

Jockey Club Global STEM Post-doctoral Fellowship for Translational Research and Application (2023/24)

Application Guidelines

Purpose

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (“the Trust”) has set up the Jockey Club Global STEM Post-doctoral Fellowship for Translational Research and Application (“the Fellowship”) as a strategic initiative to support long-term innovation and technology development in Hong Kong. The Fellowship aims to attract non-local post-doctoral STEM talents to Hong Kong and nurture their aspiration to translate scientific research into industry application. The Research Grants Council (“RGC”) of Hong Kong is a Partner Organisation of this Fellowship.

Funding Scope and Project Duration

2. Up to 10 Fellowships will be awarded in each cohort. Each Fellowship will last for a maximum of four years comprising the following –

- a. a stipend of up to \$530,000 per annum for three years, with additional 15% gratuity to be offered upon completion of the Fellowship (including the industry attachment when applicable);
- b. conference and overseas lab attachment allowance: up to \$15,000 per annum for three years;
- c. academic development allowance: up to \$15,600 per annum for three years;
- d. research project seed funding: up to \$300,000; and
- e. translational research industry attachment subsidy in an eligible local organisation: the Trust’s contribution to be capped at 50% of the salary (up to \$30,000 per month) for a maximum of 12 months in addition to the three-year stipends.

3. The translational research industry attachment aims to help Fellows acquire hands-on experience in the process of commercialisation of new technology/ translational discoveries, while expanding their network with the industries and research users for future technology translation. Such attachment shall take place in an eligible organisation¹ which will host a translational research/commercialisation project related to the proposed research as agreed with the Fellow and his/her supervisor, and pledge to fulfil the aim of the attachment. Fellows should take the initiative in identifying suitable attachment organisation and solicit the support from his/her supervisor. All attachments should be approved by the respective Nominating University according to the relevant guidelines, and reported to the Trust at least two months before the start date of the attachment.

Eligibility

4. Eligible nominees must fulfil the following criteria:
- a. be non-Hong Kong Permanent Residents who have the legal right to work and reside in Hong Kong during the Fellowship period, OR Hong Kong permanent residents who are currently residing outside Hong Kong with full-time employment or full-time study in an award-bearing programme (normally at post-graduate level); **and**

¹ Including but not limited to Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, tenants/incubatees of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park Corporation and Cyberport, etc.

- b. have obtained/ been conferred a PhD degree or an equivalent qualification in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics disciplines not more than three years before the year of application; or will complete the required qualification before 1 December in the year of application; **and**
 - c. be supported by the nominating UGC-funded University at which s/he wishes to hold the Fellowship.
5. Nominees who wish to apply for other post-doctoral fellowships in Hong Kong in parallel should observe the eligibility requirement of other fellowship schemes. For instance, applicants nominated to this Fellowship will not be considered by the RGC Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme.

Nomination Process

6. All eight University Grants Committee (“UGC”)-funded universities may nominate up to 10 nominees for the Fellowship in this exercise. Applications without accompanying nominations from eligible universities will not be accepted. Each applicant should only be nominated by one UGC-funded University. Should one applicant be nominated by more than one university in this cohort, all applications (under the same applicant) will be disqualified.
7. Nominating Universities shall conduct internal assessments on each of the nominees before completing the University Nomination Form. Duly completed nominations (comprising the Application Form to be completed by the applicant and the University Nomination Form) should be endorsed by the Head of University (or his/her designated Vice-President) and submitted via the designate office of the Nominating University (please refer to the list of contact person in each of the UGC-funded Universities at Annex A) to the Trust by the specified deadline as set out below.
8. Both applicants and the Nominating University bear the responsibility to ensure that the nomination contains complete and sufficient information for evaluation. Incomplete nominations (such as those lacking University Nomination Form, missing data/ information required for evaluation, etc.) or inconsistent/ inaccurate information would lead to disqualification of nomination.
9. Nominations should be submitted to the Trust via the online platform of the Fellowship website by **5pm on 17 November 2023**. University’s cover letter and hard copies of each nomination with University chop shall reach the Trust (Address: The Hong Kong Jockey Club, One Sports Road, Happy Valley, Hong Kong. Attention: Mr Calvin Chan, Senior Manager, Charities) by 1 December 2023. Applicants should observe the internal deadline of respective University in order to go through the University’s internal selection and nomination process. Late submissions will not be processed.

Selection Criteria

10. Nominations will be assessed and selected according to the Trust’s peer-review procedure with the following criteria:
 - a. Applicant’s academic and research record;
 - b. Merit of the research plan (including university’s support such as mentorship/ supervision of the Fellow); and
 - c. Applicant’s long-term commitment to contribute to STEM development of Hong Kong.

11. The Trust will form a selection committee comprising internationally-renowned experts to oversee the assessment and finalise its selection result for the Trust's endorsement. Information of submitted applications may be shared with partner organisation(s) and/ or service provider(s) for eligibility check, assessment and selection purposes.

Announcement of Results

12. It is expected that universities concerned will receive the selection result in late March or early April 2024.

Disbursement and Monitoring of Fellowships

13. Nominating Universities of awarded Fellows will be the grantees of the Trust and will be responsible for the supervision of the Fellows. Funding from the Trust will be disbursed via the Nominating Universities concerned to awarded Fellows. Acceptance of the Fellowship should be signed by the President/ Vice-Chancellor of the Nominating University with an undertaking signed by each awarded Fellow.

14. The Fellowship will continue should the Fellow be advanced to a more senior position² in the Nominating University during the Fellowship period (with supplementary funding provided by the Nominating University). Nominating Universities should report to the Trust at least one month in advance should there be any changes on the appointment of the Fellows (including advancement, resignation, termination, etc.).

15. Awarded Fellows should submit, via the Nominating Universities, yearly progress reports and financial statements. In addition, awarded Fellows should prepare a final Impact Report, to be submitted at the end of the Fellowship, summarising the impact and social benefits created throughout the Fellowship period.

Key Conditions of Grants

16. Awarded Fellows will be named "Jockey Club Global STEM Post-doctoral Fellows," which should be used in all publications, programmes and other announcements related to the proposed research during the term of the Fellowship. Fellows should actively participate in the Fellowship forum and other Trust's events as set out in the result notification letter, and may also be invited to attend other Trust's talent development initiatives and events.

17. Nominating Universities are responsible for the monitoring of Fellows and should ensure that they will deliver the pledged output/ outcome and the expected impact. Nominating Universities are also responsible for any cost overrun of Fellows' research. Requests for change of Nominating University will not be considered save in very exceptional circumstances, and will be subject to the Trust's approval and agreement by the parties concerned.

18. Notwithstanding that the support by the Trust should be acknowledged in all publications and publicity materials during the Fellowship period, the Trust will not claim copyright nor other intellectual property right of the output/ work produced involving the Trust's fund in the Fellowship. The arrangement on all copyrights/ royalties/ intellectual properties arising out of any work during the Fellowship period shall follow the relevant and prevailing guidelines and policies of the Nominating University concerned.

² Except tenure-track positions

19. Should the application be successful, detailed conditions of grants will be provided to the Nominating Universities concerned.

Enquiries

20. All enquiries should be directed to the research offices of respective Universities in the first instance. Their contact details are provided at Annex A.