

**Guidelines on Research Student Attachment Programme – Incoming
2025/26 (2nd Round)**

1. Introduction to Research Student Attachment Programme – Incoming

Research Student Attachment Programme (RSAP) provides international PhD students with an opportunity for research attachment (hereafter “attachment”) at PolyU to foster collaborative research. Two rounds of applications are invited each year.

2. Application conditions and eligibility

- 2.1. The duration of attachment is from a minimum of three months to a maximum of one year.
- 2.2. Current PhD students with good academic standing, whose applicant home institutions are overseas (except Mainland, Macau and Taiwan), are eligible for application.
- 2.3. The applicant and the host supervisor should have common research interests to ensure high-quality supervision. For host supervisors at the rank of Research Assistant Professor, joint supervision with academic staff with supervisory experience is required.
- 2.4. Students who previously received financial support from RSAP cannot re-apply.

3. Application procedures and timeline

- 3.1. Applicant should seek consent from a potential PolyU host supervisor prior to application. The research plan and expected outcome must be mutually agreed.
- 3.2. Application can be made via online submission system. The application timeline is presented in the Appendix. Late or incomplete applications will not be processed. Required submission documents include:
 - An invitation letter on the host unit’s official letterhead, specifying the full name of the PhD student, the name of the host supervisor, and the attachment period.
 - A copy of the applicant’s academic transcript of PhD study, or an official certification of current PhD student status;
 - A brief resume of the applicant with a list of representative publications; and
 - A brief resume of the host supervisor (up to 5 pages) with a list of representative publications and PhD student supervision experience.

4. Application selection and approval

- 4.1. All applications undergo a rigorous panel selection process as follows.
 - Applications must receive endorsement from PolyU host supervisors and the host department’s Director of Research Postgraduate Studies (DoRPgS).
 - The Graduate School (GS) shall select and approve applications based on application quality and potential internationalisation impact.
- 4.2. Application approval is subject to funding availability.

5. Period of attachment

- 5.1 The actual duration may vary depending on the approval of student visa by the Immigration Department of the HKSAR Government.
- 5.2 Successful applicants will receive an offer letter GS detailing the application result, duration of attachment and the approved financial support. The offer is valid for nine months from the issue date of the letter.
- 5.3 Successful applicants should commit to full-time research at PolyU and adhere to the approved attachment duration. In the event of a change in the attachment duration, prior approval from the

host supervisor must be sought by email, and the host department's DoRPgS should be informed. Students should forward the written approval to the GS for the record.

6. **Financial support**

- 6.1 Successful applicants will be offered a subsistence allowance of HK\$400 per day. The maximum allowance is capped at HK\$72,000, i.e., the amount for a maximum of 180 days.
- 6.2 The RSAP subsistence allowance will be paid out in two instalments, at mid-term and completion, subject to satisfactory assessment of performance from the host supervisor. Payment will be issued in the form of a cash cheque or local bank transfer.
- 6.3 Any visiting period before the issue date of the offer letter is not eligible for retroactive financial support.
- 6.4 No allowance will be provided to the students if they travel outside of Hong Kong during the attachment period.
- 6.5 Successful applicants are not required to pay tuition fees to PolyU, but may be required to pay tuition fees to their home institution.

7. **Visa/entry permit to Hong Kong for study**

- 7.1 Students should take visa processing time into consideration when proposing the commencement date of the attachment. It normally takes four to six weeks for approval.
- 7.2 Per the [Immigration Guidelines for Entry to Hong Kong](#) by the Immigration Department, the application for visa/entry permit for study by nationals of Afghanistan, Cuba, Laos, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Nepal and Vietnam will not be considered.

8. **Intellectual property rights**

Arrangements regarding intellectual property management can be found on the website of [the Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship Office \(KTEO\)](#). For details, please consult the KTEO by email at info.kteo@polyu.edu.hk

9. **Guidance notes to successful applicants**

Successful applicants should read the “[Notes to Incoming Visiting Students](#)”, detailing financial arrangement, insurance, visa application, accommodation and PolyU student accounts.

10. **Guidance notes to academic units**

Academic units receiving incoming visiting students should read the “[Notes to Academic Units on Handling Incoming Visiting Students](#)”, detailing arrangement on study visa, pre-arrival preparation, student record, etc.

11. **Enquiries**

For enquiries, please contact the Graduate School by email at gs.attachment@polyu.edu.hk.

In the event of any disputes, the University reserves the right to make the final decision.

Timeline of Application and Selection for Research Student Attachment Programme
2025/26 (2nd Round)

