香港科技大學
THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

中国科学技术大学
University of Science and Technology of China

Agreement for Undergraduate Research Internship Program between The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) and University of Science and Technology of China (USTC)

1 Purpose

This Agreement is made under the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (hereafter referred to as HKUST) and the University of Science and Technology of China (hereafter referred to as USTC) to further strengthen the partnership and collaboration on education research.

Both universities agreed to launch the HKUST-USTC Undergraduate Summer Research Internship Program (hereafter referred to as the Program). The Program aims to combine the strength of HKUST and USTC in educating top young scientists with global vision and competence to explore different dimensions of science and technology for the future. It is intended to allow students from USTC to undertake a research project at HKUST for a period of two to three months. The exact duration will be agreed between the parties in writing before the commencement of the visit.

2 Program

Under the framework of the Program, HKUST will host USTC undergraduates to conduct research internship projects under the supervision of HKUST faculty.

2.1 Fields of Cooperation

Physics, Chemistry and Materials Sciences, Mathematics, Life Sciences, Computer Sciences, and Engineering.

2.2 Program Duration, Capacity, and Promotion

HKUST will accept 15-20 USTC undergraduates annually. Selected students will spend 8 to 10 weeks from July to August in their host research groups at HKUST. The duration and the capacity of the Program depend on mutual agreement between HKUST's hosting departments and USTC before the commencement of the program.

HKUST will provide specific program descriptions to USTC. USTC will announce and publicize the program opportunities to its students/faculty members.

2.3 Student Eligibility

- Third-year undergraduates fully registered at USTC

- Top second-year undergraduates may also be eligible to apply with recommendations from related schools and departments
- Demonstrated academic merits and research potential

2.4 Nomination and Selection Procedure

USTC will collect all application materials requested by HKUST and conduct a pre-selection of the candidates. A Program Nomination Package, which includes the USTC Nomination List and students' application documentation, will then be forwarded to HKUST. HKUST will review the application packages and make their selection decisions. HKUST will compile the selection results and notify USTC of the final list.

2.5 Implementation and Evaluation

USTC will notify all nominated applicants of HKUST's selection results and assist selected students with the required administrative procedures. HKUST will offer administrative support, including visiting internship and Student Label applications, assisting with on-campus accommodation arrangements, etc. Upon the Program's completion, participating students from USTC will receive an evaluation and program certificate provided by HKUST.

2.6 Accommodation, Financial Arrangements and Scholarships

HKUST extends its support to USTC students participating in the Program by making necessary arrangements for on-campus accommodations or alternative housing facilities. Both parties will endeavor to secure financial support to cover expenses related to the Program, which may include but not limited to, expenditures related to travel, on-campus dormitories, local living expenses, and registration fees. The precise amount of the expenses will be agreed in writing between the parties before the commencement of the visit.

3 Rights and Responsibilities of Students

3.1 All accepted students will be administered as full-time, non-degree exchange students for the approved period at the host university.

3.2 Students are required to obtain, at their own expense, appropriate student registration for the defined period of their visit. HKUST will provide necessary documentation and assistance to support the student registration application.

3.3 Students must observe all rules, regulations, policies, and procedures of HKUST and USTC, for the avoidance of any doubt. Students will be subject to normal disciplinary policies of HKUST while undertaking activities at HKUST.

4 General Terms

4.1 Before beginning any project in which students may perform research activities at HKUST, the parties involved in the project will agree in writing on matters relating to any intellectual property (IP) that may be developed through such research. For the avoidance of doubt, background intellectual property rights (IPR) in any future collaboration remains the property of the contributing parties and no rights to background IPR are conveyed by this agreement. These activities are to be carried out after mutual consultation between the two universities.

4.2 Clause 4.1 is subject to the terms of any specific project agreement entered by the universities concerning particular research projects undertaken by the exchange students.

4.3 The ownership of all titles and rights to and interest in any foreground IPR created or arises in the course of conducting the research internship projects of the Program shall be determined based on respective inventive contribution between the parties and follow the IP Policy of the host university.

4.4 Both USTC and HKUST are committed to making all reasonable administrative and academic efforts to ensure the operation of this collaboration. Both parties will actively pursue the possibility of strengthening collaborative ties across disciplinary fields, enhancing institutional partnerships and developing additional programs in the future. On both sides, a coordinator has been nominated.

For USTC:

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4.5 Any disagreement or dispute that may arise in the execution, interpretation, or application of the agreement shall be resolved by trustful negotiation between the parties.

5 Program Extension

Upon mutual agreement between HKUST and USTC, the duration of the research internship can be extended within the scope of the Program.

USTC will also provide opportunities for HKUST students to participate in the Future Scientist Exchange Program (FuSEP) for summer research internships and other student mobility programs, allowing them to pursue visiting studies and research internships at USTC. All students who are accepted by FuSEP will be offered a tuition waiver and automatically screened for a USTC fellowship. HKUST will provide financial support for HKUST students joining the FuSEP if applicable. Matters on the implementation of the Program Extension based on this agreement shall be negotiated and agreed upon by representatives of the two universities.

6 Duration

The Agreement of Cooperation shall become effective for five (5) years, commencing from the date of the signing of this Agreement by both parties. The Agreement may be terminated by either party giving six (6) months' notice in writing. If both parties agree that this Agreement is achieving its objectives, it will be renewed for a further term of five (5) years. In the event the program is discontinued, students admitted under the program will continue to receive support at the levels and for the periods stipulated above.

Signed for and on behalf of

THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Prof. Yang Wang
Vice -President for Institutional Advancement

April 1, 2024
Date

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF CHINA

Prof. Jinlong Yang
Vice-President

April 1, 2024
Date