

RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme 2010/11

Terms and Conditions

1. The Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (the fellowship) Scheme is administered by the Research Grants Council (RGC) for selected candidates admitted as new full-time PhD students in UGC-funded institutions of Hong Kong.
2. An awardee of the fellowship (awardee) must be a registered PhD student of the institution specified in the offer letter during the fellowship period.
3. In the event that the offer made by the institution is conditional, the candidate concerned must comply with the conditions before he/she is eligible for the fellowship.
4. The student's candidature may start from 1 July 2010 the earliest. Under normal circumstances, an awardee should register in September 2010, but he / she may delay the student registration to 31 January 2011 the latest if justifiable reasons are provided and accepted by the RGC as well as the concerned institution.
5. The fellowship provides each awardee with a monthly stipend of HK\$20,000 and a conference and research related travel allowance¹ of HK\$10,000 per year for a period up to three years.
6. An awardee must observe all rules, regulations and requirements prescribed by the institution concerned. In the event that he/she is expelled from the institution in the course of the studies, the RGC may at any time prematurely terminate the fellowship.
7. The length of any accumulative leave of absence from the study (i.e. non-academic leave) during the three-year fellowship period is capped at 12 months in aggregate. The first six-month leave period

¹ The eligibility for the research related travel allowance is subject to the prevailing practice and policy of the institution concerned.

will be reviewed and approved by institutions, and the second six months by the Chairman, RGC with strong justifications and institutional support. Requests for accumulative leave exceeding 12 months will normally not be considered. For the first six-month accumulative leave period, institutions have the discretion to decide whether the related stipend and research related travel allowance should be paid to the awardees. As regards the second six-month accumulative leave period, the RGC will consider each case based on its individual merits and recommendations from the related institutions.

8. The eligibility of the fellowship for an awardee is required to be reviewed after completion of one full year's study in the fellowship period. The evaluation is based on the awardee's academic performance, supervisor's evaluation, and the degree of intellectual well roundedness as assessed by the institution. Subject to the recommendation and endorsement from the relevant institution, an awardee will be eligible to receive the fellowship in the subsequent year.
9. The fellowship shall be discontinued/terminated in either of the following situation:
 - i. change programme of study without the approval of the RGC;
 - ii. drop out from the institution during the fellowship period;
 - iii. early completion of programme by the awardee;
 - iv. dismissal of the awardee by the institution;
 - v. unsatisfactory progress of studies as determined by the institution;
 - and
 - vi. termination of the study by the institution.
10. In the event that any misrepresentation, fraudulent, and non-disclosure of information during the application stage is detected, the fellowship shall be terminated immediately and the awardee concerned is liable for the refund of fellowship obtained in full under the Hong Kong Fellowship Scheme.

11. An awardee is obliged to take part in activities to promote the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme when necessary.
12. The above terms and conditions may be changed from time to time by the RGC. In the event that changes are made, the updated terms and conditions will always supersede earlier versions, and the awardees will be informed of the changes accordingly.

RGC Secretariat
March 2010