

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Regulations Governing Funding Support for Research Postgraduate Students  
for International Learning Experiences

*Objective*

1. To facilitate RPg students to gain global research exposure and enhance their international research network and future job prospect, the Faculty of Social Sciences offers funding support to encourage RPg students to undertake overseas learning experience on a voluntary basis.

*Eligibility*

2. Each eligible student may apply funding support for overseas learning experience once in the course of his/her entire MPhil/PhD candidature according to following criteria:

Eligibility	Full-time MPhil/ PhD Student		
Schedule	Preferably have completed their first 10 months of studies in HKU		
Duration	The minimal duration of the overseas learning experience is 2 weeks. The maximum period is subject to the approval from the supervisor(s).		
Location	Out of Hong Kong, subject to mutual agreement between supervisor(s) and the student concerned in order to meet the Objective as stated above.		
Nature of Overseas Learning Experience	Subject to the mutual agreement between the student and supervisor(s) in order to meet the Objective as stated above. However, the funding does not cover overseas data collection, which is not counted as overseas learning experience by the University, and participation of international conference that the University's travel and conference grant is already in place for this purpose.		
Funding	<b>Destination</b>	<b>one semester or less (HK\$)</b>	<b>between one semester and a full year (HK\$)</b>
	<b>Zone 1:</b> Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, South Africa, Uruguay, U.K., U.S.A.	14,000	21,000
	<b>Zone 2:</b> Australia, New Zealand	13,000	19,500
	<b>Zone 3:</b> Israel, Kazakhstan, Mongolia	10,000	14,000
	<b>Zone 4:</b> Japan, Singapore, South Korea	8,000	11,200
	<b>Zone 5:</b> Chinese Mainland (Outside Guangdong Province), Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand	5,000	6,500
	<b>Zone 6:</b> Chinese Mainland (Guangdong Province), Macau	4,000	5,200
	<i>Note 1: Please consult the Faculty Office about the maximum funding amount for</i>		

	<p><i>destinations that are not listed above.</i></p> <p><i>Note 2: The actual funding amount is based on reimbursement upon receiving the appropriate receipts and supporting documents from the applicants.</i></p>
--	---

3. Applicants in receipt of the funding support must not be receiving income or funding from another source (e.g., a scholarship, grant or salary) related to their proposed learning activities. The approved funding will be withdrawn if concurrent funding support is found.

#### *Application*

4. Applicants should submit application at least one month before the proposed departure date. All applications have to be endorsed by the supervisor(s) and the relevant Departmental Research Postgraduate Committee for onward submission to the Faculty Office for approval.
5. Applicants should provide sufficient details of the academic training/research activities which the applicant will be engaged in, including the duration of such activities, their relevance to the applicant's work on the thesis, and the concrete benefits that will bring to his/her degree programme at the University. The following supporting documents should be submitted to the Faculty Office along with the application:
  - (i) quotation of the cheapest airfare, as stipulated in Paragraph 8 below;
  - (ii) duration of the academic training/research activities;
  - (iii) confirmation of supervision from the receiving institution(s) for such activities; and/or
  - (iv) approval to access the required data/equipment.
6. Applications which are not accompanied by supporting documents, incomplete at the time of submission, or received less than one month before the departure, will not be considered.
7. A report must be submitted to the Faculty Office after return. Please refer to Paragraph 13 below for details.

#### *Award*

8. The maximum amount of funding support is subject to review by the Higher Social Sciences Degrees Committee from time to time. The funding awarded is to contribute towards the costs of:
  - a) the cheapest airfare direct to and from the location of learning activities held outside of Hong Kong (including airport taxes) or by another route if this is less than the cost of the cheapest direct flight; and
  - b) the tuition/registration fee of learning activities and accommodation for a period beginning one day before the start of activities and ending one day after the end of activity.
9. The funding will be reimbursed upon submission of report together with a summary of expenditure (Appendix A), original receipts of confirmed booking slip of air ticket, accommodation and course registration, if appropriate, and used boarding pass of flight after the end of learning activity.
10. The funding support is only eligible for full-time MPhil/PhD student once in the course of his/her registration for the degree. Priority will be given to those without overseas learning experience before application.
11. The funding support will be withdrawn if the funding recipient is subsequently unable to undertake the learning activity due to change of personal circumstance (except for medical

reasons) or visa delay/denial. Any pre-paid expenses or other associated cancellation charges will not be reimbursed.

12. In the event of funding support being made to a research postgraduate student who subsequently withdraws from the degree programme, the Faculty reserves the right to withdraw the funding.

### *Reporting*

13. A report on the learning experience endorsed by supervisor(s) and DRPC, and a summary of expenditure (Appendix A), together with original receipts of air/train ticket, accommodation and course registration, if appropriate, and used boarding pass of flight/train ticket must be submitted to the Faculty Office within 30 days after the end of learning activity. The funding support will be withdrawn if the aforementioned documents are not submitted by the deadline.

August 2016

last updated in October 2025