



# MUSLIM SCHOLARSHIP ENTHUSIASTS WHATSAPP GROUP (MSEWG)

## LECTURE TRANSCRIPT: HONG KONG PHD FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

12th September, 2021 20:30 WAT

LECTURER: KEHINDE TEMITOPE

MODERATORS: ABDUL MUJEEB BALOGUN

---

MODERATOR ABDUL MUJEEB:

Good evening, It's another lecture series edition. Today, we have with us here, @Theorem Marvondi Scholar Kehinde Temitope. We humbly use this conduit to welcome our respected scholar. Dr (in-view) Kehinde Temitope

LECTURER KEHINDE TEMITOPE

Kehinde Temitope is a PhD student, department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong. He had his bachelors and masters from the department of Industrial and Production Engineering, University of Ibadan, Ibadan and graduated as top 2% in both degrees. His BSc project was on "Six Sigma Approach in Safety Management of a Production Firm", while his MSc thesis was titled "Discrete Event Simulation of a Commercial Bank in Ibadan". For both projects, he was able to optimize the efficiency, effectiveness and productivity of production/service system used as case study. At the moment, he is carrying out research on Modelling Hybrid Strategies for Artificial Intelligence Based Safety Assurance (Research collaboration in this area is highly welcome from anyone). He has 4 publications and 1 conference paper to his name. I am delighted to be here tonight, and I thank the organizers of this forum for providing a platform like this to help fellow scholars achieve their "Study Abroad Goal".

A few years ago, I resolved to further my study abroad on scholarship. I joined many academic groups, reached many mentors, and attended lots of webinars. Despite all, it took me almost four years to navigate myself out of the jungle. Glory be to God; he crowned my effort and gave me a highly prestigious and juicy scholarship. He gave me HKPFS scholarship

Last year, I gave a similar lecture, and I am happy to share the good news that the only two candidates picked from Nigeria were my mentees. Then, we connected after the lecture; they put in their best, and the rest is history, as both are already in HK enjoying their research with awesome stipends😊😊.

If I may ask, How will you feel after receiving your first payment in HK and a lump sum of 81,900HKD (5,405,500 Nairas) entered your bank account😊😊?

Well, for someone like me that has never received above 100k (in Naira) salary before leaving NG, I may end up fainting😵😵.

This is exactly what HKPFS can do for you if you put in your best shot this year.

HKPFS is all about research🔬 and money💰.

Now to the main event:

“Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme”

## LECTURE AGENDA:

My talk will be based on the following outline:

1. About Hong Kong
2. Why study in Hong Kong
3. About HKPFS
4. How to Secure HKPFS award.
5. Q and A

## ABOUT HONG KONG

Hong Kong HK is a city inside China CN, it is one of the most densely populated places in the world, with roughly 7.8 million residents of different nationalities over 1104 sq-km territory. It is popularly regarded as the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). Though it operates an autonomous economy and spends a currency that is different from that of China. Hong Kong spends HKD (Hong Kong Dollar), which is the eighth most traded currency in the world, while China spends Yuan. More so, the language of communication in Hong Kong is different from that of China. Chinese speaks Mandarin while Hong Kongers speak Cantonese. In short, you can see the China-Hong Kong relationship as a one country-two systems entity. So, you can't separate HK from China. Besides, there are other special administrative regions in China; the combination led to what we know as the People's Republic of China (PRC). The countries/Cities that make up China include mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau. Hong Kong got its Independence in 1997 from Great Britain, with an agreement that the city would fully become part of China in 50 years (2047).

Hong Kong (HK) is thriving to be the best in all spheres of life such as economy, education, manufacturing, real estate, tourism etc. Hong Kong (HK) is home to the highest number of billionaires of any city in Asia and the second-highest number of billionaires of any city in the world. Last, HK has the highest number of skyscrapers of any city in the world, and her citizens are seen to have the highest life expectancies in the world.

## WHY STUDY IN HONG KONG?

- ✓ HK is a multi-diverse society with a lot of foreigners and westerners.
- ✓ 🏠 HK is a popular tourist destination. There are three primary sources of revenue for HK government. These include Real Estate, Finance and Tourism. In 2018, HK attracted a groundbreaking record of 65.1 million visitors. This massive influx boosted the economy of Hong Kong, gave job to 257000 residents and contributed to around 4.5% of Hong Kong GDP.
- ✓ 🏠 All programmes in HK varsities are taught in English language.
- ✓ 🏠 The transport system is superb. You can tour around Hong Kong city using MTR services at a cost less than the price of a Nescafe.
- ✓ 🏠 Huge stipends, and arguably the highest-paid scholarship in the world.
- ✓ 🏠 Easy access to China (China is just 45 mins away using the ultra modern speed train).
- ✓ 🏠 Rich varieties of foods at affordable prices.
- ✓ 🏠 High ranking of HK varsities.
- ✓ 🏠 Low accommodation fees in school dormitories.

- ✓ 🏢 HK has the highest number of skyscrapers in the world (503)
- ✓ 🏢 Research Hub: HK spends so much on research annually. Probably, Asia's most popular research hub. Besides, HK pays the best salary package for academic staff in the world.
- ✓ 🏢 HK has the third-largest financial centre in the world.
- ✓ 🏢 High fintech operations. HK invested heavily in fintech operations such as octopus. For bank transfer and other services. HK invented a Fast Payment System (FPS) that allows one to complete a financial transaction within a second

## ABOUT HKPFS

Established in 2009 by the Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC), the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme aims to attract the best, brightest, and most brilliant students in the world to pursue their PhD degree programmes in Hong Kong's institutions. HKPFS scholarship is not region-specific. All applicants are placed on a common ground irrespective of their ethnic background, nationality, gender, race, etc. There are 20 degree-awarding higher education institutions in HK, of which 8 are publicly funded. All eight universities are covered under the RGC/UGC funding, and your focus should be on how to get a supervisor in any of these 8 schools. The Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme is one of the most prestigious and competitive scholarships in the world. Hong Kong universities have a reputation for academic and research excellence, and their passion for novelty, especially in Science and Engineering, is second to none. Interestingly, Hong Kong universities are highly ranked institutions in the world as 5 out of the 8 participating schools are ranked among the top 200 institutions in the world (both in QS and THE ranking).

Find below the list of participating universities in descending order of ranking.

- i. The Hong Kong University
- ii. Chinese University of Hong Kong
- iii. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- iv. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- v. City University of Hong Kong
- vi. Hong Kong Baptist University
- vii. Lignan University
- viii. The Education University of Hong Kong

## HOW TO SECURE HKPFS AWARD

**First**, submit an initial application via UGC's system at:

<https://cerg1.ugc.edu.hk/hkpfs/InitApplication.jsp> to obtain an HKPFS reference number.

**Second**, check the link below and navigate through to visit your school website for further information and details on how to get started:

<https://cerg1.ugc.edu.hk/hkpfs/institutions.html>

### Primary Screening and Classification of Required Documents:

**NB:** You must include your reference number in your school application so that your application can be treated as an HKPFS applicant and not the regular PhD applicant.

Generally, the norm in HK is that you get a supervisor, then your supervisor nominates you for departmental consideration. If lucky, your department can assess your application and then select you for faculty consideration.

From the faculty to Research Office (RO). Once the RO nominates you, then be confident that you can either win the studentship or the fellowship award😊😊

When reaching a supervisor, you can draft a succinct and straightforward email format like below:

Dear Professor Trump,

I am highly interested in your research area of Network Optimization and Design ( i.e. Optimization of supply chain network design). I want to apply for the PhD program in Industrial Engineering at \*.

With respect to my qualifications, I have both B.Sc(first class honours) and M.Sc(Distinction) in Industrial and Production Engineering from the University of Ibadan. For both programs, I graduated top of my class.

Furthermore, I work as an assistant lecturer in the department of Mechatronics Engineering at Achievers University in Nigeria.

Would like to know if you are willing to be my potential supervisor for the ongoing HKPFS application.

Thanks for your positive response.

Regards,

Biden

In addition, before reaching a Professor, please do your due diligence by reading his complete profile on the school website. Besides, take time and read about his recent and ongoing projects. With this, you stand a high chance of winning his heart if you draft a cold email in line with his current project or grants.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

- Academic excellence
- Research ability and potentials
- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Leadership abilities

These four criteria add up to 120 points. Academic excellence is half of the total point, while others sum up the remaining 60 points.

## THINGS TO HAVE PRIOR TO GETTING STARTED INCLUDE

1. Supervisor
2. Class rank for both degrees
3. Passport
4. Transcripts (BSc and Msc)
5. Medium of Instruction letter or TOEFL/IELTS
6. CV
7. Publications (SCI or SSCI journals)
8. Ranking of your universities
9. Strong proposal
10. Evidence of awards and honours
11. Evidence of certifications



12. Evidence of volunteering
13. Strong essays
14. Evidence of sportsmanship
15. Certificate/Statement of result
16. Prayers.

Frankly, as the scholarship is highly competitive, the selection criteria are not generic. As I've always advised, use everything within your power to put in your best and hope for the best. The criteria above should be top-notch as every document used for the scholarship counts.

#### **Supervisor:**

For PhD in Hong Kong, getting a supervisor is like meeting a destiny helper. Everything about PhD in Hong Kong has to do with a supervisor. In your best interest, during your search for a prospective supervisor, shoot your first shot by checking for a full professor, and if none is responding, try your luck on an associate professor. However, if you are still not getting any positive response, use your last bullet by reaching an assistant professor.

The norm is that a Professor is allowed to nominate max of two candidates for the scholarship, and so, it is not a bad idea if you mail more than one supervisor. Reason being that one of them may finally drop your application on a personal basis

#### **Department selection:**

Each department has a maximum number of candidates to nominate for the faculty (in most cases, 3). Thus, this limits the number of candidates to be selected. For some departments, the research committee conducts interview for the nominated applicants, while for others, you only have a one-on-one interview with your supervisor. Some departments don't conduct interviews in a few cases.

The slots are competitive and more favourable for STEM courses. Therefore, there is no even distribution in the selection of awardees.

#### **University Research Office:**

The university research office is the apex office to approve your application for admission and scholarship, be it studentship or fellowship. Let's say a department has 10 places for PhD applications if the department selected 40 candidates as qualified applicants, the 40 candidates will be subjected to a thorough interview. Out of the 40, the top 10 shall be selected, ranked and sent to the faculty. The 10 shall be ratified by the faculty, then sent to the Research Office (RO). From the top 10, the RO decided to pick the top 1, top 2 or at most, top 3, and send the final list to RGC for consideration for HKPFS. The joy of this algorithm is that if you have a good rapport with your supervisor, he shall always carry you along each stage of your application, and you can always know your chance at every stage of the application. From my earlier analysis, it is worth noting that once your application reaches RO, there is a higher possibility of winning the studentship, which is also a juicy scholarship that can cater for all your needs as a PhD student in Hong Kong. The subtle difference between HKPFS and studentship is the stipend, and in most cases, you can gain this difference by winning other external scholarship such as Belt and Roads scholarship. To know more about this external scholarship, kindly reach your supervisor.

**To know more about HK, kindly visit this website created by the Association of Nigerian Scholars in Hong Kong (ANSHK):**

<http://www.anshk.org/>

## MODERATOR HAMEED:

Thanks and God bless you all. It's time for question and answer. Thank you very much for the detailed lecture thus far sir. It's time for questions now ....🙏📄 Members, you can begin asking your questions now.

Jazaakumullohu khayran to all the organisers.

Here is one

- 
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Q:</b> Hello Sir, Thank you for the exhaustive lecture. My question is can we apply to this scholarship with a B.Sc? | <b>A:</b> Hello Sir, Thank you for the exhaustive lecture. My question is can we apply to this scholarship with a B.Sc? |
|---|---|
- 
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Q:</b> Is there a minimum number of publications before bing considered?<br><br>Regards evidence of awards and honour, if there is no concrete evidence aside verbal recognition and books presentation, how can that be presented?<br><br>Can we use pictures as evidence of volunteering services?<br><br>What if I don't have any evidence of sportsmanship? | <b>A:</b> 1. There is no specific number of publications required, but the more papers you have, the better your chances.<br>2. If there is no concrete evidence, then don't emphasize it much in ur essay<br>3. Pictures, maybe.<br>4. Sportsmanship is not compulsory, but an added advantage |
|--|---|
- 
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Q:</b> Many thanks to our lecturer. I want to ask, will you advice those with a 2:1 in their first degree and still currently running their MSc with a possibility of having a distinction upon completion soon to apply? | <b>A:</b> Yes, they can try their luck. In the past, people with 2:2 grade has won studentships. So, there is no crime in trying one's luck |
|--|---|
- 
- 

## MODERATOR HAMEED:

Appreciation

We, at the MSE appreciates Dr (in view) Kehinde Temitope @Theorem Marvondi. We appreciate your effort in sacrificing your sleep and time to deliver this lecture. It has been a pleasure to host you.

Till next time. Mujeeb 🙏📄

For: Admins

Thank you so much Scholar @Theorem Marvondi for the well delivered lecture.

Your sacrifices including your sleeping time are highly appreciated 🙏🙏

Best wishes.

