

2,000 extra degree places are possible

EXPENDITURE in higher education will be increased by 18.5 per cent to \$5.2 billion for the fiscal year 1992/93.

The rise will make it possible for institutions funded by the Universities and Polytechnic Grants Committee to provide nearly 2,000 extra first-year, first-degree places.

According to expenditure estimates published yesterday, the number of first-year, first-degree places will rise from 10,570 this year to 12,431 next year.

Up to \$5 billion of the \$5.2 billion will be for financial grants to students – up 18.5 per cent from the \$4.2 billion of financial grants for 1991/92.

Students studying at the three universities, two polytechnics, the Hongkong Baptist College and the Lingnan College will benefit. Revised overall expenditure

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for tertiary education in the year 1991/92 is \$4.4 billion.

In contrast, expenditures for lower level education provided by the Education Department will rise 1.5 per cent, from the current level of \$11.68 billion to \$11.85 billion.

Funds for primary education will fall \$38 million from \$4.52 billion this year to \$4.482 billion for 1992/93 – mainly due to a fall in enrolments, the report says.

Provision for secondary education will rise to \$6.39 billion from \$6.19 billion, to cope for expansion in Form Six education and rises in fee subsidies to private and subsidised schools. Pre-primary education provision will fall \$1 million from the \$113.5 million this fiscal year.