

FUNG SCHOLARS – Process for visiting summer students from China

The Victor and William Fung Foundation

The Foundation offers funding for internships of summer research placements. There are up to 10 scholarships per year of £3,500, supporting students from China (and Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau) to undertake internship opportunities at the University of Oxford during their summer vacation. After a five-year scheme running to 2015, the scheme was renewed in 2016 for a further four years. (From 2016, the Foundation agreed to award the host department an additional sum of £500 to cover administrative and overhead costs and/or research costs, meaning each scholarship now has a total value of £4,000.)

Departments participating in this scheme to host scholars are asked to work with academic colleagues in China, asking them to nominate students who display excellent academic achievement and leadership potential. These students will submit applications to be considered by the relevant academic staff at Oxford, who will ultimately select Scholarship recipients.

Recipients of the Scholarships should have good academic and disciplinary standing at their university. Each successful candidate for the Scholarship will be required to provide the University and the Foundation with his or her full academic records or transcripts upon request.

The Foundation is flexible about how the £3,500 is used – other programme areas have used it for air tickets, accommodation and living costs. The money should be used only for costs directly incurred by the scholar him/herself, including visa costs, or by others providing transport, accommodation or board to the scholar. Departments are asked to assist scholars in finding accommodation (ideally in a college) and other pre-departure logistical arrangements.

Key points to note from the Memorandum of Understanding underlying this scheme are that students benefitting from the scholarships must be undergraduates and that the scholarship recipients are referred to as 'Fung Scholars'. It is funded by the Victor & William Fung Foundation.

The successful students are required to sign an agreement to the following general conditions

General conditions of The Fung Scholarships at Oxford:

1. The Scholarship recipients shall be known as the "Fung Scholars";
 2. The Fung Scholar, having broadened his or her horizon and experience, and if invited by the Foundation, shall share with other students and the community at large the benefits he or she has gained from joining the internship programme;
 3. Each successful candidate for the Scholarship will be required to meet all personal liabilities that arise during his or her stay in the host organisation;
 4. The recipients should be able to demonstrate themselves as good ambassadors of the University;
 5. That the internship is completed to the best of your abilities and that you submit a feedback report at the end of the internship;
 6. Please also note that your email address will be forwarded to the donors should they wish to contact you in the future.
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A template is provided to the students to assist with the completion of this report. [The Development Office also likes to include photographic material with the reports, demonstrating the individual student at work in labs, or around Oxford. These would need to be supplied with any relevant permissions/credit information.]

Application Process

Adrian Taylor liaises with the exchange coordinator at the relevant institutions – those who fit the criteria that we have schemes with currently are Tsinghua University, Zhejiang University and in the future Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Once the home institution has identified interested candidates who meet the criteria, they send the student's CV and any other relevant application documentation to Adrian Taylor at Oxford Materials. Interested candidates are invited to review research projects that are currently available and identify supervisors they may be interested to work with. Once the preferred areas of research are known, Adrian contacts the potential supervisors to seek the offer of a project, providing them with the applicants' documentation. Proposed dates are agreed with the supervisors who offer projects.

Once suitable candidates have been identified and accepted for summer research projects, the names of the students to be hosted by the Department, together with the students' email address and signed Scholarship Agreement are sent by Oxford Materials to the Oxford Development Office, who coordinate the Fung Scholarship scheme.

A letter of invitation is then sent to the student specifying the proposed dates and providing a project title and supervisor name, and outlining what needs to happen next. Among other things the selected student needs to send to Oxford a copy of their passport photo page and their undergraduate on-course transcript. Fung scholars should apply for "short-term student visas". Further details on the visa application will be provided by Oxford Materials.