The Faculty of Engineering

Overseas Research Attachment Programme for PhD Students (ORAP)

Objectives

The **Overseas Research Attachment Programme (ORAP)** in the Faculty of Engineering is intended to enhance the research experience of Engineering PhD students by providing them with opportunity to carry out research overseas where they can broaden their research horizons and work closely with top scholars/researchers in state-of-the-art research labs in a top university or research laboratory. This experience will help students gain better recognition than short visits and presentations in conference, strengthen international collaborations and improve the international visibility of CUHK.

Eligibility

All post-candidacy PhD students who have finished all degree requirements except for the thesis submission and defense are eligible to apply. If supervisors want to nominate students not yet passed the qualifying exam (i.e. pre-candidacy), they must provide full justifications to the Engineering Panel for consideration.

Format

ORAP takes the form of an informal arrangement between the students, his CU supervisor and the overseas mentor. The student should discuss his interest with his thesis supervisor in the Engineering Faculty and seek the supervisor's assistance to identify an appropriate academic staff in a suitable university or relevant team leader in a research laboratory abroad to act as the mentor for the research attachment. The student should work out a research plan, typically for a 6-month visit, in consultation with both the CU supervisor and the overseas mentor for approval by the Engineering Panel. The CUHK supervisor will continue to supervise the student through online communications.

Duration and Output

The attachment duration is typically 6 months, to enable meaningful research to be carried out and it is expected that at least one publication should be produced. There will be two rounds of applications: the first round in November, which is for students to start their overseas visit during January – July in the following calendar year, while the second call in February, is intended for students to start the visit during June – December in the same calendar year.

[Note: Applications for retroactive support for a completed visit/programme will not be processed.]

Financial Support and Conditions

1. The student will continue to receive his PGS during the attachment subject to Division's approval and University rules governing the disbursement of PGS support.
2. One round-trip economy class air-ticket will be provided.
3. Half support will be provided for overseas accommodation based on actual expenditure
4. The total reimbursement cap for air-ticket and accommodation shall **not exceed HK$50,000.**
5. Students will be given only one award per candidature.

Outcome Expected

Each supported student has to follow the research plan proposed at the time of application as approved by the Engineering Panel. At the end of the attachment, the student is required to put up a report on what he/she has experienced, the research progress that he/she has made, and the research results achieved, and any publications submitted or in preparation. The report should be submitted to the Engineering Panel no later than one month after the attachment.

Application and Selection
- The Engineering Panel will be responsible for reviewing applications and selecting the best candidates for support based on academic merits. Factors to be taken into account include the qualifications of the students, the proposed research plan, and the support to be provided by the overseas mentor and institution.
- A budget has been set aside to support up to 20 students for 2024-25.
- Applications should include:
  ➢ The completed application form together with the proposed research plan and the recommendations of the CU supervisor
  ➢ A full CV of the student
  ➢ A letter from the overseas mentor confirming the support to be made to the student, including financial support, if any, and related research support facilities.

Application Schedule 2024-25
Application Schedule (Spring Term)

Action	Time-frame
Deadline for submission	12 noon, 18 November 2024
Selection process by Engineering Panel and announcement of results	November 2024

Research Attachment Period	6 months during January - July 2025

Application Schedule (Summer Term)

Action	Time-frame
Call for applications	February 2025
Selection process by Engineering Panel and announcement of results	March 2025
Research Attachment Period	6 months during June – December 2025