

THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
School of Business and Management
The Franklin Fund for International Business Studies
Application Guidelines 2024

Background

With the generous donation by the Morris S. Smith Foundation, HKUST Business School (SBM) received a gift known as The Franklin Fund for International Business Studies. Purpose of the Fund is to provide financial support for **international business education experiences** for business undergraduate students.

Aim

To encourage business undergraduate students to better utilize the summer vacation, students who wish to participate in ***overseas summer programs***, held outside Hong Kong, Macau, and China, could apply for the Fund. The selected overseas summer program **should not be less than 14 days and not more than 4 months**.

Application

1. Application opens from **March 1 to March 31, 2024**. Applicants are required to fill in the application form and submit supporting documents by the application deadline. Incomplete applications (e.g. failure to provide the necessary supporting documents) or late submissions will not be considered.
2. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview on **April 22, 2024**. If applicants have genuine reasons for not able to attend the interview, they should inform the SBM UG Programs Office by the time they submit the application. At the discretion of the panel, zoom interviews may be arranged. Absence from the interview will lead to students' withdrawal from the award selection.
3. Fund allocation is based on the assessment of application and interview.

Eligibility

Interested applicants should note the following selection criteria:

1. Students who are permanent residents of Hong Kong.
2. Non-final year undergraduates who are from SBM and Dual degree programs.
3. The Committee shall take into consideration of applicants' financial needs.
4. Students without prior overseas experience will be given higher priority.
5. Preference will be given to overseas summer program which includes business-related elements. Final approval of the application is subject to the committee decision.

Application Timeline for 2024

March 1 – March 31, 2024	Open for Application
Mid - April, 2024	Invitation to shortlisted applicants for interview
April 22, 2024	Interview
Mid - May, 2024	Result announcement
September - October, 2024	Submission of required documents by awardees and grant disbursement

Application Submission and Deadline

Applicants should submit the following documents to the online [Financial Aid System](#) on or before the application deadline **March 31, 2024**.

1. Duly-completed application form
2. Summer Program's brochure / leaflet / printout of internet information
3. Certifying document for financial assistance

All applications will be handled after the deadline and the result will be announced in mid-May, 2024.

Fund Distribution

Each successful fund recipient will be awarded with a cash sponsorship (**minimum HKD10,000**) on the conditions that he/she has submitted the required documents **within one month** after completion of the program. The required documents include:

1. Proof of completion from the program organizer
2. A reflective report of their summer program experience

SBM reserves the right to amend the terms and conditions at any time and will advise valid applicants if this occurs, as and when required. All disputes arising from or in connection with the fund allocation shall be subject to the final decision of SBM.

Enquiry

Ms. Violet CHAN

Manager

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(If necessary, please provide additional pages) (Applicants are required to submit the program brochure / leaflet / schedule / confirmation as supporting documents, if appropriate)

3. Financial Support

(List the expected sources of financial support you received, if any)

Tertiary Student Finance Scheme (TSFS)	Grant amount offered in 2023-24 - Full / 75% / 50% / 25% / 15% / None*		
	Loan amount offered in 2023-24 - Full / 75% / 50% / 25% / 15% / None*		
Non-means-tested Loan Scheme (NLSFT) Loan amount received in 2023-24:			
Other Scholarships / Funds / Subsidies received in HKUST	Year	Name	Amount

* Delete wherever inappropriate

(Applicants are required to submit the proof as supporting documents, if appropriate)

4. Past Overseas Study Experience

(If necessary, please provide additional pages)

Period	Location	Hosting Organization	Program Name

5. Personal Statement

What motivates you to choose this particular overseas summer program?

Have you ever received **The Franklin Fund for International Business Studies** before?
(Applicants who have not been allocated this Fund before will have higher priority to be granted with the Fund)

YES **NO** (check (✓) as appropriate)

Do you have any supplementary information that you wish to supply for the panel's consideration (optional)? (e.g. If you are not able to attend the interviews on April 22, 2024)

6. Self-declaration

I declare that the above information is accurate for my application for the Fund. I understand if I give any false information, I shall be liable to be imposed penalty by the University. I will obtain the award after completion of the overseas summer program and submission of the required documents to SBM UG Office.

Personal Information Collection Statement (PICS)

The personal data you provide will only be used by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (hereinafter referred to as 'HKUST') for administrative and academic purposes, and will be kept confidential for internal use only. HKUST will not disclose your personal data to any external body or organization unless your consent is sought or it is required by law to do so. If you wish to access or correct your personal data, please send an e-mail to bmcareer@ust.hk.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Is attending the interview a must?**

Interview is a very important selection process for the panel to select appropriate candidates for the sponsorship. If you miss the interview, it is very difficult for the panel to assess your needs for the sponsorship. However, if you have difficulties in attending the interview, you need to indicate it in the application by the time you submit it.

2. **Are students' presentation skills important in the interview?**

The panel is not assessing your presentation skills. Students' presentation in the interview is to help panel members understand your needs for the sponsorship and understand more about your goals and objectives that you want to gain from the summer program.

3. **If I am already holding a scholarship from HKUST, am I eligible for The Franklin Fund for International Business Studies?**

Yes, but the panel will give consideration to candidates with greater financial need.

4. **Will the panel take my academic performance into consideration?**

No, we trust the host institution will have evaluated your academic eligibility before you are accepted for the summer program.

5. **Am I eligible to apply if I have not yet been admitted to an overseas summer program?**

Yes, you can still apply for the Fund if your application for the program is in progress or you have not yet started applying but only a plan on your mind. Please be reminded, however, the grant is program-specific and the award will not be granted if students cannot complete the specific program as stated during the application.

6. **What document do I need to submit for application?**

- Duly-completed application form
- Copy of Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card
- Summer Program's brochure/ leaflet/ printout of internet information
- Certifying document for financial assistance

7. **What document do I need to submit for grant disbursement?**

Upon the completion of the overseas summer program, you are required to submit the following documents to the SBM UG office **within one month**:

- Proof of completion from the program organizer
- A reflective report of their summer program experience

You will be awarded with a cash sponsorship on the conditions that you have completed the program and submitted the required documents. Final fund allocation is based on assessment of the program, applicants' financial need and information provided on the application.