

主旨: Public Engagement Exercise on Population Policy
附件: Population policy.doc

Dear Sir/Madam,

Attached please find a letter about how we can help attracting very good native-English-speaking young people to support the development of Hong Kong as the top international city for Asia.



19 Feb 2014

Chatteris Educational Foundation

(A registered non-profit charitable organisation in Hong Kong)

Unit A on 13 Floor, Camel Paint Building, Block 2,
62 Hoi Yuen Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong.
Email: info@chatteris.org.hk Web-site: www.chatteris.org.hk

Re: Public Engagement Exercise on Population Policy

Dear Committee

I am writing with regard to the Public Engagement Exercise on Population Policy, in particular the section on 'Complementing our Existing Population and Workforce with New Sources' and retaining talent.

Chatteris Educational Foundation is a medium sized charitable organisation founded in 1990, which works to help Hong Kong students to improve their English, to promote cultural exchange and global awareness and to develop young leaders with a global vision. We do this by recruiting native English speaking graduates, most of them from good or very good universities and placing them in primary, secondary schools and VTC campuses in Hong Kong for one academic year.

Since 2006, we have attracted 465 graduates to Hong Kong. They are high quality graduates from world class institutions. They come from a very wide range of disciplines including engineering, sciences, humanities, arts and languages. While some remain in teaching, many go on to pursue careers in other areas.

Around half of the people who come to work with us intend to stay longer in Hong Kong though for many visa sponsorship creates a barrier to doing so. The length of the current visa is prohibitive to planning to stay in Hong Kong, and after they finish with Chatteris often prevents them from getting jobs that they may be more interested in or better qualified for because they don't meet the eligibility criteria of holding a working visa. As a result many opt either to continue teaching or to leave Hong Kong.

Chatteris provides a development opportunity; participants are semi-volunteers and actively contribute to Hong Kong students and society through their work, both through teaching and as part of the Chatteris International Graduate Program which enables them to take on projects of their own in schools and the city. Like students, participants leave Chatteris having engaged with the city, with the desire to stay and the potential to contribute further to Hong Kong.

Our recommendation is therefore that the duration of a working visa for Chatteris graduates is extended by a year beyond contract end, in line with the student visa for studying in Hong Kong universities.

While a small measure, the benefits of this would nevertheless be twofold. First and foremost, it would retain international talent in Hong Kong and allow these graduates to move into areas they may be better qualified for. Secondly it would take people out of teaching who have no passion for it and use it as a means to a visa, which would in turn help to foster a healthy education system.

For your information, because we feel this would be a good way of retaining talent and also would benefit our participants, we are already proactively seeking permission from the Immigration Department to extend the visa we offer. I would be happy to discuss this proposal further.

Yours sincerely,

Grace Lee

Project Director, Chatteris Educational Foundation