The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Guidelines for PhD International Mobility for Partnerships and Collaborations Award (PhD IMPAC Award) for 2023–24

Outbound Track

(Applications to be made by CUHK supervisors)

Deadline: 10 March 2023

The PhD International Mobility for Partnerships and Collaborations Award (PhD IMPAC Award) sponsors PhD students from CUHK and visiting PhD students for short-term research attachment. The award aims to support research collaboration between CUHK faculty members and their international peers in order to drive research excellence at the University, in addition to enriching the international learning experiences of students. Applications for both the inbound and outbound tracks of the award are to be made by CUHK supervisors.

1. Partners & Strategic Areas for Collaboration

The award supports collaborative research with priority partner institutions primarily in the four strategic research areas identified in the University’s Strategic Plan (CUHK 2025), which are China: Tradition and Modernity; Innovative Biomedicine; Information and Automation Technology; and Environment and Sustainability. The priority partners for the current round of application include:

- Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
- National University of Singapore, Singapore
- The University of Auckland, New Zealand
- The University of Chicago, USA
- The University of Manchester, UK
- The University of Queensland, Australia
- The University of Sydney, Australia
- University College London, UK
- University of Bristol, UK
- University of California, Los Angeles, USA
- University of California, San Diego, USA
- University of Exeter, UK
- University of Toronto, Canada
- Utrecht University, the Netherlands
- Others (with justifications)

While special considerations will be accorded to applications to the above priority partners and those which fall within the four strategic research areas, strong applications to work in other research areas and with other top-tier institutions will also be considered.

2. Eligibility

a) Applications should be made by CUHK supervisors with support from the host supervisors at the partner institutions.

b) Full-time academic staff members at CUHK from all disciplines who are serving as PhD student supervisors are welcome to apply.

---

1 To learn more about CUHK’s research priorities, please visit CUHK 2025: Research and Innovation.
2 For example, those ranked top 50 in the QS and Times Higher Education World University Rankings.
c) The nominated PhD students must be registered full-time PhD students at CUHK at the time of application and during the research visit. They should possess a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or above, and be in their 2nd year of study or above when they undertake the visit.

d) The research visit should last for a minimum of three months and a maximum of six months. It should be carried out and completed between 1 August 2023 and 31 July 2024, and prior to the submission of their final thesis.

e) Past awarded PhD students of the programme will be accorded lower priority in the assessment. Those who have been awarded twice are not eligible for nomination.

f) Only one PhD student can be nominated in each application.

g) A CUHK supervisor may submit more than one application. However, a supervisor will not receive more than three awards in each track of each application round.

3. Terms of Award

a) The value of the award will range from HK$17,000 to HK$50,000 based on the duration and destination of the visit. The award is meant to cover part of the costs associated with the visit, such as tuition fee, travel cost and living expense at the host institution. CUHK host supervisors and the nominated PhD students are reminded to learn more about the costs required for the visit during the planning stage. CUHK host supervisors are encouraged to secure funding to support the remaining costs required for the visit of the nominated students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>3-month Visit (HK$)</th>
<th>4-month Visit (HK$)</th>
<th>5-month Visit (HK$)</th>
<th>6-month Visit (HK$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa, Asia and Middle East</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>32,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe, Americas and Oceania</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>35,500</td>
<td>43,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) The award will support outbound visits of up to 50 CUHK PhD students for the coming application round.

c) The awarded PhD 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.

d) The awarded PhD students may be eligible for an in-residence leave with full postgraduate studentship support to cover other expenses. For more information, please contact the Graduate School Office.

4. Application

a) Applications should be submitted by CUHK supervisors. The application must present a clear research proposal to demonstrate how the PhD student’s attachment would facilitate the research collaboration between the host and home supervisors.

b) An online application form should be completed and submitted together with the following supporting documents:

i. An invitation letter from the host supervisor detailing how the PhD student’s visit will support the collaboration with the CUHK supervisor, in addition to the logistics support he/she will provide to the PhD student. A general admission letter will NOT be considered as an invitation letter.

ii. All transcripts of academic report of postgraduate studies of the nominated PhD student at CUHK.

iii. Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae of the nominated PhD student (max. 2 pages).

iv. An endorsement form to be completed by the CUHK heads of departments/units to confirm their support for the application. To download the form, please click [here](#).
5. **Selection**
   
a) Selection will be competitively assessed according to a number of criteria, including:
   
i. Academic merits and interdisciplinary/collaborative elements
   
ii. Relevancy to the Strategic Areas
   
iii. Potential contribution of the PhD student’s attachment in facilitating the research collaboration between the host and home supervisors
   
iv. Potential of achieving high impact at international level
   
v. Potential contribution to CUHK’s research development and global engagement
   
vi. Preference to be given to early/mid-career academic staff on substantiable-track contract

b) Applicants will be notified of the results by May 2023.

6. **Disbursement of Award**
   
The award will be made as a lump sum grant on a non-accountable basis via bank transfer approximately two weeks prior to the awarded PhD students’ intended departure date. The Finance Office will process the disbursement ONLY upon receipt of the approved leave application from the Graduate School Office.

7. **Change of Visit Period**
   
The awarded CUHK supervisors may amend the PhD students’ visit period or duration after the award is made. The request should be made in writing to the Office of Academic Links for approval. The amended period or duration must comply with the conditions stated in the Eligibility section. The value of award will be adjusted if the amended visit period is shortened. On the other hand, additional funding is not guaranteed for an extended period of visit.

8. **Post-Visit Report**
   
The awarded CUHK supervisors and PhD students should submit a post-visit report outlining the activities conducted, outcomes, project impact and opportunities for future collaboration within one month upon completion of the visit. The report should be endorsed by the head of the relevant department at CUHK. Should an awarded PhD student fail to perform satisfactorily during the visit, CUHK reserves the right to adjust or demand a refund of the award.

9. **Enquiries**
   
For enquiries about the award, please contact Ms. Olivia Kwok, Office of Academic Links, on 3943-1315 or at oliviakwok@cuhk.edu.hk. For enquiries about leave entitlement of the PhD students, please contact the Graduate School Office at gradschool@cuhk.edu.hk.

-----