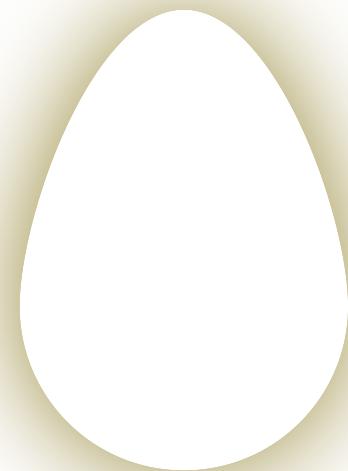




ADMISSIONS | 2020 - 2021



*FIRE DRAGON (*Draco ignis*)*

Scientists working out of a lab in Hong Kong have created a genetically engineered fire-breathing dragon. This creature, the first of its kind, will have the classical qualities of the mythical creature: wings, scales, horns, and the ability to roar rivers of fire. The egg will incubate in 100 days.

This scientific achievement has astonished the world and posed ethical questions that will have far-reaching consequences for the invented species to come.

Five broad plans have been proposed (DESTROY, LAB, CAPTIVE, WILD, FREE).

Please submit the following:

1. What do you think should happen?  
Rank the plans (#1 (best) – #5 (worst))
  
2. Analyze the positive, negatives, and possible consequences of each plan

## **DESTROY**

Shut down the lab, destroy the egg, and threaten legal (and possibly military) action against any lab that pursues genetic engineering of a new species without specific permission and oversight from an international team panel of scientists, politicians, and ethicists.

## **LAB**

Growing the dragon in the lab is the default option for the scientists. By allowing the egg to hatch, the growth of the dragon can be supervised until it becomes too large and dangerous. At that point, the dragon will be killed, dissected, and analyzed. From a scientific standpoint, >90% of possible information can be gathered in the lab. The research and lessons learned will be shared with the scientific community.

## **CAPTIVE**

Captivity allows the fire dragon to grow under careful supervision of the scientists hidden from the public. A habitat will be built by converting an abandoned Hong Kong sports stadium into a dragon den/aviary. Scientists intend to keep the fire dragon as long as it remains safe and ideally, keep the animal alive for its entire life.

## **WILD**

After the dragon is born in the lab and survives infancy, scientists will release the fire dragon on Dangan Dao Island (担杆岛) off the southern coast of Hong Kong after evacuating the 200 permanent residents. The island climate is perfectly suited for the dragon, and there will be ample food. An elaborate series of waves (radio, electromagnetic, gamma radiation) will be used to keep the dragon on the island. Scientists will implant tracking devices to monitor the dragon's vitals.

## **FREE**

Take the egg to Raoul Island, one of the most remote and uninhabited islands in the world. If the egg hatches, it hatches, if it doesn't, nothing will be done to help it. Scientists are highly confident that the dragon will not be able to cross the ocean to get anywhere near humans. If all goes according to plan, the dragon will be monitored with nonintrusive audio/visual equipment by the scientists. There is the possibility that success with the first fire dragon will permit more dragon eggs to be hatched on the island creating a resident population.