

British study grants face axe

BY NEIL COLCLOUGH

MORE than 2,000 local students are likely to miss out on studying at British universities next year because a government subsidy is about to be axed.

About \$50 million was paid out to 2,034 local students last year to study in Britain under the scheme, jointly funded by the Hongkong and British governments.

A Hongkong government spokesman said the expansion of local tertiary education meant there was no longer any need to send large numbers of students to the United Kingdom.

"It is expected that some 24 per cent of the relevant age group will have access to first-year, first degree and sub degree places in 1994-95 (in Hongkong)," he said.

The scheme was set up in 1983 when only two per cent of teenagers could gain publicly funded places at local tertiary institutes.

Awards paid the difference between tuition fees charged to British residents and the higher fees charged to overseas students.

Hongkong Association of Continuing Education secretary Mervyn Cheung said the scheme's abolition was overdue.

"With the high standard of Hongkong's tertiary institutions, this public money would be better used in other areas of education," he said.