



FACULTY OF SCIENCE
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
香港大學 理學院

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Press Release

Official Launch of HKU Young Scientist Scheme (YSS) Engaging Outstanding Science Students in Research and Exchange Activities

November 15, 2016



From left to right: CHAN Sze-wai, Thomas WONG Hin-fung, Professor CHEUNG Wing Sum, John Joson Quimpo NG and ZHAO Qingqing

To open the door of research frontiers to exceptionally talented students, starting from 2016-2017, **HKU Faculty of Science** has launched the **Young Scientist Scheme (YSS)**, allowing outstanding students to grasp a taste of early research experience during their undergraduate studies in the 6901 BSc degree curriculum. The Faculty is pleased to announce that 27 outstanding students have been admitted to the first cohort of YSS, of which 17 were admitted through the JUPAS channel while the rest were through non-JUPAS channels.

As a strong, research-oriented faculty, the Faculty of Science understands the importance of nurturing talented students at an early stage. With great commitment in incubating the next generation of scientists, the Faculty aims to expose YSS participants to ample authentic research opportunities and equip them with

proper scientific training, in the hope of broadening their horizons and developing their personal strengths. Students accepted to YSS are guaranteed with the following opportunities:

- **Summer Research Fellowship (SRF)** in the first summer
- A further **SRF** or **Overseas Research Fellowship (ORF)** at a renowned overseas university or a research institute
- **International exchange, visiting or summer study** at a renowned overseas university
- Attendance to an **international scientific conference**
- A **research mentor**
- Enrolment in **Frontiers of Science Honours Seminar**
- **Stipends** for research activities
- **Entrance scholarship#**

Scholarship for Non-JUPAS students are considered on a case-by-case basis.

During an earlier meeting with the first batch of YSS participants, the Faculty was delighted to hear many positive feedbacks from participants of the scheme, especially in the flexibility and abundance of learning opportunities that students can grasp and explore. Examples of research experiences of our undergraduates and sharing of our YSS participants can be found in the supplementary information attached.

For press enquiry, please contact Ms Cindy Chan, Senior Communication Manager of Faculty of Science, on +852 3917-5286/ +852 6703-0212 or by email at cindycst@hku.hk, or Ms Rhea Leung, Manager (Media) of Communication and Public Affairs Office (Tel: +852 2857 8555) / +852 9022 7446; email: rhea.leung@hku.hk)

Supplementary Information

Eligibility of YSS

From academic year 2016-2017 on, JUPAS students admitted to 6901 BSc programme with a total score of 31[#] or above in their best 5 HKDSE subjects (Category A subjects and M1/M2) are **automatically** accepted to YSS. No interview is necessary.

Selected Non-JUPAS students (local and non-local) will also be invited to enroll in YSS. Students who are not admitted to YSS on admission can still compete for certain components of the scheme, including SRF, ORF and/or international exchange during their study.

YSS participants are guaranteed to engage in exchange, visiting or summer study in one of the following world class universities*:

North America

- Stanford University
- Yale University
- Columbia University
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Chicago
- Johns Hopkins University
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Europe

- University of Cambridge
- University of Oxford
- Imperial College London
- King's College London

*List of universities is subject to change year by year

Examples of institutions in which Overseas Research Fellowships have been held in the past years:

North America

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- California Institute of Technology
- Stanford University
- Columbia University
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles
- Cornell University
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Europe

- European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)
- University of Cambridge
- University College London

HKDSE “level to score” conversion table:

Category A Subjects, Extended Module 1 and Extended Module 2 of Mathematics								
Level	5**	5*	5	4	3	2	1	Others
Score	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

For further information about our 6901 BSc Programme, please visit the following link:
<http://www.scifac.hku.hk/ug/prospective-student>

Student Sharing

Engagement in Early Research Experience

John Joson Quimpo NG

- Year 3 BSc student (double major in Chemistry & Biological Sciences) enrolled through Non-JUPAS in 2013
- Participant of Yale Visiting International Student Programme (Y-VISP) 2016
- Participated in the Pembroke-King's Programme 2016, spending two months in University of Cambridge

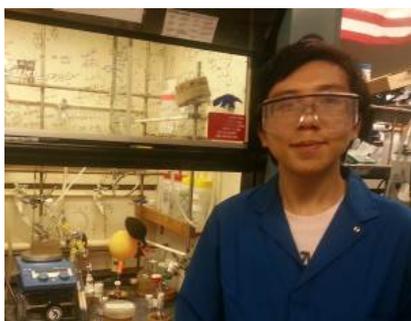


Joson (first one from the left) and his friends at the Filipino Club of Yale University

“Even after having had 3 months to process what I went through, it still seems an impossible task for me to summarize everything in a few words. Going to Yale has been everything I have ever dreamed of. I initially had some reservations about taking my year in Yale as a gap year instead of transferring any credits in, but retrospectively, I think that was the best decision I have ever made. I was able to explore courses in the classics, music, psychology, physics, and history, all at an elite liberal arts institution. More than that, I was able to forge strong friendships with people from different countries and all walks of life. Not only did I learn about an entirely different culture, but also I felt that I got to know myself better, and that is perhaps what I really find meaningful in this programme.”

Thomas WONG Hin-fung

- Year 4 BSc student (double major in Chemistry and Biochemistry) enrolled through JUPAS in 2013
- Participant of Overseas Research Fellowship at Department of Chemistry, University of California, Irvine, USA in 2016; project title: “Synthesis of Complex, Polycyclic Structures via Himer Cycloadditions”
- Participant of Summer Research Fellowship at School of Biomedical Sciences in 2015, project title: “Detection of Epstein-Barr Virus by CRISPR/Cas9 Technology”



“Irvine, California is a sunny city and home to diverse culture. It is not just a pleasant place to relax, but also a hub for academic research. In this summer, I joined the cheerful Vanderwal Group and collaborated with researchers who are highly proficient and enthusiastic with chemistry. With their help, I worked on chemical reactions, purification and analysis of molecules, and gained great satisfaction to make textbook knowledge fall into place with my own hands.

Progressing through various experiments, there had been ups and downs. My nice coworkers supported me, both technically and mentally, throughout the challenging project. They demonstrated the importance of insightful perseverance and pursuit of excellence, which inspired me and strengthened my determination to pursue research as my career path. After 12 weeks of efforts, I am proud of making a great leap in mind, in addition to acquiring advanced experimental skills.”

Participants of Young Scientist Scheme

CHAN Sze-wai

- Year 1 BSc student enrolled through JUPAS in 2016 (intended major Ecology and Biodiversity)
- Graduated from Marymount Secondary School, Hong Kong, in 2016



“Studying Ecology and Biodiversity has always been my goal and motivation in the past few years. I was very determined to get into the University of Hong Kong despite many other appealing prospects elsewhere, because I know that only the courses here can nurture and incubate me to become a forerunner of ecological protection. My passion in the field has further strengthened after entering the university. With the phenomenal opportunities offered by the Young Science Scheme, it is guaranteed that I can maximize my knowledge hub through research programmes and overseas explorations. These valuable experiences shall contribute to my full understanding of interactions between the environment and organisms, thus improving the niche of humans in the ecosystem.”

ZHAO Qingqing

- Year 1 BSc student enrolled through Non-JUPAS in 2016 (intended major Mathematic/Physics)
- Graduated from Shanghai Experiment School Cambridge International Centre in 2016



“As I have grown up, I have come to realise that as human beings, we can only experience a negligibly small range of distance, speed and time, but this does not limit my burning desire for explanation of our nature, and I feel that we need scientific research to fulfill our curiosity. I love seeing how theoretical physics combine with experiments help defining the surroundings and answering some big questions. The research programmes, along with all other opportunities like oversea learning, guaranteed in Young Scientist Programme are extremely attractive and valuable to me, as a student with desire of pursuing deeper understanding and further study in science.”