

Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No.27/2010

From: Secretary for Education
To: Supervisors / Heads of all
Secondary Schools

Ref: EDB/CDI/ApL/07-02-07

Date: 19 February 2010

Application for New Senior Secondary Applied Learning Courses (2010-12 Cohort)

(Note: This circular memorandum should be read by heads and teachers of all secondary schools – for necessary action.)

Summary

This circular memorandum (CM) supplements Education Bureau (EDB) CM No. 144/2009 on *New Senior Secondary Applied Learning Courses (2010-12 Cohort)* issued on 30 September 2009. The purpose is to remind schools of the application procedures for the New Senior Secondary (NSS) Applied Learning (ApL) courses commencing in the 2010/11 school year.

Details

2. ApL is an integral part of the NSS curriculum under which students can choose a variety of ApL courses as their elective subjects. The first cohort of NSS ApL courses will commence in the 2010/11 school year and application for ApL courses by schools will commence on **22 February 2010**.

3. All current **Secondary 4 students who are following the NSS curriculum recommended by the Curriculum Development Council** may apply for ApL courses in Secondary 5 and 6 from the 2010/11 to 2011/12 school years. Details of the 30 NSS ApL courses and the 11 course providers are available at the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/apl>).

4. All students must apply through their schools for enrolment in ApL courses. Schools may submit applications for their students to the EDB -

- electronically via the 'ApL Module' in Web-based School Administration and Management System (WebSAMS) **on or before 9 April 2010**; or
- by completing and submitting by fax the 'Application Form' **on or before 2 April 2010** (for non-WebSAMS users only).

The '[User Manual for the ApL Module in WebSAMS](#)', '[Application Form](#)' and [other related forms](#) are available at the EDB website.

Support for Schools

5. Schools are strongly advised to submit applications for their students via the 'ApL Module' in WebSAMS. Based on the experience accumulated in piloting cohorts, the existing 'ApL Module' has been enhanced to better facilitate schools in the application for ApL courses. To familiarise schools with the new features and the interface of the 'ApL Module', a briefing session with highlights on the newly enhanced functions of the system will be organised with details as follows -

Date: 25 February 2010 (Thursday)
Time: 3:15 – 5:00 pm
Venue: Lecture Theatre, 4/F, West Block,
EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre,
19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong,
Kowloon, Hong Kong

6. Teachers responsible for ApL courses in schools, as well as school staff or system administrator of WebSAMS schools responsible for the 'ApL Module', are cordially invited to attend the above briefing session. For details and registration, please refer to the EDB Training Calendar System (<http://tcs.edb.gov.hk>) (Course ID: CDI020100004).

7. Teachers may also refer to the [ApL Implementation Handbook](#) distributed to schools via [EDB CM No. 3/2010](#) on the implementation of ApL courses in schools and the guidelines for nominating students for ApL courses.

Support for Students

8. To facilitate students' informed choices of ApL courses as their elective subjects in their senior secondary studies, the following references are available:

- [Prospectus for ApL](#) (including course list, overview of course information and application procedures)
- [Course synopsis](#) (including course learning outcomes, organisation and structure, articulation, learning and teaching)
- [Assessment synopsis](#) (including performance descriptors, assessment scheme, assessment tasks and exemplars)

9. As more information about the ApL courses and assessment is available, discussion with universities, sub-degree providers and employers' associations on the articulation pathways of ApL courses, together with other new senior secondary subjects, has been in progress. The [latest development](#) is available at the EDB website.

10. A selection process^{Note} will also be arranged to provide students with an opportunity to acquire a better understanding of their subject choice, aptitudes and interests. Students may make reference to the [selection criteria](#) of individual ApL courses.

11. Please visit the EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/apl>) and the website of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (<http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk>) for the related information of ApL courses.

Enquiry

12. For enquiries, please contact the ApL Section at 3698 3186.

Y. T. LAU
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections – for information

^{Note} For Mode 1 applications, the student selection interviews will be held on **8 May 2010 (Saturday)** (morning and afternoon sessions) and **15 May 2010 (Saturday)** (morning session). The detailed schedule will be sent to schools via the 'Communication and Delivery System' (CDS) in late April 2010. For Mode 2 applications, the student selection interviews will be arranged by course providers for individual schools in due course.