exists to support education leaders in other countries to design and pilot new university access programmes that mobilize PhD researchers. HK Scholars belongs to the AccessEd network, benefitting from the collective expertise of researcher and practitioners engaged with fair access to higher education globally.

The HK Context

Higher education is an engine for social mobility, supporting positive economic and social outcomes for young people. Accessing these opportunities can be a hard route for those that come from low-income families. In Hong Kong today, there is an entrenched link between household income and educational success.

You are **3.7 times more likely** to go to university if you come from the top 10% of income earning families.

You are **2.5 times less likely** to have a degree education if you grew up in rural districts.

At the age of 16, **81%** from the most advantaged families expect to obtain a degree, compared to only **35%** from the bottom ten per cent of families

The Needs of HK Students

Following initial interest in the AccessEd programme model, we co-hosted a workshop with Ednovators, advocates for education innovation in Hong Kong.

With over 20 participants representing schools, universities, government bureaus, and education charities, we shared and prioritized the diverse educational needs of Hong Kong's underprivileged young people.



More opportunities to engage in academic interests



More avenues to develop academic and self confidence



More exposure to outside communities and of the wider world



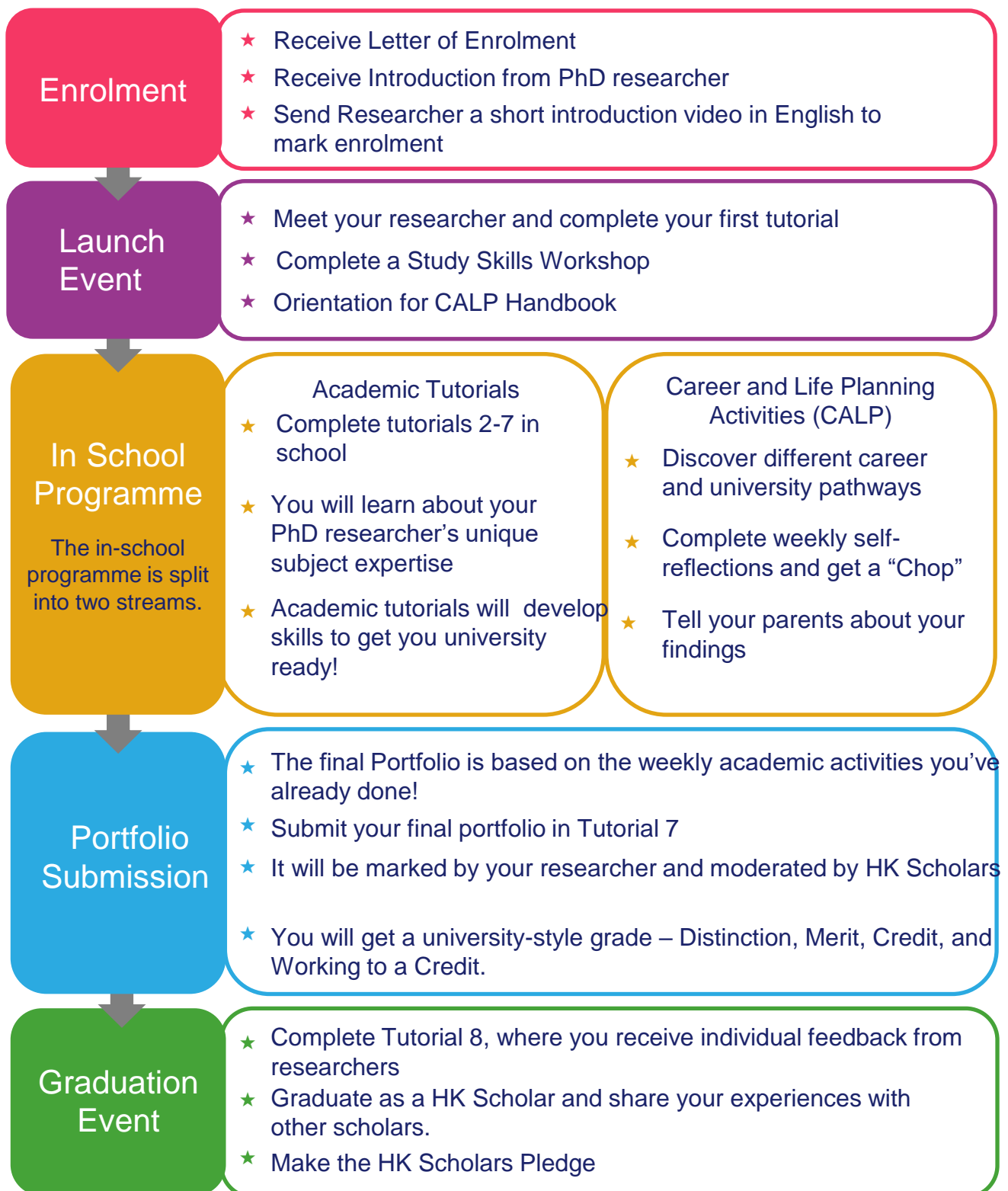
"I feel grateful for having such organisations willing to serve kids in need"

Workshop Participant



Programme Overview

HK Scholars is designed to give young people an **authentic experience of university**. From being taught by PhD researchers, to studying undergraduate-style topics, HK Scholars breaks down barriers to university. Each researcher works with 12 pupils, selected by the schools, in two small-groups of six. Like all university pupils, our scholars begin with enrolment and end with Graduation!



Researcher Development

Every HK Scholars researcher has either completed or is currently studying for a PhD. We assess and select researchers based on the skills and values that we think are essential to deliver excellent academic tutorials.

All of our PhD researchers must also **complete full training** that is specific to the needs of Hong Kong pupils. The training sessions introduce PhD researchers to core pedagogy (such as planning and questioning), to formative and summative assessment, as well as aspects of classroom management and codes of professional conduct.

Recruitment, Training and Feedback



12 researcher applications



100%

of all researchers felt motivated to further engage in community programmes



9 applications accepted



100%

of all researchers would work with HK Scholars again and recommend the programme to their colleagues



3 trained and Placed
(semester 2 was cancelled due to pandemic)



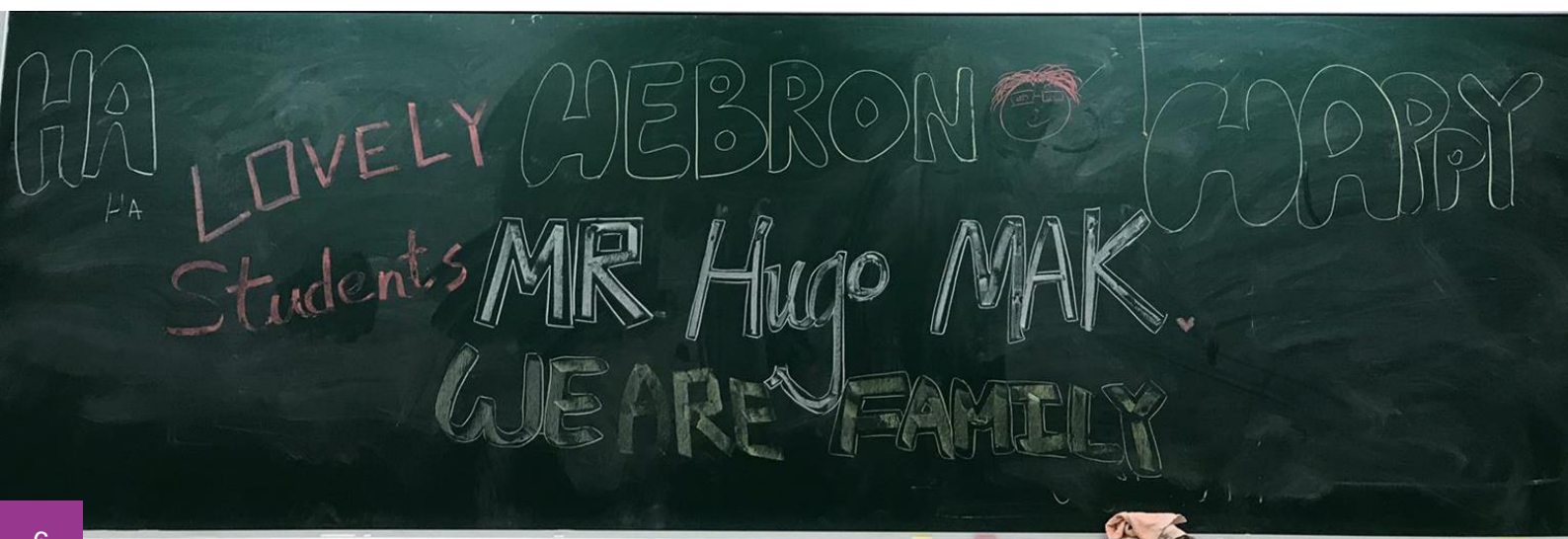
100%

learned practical skills to help plan and deliver their course



100%

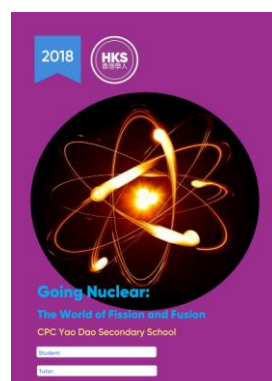
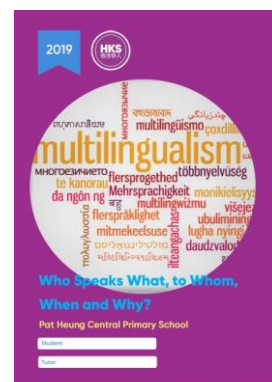
of all researchers felt they had become better teachers through the programme



Research Based Courses

At HK Scholars, we support every one of our PhD researchers to design their own course handbook based on their own academic research for our young people.

Below are the courses designed and delivered in 2018/19 & 2019/20.



2019/20 Course Titles and Tutors

Big History: A Scientific Origin Story
Mr. Aidan Wong, Division of Environment and Sustainability, HKUST

Who Speaks What, to Whom, When and Why?
Miss Natalie Choi, Faculty of Education, HKU

Writing and Rewriting Hong Kong History
Mr. Allan Pang, Department of History, HKU

2018/19 Course Titles and Tutors

How does Maths optimize our daily lives?
Mr. Hugo Mak, Department of Mathematics, HKUST

Going Nuclear: The world of fission and fusion
Dr. Alastair Dunn, Department of Physics, UCL

What is Fairness?
Dr. Chi Chi Huang, History Department, HKU

Why is blue of boys and pink for girls?
Dr. Gum Gum King, Department of Comparative Literature, HKU

Pilot Programme Outputs

Scale

In 2019/20, HK Scholars supported:

3

researchers to complete our training

37

young people to complete the programme

48

hours delivered of university-style tutorials

Partnerships

In 2019/20, HK Scholars worked with:

3

government subsidized schools



2

universities in Hong Kong

Targeting

In 2019/20, Our pupils demographics were:

100%

met our targeting criteria of which:

33%

are on the CSSA Scheme

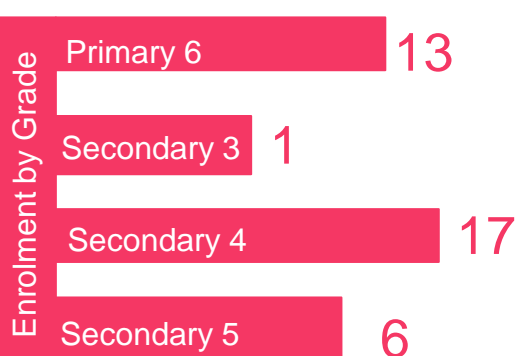
100%

neither parent held post-secondary qualifications

79%

live in sub-divided or public housing

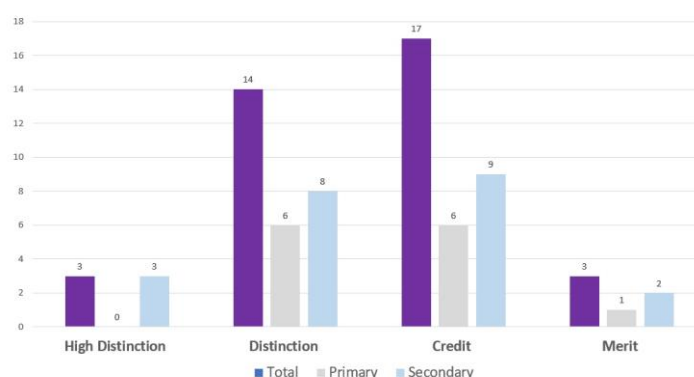
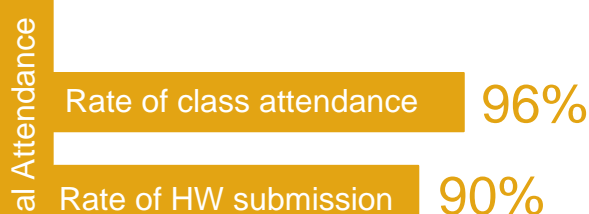
Pilot Programme Impact



Final Portfolio Submission - Total 95%

Primary 92%

Secondary 96%



Outcomes and Reporting



University Readiness

HK Scholars exists to increase the number of underprivileged young people progressing to university. This is the long-term outcome we word towards.

However, as a university access programme working with pupils from age 11, we know that we have to wait several years to know if we are achieving this long term outcome. We must also demonstrate our shorter-term impact on pupils.

To this end, we have designed a competency framework in consultation with AccessEd and local educators. This framework supports our pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and ambitions needed to be university ready. It is built on seven cognitive and non-cognitive skills that the literature shows and local experts confirm to show as having a positive impact on academic attainment, as well as life outcomes more widely.

Competency Framework



Method

We assessed these competencies using the final assignment and using a standardized self-report questionnaire from the academic literature called “The Motivated Strategies for Learning Questionnaire”, which is widely used. It is highly reliable and valid assessment.

Interpretation Notes

The numeric shifts on standardized Likert scales for pre- and post-assessments can often be small (e.g. less than 1.0). This is typical for these types of tests, and in many instances small numeric difference are statistically significant suggesting that there is a real difference in performance between the pre- and post-assessments.

Impact Data

Subject Knowledge Communication Critical Thinking

To test for these three competencies, the HK Scholars Programme implemented a baseline homework assignment and a final assignment.

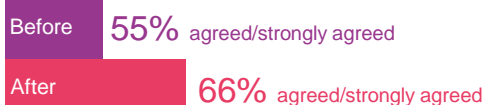
The baseline homework assignment was designed to measure the pupil's knowledge of the researcher's topic, their written English communication skills, and challenged them to think critically about the topic at hand.

The final assignment involved an in-class presentation in English as well as a final written component related to what they had learnt.

The average of the baseline test was 32%

The average of the final assignments was 60%.

Q: I have a good level of knowledge in the subject that this course focuses on:



Q: When reading I try to connect the things I am reading about with what I already know

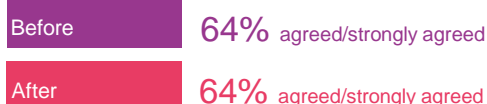


Impact Data

Self-Directed Learning Curiosity Confidence

The following data is for select questions from the pre- and post-test.

Q: I am sure I can do an excellent job on the problems and tasks assigned in my lessons



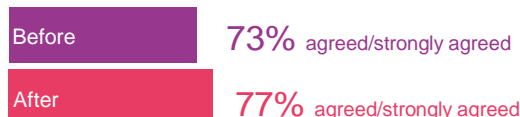
Q: Compared with other pupils in my school I think I know a great deal about my subjects



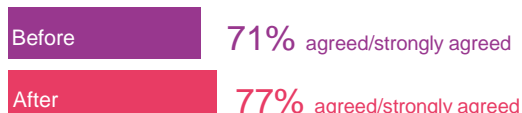
Q: I know that I will be able to learn the material for this year



Q: I think I will be able to use what I learn in one class in other classes



Q: I think that what we are learning this year is interesting



Q: I use what I have learned from old homework tasks and the textbook to do new tasks



Q: When I read material for my lessons, I say the words over and over to myself to help me remember



Q: I can complete written work to the same standard as a pupil two years above me at school



Q: Even when study materials are dull and uninteresting, I keep working until I finish



Q: I understand why and how people study when they are at university



Q: I know the steps I need to take to apply to university in the future



Q: I know the skills and attributes required to think about career and life planning



Closing Words



Ms. Grace Tan

Programme
Manager

Thank you for reading our impact report.

It has been an absolute privilege to work with the 3 schools and their diverse and motivated pupils. It has also been very encouraging to see how various communities in Hong Kong have supported our HK Scholars idea and the work we do.

As we go forward to develop and scale up this programme, we will be looking to continue and grow our partnerships with schools, education experts, other NGOs, and businesses. If you are interested in our work, please contact me and I look forward to discussing the impact we can create in the lives of Hong Kong's young people.

Yours Sincerely,
Grace Tan
manager@hkscholars.com



