

The Research Grants Council (RGC) Junior Research Fellow Scheme (JRFS)

- ◆ a key RGC initiative that supports promising postdoctoral talents at UGC-funded universities for a 24-month fellowship period
- ◆ seeks to nurture and attract outstanding young researchers for Hong Kong and incentivise them to build up a career in the field of research and development (R&D) in Hong Kong
- ◆ provides an annual stipend to cover awardee's basic salary as full-time Postdoctoral Fellow[#], with a conference and research-related travel allowance
- ◆ research support funding will be provided for JRFS awardees who subsequently advance to junior research academics[#], where applicable

[#] at a UGC-funded university



For details, please visit

https://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/funding_opport/jrfs/

JRFS nominations are to be made via the eight UGC-funded universities in Hong Kong. Please contact the Research Office or responsible office/ unit of your interested university directly for nomination procedures.

What Makes It Special?

The JRFS[®] provides support to **60 awardees** annually for a period of **24 months** to conduct postdoctoral research on a full-time basis (as Postdoctoral Fellow (PdF)) **at a UGC-funded university**. The Scheme encompasses all academic disciplines grouped into two broad academic streams: **(i) Humanities, Social Sciences and Business Studies**; and **(ii) Sciences, Medicine, Engineering and Technology**.

For JRFS awardees appointed as PdF, they will receive via their supporting universities **an annual stipend to cover the basic salary as well as conference and research-related travel allowance***. For JRFS awardees who have successfully completed the postdoctoral stage and subsequently become **Assistant Professor or Research Assistant Professor** at a UGC-funded university during the fellowship, where applicable, they will receive, via their supporting universities, **research support funding[^]** until end of the fellowship period.

Who Is Eligible?

All UGC-funded universities are eligible to make nomination for the fellowship in support of full-time employment of PdF for research project(s)/ activities[#].

To qualify for the fellowship, the JRFS nominee must:

- a. obtain a legal right to work and reside in Hong Kong during the fellowship period;
- b. have obtained/ been conferred a **PhD degree or an equivalent qualification** on or after 1 January 2022 (i.e. **not more than three years** before 2025), **or will complete the requirement of a PhD degree or an equivalent qualification** by 31 August 2026; and
- c. be supported by a UGC-funded university at which he / she wishes to hold the fellowship.

[®] Formerly known as *RGC Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme (PDFS)* which was launched in 2019. PDFS was renamed as JRFS with effect from the 2025/26 cohort with a widened scope.

^{*} The prevailing annual stipend is around HK\$425,000 (inclusive of the travel allowance at around HK\$13,500). The amount of the annual stipend will be suitably adjusted every 12 months and supporting universities will be informed of the updated rate.

[^] This funding is at HK\$140,000 per annum, and will be calculated pro-rata by month as applicable.

[#] Each university may nominate up to 15 PdF candidates.

Our JRFS / PDFS Awardees

Dr BAO Huanyu

Department of Media and Communication

City University of Hong Kong

PhD (Nanyang Technological University); MSc (University of Birmingham);

BA (Huazhong University of Science and Technology)



"I am deeply grateful for this fellowship and the Department of Media and Communication (COM)'s tremendous support. This opportunity allows me to work alongside an exceptional mentor and a collaborative team that will help elevate my research. I am genuinely excited to contribute to COM's innovative environment while advancing inclusive digital health technologies that can make a meaningful difference in older adults' lives in Hong Kong."

Dr Gonzalo PEREZ-ROSALES

Department of Ocean Science

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

PhD (École Pratique des Hautes Études / Université PSL / CRIODE Research Station);

MPhil (École Pratique des Hautes Études, France);

BSc (University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain)



"Thank you University Grants Committee for the RGC Postdoctoral Fellowship (PDFS) to conduct my research at the Ocean Ecol (Wyatt) Lab, Department of Ocean Science at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. The PDFS is the best postdoctoral fellowship I could get in Hong Kong, and I am really enjoying my current professional life and research!"

Dr WONG Miu Yin

Gender Studies Programme

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

PhD (London School of Economics and Political Science);

MPhil (University of Cambridge; CUHK); BSSc (CUHK)



"Being awarded the RGC Junior Research Fellowship is an incredible honour that represents a significant milestone in my academic career. This prestigious recognition provides valuable support for my career transition while strengthening my commitment to advancing knowledge in my field and contributing to Hong Kong's academic excellence."

Dr ZHAO Kai

Department of Earth Sciences

The University of Hong Kong

PhD (University of Chinese Academy of Sciences); BEng (Nanjing Tech University)



"I am deeply honored to receive the RGC Junior Research Fellow award. This recognition inspires me to further pursue innovative research in underground energy storage and rock mechanics. I am grateful for the support from my supervisor and HKU, and look forward to contributing to Hong Kong's vibrant research community."