



The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Guidelines for PhD International Mobility for Partnerships and Collaborations Award (PhD IMPAC Award) for 2025–26 Outbound Track

(Applications to be made by CUHK supervisors)

Deadline: 14 March 2025, Friday

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 attachments. 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

a) The award supports collaborative research projects with **priority partner institutions** primarily in the four strategic research areas¹ 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:

- Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
- Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany
- Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- 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 California, Los Angeles, USA
- University of California, San Diego, USA
- University of Exeter, UK
- University of Toronto, Canada
- Utrecht University, the Netherlands

b) Applications to collaborate with **partner institutions which have formal RPg student exchange programmes** with CUHK are welcome:

- Carnegie Mellon University, USA (Unit: Faculty of Engineering)
- École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences, EHESS), France (University-wide at CUHK)
- Nagoya University, Japan (CUHK Unit: Faculty of Medicine)
- Osaka University, Japan (CUHK Unit: Faculty of Medicine)
- Saitama University, Japan (CUHK Unit: School of Biomedical Sciences)
- University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands (CUHK Unit: School of Journalism and Communication)

c) Strong applications to work with **other overseas renowned research-intensive institutions** are also welcome. Ideally, the institutions should be ranked within the top 100 in major global university league tables.

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

2. Eligibility

- a) Applications should be made by CUHK supervisors with support from the host supervisors at the partner institutions.
- b) Academic staff members ranked at Research Assistant Professors or above holding full-time employment at CUHK from all disciplines who are serving as PhD student supervisors are welcome to apply.
- 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 2025 and 31 July 2026, 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.

Region	3-month Visit (HK\$)	4-month Visit (HK\$)	5-month Visit (HK\$)	6-month Visit (HK\$)
Africa, Asia and Middle East	17,000	22,000	27,000	32,000
Europe, Americas and Oceania	28,000	35,000	43,000	50,000

- 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. The form will be sent to the applicant by email upon submission of the application.

5. Selection

- a) Selection will be competitively assessed according to a number of criteria, including:
 - i. Academic merit 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 2025.

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. To download the amendment request form, please click [here](#).

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 (1) the home thesis supervisor and (2) 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. Please submit the post-visit report online [here](#).

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.
