

## Professional attachment programme in the Census and Statistics Department

We are happy to announce that this year our department will continue our collaboration with the Census and Statistics Department of the Hong Kong SAR Government to offer again the Professional Attachment Programme for Students of Tertiary Institutions.

Up to five students from our department will be attached to the Census and Statistics Department for 5.5 weeks during the coming summer vacation period, from 17 June 2024 to 24 July 2024, to enable them to gain practical experience in official statistics work. This would contribute to the promotion of knowledge in official statistics among students in the department.

In order that the students can acquire a better understanding of the way in which the Government Statistical Service operates, they will be assigned to work in specific branches of the Census and Statistics Department throughout the entire attachment period (Monday to Friday, 44 hours gross per week) and to participate in the research projects of the respective branches. While the list of such research projects has yet to be worked out and the requirements of individual research projects are bound to be not the same, the students will be deployed to perform duties of similar nature.

Specifically, they will be asked to assist the professional staff (comprising Senior Statisticians and Statisticians) in carrying out literature review and Internet search for relevant reference materials; collating relevant data compiled by the Census and Statistics Department and other related organizations for in-depth study; performing statistical compilation, analysis and modeling; and writing of research reports. While they may also be asked to perform some other minor duties occasionally, they are not expected to perform any duties assigned to them outside the offices of the Census and Statistics Department or to undertake any outdoor work. This is to ensure that suitable coaching and guidance can always be given to them while they are carrying out their assignments as well as to safeguard their personal safety.

I would like to draw your special attention to the fact that the above offer of attachment positions **does not carry any implication with regard to employment by either the Census and Statistics Department or the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and hence the statutory minimum wage is not applicable here**. Therefore, the students concerned are not entitled to remuneration in whatever form payable by the Census and Statistics Department or the Government. They are not eligible for employees' compensation should any industrial accidents occur during their attachments. They are also not entitled to claim for reimbursement of any traveling and meal expenses and of any other benefits. Notwithstanding the above, they are expected to behave in the same way as full-time employees as far as their conduct is concerned and observe all relevant Government regulations and departmental instructions in force. They should also follow the instructions given by their supervisors while they are working in the Census and Statistics Department.

Upon receiving the reports from the Census and Statistics Department after the summer, the Department of Mathematics of HKBU, as an encouragement to you, will offer each student who has satisfactorily completed the whole programme a one-off

taxable subsidy of HK\$3,000, and may also gain up to two units (free elective) by receiving an S grade (standing for Satisfactory) in the course entitled MATH3495 Job Practicum I, MATH3496 Job Practicum II, or MATH3497 Job Practicum III, which will appear in your official transcript. Please keep it in mind that this is a professional attachment program and is NOT a summer job. I am hoping that our students will gain valuable experience for their studies and future career. Let me quote some feedback from students participated in this program before, as well as a comment from the Census and Statistics Department:

Student: "I have learnt lots of things which is out of my expectation. ... I think that this summer internship has provided a valuable chance for me to gain more work experience, and has diversified my life a lot."

Student: "This work experience in C&SD is quite beneficial for my future career since I can learn much beside the knowledge from the assignments and projects in this internship."

Supervisors: "We both considered Mr XXX's overall performance during the attachment period to be outstanding. He was able to work independently. During the course of his work, he discharged his duties efficiently and effectively. As he had sound statistical knowledge, he was able to understand the concepts and definitions adopted in surveys on the topics under study."

If you are interested in this attachment programme, please send an email to (snchiu@hkbu.edu.hk) with your curriculum vitae (in which please include your current cGPA and your IELTS score [optional] for my reference) and a cover letter (addressing me) in English on or before 22 April 2024, 5pm. Preference will be given to year III students who have not participated in this programme before.