

Subject: Summer Research Fellowship (SRF) and Overseas Research Fellowship (ORF) Schemes 2023 for Science Students

To: Non-final year science students

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The Faculty of Science is now launching (1) **Summer Research Fellowship (SRF)** and (2) **Overseas Research Fellowship (ORF) Schemes** to outstanding non-final year science students to gain research-based learning experience.

1. Summer Research Fellowship (SRF) Scheme

Students awarded with SRF are expected to work in the Faculty on a specific research project for **at least 2 months** during summer 2023. Successful applicants will be awarded with a stipend of **HK\$16,000*** for their summer research work.

2. Overseas Research Fellowship (ORF) Scheme

- (i) Students awarded with ORF are expected to conduct research projects under supervision by faculty members of overseas universities or institutions and an internal supervisor in HKU for **at least 2 months** during summer 2023. Successful applicants will be awarded a stipend of **HK\$16,000***, **plus airfare on a reimbursement basis#**.
- (ii) Students awarded with Virtual ORF are expected to conduct research projects under supervision by faculty members of overseas universities or institutions remotely and an internal supervisor in HKU for **at least 2 months** during summer 2023. Successful applicants will be awarded a stipend of **HK\$16,000*** for their summer research work remotely with overseas supervisor.

Applicants of either scheme have to approach prospective supervisors, who are *at the rank of assistant professor or above*, for research opportunities and recommendations. Upon completion of the research, students are required to submit a report and conduct a poster presentation on the research work in **October 2023**. The best poster presenters will have to give a presentation at a research colloquium organized by the Faculty in **October/November 2023**.

ALL successful SRF and ORF participants are expected to participate in both poster presentation and research colloquium, unless it is exempted by the Faculty under special circumstances. All ORF participants are also strongly encouraged to apply for the “*Student Experiential Learning Ambassadors Scheme*” to share their experience to other students.

** Successful applicants are NOT allowed to receive sponsorship from other funding sources for the same research project/activity.*

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, there are uncertainties on border closures, flight restrictions and mandatory quarantine requirements in different countries. ORF applicants may change to conduct summer research remotely (i.e. option 2ii) with their overseas supervisor upon faculty's approval. In such cases, applicants will not be entitled for the airfare reimbursement.

Eligibility

Non-final year science undergraduate students (BSc, BSc&MRes, BSc&LLB, BSc(ActuarSc) and BASc(AppliedAI)) are eligible to apply. Students are advised to approach their prospective supervisors for recommendation before submitting their applications. Applicants will be selected based on a) academic merits, b) quality of the research proposal, c) recommendation of the prospective supervisor and d) interview performance.

To better prepare students for conducting research, students who participated or will participate in SRF/ORF Scheme must take and pass SCNC3111 Frontiers of science honours seminar course. Course description can be found at

https://webapp.science.hku.hk/sr4/servlet/enquiry?Type=Course&course_code=SCNC3111.

Given the limited quotas and to allow more students to have this valuable research learning experience, past participants of SRF/ORF Scheme cannot apply for the same fellowship scheme which they had previously participated.

(Exception: Students pre-accepted to the 'Young Scientist Scheme (YSS)' have been guaranteed of a place to participate in the SRF Scheme in the summer after the completion of their first year of study, and have further opportunities to participate in other undergraduate research schemes (such as another SRF or ORF) in subsequent years subject to satisfactory academic performance.)

Recognition

Performance of students will be continually assessed by their research supervisors. The Faculty reserves the right to withdraw the fellowship offered to the students if their performances are unsatisfactory. The participation in the SRF/ORF Scheme will be recognized in students' academic transcripts if students complete the project with satisfactory performance and fulfill the aforementioned requirements.

Application

Completed application form has to be submitted with a recommendation letter and a research proposal (not more than 500 words on ONE A4 sized paper) through our **online application system from January 3 to February 24, 2023 (Friday) (for both SRF and ORF Schemes)/ April 12, 2023 (Wednesday) (for ORF Scheme only)**. The hyperlink of online application system will be announced in due course. Late application will not be considered. Applicants will be invited to an interview.

Notes for Overseas Research Fellowship (ORF) Scheme:

1. Applicants are **STRONGLY** encouraged to submit the completed applications by the first application deadline, i.e. February 24, 2023 (Friday), as the application results will be

announced by late April 2023 for your immediate arrangement for visa applications, etc. Applications submitted between February 25, 2023 and April 12, 2023 will be reviewed after the second application deadline, i.e. April 12, 2023, and the application results will be announced in late May 2023 or early June 2023; applicants concerned have to consider if such timeframe can meet with the processing time of visa, accommodation applications, etc.

2. *Application will be confirmed upon receipt of prospective supervisor's recommendation letter.*
3. *Accepted applicants are reminded to ensure the validity of their passport, visa and insurance before engaging in the programme.*

Interested students are invited to attend a briefing session of the SRF and ORF Schemes 2023 for Science Students on January 17, 2023 (Tuesday) from 3:30pm to 4:30pm at TT403. For enquiries, please contact the Faculty Office by email at sci.ug.el@hku.hk or by phone at 3917 2683.

Thank you.

Best regards

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