



POSTGRADUATE STUDENTSHIPS (PGSS)

Policies Governing Postgraduate Studentships

The purpose of Postgraduate Studentships is to provide selected students with financial assistance in the form of a scholarship to study full-time for the degree of MPhil or PhD. In June this year, the Council has approved that the new PGS stipend values of \$13,500, \$14,200, \$14,900 and \$15,600 per month comprise the range of PGS rates, to be applicable to:

- (a) all qualified full-time MPhil and PhD students who have obtained a 2A honours degree (or equivalent), and registering on or after July 1, 2000; and
- (b) all existing qualified students who have not previously been awarded a PGS, with effect from July 1, 2000.

The maximum number of hours of work permitted per annum under the relevant stipend value, is as follows:

Monthly stipend	Maximum no. of hours of work permitted per annum
\$13,500 (level 1)	100 hours
\$14,200 (level 2)	150 hours
\$14,900 (level 3)	200 hours
\$15,600 (level 4)	250 hours

The rates are not intended to operate on an annual incremental basis, in the way that salary scales are. On renewal of studentship award at the second/third year of study, any level (even a lower level) of studentship value can be offered.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING POSTGRADUATE STUDENTSHIPS

I. Regulations

1. Postgraduate Studentships shall:

- (a) be awarded by the Board of Graduate Studies, on the recommendation of the appropriate Faculty Higher Degrees Committee, to selected students who (i) normally hold a Bachelor's degree at second class honours first division or above from this University, or another qualification of equivalent standard, as determined by the Board which has sole and absolute discretion in this matter; and (ii) hold full-time candidature for the degree of MPhil or PhD;
- (b) be tenable on an annual basis and renewable upon the conditions stated in this Regulation and in Regulation 6 below being fulfilled. The maximum period of award shall be, in the case of full-time MPhil candidature, two years, this being the normative period of study; and in the case of full-time PhD candidature, the first three years, this being the minimum period of study. In the event of transfer from MPhil to PhD or *vice versa*, the period of study for the new degree shall be calculated from the date of first registration for the initial degree. Studentship holders who are allowed to submit their theses earlier than the specified periods of study are eligible to receive

the balance of the award until notification of degree conferment, on the condition that they continue to be registered for the degree, to be physically present in Hong Kong, and continue to perform their prescribed duties for the Department (see Regulation 4 below).

2. The annual value of the Studentship shall be determined by the University from time to time. Payments to Studentship holders shall be made on a monthly basis.
3. Postgraduate Studentship holders shall be responsible for paying whatever University fees are liable to be paid.
4. A Postgraduate Studentship holder may be required to undertake, under supervision, duties which carry educational benefits for the holder, as prescribed by the Head of the Department, Unit, Centre, School or Institute in which the holder is registered. The amount of such work shall not exceed 100 hours in any full twelve-month period (or *pro rata* if the period is less than twelve months), and the calculation of the hours shall include preparation time in all cases. The undertaking of this work forms a part of the Studentship contract covered by the value of the Studentship, and no other payment for these hours of work may be made to a Studentship

holder. However, in addition to these 100 hours, a Postgraduate Studentship holder may work for a maximum of a further 150 hours per annum, for which remuneration will be payable at a rate determined by the University from time to time. The work undertaken in this capacity shall be relevant to the holder's research training, beneficial to his/her studies and subject to the concurrence of the supervisor(s). The holder shall not otherwise undertake any employment either within or outside the University during tenure of the Studentship.

5. The work referred to in Regulation 4 above is intended to constitute a part of the training of a Studentship holder, and the nature of the duties may for example include:
 - (a) assistance with research;
 - (b) assistance with scheduled laboratory, studio and fieldwork classes and with tutorials;
 - (c) assistance with the preparation of materials for scheduled classes;
 - (d) assistance with marking practical notebooks and answers from exercise classes; and
 - (e) assistance with invigilation of University degree examinations.
6. Continued tenure or renewal of a Postgraduate Studentship during the prescribed period of study shall at all times remain conditional upon the requirements specified in Regulations 1 and 4 above continuing to be met, and also upon:
 - (a) the holder continuing to make satisfactory academic progress; and
 - (b) funds for the payment of the Studentship continuing to be available.

When any of these requirements ceases to be met, a Studentship shall be withdrawn or not renewed as appropriate.

7. Postgraduate Studentship holders shall sign a declaration agreeing to abide by these regulations, and agreeing that they will immediately inform their supervisor(s) and the Secretary of the Board of Graduate Studies if they cease to comply with any of the requirements specified in Regulations 1 and 4.

II. Administrative arrangements

1. Applications shall be made on the prescribed form, copies of which may be obtained from the Graduate School, the Academic Services Enquiry Office, or Faculty Offices.
2. The recommendation of students for the award of Postgraduate Studentships shall be made by the Departmental Research Postgraduate Committees of Departments, Units, Centres or Institutes in which the students are (or are to be) registered, and such recommendations shall be considered by the appropriate Faculty Higher Degrees Committee for recommendation to the Board of Graduate Studies.
3. Faculty Higher Degrees Committees shall receive reports on the appropriate proforma on the academic progress of Postgraduate Studentship holders, and shall be responsible for assessing progress and making recommendations on the renewal or otherwise, and the withdrawal of Postgraduate Studentships for the consideration by the Board of Graduate Studies.

RESEARCH STUDENT SUPPORT FUND

In a separate article (cover page), students are informed that the University's Council has approved, in late June 2000, revised policies governing the award of postgraduate studentships (PGSs), to be applicable to all qualified full-time MPhil and PhD candidates registered on or after 1 July 2000. The new policies enable all full-time students with a first degree at 2A honours and above (or equivalent) who are admitted from 1 July 2000 onwards, as well as existing, full-time qualified students who have not previously been awarded a PGS, to be granted a studentship.

The new policies, while being beneficial to research postgraduate students, have been introduced at a significant financial cost to the University. At a time when resources available to the University are tight, funding had to be found from other areas of

expenditure to provide that to implement the new PGS policies. A substantial injection of funding, of the order of \$10M per year, has been approved in order to make the new scheme possible. However, a portion of the additional sum required had to be met from the operation of the Graduate School. After considerable deliberation the Graduate School found it necessary to tap money from the Research Student Support Fund (RSSF). The Graduate School realises the opportunities that were afforded students through the RSSF, but under the circumstances felt it more appropriate to provide as many qualified students as possible with PGS support. After restructuring of resources, and with effect from 1 July 2000, the funds which made the RSSF have therefore been channelled into the budget for operating the postgraduate studentships. The RSSF has therefore ceased to exist from the said date.

GRADUATE SCHOOL HOMEPAGE

Have you ever browsed the newly-designed Graduate School Homepage? Our

homepage has been renovated since the beginning of this semester. In addition to the new design of our homepage, the URL and the e-mail address have been changed to <http://www.hku.hk/gradsch> and gradsch@hkucc.hku.hk respectively.

The Homepage is very informative. You can obtain and download the following information instantly by a simple click:

- Recent announcements & Newsletters
- Graduate School courses information & related forms
- Graduate School Handbook & Regulations related to research postgraduate students
- Admission information & related forms
- and more.....

Our Homepage will be updated periodically. We hope you all enjoy surfing our Homepage. We strive for the best to provide you all useful information, so please do not hesitate to let us hear your voice or opinion through our e-mail gradsch@hkucc.hku.hk.

RESEARCH STUDENT Induction Programme 2000

The Research Student Induction Programme was successfully held on Saturday, September 30, 2000 in Main Building. There were over 50 students and staff participating in the Programme.



Professor John Malpas, our Associate Dean and Acting Dean, hosted the Induction Programme.

We were glad to invite several guests to attend the Programme and give us speeches. To start with, Professor John Malpas, our Associate Dean and Acting Dean, warmly welcomed all students and made a concise introduction to Graduate School and its supporting services. Dr. Iain Bruce, our Course Co-ordinator, let us know more about the Graduate School's MPhil curricula and training workshops. Moreover, the University's service centres/units' facilities were introduced. To end the Programme, Professor Felix Wu, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research), conveyed a message to all students that they were as important as their supervisors and professors, and encouraged them to explore their own potential to the fullest extent in The University of Hong Kong. He finally wished all students every success in their research and their lives. Following Prof. Wu's closing remarks, there was an Information Fair providing

chances for students to consult the staff of the University's service centres/units directly.

The Programme was well received. Students were enthusiastic about meeting counterparts and teachers from other Faculties. They became much familiar with The University of Hong Kong and the Graduate School. The Programme certainly set a good start for the new students in pursuit of research studies in this University. When you feel like talking to someone, it is our staff who always stands by you to share your happiness and sorrows.



Professor Felix Wu, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research), chatted with research students at the reception.

RESEARCH STUDENT Supervisor Workshop 2000

The Research Student Supervisor Workshop 2000 took place on Thursday, the afternoon of October 12, 2000 in the Senate Room. This workshop was organized with the aim of promoting good research student supervision within the University and of creating an opportunity for supervisors to share their valuable experience on supervision with fellow colleagues. More than 30 colleagues attended the Workshop.

Winners in the Outstanding Research Student Supervisor Award 1999-2000, Professor C.H. Cho from the Department of Pharmacology and Professor W.K. Li from the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science were invited to lead the discussion. After the short presentation, an open discussion was launched. The participants raised the common concerns and issues in supervising research postgraduate students.

Many colleagues were pleased to have the opportunity to meet colleagues from other departments and share their experience and concerns with one another. They all looked forward to next workshop.

PUBLICATIONS BY RESEARCH STUDENTS

The following is a list of selected publications authored/co-authored by our **MPhil and PhD students** during the period between June and July 2000.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Department of Curriculum Studies

Zhu, X. and Tse, S.K. New direction in the assessment of Chinese composition: communicative competence. 中小學中文寫作測驗的一個新方向：傳意能力評定。 *The 6th Academic Conference of the Two Sides of the Strait, Hong Kong and Macau (Organized by the Educational and Cultural Exchange Organizing Committee of the Two Sides of the Strait) 《第六屆海峽兩岸暨港澳地區教育學術研討會，海峽兩岸教育文化交流籌備委員會主辦，2000年6月15至18日》* Taiwan, 2000, 175-193.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Department of Civil Engineering

Fang, H.H.P., Chan, G.K.Y. and **Xu, L.** Quantification of bacterial adhesion force using atomic force microscopy (AFM). *Journal of Microbiological Methods*, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, Elsevier Science, 2000, 40: 89 - 97.

Zhang, T. and Fang, H.H.P. Digitization of DGGE (denaturant gradient gel electrophoresis) profile and cluster analysis of microbial communities. *Biotechnology Letters*, Middlesex, England, Science and Technology Letters, 2000, 22: 399 - 405.

Department of Computer Science & Information Systems

Yang, D., Sung, W.K., Yiu, S.M., Cheung, D.W., **Ho, W.S.**, Lam, T.W. and Lee, S.D. Construction of Online Catalog Topologies Using Decision Trees. *Proc. Second Int'l Workshop on Advanced Issues of E-Commerce and Web-based Information Systems (WECWIS'00)*, San Jose, 2000.

Yang, D.K., Sung, W.K., Yiu, S.M., Cheung, D.W.L., **Ho, W.S.** and Lam, T.W. Construction of Online Catalog Topologies Using Decision Trees. *Proc. Second International Workshop on Advanced Issues of E-Commerce and Web-based Information Systems (WECWIS'00)*, San Jose, 2000.

Huo, Q., Smith, N.D. and **Ma, B.** Efficient ML Training of CDHMM Parameters Based on Prior Evolution. Posterior Intervention and Feedback. *2000 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP'2000)*, Istanbul, Turkey, IEEE, 2000, II-1001 - 1004.

Wang, L., Song, W. and Cheung, D.W.L. Using Contextual Semantics to Automate the Web Document Search and Analysis. *The International Proc. Workshop on the World Wide Web Semantics (WebSem 2000)*, Hong Kong, 2000.

Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering

Chen, J., Chau, K.T., Jiang, Q. and Chan, C.C. Modeling and analysis of chaotic behavior in switched reluctance motor drives. *Proceedings of IEEE Power Electronics Specialists Conference*, Ireland, IEEE, 2000, 39-4: 1-6.

Chau, K.T., **Jiang, S.** and Chan, C.C. Reduction of current ripple and acoustic noise in dual-inverter pole-changing induction motor drives. *Proceedings of IEEE Power Electronics Specialists Conference*, Ireland, IEEE, 2000, 4-2: 1-6.

Lei, S.W., Lau, K.N. and Ng, T.S. Adaptive Interleaving for DFDM in TDD systems. *2000 IEEE International Conference on Communication*, New Orleans, USA, IEEE, 2000, 2: 1130-1134.

Zou, Y., Chan, S.C. and Ng, T.S. A Recursive M-estimate Algorithm for Robust Adaptive Filtering in Impulse Noise. *IEEE Signal Processing Letter*, 2000.

Department of Mechanical Engineering

Duggan, B.J. and **Chen, Y.** A study on microstructure and texture evolution in homogeneous cold rolled 93:07 brass. *Fifth Asia-Pacific Symposium on Advances in Engineering Plasticity and Its Applications (AEPA2000)*, eds. T.X. Wu, Q.P. Sun & J.K. Kim, Switzerland, Trans. Tech. Pub. Ltd., 2000, 177-180 Key Engineering Materials: 535-540.

Ho, C.H.H., Gibson, I. and Cheung, W.L. Effects of energy density on bonus z, surface roughness and warpage of selective laser sintered polycarbonate. *The Eighth International Conference on Rapid Prototyping*, Tokyo, Japan, 2000, 99-104.

Chan, A.T.Y. and **Lee, W.C.** Analytical study of pollutant dispersion under a turbulent wind flow past a low hill. *Proceedings of the Air and Waste Management Association's 93rd Annual Meeting and Exhibition*, Salt Lake City, USA, AWMA, 2000, 8 No.00-498.

Chan, A.T.Y. and **Lee, W.C.** Reflection of water waves by fishnet. *Proceedings of 14th International Conference of Engineering Mechanics*, Austin, USA, ASCE, 2000, 6 No.2118.

Jin, H., Chan, C.W., Zhang, H.Y. and **Yeung, W.K.** Fault detection of redundant systems based on B-spline neural networks. *Proc. American Control Conference*, Chicago, IL, USA, 2000, 1215-1219.

Shabayek, A.A.E. and **Yeung, W.W.** A queuing model analyzing the Hong Kong Container Terminals' performance. *The International Journal of Transportation Planning & Technology*, New York, USA, Gordon & Breach Science, 2000, 23: 15.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Department of Microbiology

Shortridge, K.F., Gao, P., Guan, Y., Ito, T., Kawaoka, Y., **Markwell, D.D.**, Takada, A. and Webster, R.G. Interspecies transmission of influenza viruses: H5N1 virus and a Hong Kong SAR perspective. *Veterinary Microbiology*, 2000, 74: 141-147.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Department of Chemistry

Fung, Y.S. and **Long, Y.** Determination of carbonyl compounds in air by electrochromatography. *Abstract of 3rd Asia-Pacific Int. Symposium on Capillary Electrophoresis and Related Microscale Techniques, APCE 2000, Hong Kong, June 14-17, 2000*, PD17, 190-191.

Fung, Y.S. and **Mak, L.L.J.** Solid phase microextraction for pesticide determination in aqueous samples by micellar electrokinetic capillary chromatography. *Abstract of 3rd Asia-Pacific Int. Symposium on Capillary Electrophoresis and Related Microscale Techniques, APCE 2000, Hong Kong, June 14-17, 2000*, PD05, 177.

Yang, D., **Ng, F.F., Li, B., Qu, J., Yan, Y.**, Wu, Y.D. and Wang, D.P. Novel N-O turn structures in peptides containing α -aminoxy acids. *The 218th American Chemical Society National Meeting held at New Orleans, U.S.A., 22-26 August, 1999, 2000*.

Yang, D., **Qu, J., Li, B., Ng, F.F.**, Wu, Y.D. and Wang, D.P. Novel helical structure in oligomers of homochiral α -aminoxy acids. *The 218th American Chemical Society National Meeting held at New Orleans, U.S.A., 22-26 August, 1999, 2000*.

Fung, Y.S., **Sun, D.** and Yeung, C.Y. Determination of bilirubin distribution on serum protein by capillary electrophoresis. *Abstract of 3rd Asia-Pacific Int. Symposium on Capillary Electrophoresis and Related Microscale Techniques, APCE 2000, Hong Kong, June 14-17, 2000*, PB09, 136.

Shi, Q., Ran, Q., **Tam, W.S., Leung, W.H.** and Cheung, A.S.C. Near infrared laser spectroscopy of CrS. *55th Ohio State University International Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy, Columbus, OH, USA, June 12-16, 2000*, RA11.

Tong, S.M., Cheung, A.S.C. and Jamieson, M.J. Predicted predissociation linewidths in the Schumann-runge bands of O₂ compared with recent high-resolution measurements. *The 6th Biennial Hitran Database Conference, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge MA, USA, June 19-21, 2000*, P33.

Fung, Y.S. and **Tung, H.S.** Application of capillary electrophoresis for organic acid analysis in herb studies. *Abstracts of 3rd Asia-Pacific Int. Symposium on Capillary Electrophoresis and Related Microscale Techniques, APCE 2000, Hong Kong, June 14-17, 2000*, PB12, 140.

Fung, Y.S. and **Tung, H.S.** Application of capillary electrophoresis for trace ion analysis in rain water. *Journal of Microcolumn*, 2000, 12(6): 337-344.

Department of Zoology

Cheng, C.K. and Lee, W.W.M. Structural organization of the mouse testin gene and characterization of its 5'-flanking sequence. *82nd Annual Meeting of the Endocrine Society, Toronto, Canada, June 21-24, 2000*.

Chung, P.Y., Lee, W.W.M. and Cheng, C.Y. Is cadmium chloride-induced inter-Sertoli tight junction (TJ) disruption in vitro a model to study the events of junction disassembly during spermatogenesis? *82nd Annual Meeting of the Endocrine Society, Toronto,*

Canada, June 21-24, 2000.

Li, J., Wong, X. and Leung, F.C.C. Molecular cloning and characterization of a novel repetitive DNA family from chicken. *Poultry Science*, 2000, 79(supp. I): 10.

Lui, W.Y., Lee, W.W.M. and Cheng, C.Y. Induction of transformation growth factor- β (TGF- β) during inter-Sertoli tight junction (TJ) assembly in vitro. *82nd Annual Meeting of the Endocrine Society, Toronto, Canada, June 21-24, 2000*.

Chow, B.K.C., Tse, L.Y., **Pang, T.K.R.** and Wong, A.O.L. Identification of a novel PHI receptor in goldfish: Implication on the evolution of VIP/PACAP receptors in vertebrates. *20th Conference of European Comparative Endocrinologists*, 2000, #8S: 88.

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Department of Statistics & Actuarial Science

Choy, B.S.T. and **Chan, C.M.** Bayesian estimation of stochastic volatility model via scale mixtures distributions. *Proceedings of the Hong Kong International Workshop on Statistics and Finance: An Interface. (July 4-8, 1999, Hong Kong)*, London, England, Imperial College Press, 2000, 185-204.

CONFERENCE GRANTS FOR RESEARCH STUDENTS

Students registered for the MPhil or the PhD degree at the University may apply to the Committee on Research and Conference Grants (CRCG) for a conference grant to attend one academic conference (or other academic meeting of similar standing and status) in the course of his/her registration for the degree.

The maximum amount of the award which a research student may claim is HK\$15,000, out of which not more than HK\$4,000 can be claimed for the conference registration fee and accommodation (room cost only). Meals, laundry and telephone charges cannot be claimed against the grant. Travel insurance in respect of the approved conference attendance is covered automatically by the University.

Applications are considered in each financial year (1 July – 30 June) on a first-come-first-served basis. Applications must be accompanied by documentary evidence that at least one paper or poster which the applicant has (co)-authored has been accepted for presentation at the conference (applications without such firm acceptance issued by conference organizers will not be processed). Two airfare quotations are also required at the time of application.

Applications must be completed on the requisite form, endorsed by the research student's supervisor and Head of Department, and must reach the Research Services Section of the Registry not later than 14 days before the first day of the conference.

No student may receive more than one conference grant during his / her candidature for a degree. The award of the grant is conditional upon the availability of funds. The remaining budget available for the current financial year is HKD840,000.

Awardees must submit a report on the conference, using the standard form, within 30 days of the end of the conference.

The regulations governing the conference grants, the application form and the report form on the conference are available from the **Research Services Section of the Registry, 9/F, Knowles Building, The University of Hong Kong, Tel: 2859-7081** or they can be downloaded from the CRCG homepage: <http://www.hku.hk/rss/crcg/main.htm>

THE INNOVATION GRANTS COMPETITION 2000

The Merrill Lynch Forum has launched a worldwide competition which invites applications from recent doctoral students to explore the market potential of their dissertation and turn it into a commercially viable product or service.

The Competition is open to PhD candidates in the natural, physical and social sciences, the liberal arts and humanities, engineering and mathematics disciplines and will reward those entrants who most persuasively and creatively explain the commercial application of their academic research.

Doctoral students who have successfully defended their dissertations/theses between January 1, 1998 and December 15, 2000 in the above subjects can apply. Entrants will be required to submit a proposal that clearly and concisely explains how their doctoral dissertation topic could be translated into a commercial product or service. The description must include: an abstract of the proposed idea, a brief summary of the dissertation, a description of the most significant commercial idea embodied in it, an analysis of

potential market for the product or service and a discussion of technical steps necessary to bring the innovation to market.

All entries must be postmarked no later than December 15, 2000, and be sent to:

**The Merrill Lynch Forum
Innovation Grants Competition
C/o Katia Mujica
Communications & Public Affairs
2 World Financial Centre, Floor #6,
New York, NY 10281-6100
U.S.A**

The Forum will announce the winners by March 2001.

Grants will be awarded to six outstanding applicants: winning proposal (1 award) — US\$50,000; second place (2 awards) — US\$20,000 each; third place (3 awards) — US \$10,000 each. Additionally, the top six winning candidates' university departments will each receive a US\$5,000 Innovation Grant in recognition of the institution's support of the Competition. The Forum will also award 6 Distinguished Proposal Grants of US\$5,000 each in recognition of other distinguished proposals.

Applicants should visit the Competition's web site <<http://www.ml.com/innovation>> to get more information about past winners and criteria used for judging or send Email to: InnovationGrants@ml.com for additional information.

POSTGRADUATE TRAVEL ALLOWANCE – Grant for Field Trip Overseas 2000

The Postgraduate Travel Allowance established by the Hong Kong Culture and Society Programme invites application for the "Grant for Field Trip Overseas 2000". Current MPhil or PhD students of The University of Hong Kong in humanities and social sciences (including architecture and business) whose thesis is on any field of Hong Kong are welcome to apply. Five to ten awards with a maximum of HK\$20,000 each will be granted.

Deadline for application: 30 November 2000. Application form can be downloaded from <www.hku.hk/hkcsp>. For enquiries, please call 28592459 or email: hkcsp@hku.hk