



The Chinese University of Hong Kong

International Joint Supervision of PhD Students

Bidding for Provost's Strategic Allocation of Centrally-funded RPg Places for 2022–23 Admission

Guidelines for Applicants

Deadline: 21 March 2022

1. Preamble

Internationalisation is a key priority in the University's pursuit of research excellence. Research output from international collaboration tends to yield higher citation and greater impact. As part of CUHK's internationalisation strategy underlined in the Strategic Plan (CUHK 2025), the University must enhance its global engagement to improve output, increase visibility, and demonstrate impact in order to stay competitive. This will in turn strengthen CUHK's reputation and reinforce its position as a world-class university.

Joint supervision of PhD students is one of the most effective and efficient tools to drive and foster international research collaboration, in addition to bringing a highly valued learning opportunity to students. To encourage faculty members to engage in joint supervision of PhD students with their international peers, 10 PhD places have been earmarked for competitive bidding under the Provost's Strategic Allocation of Centrally-funded Research Postgraduate (RPg) places for 2022–23 admission. Under which, the PhD students would be required to undertake research attachments of at least six months with the host supervisors at the partner institutions to support the joint research between their CUHK supervisors and their collaborators abroad.

2. Partners & Strategic Areas for Collaboration

The current round of bidding supports collaborative research projects with selected key partners primarily in the four strategic research areas¹ identified in CUHK 2025, which are *China: Tradition and Modernity*; *Innovative Biomedicine*; *Information and Automation Technology*; and *Environment and Sustainability*. Projects which do not fall within the four areas may also be considered.

The selected partners for the current round of application include:

¹ To learn more about CUHK's research priorities, please visit [Research and Innovation - CUHK Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#).

- The University of Auckland, New Zealand
- The University of Chicago, USA
- The University of Manchester, UK
- University College London, UK
- University of Toronto, Canada
- Others (with justifications)
- University of California, San Diego, USA
- University of Exeter, UK
- The University of Sydney, Australia
- The University of Queensland, Australia
- Utrecht University, the Netherlands

While the current round of application will focus on the selected partners listed above, strong applications to work with other top-tier institutions² will also be considered.

3. Eligibility

Full-time academic staff members from all disciplines who are expected to be assigned by the Graduate Panel as supervisors to provide training to PhD students and guide them through their studies are welcome to apply.

4. Application

4.1 Each applicant shall submit one application only in each call.

4.2 Each proposal must include a PI from CUHK and a host collaborator from the partner institution. The proposal should demonstrate how the joint supervision of the PhD student will contribute to the research collaboration between the CUHK PI and the collaborator as well as the impact the collaboration.

4.3 An [online application form](#) should be completed and submitted together with the following documents:

- Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae of the PIs with a selected list of publications (max. 2 pages).
- An endorsement form to be completed by the CUHK heads of departments/units and faculty deans/directors of institutes to confirm their support for the application. To download the form, please click [here](#).

5. Selection

5.1 Selection will be made on a competitive basis by a panel chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research). Applications will be assessed according to a number of criteria, including:

- a) Academic merits, with interdisciplinary collaborative nature
- b) Relevancy to the Strategic Areas
- c) Potential contribution to the University's global engagement and research development
- d) Impact and sustainability of the research collaboration
- e) Preference to be given to early/mid-career academic staff on substantiable-track contract

5.2 Applicants will be notified of the results by 30 April 2022.

² For example, those falling within the top 50 of the QS and Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

6. Joint Supervision of PhD Students

- 6.1 An undertaking from the CUHK PI and the host collaborator from the partner institution to confirm the joint supervision arrangement will be required if the application is successful.
- 6.2 Participating students are expected to complete all taught courses at CUHK before undertaking research attachments at the partner institutions.
- 6.3 Participating students must be registered full-time PhD students during the research attachment. They are expected to undertake their research attachments during the senior years of their study.
- 6.4 The research attachment shall last for at least six months and prior to the submission of the final thesis.
- 6.5 The costs incurred by the joint supervision, including supervision and other incidental research costs should be absorbed by the funding sources from the Departments or Faculties concerned, the CUHK PIs or the host collaborators.
- 6.6 The CUHK PIs or the host collaborators should be responsible for securing funding to support the travelling and living expenses of the participating students.
- 6.7 Participating students will be responsible for arranging the practicalities of the visit, including but not limited to traveling plans, visa application, accommodation, and health and medical insurance coverage as required.

7. Quota Allocation & Student Admission

- 7.1 The allocation of RPg places under the scheme aims specifically to support the University's global engagement and produce impactful outcomes by attracting high-quality PhD candidates to support international collaboration. Participating students should therefore be actively engaged in the relevant research project. The quota should therefore not be regarded as a supplemental allocation to alleviate shortage of RPg places within Faculties/Divisions.
- 7.2 Once allocation is made, the awarded PIs shall initiate the RPg admission process by submitting offer recommendations and necessary documents to the Graduate School Office by 31 May 2022 for admission of the PhD students in August 2022, and by 3 October 2022 for admission of the PhD students in January 2023. Awardees should inform the Office of Academic Links by 30 September 2022 should the places be not filled.
- 7.3 The RPg places allocated under this scheme are available to full-time PhD students only. No top-up money will be attached to the student places for the Faculties. Postgraduate Studentship (PGS) offered under this scheme will cover the entire normative study period of an eligible student's intended study programme. The PGS is not transferrable and will be withdrawn if the student prematurely leaves the University before completing the programme/during the normative study period. The University will also claw back all vacancies upon the student's departure from the study programme. The other pertinent arrangements for postgraduate student administration will apply.
- 7.4 Recommended candidates to fill up the RPg places are required to go through all the standard application, selection and approval procedures, and satisfy all the admission requirements of the University's mechanism as appropriate.
- 7.5 Participating students shall observe all rules and regulations of CUHK and the [General Regulations Governing Postgraduate Studies](#).

8. Residence Requirement

Applications for taking in-residence leave for the period to be spent at the host institutions should be submitted in advance for consideration and approval by the Dean of the Graduate School, with endorsement of the Supervisor and the Head of the Graduate Division concerned. Students' study period at the host institutions will be counted toward their fulfilment of the University's in-residence requirement. Students who are taking in-residence leave cannot register for CUHK courses.

9. Reporting

Awarded PIs should submit a report outlining the outcomes, project impact and opportunities for future collaboration within three months upon completion of the joint supervision of PhD students.

10. Enquiries

For enquiries, please contact Ms. Olivia Kwok, Office of Academic Links, on 3943-1315 or at oliviakwok@cuhk.edu.hk.
