

POLYU STUDENT ENTREPRENEURIAL PROOF-OF-CONCEPT (POC) FUNDING SCHEME 2022

NOTES FOR APPLICATION

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SECTION 1: APPLICATION FOR POC FUND

1. Introduction

PolyU Student Entrepreneurial Proof-of-Concept (POC) Funding Scheme is a funding initiative launched in 2017 as one of the key entrepreneurship education components at PolyU. As of 2021, over 120 student projects have benefitted from almost HK\$1.7 million in funding and other non-financial support. With the kind support from 'Dr Winnie S M Tang-PolyU Student Innovation & Entrepreneurship Scholarship' (the 'Scholarship') since 2022, POC Fund aims to instil a problem-driven innovation mindset into young talents through experiential learning and student-initiated research and development.

The objectives of the Scheme are:

- To augment the credit-bearing entrepreneurship education with highly experiential learning opportunities, including structured training, coaching and field studies.
- To create a strategic linkage between teaching and innovative/ entrepreneurial practice, motivating students to put classroom learning into application.
- To equip students with entrepreneurial mindset and experience for their career pursuit, either as an *intrapreneur* in the workforce or as an *entrepreneur* running their own businesses.
- To promote knowledge transfer and commercialisation of students' innovations through a guided student-grown-entrepreneur process.
- To advance the principals of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to advance more sustainable communities.

2. Features and Privileges

Student teams successfully admitted to the Scheme will receive the following supports:

- Structured Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) training (i.e. the Proof-of-concept (POC) Bootcamp)
- Dedicated team coach
- Free membership of PolyU Entrepreneurship Society ¹(if applicable)

and upon successful completion² of POC Bootcamp

- a) The Scholarship of HK\$5,000 per team
- b) The Scholarship certificate for each team member
- c) Introductory training on 'Location and Geospatial Intelligence' for teams using Geographic Information System (GIS) and a top-up grant of HK\$5,000 per team (if applicable)

The top three teams in the Final Pitch (upon successful completion of POC Bootcamp) will receive

- d) An extra cash prize of HK\$10,000 per team
- e) Fast-track³ to semi-final presentation of PolyU Micro Fund Scheme for max. HK\$120,000 funding and further incubation support up to HK\$1.29m

¹ PolyU Entrepreneurship Society (ES) is a student society seeking to cultivate students' entrepreneurial spirit and mind-sets, while stimulating their interest in I&E through a series of student initiated and organised activities. Only current students at PolyU/ HKCC/ SPEED are eligible for membership.

² All participants must fulfil the graduation requirements to receive the Scholarship, certificate, training and cash prize (if applicable), including but not limited to:

- 80% or above attendance rate (100% attendance rate in the introductory training on 'Location and Geospatial Intelligence' for teams using GIS)
- satisfactory performance in the team rated by the team coach
- taking part in Final Pitch

³ Fast-tracked teams shall fulfil eligibility requirements of PolyU Micro Fund Scheme. This offer will valid for 18 months given the project idea and team composition remain unchanged fundamentally (less than 50% changes in team composition).

- f) Nomination to local and overseas I&E competitions and partners' pre-incubation/ incubation programmes (e.g. Cyberport Creative Micro Fund, Cyberport Incubation Programme, HKSTP Ideation Programme, Esri Startup Program).

3. Application Details

Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A team with at least one current student of PolyU/ HKCC/ SPEED (both undergraduates and postgraduates) as Principal Applicant⁴ (PA) (Team size: max. 3). • The following eligible teams⁵ will be granted direct entry to the Scheme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eligible teams which participated in public I&E competitions which can either be theme-based or open to any types of innovations (see Appendix 1) and met a threshold requirement (i.e. being shortlisted in the 1st round of assessment) ○ Eligible teams which won in PolyU I&E activities (e.g. PolyU Innovation Challenge) ○ Outstanding projects from PolyU's Undergraduate Research and Innovation Scheme (URIS) or recommended by PolyU faculty members
Application Procedures	<p>Complete the online application with the following documents uploaded:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) a 10-to-15-slide pitch deck (Template will be provided) b) CVs of all team members c) Copy of student IDs or graduation certificates of all team members d) The below supporting documents if applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proof of participating in public I&E competitions and being shortlisted in the 1st round of assessment ○ Proof of winning PolyU I&E activities ○ Nomination form endorsed by PolyU faculty members
Application Deadline	<p>27 Feb 2022 (Sun)</p> <p>Application must be submitted on or before the application deadline. No</p>

⁴ Principal Applicant should be a current student of PolyU/ HKCC/ SPEED (both undergraduates and postgraduates) as of the Scheme's application deadline, assuming a key role with substantial involvement in the project. Communications with applicant, generally via email, will be directed to the Principal Applicant.

⁵ The direct entry offer will be granted to eligible teams which took part in public I&E competitions and PolyU I&E activities with **application deadline laid between September 2021 and February 2022**, given the project idea and team composition remain unchanged fundamentally (less than 50% changes in team composition).

	application submitted after the deadline will be entertained.	
Assessment	20%	Team's Competence
Criteria of	20%	Business Plan's Viability
Initial	20%	Product/ Service's Uniqueness
Screening and	20%	Business's Innovativeness and Challenges
Final Pitch	20%	Achievable Milestones (1-Year Plan)

4. Important Dates

Briefing Session	8 Feb 2022 (Tue) 1-2 PM PolyU
Submission Deadline	27 Feb 2022 (Sun)
Eligibility Check & Initial Screening	Early Mar
Announcement of Shortlisted Applicants	Early Mar
Proof-of-concept (POC) Bootcamp	
1. Workshops/ Sharing	18 – 19 Mar 2022 (Fri – Sat) 6-8 PM on Fri & 10 AM – 5 PM on Sat (tentatively) N002, PolyU
2. Weekly Team Coaching Session	Late Mar – Early Apr
3. Final Pitch	Mid Apr

5. Intellectual Properties (IP)

- All IPs generated by a student during the study in PolyU, such as class projects or final year projects, shall belong to PolyU therefore any IP generated during the competition participation period, including but not limited to the prototype developed and/ or market research results, shall also belong to PolyU. Nevertheless, PolyU may disclaim the ownership under certain circumstances.
- It is expected that the creative ideas, innovations, technologies, products or services (collectively the IP) proposed in the application originate from the applicants. Should the IPs proposed belong to other parties, the applicants shall also obtain documented approval/ agreement from the inventors for the use of such IPs in the applications.

6. Assessment

- Assessment Panel of initial screening (if applicable) will be composed including but not limited to KTEO staff and representative of the Scholarship donor and the decisions from the Panel shall be

final. No appeal will be entertained and no communication will be entered into between the applicants and the Unit or the Panel members in relation to the decisions.

7. Disbursement Scholarship, Grant and Cash Prize

- The Scholarship, grant and cash prize will be disbursed in installments.
 - 1st installment: HK\$1,000 of the HK\$5,000 Scholarship shall be disbursed when the teams are admitted to the Scheme.
 - 2nd installment: The remaining portion of the HK\$5,000 Scholarship (i.e. HK\$4,000), top-up grant of HK\$5,000 per each team using GIS (if applicable) and extra cash prize of HK\$10,000 per each of the top 3 teams (if applicable) shall be disbursed after the POC Bootcamp given the graduation requirements are fulfilled.
- The Scholarship, grant and cash prize shall be disbursed to the PA's bank account, subject to further agreement of the Standard Terms and Conditions governing the disbursement.

8. Other Notes

- Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship Office (KTEO) is the administrative unit (the 'Unit') of the Scheme and is responsible for all application, administration, screening, assessment, awarding and follow-up processes of the Scheme.
- Applicants agree not to make any claim or bring any action against PolyU, the Unit, the Panel members, or advisors for any reason whatsoever, or otherwise seek to recover from PolyU, the Unit, the Panel members, or the advisors any costs incurred in relation to their applications or any loss of estimated profits or any other benefits which the applicant may anticipate accruing from application of the Scheme.
- Applicants agree and acknowledge that the information submitted during application (including but not limited to the application process and subsequent documents to be submitted) shall be disclosed to the Unit and the Assessment Panel members. While the Unit and the Panel members shall keep the information confidential and shall use the information solely for the purpose of training/ assessing the applications, NO non-disclosure agreement will be signed between the applicants and PolyU, the Unit or the Panel members unless under exceptional circumstance supported by strong rationale from the applicant in writing.
- The Unit reserves the right to disqualify any application that, in its sole judgment, violates the rules of the application or the spirit of the Scheme.

The Unit reserves the right to change the Standard Terms and Conditions stated herein from time to time without prior notice to the faculty members or the nominated teams.

SECTION 2 – PROOF-OF-CONCEPT (POC) BOOTCAMP

All admitted team members will undergo an intensive month-long R&D programme comprising the following:

- 1) A series of I&E workshops/ sharing over the weekend
- 2) Three weekly team coaching session
- 3) Final Pitch

Schedule:

Day 1 18 Mar 2022 (Fri) 6-8 PM (tentatively) N002, PolyU	Problem Framing Ideation Gate Check
Day 2 19 Mar 2022 (Sat) 10 AM – 5 PM (tentatively) N002, PolyU	UN SDG Framework Social Impact Pitching
Week 2-4 Late Mar – Early Apr	Weekly Team Coaching Session
	Introductory training on "Location and Geospatial Intelligence" *only applicable to teams using Geographic Information System (GIS)
Week 5 Mid Apr	Final Pitch

SECTION 3 - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Application Eligibility

1. Is it acceptable that my team consists of non-PolyU student(s)/ member(s)?

Yes. However, only current student of PolyU/ HKCC/ SPEED (both undergraduates and postgraduates) can act as PA during the entire funding period. The exit of the PA from the Awarded Project, if without replacement acceptable to PolyU, will result in suspension/ cancellation of any undisbursed fund under the POC Fund.

2. Is our team eligible for direct entry if we participated in public I&E competitions off the list of Appendix 1 and met a threshold requirement (i.e. being shortlisted in the 1st round of assessment)?

Yes, you team will still be eligible for direct entry to the Scheme. The list of Appendix 1 is only some examples of popular public I&E competitions, and it will be reviewed and changed by the Unit from time to time. However,

priority will be given to those participated and met a threshold requirement in the listed competitions when there are overwhelming eligible teams.

3. Is our team eligible for direct entry if we participated in a public I&E competition/ won in PolyU I&E activities one year ago?

No, the direct entry offer will be granted to eligible teams which took part in public I&E competitions and PolyU I&E activities with application deadline laid between September 2021 and February 2022.

4. Can we change our project idea and/or team composition from our previous public I&E competition/ PolyU I&E activities?

Your team will only be eligible for direct entry to the Scheme given the project idea and team composition remain unchanged fundamentally (less than 50% changes in team composition, see examples below).

Examples:

	Team composition when participating in previous public I&E competition/ PolyU I&E activities	Acceptable change on team composition in order to be eligible for direct entry
Scenario 1	Member A, Member B, Member C	Member A, Member B, Member D
Scenario 2	Member A, Member B	Member A, Member B, Member C
Scenario 3	Member A, Member B	Member A, Member C
Scenario 4	Member A	Member A, Member B
Scenario 5	Member A, Member B, Member C, Member D, Member E, Member F	Any 3 members

Disbursement of Scholarship, Grant and Cash Prize

5. Do we have to register a company to receive the Scholarship, Grant and Cash Prize ?

No, you don't need to have a company to receive the Scholarship, Grant and Cash Prize should your project be approved.

6. How will the attendance rate of the POC Bootcamp be counted?

Graduation Requirements	Scholarship, Grant and Cash Prize
80% or above attendance rate <u>per team</u> and participation in Final Pitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scholarship of HK\$5,000 per team An extra cash prize of HK\$10,000 per each of the top three teams Fast-track to semi-final presentation of PolyU Micro Fund Scheme

80% or above attendance rate <u>per team member</u> and participation in Final Pitch	The Scholarship certificate for each team member
100% attendance rate in the introductory training on 'Location and Geospatial Intelligence' per teams and participation in Final Pitch (if applicable)	Top-up grant of HK\$5,000 for teams using GIS

7. Any special notes that we should be aware of about the fast-track opportunities to semi-final presentation of PolyU Micro Fund Scheme?

- Fast-tracked teams shall fulfil eligibility requirements of PolyU Micro Fund Scheme and submit a separate application on or before the deadline.
- This offer will be valid for 18 months (counting from the date of Final Pitch to the submission deadline of PolyU Micro Fund Scheme) given the project idea and team composition remain unchanged fundamentally (less than 50% changes in team composition, see examples below).

Examples:

	Team composition when participating in POC Funding Scheme	Acceptable change on team composition in order to be eligible for fast-track to PolyU Micro Fund Scheme
Scenario 1	Member A, Member B, Member C	Member A, Member B, Member D, 1 New Member
Scenario 2	Member A, Member B, Member C	Member A, Member B, Member C, 1-3 New Member(s)
Scenario 3	Member A, Member B, Member C	Member A, Member B, Member D
Scenario 4	Member A, Member B	Member A, Member B, 1-2 New Member(s)
Scenario 5	Member A, Member B	Member A, Member C
Scenario 6	Member A	Member A, Member B

APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF PUBLIC I&E COMPETITIONS

Below are some examples of popular public I&E competitions. Applying teams participated in off-the-list public I&E competitions will still be eligible for direct entry to the Scheme. However, priority will be given to those participated and met a threshold requirement in the below listed competitions when there are overwhelming eligible teams.

Name of Competition	Organiser
“Challenge Cup” China College Students Entrepreneurship Competition 「挑戰盃」中國大學生創業計劃競賽	HKNGCA Innovation & Entrepreneurship Centre 香港新一代文化協會創新及創業中心
China International College Students' "Internet + " Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition 中國國際「互聯網+」大學生創新創業大賽	HKNGCA Innovation & Entrepreneurship Centre 香港新一代文化協會創新及創業中心
Climate Action Recognition Scheme	Wofoo Social Enterprises
Cyberport University Partnership Programme (CUPP)	Cyberport
Dare To Change Business Pitch Competition	The Young Entrepreneurs Development Council Limited (YDC)
Elevator Pitch Competition (EPIC)	HKSTP
Esri Young Scholars Award	Esri China (Hong Kong)
Geospatial Lab Competition	Esri China (Hong Kong)
Hong Kong Social Enterprise Challenge (HKSEC)	Center for Entrepreneurship of The Chinese University of Hong Kong
International Convention on Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology (i-CREATE)	National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) of Thailand & Singapore Therapeutic, Assistive and Rehabilitative Technologies (START) Centre of Singapore
Jumpstarter IdeaPOP	Alibaba Entrepreneurs Fund
Outlier Smart Living Innovation Challenge	AIESEC
Techstyle for Social Good	The Mills Fabrica
The 8th Hong Kong University Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition 第8屆香港大學生創新及創業大賽	HKNGCA Innovation & Entrepreneurship Centre 香港新一代文化協會創新及創業中心
The City I&T Grand Challenge	HKSTP