



## The Chinese University of Hong Kong

### Guidelines for PhD International Mobility for Partnerships and Collaborations Award (PhD IMPAC Award) for 2025–26 Inbound 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 areas<sup>1</sup> 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 (CUHK 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.

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

## **2. Eligibility**

- a) Applications should be made by CUHK host supervisors with support from the home 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 their home institutions at the time of application and during the research visit. They should have good academic performance, and be in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of study or above when they undertake the visit.
- d) The research visit should last for a minimum of one month 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 awarded PhD students will receive free on-campus housing at CUHK during the visit on a shared room basis. (Housing will be offered to the awarded PhD student only and will not be extended to his/her accompanying partner and/or dependent).
- b) The awarded PhD students will be responsible for arranging the practicalities of the visit, including but not limited to traveling plans, health and medical insurance, and travel insurance<sup>2</sup>. CUHK host supervisors and the nominated PhD students are reminded to learn more about the costs required for the visit during the planning stage.

## **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. A support letter from the home supervisor detailing how the inbound student's visit will support the proposed collaboration with the CUHK supervisor.
  - ii. All transcripts of academic report of postgraduate studies of the nominated PhD student at the home institution.
  - iii. Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae of the visiting 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.

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<sup>2</sup> Awarded PhD students are responsible for purchasing adequate insurance to cover their visits. The University is not liable for any loss, damage, cost, or expense whatsoever incurred by or attributable to any action or omission by any of the awarded PhD students in accordance with this award.

## 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. Visa and Housing Arrangement

- a) The awarded PhD students will be registered as associate students at CUHK and will be required to apply for a student visa for the visit at their own expense (exempted if the student is a Hong Kong citizen). The Office of Academic Links (OAL) at CUHK will provide assistance in visa application.
- b) The awarded PhD students will receive free on-campus housing during their visit on a shared room basis. Housing will be provided based on availability. Cancellation policies apply and the related cost will be borne by the awarded PhD students.
- c) The awarded CUHK supervisors and visiting PhD students should notify OAL as soon as the visit dates are finalised in order to secure housing. In the event that on-campus housing is not available, CUHK reserves the right to request the awarded PhD students to change their visit period. Should the awarded PhD students choose not to stay at the designated housing, they will need to make their own arrangements at their own cost.

## 7. Change of Visit Period

The awarded CUHK supervisors may amend the visiting PhD students' visit period or duration after the award is made. The request should be made in writing to OAL for approval. The amended period or duration must comply with the conditions stated in the Eligibility section. 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 host 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 (852) 3943-1315 or at [oliviakwok@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:oliviakwok@cuhk.edu.hk).

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