



**The Incorporated Trustees of Hong Kong Seafarer
Mutual Assistance and Scholarship Trust**

Hong Kong Maritime Scholarship Fund Seagoing Seafarer Supporting Scheme Application Guidelines

Introduction

To incentivize those interested to join the maritime sectors and start their seagoing career as **Ratings**, the Administrative Committee of the Hong Kong Seafarer Mutual Assistance and Scholarship Trust approved the Seagoing Seafarer Supporting Scheme to support the manpower training of the maritime industries. With effect from 26 July 2024, each successful applicant will be granted a maximum subsidy of HK\$64,000 **(increased to HK\$67,000 effective 20 January 2026)**.

Eligibility

The applicant must –

1. be a Hong Kong resident,
2. be onboard foreign-going voyage in a capacity as ratings* after 26 July 2024 for at least 6 months (Phase 1), or/and
3. enrolled for the Certificates of Competency (Deck Officer) Class 3 Examination recognized by the Marine Department after sufficient seagoing service as a rating (Phase 2).

Details

The subsidy will be provided in two phases:

Phase 1: maximum HK\$32,000 (increased to HK\$33,500 effective 20 January 2026) provided after the first 6 months seagoing service as ratings

Phase 2: maximum HK\$32,000 (increased to HK\$33,500 effective 20 January 2026) provided after enrollment for Certificates of Competency (Deck Officer) Class 3 Examination recognized by the Marine Department

Application Procedure

Application for phase 1 subsidy requires submission of following documents to the Secretariat of the Hong Kong Seafarer Mutual Assistance and Scholarship Trust:

- Completed ‘Individual seafarer/student’ of Hong Kong Maritime Scholarship Fund Application Form,
- Copies of Hong Kong Identity Card or Hong Kong passport's personal information page, and
- Copies of pages of Seafarer’s Employment Registration Book, includes:
 - Personal information,
 - Registration record, and
 - Sign on/off pages, which showed the date of joining to the *first* foreign-going ship is after 26 July 2024, capacity as position of ratings for the period at least 6 months before the date of leaving ship.

Application for phase 2 subsidy requires submission of the documents required in Application for phase 1 subsidy and the following *additional* documents:

- Copies of proof of enrolment for Certificates of Competency (Deck Officer) Class 3 Examination from the Marine Department, or
- Copies of proof of enrolment to Upgrading Course for Certificates of Competency Class 3 from MSTI.

Deadline for Application

Please submit the application within 3 years after completion of the required seagoing service / issue date of proof of enrolment.

*Ratings position includes Trainees, Messman/Messboy, Ordinary Seaman/Sailor, Wiper, Stew, Cook, Oiler, Able Seaman, Pumpman, Bosun, Petty Officer, Fitter and other ranks subject to approval of the Administrative Committee of the Hong Kong Seafarer Mutual Assistance and Scholarship Trust.

The Administrative Committee of the Hong Kong Seafarer Mutual Assistance and Scholarship Trust shall have the power in its discretion to approve the application and decide the amount approved thereof.

(updated on 20 January 2026)