Student Finance Office Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency Notes on How to Complete and Return Electronic Household Application Form

WARNING

The personal data in the application will be used to assess an applicant's eligibility for financial assistance and the appropriate level of assistance to be awarded. It is an offence to obtain property / pecuniary advantage by deception. Any person who does so commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to imprisonment for a maximum of 10 years under the Theft Ordinance, Chapter 210.

IMPORTANT NOTES

I. General Information

- Please complete Parts I to VIII according to the instructions stated in the Electronic Household Application Form (E-Form) and this Notes. All the items marked with * are mandatory items.
- "Assessment year" mentioned in this Notes generally refers to the preceding financial year. The
 assessment year for application in this school year (i.e. 2024/25 application) refers to the 2023-24 financial
 year (1.4.2023 31.3.2024).
- Applicants are suggested to access, complete and submit their E-Form with the latest version of Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox or Safari. If applicants are not using the aforementioned browsers or are using an older version of the aforementioned browsers, the contents and/or options of the E-Form may not be displayed or functioned properly.

II. Notes on Submission of Supporting Documents

- Regarding the copy of supporting documents required to be submitted (e.g. identity documents, supporting documents for separation / divorce (for single-parent families), documentary proof on annual income, etc.), please refer to Paragraph 13.4 of this Notes for details. Please note that applicants must provide the required supporting documents; otherwise, the Student Finance Office (SFO) will not be able to process the application.
- Please follow the instructions stated on the "Cover Sheet for Supporting Documents" [SFO 108] and submit
 copies of identity documents of the applicant and those of the family members (including the dependent
 parent(s) (if applicable)) claimed in the form together with copies of other document proof related to the
 application.

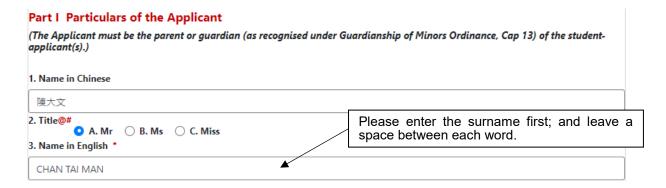
Accessing E-Form

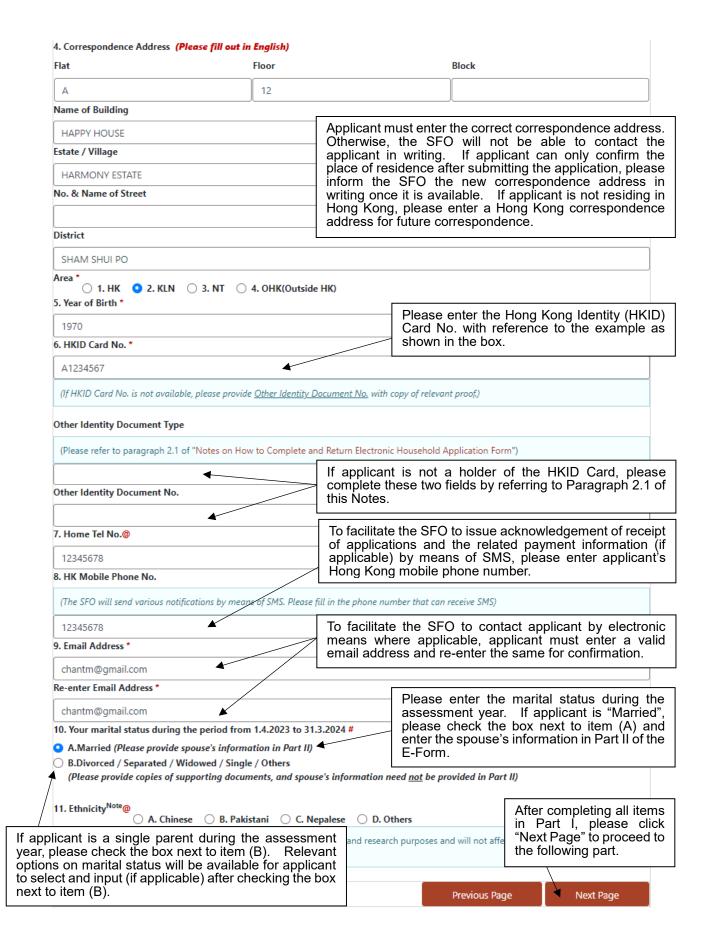
- 1.1 Applicant may access the E-Form in the "SFO E-link My Applications (Financial Assistance Schemes at Preprimary, Primary and Secondary Levels)" website (https://ess.wfsfaa.gov.hk/espps). Please click the "E-Form" tab in the left menu bar to access the E-Form.
- 1.2 Please read carefully the "Important Notes", then click "Continue" to start filling in the E-Form.

Completing E-Form

Part I Particulars of the Applicant

(Applicants must be the parent or the guardian (as recognized under Guardianship of Minors Ordinance, Cap 13) of the student-applicants)



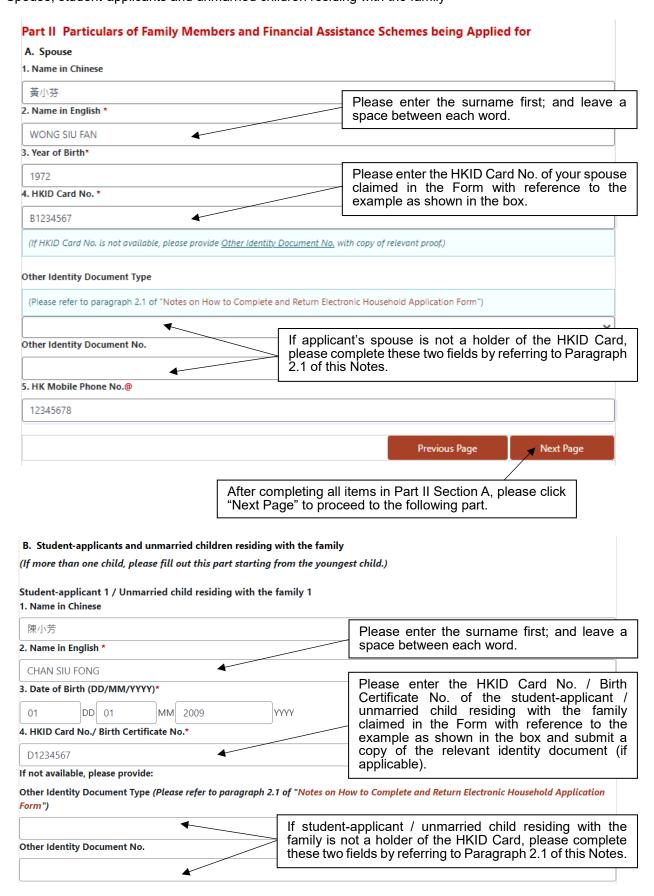


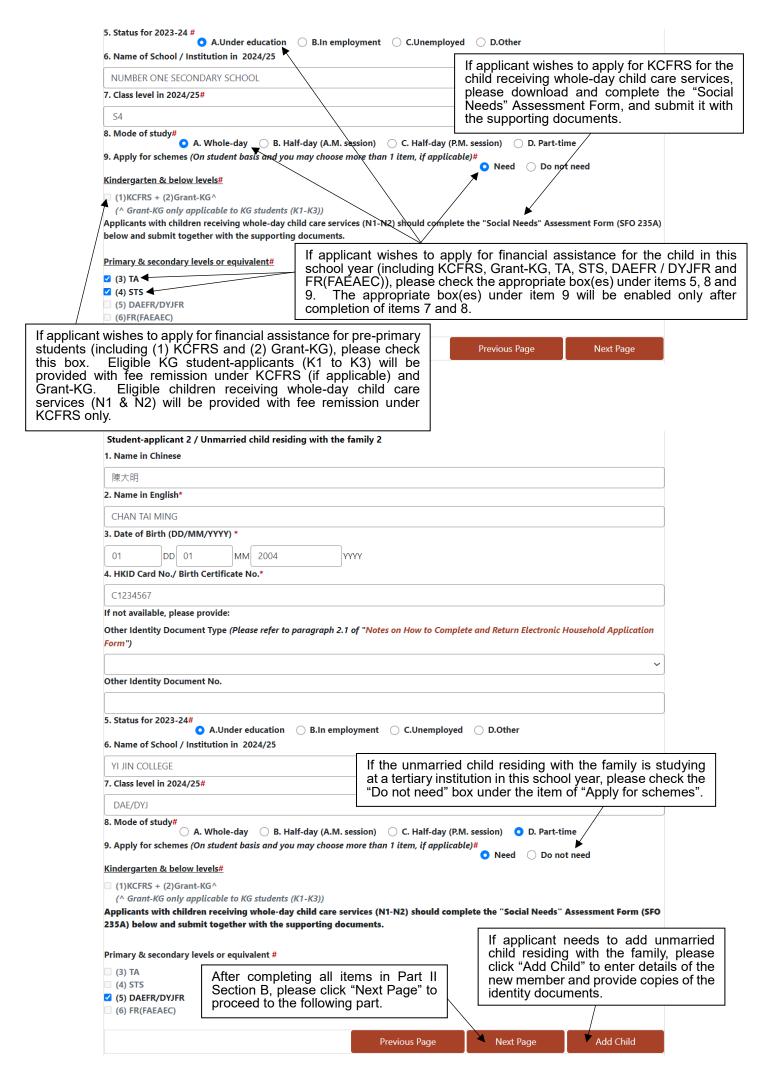
2.1 If applicant (and/or his / her family member(s)) is (are) not a holder (holders) of the HKID Card, please select the applicable item from the dropdown menu of "Other Identity Document Type" comprising the following items, enter the relevant identity document number, and provide a copy of the identity document:

(i) Passport	(ii) Re-entry Permit	(iii) Certificate of Identity
(iv) Document of Identity	(v) Entry Permit	(vi) Declaration of ID for Visa Purpose
(vii) One-way Permit	(viii) Mainland identity documents	(ix) Others

Part II Particulars of Family Members and Financial Assistance Schemes being Applied for

3.1 Spouse, student-applicants and unmarried children residing with the family





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- 3.1.1 Applicant's spouse and children in receipt of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) will not be counted as 'family members' under the Adjusted Family Income (AFI) mechanism.
- 3.1.2 Student-applicants who have been approved to receive financial support in respect of textbook expenses, internet access charges at home and student travel expenses including free transportation service to and from school by any public or private organizations or schools should not apply for the same type of assistance through the SFO. These organizations include, but are not limited to schools, the Social Welfare Department, Education Bureau, the Hong Kong Jockey Club, public transport companies, etc. If it is subsequently discovered that the student-applicant is benefitting from double subsidies, the applicant is liable to refund the overpaid amount forthwith upon the request of the SFO.
- 3.1.3 Applicant should refer to the following codes and select the applicable class level attended by his / her child(ren) in this school year from the dropdown menu:

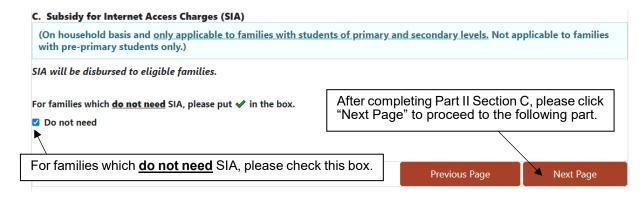
(i) Whole-day Child Care Centre (group aged 0 to 2): N1
(ii) Whole-day Child Care Centre (group aged 2 to 3): N2
(iii) Nursery class in kindergarten: K1
(iv) Lower class in kindergarten: K2
(v) Upper class in kindergarten: K3

(vi) Primary 1 to 6: P1 / P2 / P3 / P4 / P5 / P6

(vii) Secondary 1 to 3:
(viii) Secondary 4 to 6:
(ix) Diploma of Applied Education / Diploma Yi Jin:
(x) Others (e.g. Tertiary Level):
S1 / S2 / S3
S4 / S5 / S6
DAE / DYJ
Others

- 3.1.4 If applicant wishes to amend the application details after submission of the E-Form (including applying for additional scheme(s) / amending scheme(s) that have been applied for), please submit the request in writing, together with justification, and post it to the SFO within 30 days from the submission date of the E-Form. Application for additional scheme(s) / amending the scheme(s) to apply for must be duly signed by the applicant with the Household Application Number / the HKID Card No. of the applicant specified. It will take longer time for processing these applications. Please note that late application for financial assistance will not be considered. In this regard, applicant should check carefully if he / she has chosen all the scheme(s) that he / she wishes to apply for before submission of the E-Form.
- 3.2 Subsidy for Internet Access Charges (SIA)

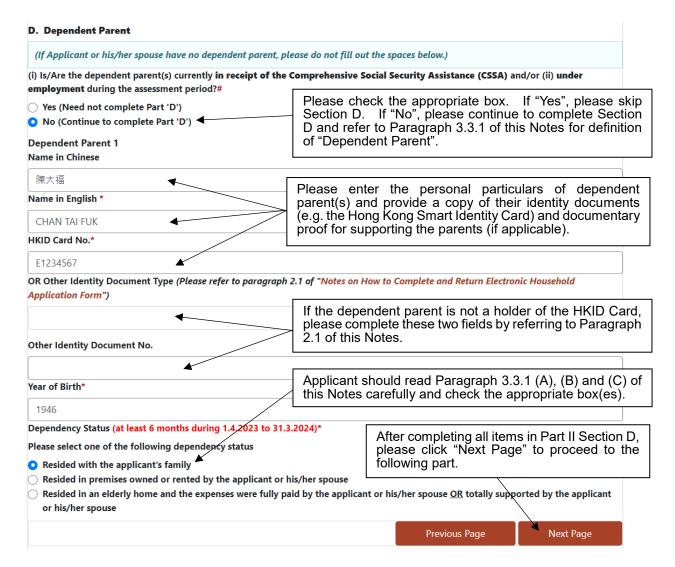
The applicant does not need to apply for SIA, which is on a household basis and only applicable to families with students of primary and secondary levels. Families will be disbursed the subsidy provided that they can pass the means test and the student-applicant(s) can meet the eligibility criteria for SIA. This subsidy is not applicable to families with pre-primary students only.



- 3.3 Dependent parent
- 3.3.1 Dependent parent refers to the applicant's parents, including in-laws, who is not a recipient of the CSSA at the time of submission of application. They must, throughout the normal assessment year, not be in employment and meet any one of the following conditions for at least 6 months
 - (A) resided with the applicant's family; or
 - **(B)** resided in premises owned or rented by the applicant or his / her spouse; or
 - (C) resided in an elderly home and the expenses were fully paid by the applicant or his / her spouse <u>OR</u> totally supported by the applicant or his / her spouse.

Remarks: Applicant or his / her spouse should continue to support their parent in this school year and the form of support should be similar to that in the year of assessment. Besides, as the number of family members may affect directly the level of assistance the applicant's family is eligible for, please submit the completed E-Form together with documentary proof for supporting the parents (e.g. tenancy agreement, residential address proof or receipt of the home for the elderly, etc.) to the SFO.

3.3.2 <u>If applicant or his / her spouse has dependent parent(s)</u>, please submit copies of the identity documents of the dependent parents provided in the form. Otherwise, please do not fill out this part.



Part III Residential Address

4.1 Applicant should enter the residential address in this part so that the SFO can arrange to conduct home visits for the selected applicants. If applicant's residential address is the same as the correspondence address provided in Part I of the E-Form, the applicant is not required to complete this part.

Part III Residential Address (If the correspondence address provided in Part I is not your residential address, please provide the full residential address in English in the following boxes, otherwise do not fill out the spaces below.)					
Name of Building	,,				
Estate / Village					
No. & Name of Street					
No. & Name of Street					
District			After completing Part III, please click "Next Page" to proceed to the following part.		
Area	N. OBNIT OARNING	IIA			
○ 1. HK ○ 2. KL	N 3. NT 4. OHK(Outside F	IK)			
		Prev	vious Page	Next Page	

Part IV Family Income

1. Applicant Mode of employment# Part-time				
Position / Other* (e.g. housewife, unemployed, retired) * Position_1(Please specify	period if it is not a w	vhole year)		
UNEMPLOYED (1.4.2023 – 30.4.2023); CLERK (1.5.2023 – 31.12.2023); SELF-EMPLOYED DRIVE	R (1.1.2024 – 29.2.2024	4) AND RETIRE	D (1.3.2024 – 31.3.2024)	
	Diagon ont	for the t	estal income (int	
Total Annual Income (\$) Including bonus / allowance / part-time income (excluding Mandatory Provident Fu	without do		otal income (intaces) for the po	
Salary (\$) *	from 1.4.20	from 1.4.2023 to 31.3.2024. The SF		
80000			imated amount, the actual fig	
Business profit (\$) *	For other	income	source, e.g. r	enta
			under "Items ne aragraph 5.1 of	
45000			n from children	
2. Spouse	residing w	ith the	family / relativ	es
Mode of employment# Full-time Part-time			or interests e enter the am	fror າດur
Position / Other* (e.g. housewife, unemployed, retired) Rosition_1(Please specify p	according t	to the fo	llowing example). <u> </u>
HOUSEWIFE (1.4.2023 – 30.9.2023); PART-TIME CASHIER (1.10.2023 – 31.3.2024)		there is no relevant income, ple input "0" in the field(s).		
Total Annual Income (\$)				
Including bonus / allowance / part-time income (excluding Mandatory Provident Fu	ınd (MPF) / Provider	nt Fund conti	ibution by employee)	
Salary (\$) *			e fields with pos	
30000	√ unemployn	nėnt, ho	usewife or retirei	mer
Business profit (\$) *			nent period. If please specify	it i th:
0			ce to the example	
CHAN TAI MING Mode of employment# Part time Position / Other* (e.g. housewife, unemployed, retired) Position_1(Please specify part time) WAITER (1.4.2023 – 10.6.2023); UNEMPLOYED (11.6.2023 – 31.3.2024)	eriod if it is not a w	hole year)		
Total Annual Income (\$) Including bonus / allowance / part-time income (excluding Mandatory Provident Foundations) Salary (\$)	ınd (MPF) / Provider	nt Fund contr	ibution by employee)	
36000				
Business profit (\$)				
0				
Other income Contribution from children not residing together, relatives or friends (\$) *				
12000				
Rental income of property, land, carpark, vehicle or vessel (\$) *				
96000				
Interests from investments, fixed deposit (\$) *				
5000				
Alimony (\$) *				
0				
Pension (excluding lump sum retirement gratuity) (\$) *				
0		After co	mpleting all items	s
Widow's & Children's Compensation (\$) *		in Part	IV, please clicl	k
0			age" to proceed to wing part.	ر ا
Others (\$) *		\		
0		$\overline{}$		
		· ·		
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5.1 Types of incomes earned by the family both within and outside Hong Kong that should be reported are listed below for reference. For provision of documentary proofs, please refer to Paragraph 13.4 (vi) of this Notes.

Items need to be reported

- Salary (including the salary of applicant, applicant's spouse and student-applicant's unmarried sibling(s) residing with the applicant for full-time, part-time or temporary jobs, excluding Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) / Provident Fund contribution by employee)
- 2 Double pay / Leave pay
- 3 Allowance (including overtime work / living / housing or rent / transport / meals / education / shift allowance, etc.)
- 4 Bonus / Commission / Tips
- 5 Studentship
- 6 Wages in lieu of notice of dismissal
- 7 Business profits and other income earned by means of self-employment, such as hawking, driving taxis / minibuses / lorries, and fees for services rendered, etc.
- 8 Alimony
- 9 Contribution from any person(s) not residing with applicant's family to any of the applicant's family member(s) (including money or contribution of housing / remittance(s) / contribution for mortgage repayment / rent / water / electricity / gas or other living expenses)
- 10 Interests from fixed deposits, stocks, shares and bonds, etc.
- 11 Rental income of property, land, carpark, vehicle or vessel (including Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas)
- 12 Monthly pension / Widow's & Children's Compensation

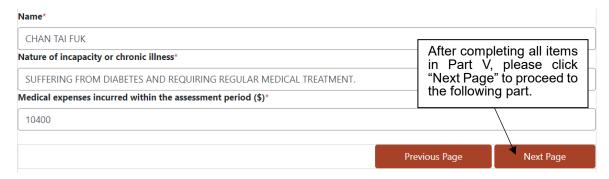
Items need not to be reported

- Financial assistance from the Government, or payment from the assistance programme under the Community Care Fund (such as CSSA / Old age allowance / Old age living allowance / Disability allowance / Retraining allowance / Work Incentive Transport Subsidy / Working Family Allowance etc.)
- 2 Long service pay / Contract gratuity
- 3 Severance pay
- 4 Loans
- 5 Lump sum retirement gratuity / Provident fund
- 6 Inheritance
- 7 Charity donations
- 8 Insurance / accident / injury indemnity
- 9 MPF / Provident Fund contribution by employee (the <u>ceiling</u> of contribution needs not to be reported is <u>\$18,000 per year</u>)

5.2 Applicant should provide the income proof and those of the family member(s) under employment. If the applicant, the applicant's spouse or any family member under employment has / have provided the Income Certificate (i.e. Sample I) or the Self-prepared Income Breakdown (i.e. Sample IV) as the income proof, the SFO may still require the applicant to concurrently provide the bank passbook, salary statement or other income proof for reference. If applicant cannot provide any income proof for special reasons, please notify the SFO in writing, providing justifiable reasons and the detailed calculation of income. Applicant should also sign on the explanatory letter personally. If the explanation or documents provided cannot substantiate the reported income information of the family member(s) concerned (e.g. self-written statement of income), the SFO may need to make adjustment and apply benchmark figures (based on statistical information provided by relevant government departments e.g. Census and Statistics Department) to assess the income of applicants and their family members. In assessing the family income, if necessary, the SFO may require the applicants to provide documentary proof of items which is not listed above or seek further clarification for amounts that were used for maintaining the living of the family but have not been accounted for in the application such as savings, loans. The SFO may also request the applicant to produce documentary proof including bank savings records, duly signed declaration from the debtor, etc. In case no valid proof is provided, the amounts for maintaining the living of the family may be taken as part of the family income.

Part V Medical Expenses Incurred by Family Member(s) with Chronic Illness

(Please provide a copy of supporting document)

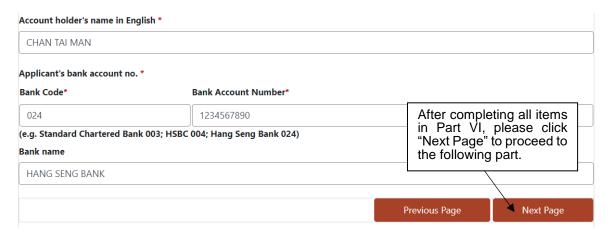


6.1 If applicant has incurred medical expenses for family members (for family members who are chronically ill or permanently incapacitated) in the assessment year, he / she may state details of the situation in Part V of the E-Form. Applicant must provide relevant medical certificate(s) and receipt(s) issued by the hospitals / clinics / registered practitioners to the SFO for consideration of deducting such expenses. (The ceiling of deductible amount for each family member is \$23,310 per year in 2024/25).

Part VI Applicant's Bank Account for Payment of Assistance

(The account must be under the applicant's name. Please provide copy of the bank statement / first page of bank book.)

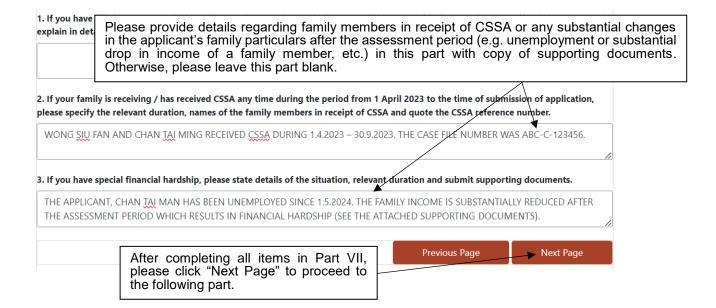
- As the SFO will release the Grant for School-related Expenses for Kindergarten Students, School Textbook Assistance, Student Travel Subsidy, Subsidy for Internet Access Charges, Diploma of Applied Education / Diploma Yi Jin Fee Reimbursement and Fee Reimbursement (Financial Assistance Scheme for Designated Evening Adult Education Courses) by auto-pay, applicant should provide the correct bank name and bank account number together with a copy of the relevant supporting document¹. Please note that the SFO bears no responsibility for any delay in receipt of payment / loss in subsidy amount / any additional bank charges arising from any errors the applicant committed in providing the bank code and / or account number.
- 7.2 The bank account must be valid account <u>solely</u> under the name of the applicant. (It must be recently in use.) Joint account, credit card account, loan account, fixed-deposit account and foreign currency account are not accepted.
- 7.3 Please enter the correct bank account information with reference to the following example:



- 7.4 For enquiries of "Bank Code", applicant may approach the bank concerned for assistance.
- 7.5 If applicant needs to change the bank account number after submission of the E-Form, please advise the SFO of the change in writing with supporting document showing the name of the bank account holder and account number as soon as possible so as to avoid any delay in the disbursement of financial assistance.

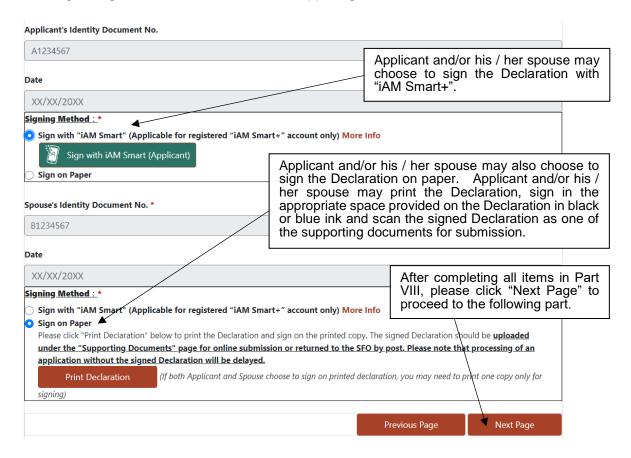
Part VII Applicant's Supplementary Information

Applicant is not required to provide the relevant supporting document if the requirements mentioned in Note 2 of Paragraph 13.4 are met.



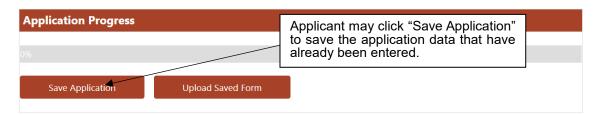
Part VIII Declaration

- 10.1 Applicant and his / her spouse (if applicable) should read through the paragraphs carefully and sign the Declaration digitally or on paper as follows:
 - (i) signing the Declaration with "iAM Smart+" digitally; or
 - (ii) printing the Declaration, signing in the appropriate space provided on the Declaration in black or blue ink and scanning the signed Declaration as one of the supporting documents for submission.

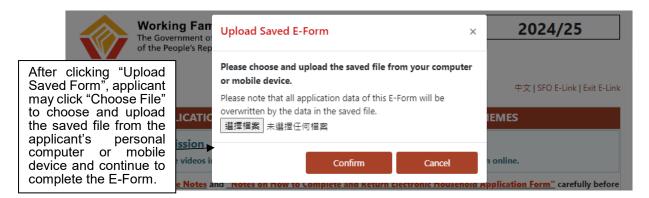


Saving and Uploading E-Form

11.1 If applicant needs to save the unfinished E-Form for completion later, please click "Save Application" to download the application data that have already been entered. The application data will be saved in the applicant's personal computer or mobile device as a ".sfo" file. Applicant should record the location of the saved file to facilitate subsequent retrieval and continual completion of the E-Form.

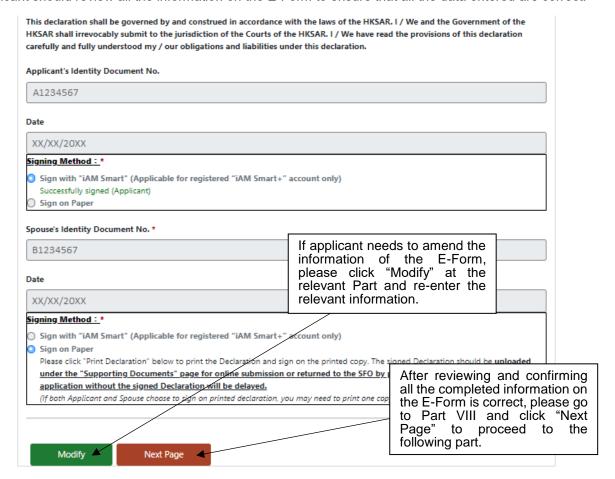


11.2 If applicant wants to restore the application data from a saved file, please click "Upload Saved Form" to choose and upload the saved file from the applicant's personal computer or mobile device. Applicant may continue to complete the E-Form after uploading the saved file.



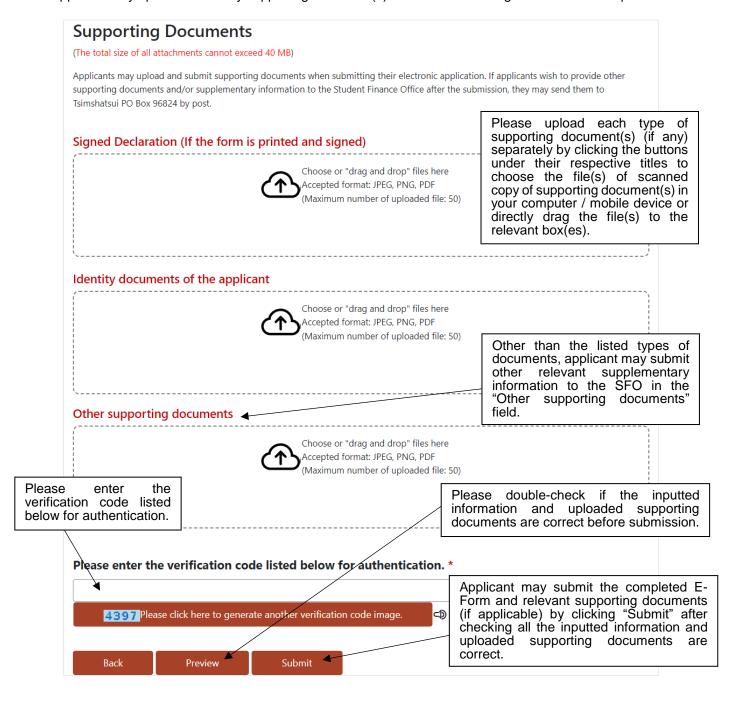
Reviewing Completed E-Form

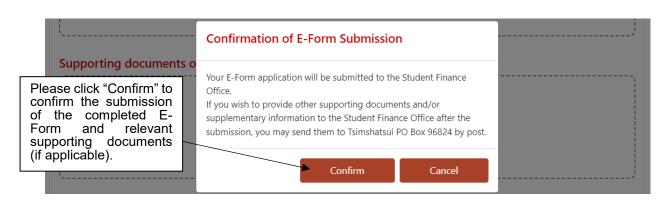
12.1 Applicant should review all the information on the E-Form to ensure that all the data entered are correct.



Submitting E-Form and Supporting Documents

13.1 Applicant may upload necessary supporting document(s) and submit them together with the completed E-Form.

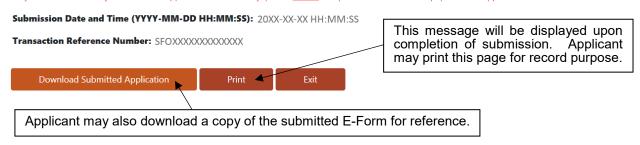




Submission Details

Your Electronic Household Application Form for Student Financial Assistance Schemes has been received by the Student Finance Office. Please quote the transaction reference number below for future communication related to this submission, including any enquiries or subsequent submission of supporting documents.

As you have submitted your electronic application form already, please do not complete and submit other paper-based application forms.



- 13.2 For online uploading of documents, please ensure that the scanned documents are clear and legible and take note of the following file formats and uploading limit:
 - (i) File types: Portable Document Format (PDF) or Joint Photographic Expert Group (JPEG) or Portable Network Graphics (PNG); or
 - (ii) Image resolution: 150 to 300 dots per inch (dpi); and
 - (iii) Total File Uploading Limit for all the documents: 40 Megabytes²
- Applicable to Applicants of Financial Assistance for Primary and Secondary Students
 Please submit the completed E-Form with copy of the relevant supporting documents to the SFO according to Paragraphs 13.1-13.2 of this Notes on or before 31 May 2024. If applicants wish to submit relevant supporting documents by post, they may send copy of the relevant supporting documents separately by post to Tsimshatsui PO Box 96824. Please state clearly the Household Application Number (or the HKID Card No. of the applicant) on the supporting documents and affix sufficient postage on the envelopes. Insufficient postage will lead to non-delivery of the supporting documents, in which case the SFO will not be able to process the application. Applicants should write their correspondence address at the back of envelopes to avoid wrong / unsuccessful delivery.
 - (ii) Applicable to Applicants of Financial Assistance for Pre-primary Students
 Applicants should submit the completed E-Form with copy of the relevant supporting documents to the SFO according to Paragraphs 13.1-13.2 of this Notes August 2025, whichever is the earlier. If applicants wish to submit relevant supporting documents by post, they may send copy of the relevant supporting documents separately by post to Tsimshatsui PO Box 96824. Please state clearly the Household Application Number (or the HKID Card No. of the applicant) on the supporting documents and affix sufficient postage on the envelopes. Insufficient postage will lead to non-delivery of the supporting documents, in which case the SFO will not be able to process the application. Applicants should write their correspondence address at the back of envelopes to avoid wrong / unsuccessful delivery. The effective month of fee remission will be the month in which the application forms are submitted by the applicants, or the month in which the student-applicants are admitted to the kindergartens / child care centres, whichever is the later.
- 13.4 Required supporting documents include:
 - (i) **Copy of identity documents** of the applicant and his / her family members (including the dependent parent(s) (if applicable)) as listed in Part II (Note 1);
 - (ii) (For single-parent families) Copy of supporting documents for separation / divorce or the spouse's Death Certificate. If applicants are unable to provide the supporting documents, please explain in writing the reasons and sign on an explanatory note; if applicant is unable to provide the required supporting documents, the SFO reserves the right to process the application on the basis that the applicant is not treated as a single parent:
 - (iii) (If applicable) Copy of documentary proof on supporting the dependent parents;
 - (iv) (If applicable) Copy of documentary proof on unavoidable **medical expenses** (for family members who are chronically ill or permanently incapacitated) for the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024;
 - (v) Please provide copy of the bank statement / first page of bank book (Note 2); and
 - (vi) **Documentary proof on total income** for the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. Please submit the document in accordance with the requirements listed below:

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In case the total file size exceeds the uploading limit, please consider increasing the image compression level, or lowering the resolution of the JPEG or PNG files to decrease the file size, where appropriate.

Salaried employed person	(1) Tax Demand Note issued by the Inland Revenue Department; if not	
	available	
	(2) Employer's Return of Remuneration and Pensions Form; if not available	
	(3) Salary Statement; if not available	
	(4) Bank transaction record showing payment of salary, allowance, etc. (together with the page showing the name of bank account holder) (Please highlight the entries with colour and remarks. For any entries other than income, please also make necessary remarks next to them, or else the SFO may include the amount in calculating family income); if not available	
	(5) Income Certificate certified by the employer (See Sample I), etc.	
Self-employed driver or person running business (including sole proprietorship business / partnership business / limited company)	(1) Profit and Loss Account verified by a Certified Public Accountant; if not available	
	(2) Profit and Loss Account prepared on your own (See Sample II or III) and	
	(3) Personal Assessment Notice (if applicable).	
Salaried employed or self- employed person who cannot produce any income proofs	Please follow Sample IV to provide Self-prepared Income Breakdown detailing your monthly income throughout the year and explaining why income proof cannot be produced. (The SFO reserves the right to decide whether applications from those applicants who cannot provide justification for not producing income proof would be accepted.)	
Person with rental income	(1) Tenancy Agreement; if not available	
	(2) Bank transaction record showing rental income (together with the page showing the name of bank account holder) (Please highlight the entries with colour and remarks. For any entries other than income, please also make necessary remarks next to them, or else the SFO may include the amount in calculating family income).	

Note 1: If applicant / family member(s) meet the following requirements, it is not required to submit the supporting document(s):

- Applicant / the family member(s) has / have a successful application under the financial assistance scheme of the SFO and has / have submitted a copy of their HKID Card in the above successful application; and
- There is no change in personal particulars on the HKID Card.

Note 2: If applicant meets the following requirements, it is not required to submit the supporting document:

- Applicant has a successful application under the financial assistance scheme of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency and was disbursed with payment of grant and/or loan to his / her bank account while the applicant has submitted a copy of bank account proof in the above successful application: and
- Applicant uses the same bank account in the application for the 2024/25 school year (i.e. the above bank account which has been disbursed with grant and/or loan).

Regarding to the above exemption mentioned in Notes 1 and 2, applicant must enter correctly and clearly the information of the Identity Card and bank account number in the E-Form. If necessary, the applicant may still be required to resubmit the relevant document(s). In case of any disputes, the decision of the SFO will be final.

Enquiries

14.1 If applicant has any enquiry relating to the completion and submission of E-Form or has not received any acknowledgement of receipt of application by means of SMS or in writing from the SFO within 20 working days after submitting E-Form online, please call our 24-hour enquiry hotline at 2802 2345.