

For Our Future Innovation and Technology Scholarship
創明天創科獎學金

Guidance Notes to Applicants 申請指引 2024/25

1. Objective

The For Our Future Innovation and Technology Scholarship aims to support research students and foster engagement among local youth in the fields of innovation and technology.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1. Applicants should be full-time PhD students (year 2 and above) studying STEM related subjects;
- 2.2. Applicants must be local students (and must remain registered as a full-time student throughout the scholarship tenure);
- 2.3. Applicants must be aged between 18 and 45;
- 2.4. Applicants must have achieved at least a passing grade for the thesis monitoring or the equivalent course in the previous academic year;
- 2.5. Applicants who have obtained “Fail” grade* (including but not limited to University's Core Values Modules) or have been granted “deferment of an examination” in the assessment period will not be considered; and
- 2.6. Applicants are able to demonstrate excellent performance in their academic studies. Their research area should potentially have a positive impact on the development of society. Additionally, candidates are expected to have a strong commitment to Hong Kong and to actively participate in the innovation and technology industry.

** Records of CGPA and grades would be based on the official transcript of studies generated by the University at the time of scholarship assessment.*

3. Award Format and Value

- 3.1. A total of 10 students from 7 Hong Kong educational institutions will be awarded.
- 3.2. The value of each award is HK\$80,000 in cash.
- 3.3. The awardees of the scholarship will automatically become members of the ‘For Our Future’ Alumni Club (the Alumni Club) and must join the Foundation’s YO PLACE as members. Please find the detailed information about the ‘For Our Future’ Alumni Club and ‘YO PLACE’ in the Appendix of For Our Future Innovation and Technology Scholarship 2024/25 **Information Note**.
- 3.4. All awardees are required to attend at least one activity arranged by the Alumni Club each year until the remaining scholarships have been distributed. (Also see paragraph 6.6 below).

4. Assessment and Selection Criteria

- 4.1. Applicants are considered according to the following accreditation criteria:
 - Academic performance and distinctive performance in academic projects;
 - The impact of research areas on society (Details should be provided);
 - Participation in social services
 (Length of services, nature of services, initiation of community project, etc. should be

provided); and

- Other considerations

(Experience in leadership/other training programmes, significant internship programmes, recommendations from external stakeholders and content of personal statement, etc.).

- 4.2. Eligible applicants are not guaranteed to be offered awards.
- 4.3. Shortlisted applicants are required to attend an internal interview. Applicants who do not attend the interview may forfeit the opportunity to be considered for the scholarship/award.
- 4.4. Preference will be given to applicants who have never received the award before.
- 4.5. The Student Affairs Office (SAO) will submit **no more than two** nominations for endorsement of the Student Financial Awards Committee (SFAC) by December 2024. Final selection of a maximum of 14 candidates will be conducted by the Scholarship Selection Committee which comprises a panel of judges who are distinguished members of the community. The decision of the Foundation is final.

5. Application

- 5.1. Applicants should submit the online application form together with supporting documents to SAO during the application period.
- 5.2. Please read the “Guidance Notes” XFOF_IT (2024/25) Guide-e] and Information Notes (enclosed) before completing the online application form via the [HKMU online platform](#).
- 5.3. Incomplete and late application will not be considered.

6. Notification of Result, Obligation of Awardees and Payment Arrangement

- 6.1. All applicants (successful and unsuccessful) will receive internal results by e-mail. The selected nominees who are not notified by March 2025 should consider their applications unsuccessful.
- 6.2. Scholarships and awards are made possible by contributions from generous donors. Successful applicants are strongly encouraged to show gratitude to the donors by writing a thank-you letter for submission through the Student Portal (MyHKMU > My Programme > Financial Assistance / Scholarships > Student Thank you Letter Collection Platform).
- 6.3. Scholarships and awards recipients are also welcome to use their own means to express sincere gratitude to donors, for example, production of a thank-you card, sending a photo with caption of achievements in a competition/event, production of craftwork, artwork, music, video and etc.
- 6.4. Successful applicants are required to reserve their time to attend the scholarship-related events, ceremonies, activities and programmes organised by the University, the Foundation and Alumni Club. They will also be invited to share their stories on the University website and social media.
- 6.5. Successful applicants are highly recommended to proactively participate in scholarship-related briefings, trainings and activities organised by the University or the donors upon invitation made by SAO.
- 6.6. Disbursement arrangement will be made via cheque, and directly made between the successful scholarship recipients and the Foundation. The scholarship amount will be paid in equal splits for the remaining years of the course. The first payment will be made on the Scholarship Award Presentation Ceremony in March 2025. Awardees must have joined at least one activity arranged by the Alumni Club each year until the remaining scholarships have been distributed. The final payment will be distributed only after the awardees have completed the courses and provided appropriate written verification from the universities.
- 6.7. If a successful student suspends the course under reasonable circumstances and obtains a written endorsement from the university, the scholarship will be withheld until the student resumes the studies.

7. Handling of Personal Data

- 7.1. Applicant is obliged to provide all the required information in the application including personal data. If applicant fails to provide the required information/documents, the University will not be able to process the application.
- 7.2. The personal data provided will be used for the purpose of processing applicant’s application, reporting the result to donor(s) or relevant stakeholders, as well as compiling relevant statistics, and materials for publicising and review on granting the awards. Personal data and supporting documents submitted will be kept for a period of no more than three years.
- 7.3. The personal data including the academic records and information provided in the applicant’s application will be disclosed or transferred to the Student Financial Awards Committee (SFAC), other offices in the University and relevant stakeholders for the purposes mentioned in the above paragraph.
- 7.4. For the purpose of promotion and public relation activities, the awardees’ personal data which includes their names, programmes of study, years of study and any associated images (including any videos or photographs or sound recordings) will be published through the marketing channels (e.g. websites, social media and brochures) of the University and/or donor(s), or made available for public access through the Student Affairs Office (SAO). SAO, donor(s) or relevant stakeholders will also take photos and videos in the scholarship activities, which may include the images of you and your guest(s) (if any), and these images may be used in printed publications and/or online promotions.
- 7.5. In accordance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, applicant has the right to ascertain whether the University holds personal data on the applicant, (and if so) to ask for a copy of such personal data, and to require any inaccuracies in such personal data to be corrected. Data access request should be made by using the form provided by the University. Copies of these forms may be obtained from the University Data Protection Officer (email address: dpo@hkmu.edu.hk or Hong Kong Metropolitan University, Ho Man Tin, Kowloon Hong Kong). The University may charge a reasonable fee to cover the administrative costs for complying with a data access request.

8. Important Dates

Application Period	31 October – 17 November 2024
Internal Interview	06 December 2024
Internal Briefing (for Applicants who passed the Internal Interview)	09 December 2024
Release of Internal Result (E-mail)	By late December 2024
External Interview (Final selection)	08 – 22 February 2025
Scholarship Award Presentation Ceremony	18 – 27 March 2025
Disbursement Notification (E-mail)	Directly made between the recipients and the Foundation
HKMU Celebration Event	Late June 2025

9. Enquiries

Scholarships & Financial Assistance Section (Scholarships), Student Affairs Office, Rm A0626, Hong Kong Metropolitan University



2768 6730



sao_sch@hkmu.edu.hk



2712 2301

(31 October 2024)



'For Our Future Innovation and Technology Scholarship' 2024/25
Information Note

1. The Greater Bay Area Homeland Youth Community Foundation is offering the 'For Our Future Innovation and Technology Scholarship' to local PhD students studying STEM-related subjects. This scholarship aims to support research students and foster engagement among local youth in the fields of innovation and technology.
2. Successful candidates will be those students who have demonstrated excellent performance in their academic studies. Their research area should potentially have a positive impact on the development of society. Additionally, candidates are expected to have a strong commitment to Hong Kong and to actively participate in the innovation and technology industry.
3. Anyone who is a full-time PhD student in one of the seven educational institutions* in Hong Kong for the 2024/25 academic year and who meets the criteria outlined in this Information Note may apply.
4. The awardees of the scholarship will automatically become members of the 'For Our Future' Alumni Club (the Alumni Club) and must join the Foundation's YO PLACE as members. All awardees are required to attend at least one activity arranged by the Alumni Club each year until the remaining scholarships have been distributed. Please find the detailed information about the 'For Our Future' Alumni Club and 'YO PLACE' in the *Appendix*.
5. Further details of the Scholarship are given below:

Name: 'For Our Future Innovation and Technology Scholarship'

Eligibility:

An applicant for the Scholarship must be

- (i) a local student (The student must remain registered as a full-time student throughout the scholarship tenure)
- (ii) aged between 18 and 45
- (iii) enrolled in a full-time PhD (year 2 and above) course related to STEM at a Hong Kong university
- (iv) the student must have achieved at least a passing grade for the thesis monitoring or the equivalent course in the previous academic year

Accreditation Criteria:

- (i) Academic performance (in the last academic year) with a cumulative GPA \geq 3.0 and distinctive performance in academic projects
- (ii) The impact of research areas on society (Details should be provided)
- (iii) Participation in social services (Length of services, nature of services, initiation of community project, etc. should be provided)
- (iv) Other considerations (Experience in leadership/other training programmes, significant internship programmes, recommendations from external stakeholders and content of personal statement, etc.)

Quota & Amount of Scholarship:

HK\$80,000 per student, awarded to a total of **10** students from 7 Hong Kong educational institutions.

Notification of Result and Payment Arrangement:

- (i) All applicants (successful and unsuccessful) will receive results by e-mail in March 2025.
- (ii) Disbursement arrangement will be made via cheque. The scholarship amount will be paid in equal splits for the remaining years of the course. The first payment will be made on the Scholarship Award Presentation Ceremony in March 2025. Awardees must have joined at least one activity arranged by the Alumni Club each year until the remaining scholarships have been distributed.
- (iii) The final payment will be distributed only after the awardees have completed the courses and provided appropriate written verification from their universities.
- (iv) If a student suspends their course under reasonable circumstances and obtains a written endorsement from the university, the scholarship will be withheld until the student resumes their studies.

Conditions of Scholarship:

A successful candidate must comply with, or agree to comply with, all the requirements of the scholarship application should he/she decide to accept an award made under this scheme.

Application:

Completed applications should be submitted to the Student Affairs Office of the institution. Hard copies of the application form and supporting documents of nominated students are required to be sent to the Foundation via post or courier through the Student Affairs Office of respective institution.

Deadline for applications is 5:00pm, 17 November 2024. Late applications will not be considered.

Selection Procedure:

- (i) Each university/college will recommend 1 to 2 students, with nomination notes provided by school;
- (ii) Final selection of a maximum of 14 candidates will be conducted by the Scholarship Selection Committee, comprising a panel of judges who are distinguished members of the community.

Handling of Information & Personal Data supplied in application:

The personal data collected in this exercise will be used for activities related to the application process under this Scholarship and the compilation of relevant statistics to facilitate reviews of the award.

The Foundation may also publicise the personal data of a successful candidate (such as his/her name, gender, age, education background, public examination results, academic and non-academic achievements, extra-curricular activities/community services and employment history) and any photos or videos capturing his/her image (limited to those taken when he/she attends official events organised by the Foundation in the public domain, such as the website of and publications issued by the Foundation for the purpose of promotion or publicity).

The personal data provided in the application forms for this Scholarship will ONLY be disclosed to relevant parties:

- (a) for the purposes mentioned in the preceding paragraphs; and
- (b) for any other purposes with the consent of the data subjects, unless such disclosure is permitted under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance without the consent of the data subjects.

*The 7 educational institutions in Hong Kong (arranged in alphabetical order):

City University of Hong Kong

Hong Kong Baptist University

Hong Kong Metropolitan University

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

The University of Hong Kong

'For Our Future Innovation and Technology Scholarship' 2024/25

Notes on Completion of Application Form

- (a) All information provided by you in this form must be typewritten or written in English using a ball-pen in black/blue ink; you may also complete an editable PDF proforma downloaded from the Foundation's website.
- (b) Please write 'Not Applicable (N.A.)' or 'Nil' for item(s) deemed inappropriate.
- (c) Please append additional sheets to the application form, if necessary.
- (d) Documents and materials submitted with this application will not be returned.
- (e) The Greater Bay Area Homeland Youth Community Foundation may not be able to process the application if the information provided is unclear, incorrect, incomplete or without the necessary supporting document(s).
- (f) Papers and documents submitted with the Application Form should be in A4 size.
- (g) English translations must be provided if the papers and documents submitted are not in English. Submission of any papers/documents in a foreign language may not be considered.
- (h) Completed Application Forms must be returned to the Student Affairs Office of the institution together with the necessary supporting documents (including but not limited to Annexes A and B). Candidates should read and complete the "Checklist on Completion of Application Form" (Annex B) before submitting the Application Forms.
- (i) Deadline for applications is **17 November 2024**. Late applications will not be considered

Appendixac

About the 'For Our Future' Alumni Club

The 'For Our Future' Alumni Club (the Alumni Club) has been established by the Greater Bay Area Homeland Youth Community Foundation (the Foundation) under the 'For Our Future Scholarship' Programme.

The Alumni Club aims to maintain connections among members and the the Foundation, and to support their ongoing development.

Each year, the Alumni Club organises a wide range of youth activities for the members on a regular basis. These activities include volunteer services, member gatherings, exchange tours, sharing sessions, and skills enhancement workshops. Furthermore, we encourage members to actively propose activities and offer suggestions to enhance our offerings.

There are two categories of membership within the Alumni Club: Official Member and Affiliate Member. All current year scholarship awardees are required to participate as Official Members. University students who have applied for the scholarship and other Hong Kong local full-time university students below 30 years of age are welcome to join as Affiliate Members.

About YO PLACE

YO PLACE is an integrated online and offline youth platform operated by the Foundation under a membership scheme. It supports Hong Kong youths with information and services in studies, careers and entrepreneurship, in order to seize opportunities in the GBA.

Members of YO PLACE can access comprehensive information about the Greater Bay Area through the Foundation's online platforms. They can apply to participate in related activities, rent offline facilities and enjoy other members' privileges offered by the Foundation.

The offline platform is a centre equipped with multimedia facilities, ie. LED wall, projector screens and shooting equipment. These facilities support youth activities, such as KOL live broadcast, training courses, workshops, and more.

To learn more details, please visit YO PLACE website: www.yoplace.org.hk