

The Thetos Young Scholar Award

Guidelines Governing the Award Scheme

Thetos Foundation Hong Kong Limited (“Thetos”) is invited to establish the Thetos Foundation Endowment Fund at City University of Hong Kong (“CityUHK”) to offer the financial support for the “Thetos Young Scholar Award Scheme” which aims to support and encourage early-stage scholars to strive for academic and research excellence. The Thetos Young Scholar Award (“the Award”) serves as a seed funding to enable young scholars to pursue ideas with the potential to bring positive impact to society. Established and monitored by Office of the Vice-President (Research), the scheme operates under the following guidelines:-

1. Number and Value of Awards

- 1.1. Two awards will be given every year.*
- 1.2. The awardee will be named as “Thetos Young Scholar”.*
- 1.3. Each awardee will receive a research grant of HK\$150,000 and a cash prize of HK\$50,000, i.e. HK\$200,000 in total.*
- 1.4. The award will be granted as a one-off payment.*

2. Eligibility

- 2.1. To be eligible for the Award, candidates should be full-time faculty members of CityUHK, in the capacity of Assistant Professor, who have joined the University for at least one year and have not been in the capacity of Assistant Professor for more than five years at the time of being nominated, and hold an appointment of not less than one year from the anticipated date of the Award.*
- 2.2. Candidates can receive the Award for maximum three times.*
- 2.3. There shall be a gap of one year before an awardee can receive the same Award again.*

3. Nomination

Office of the Vice-President (Research) will invite nominations from Deans of Colleges and Schools. Each College and School can nominate one candidate. Prior consent of the nominees must be obtained. The nominees will be invited to provide supporting documents.

4. Selection Criteria

4.1. Candidates will be selected on the basis of their scholarly and research achievements, with demonstrated commitment to pursuing a professional career in the academic field and empowering positive change for a better society.

4.2. Selection will be based on merit and one or more of the following criteria will apply as appropriate:-

- track records in the quality of the research and scholarship achievements, grants, prizes and patent awards, significant output in peer-reviewed literature, and/or other forms of special recognition;*
- contributions to the field of research and/or dedication to creating impactful change; and*
- relevance, impact and significance of the research to advance industrial/economic/social development.*

5. Selection Panel and Process

5.1. A selection panel will be set up to consider the nominations. The selection panel shall be chaired by the Vice President (Research). Selection panel members shall also include senior researchers of CityUHK from a mix of disciplines plus one or two external members nominated by CityUHK.

5.2. The panel will be responsible for the final selection and approval based on the documents submitted and, if considered beneficial by the selection panel, a presentation by the candidates.

6. Use of Fund

- 6.1. *The fund, comprising research grant and cash prize, will be used to support the research and scholarly activities of the awardees, and to encourage them to further enhance their professional and personal development.*
- 6.2. *The awardees can use the research grant for up to three years.*
- 6.3. *The research grant should be properly used according to the prevailing rules and regulations established by the University.*

7. Return of Unused Fund

If there is any unused fund from the awardee(s) after the three years, or upon departure of the awardee(s) from CityUHK, the remaining sum will be returned to the endowment fund as part of the principal. There is a mechanism to avoid excessive accumulation of unused funds in the endowment fund.

8. Readiness of Fund

- 8.1. *The fund will be allocated to the awardees for immediate use when the Award is granted.*
- 8.2. *To facilitate, Finance Office will provide the fund to the awardees in accordance with clause 8.1 above, meaning that the awardees are not required to advance cash out of their own pockets.*

9. Presentation of awards

The awards will be presented at the relevant College/School Commencement.