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Paper proposal

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**Hong Kong's universal English language requirement:
A close examination of its probable underlying assumptions**

In a recent survey of Hong Kong's primary labor market for secondary school graduates nearly a third of all employers indicated no need of the English language. Of the remaining two thirds half were satisfied with only partial fluency. Even among employers who stated fluency as a requirement for entry, no evidence of a pecuniary incentive for having acquired English language proficiency could be found. Fewer than 20 percent of all Hong Kongers obtain entry into Hong Kong tertiary institutions, where the English language is a requirement for entry.

How many fewer employers would demand even partial fluency, if partial fluency were not provided to them at no cost by the government? This paper closely examines the basic assumptions of Hong Kong's UEL requirement and offers alternatives to its current maintenance and implementation.

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