

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

The Esther Yewpick Lee Millennium Scholarship 2026

Memorandum

1. General Information

These Scholarships, tenable at the University of Oxford, are established with funds from the estate of the late Dr. Esther Yewpick Lee, whose family have had strong connections with and affection for both The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and the University of Oxford. This scholarship will serve as a permanent remembrance of the generosity of Dr. Esther Yewpick Lee, whose husband was a founding and devoted member of CUHK, and whose own family attended the University of Oxford for three generations throughout the 20th Century. It was Dr. Lee and her family's wish to strengthen the ties between the two Universities. The Esther Yewpick Lee Millennium Scholarship Scheme Fund is managed by a Management Committee.

Starting from 2001, one Scholarship for two to three years will be awarded to a graduate or final-year student of CUHK each year, subject to the selection of a suitably qualified candidate. The number of scholarships per year may be increased at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor of CUHK.

All amounts due in respect of the course fees at Oxford, exclusive of board and lodging, will be paid direct to Oxford. The Scholar will be provided with a return economy class airfare between Hong Kong and London, charges for land transportation between London and Oxford, and an annual personal allowance which is expected to take care of board and lodging and other maintenance costs.

Tenure of other awards in conjunction with this Scholarship is not permitted without the prior consent of CUHK.

2. Courses at Oxford

Subject to the approval of the College and of the Selection Committee, and to the availability of facilities in scientific laboratories and other University Departments, Scholars may read for the Oxford BA in any of the final honour schools, or, if qualified by previous training, may be admitted to read for the advanced degrees such as BCL*, MLitt, MSc, MSt, MTh, MPhil and DPhil. Applicants should seek advice from their professors or academic tutors on the choice of study programme at Oxford before submitting their scholarship application. Applicants for medical courses should discuss their application with the Secretary of the Selection Committee before they submit their application because courses leading to a medical degree at Oxford (BM BCh) require a minimum of five years, and a previous BA, or equivalent first degree.

Candidates are strongly advised to apply for programmes of at least two years' duration in order to get the most benefit of studying at Oxford.

Scholars may not change their course at Oxford without the prior consent of CUHK.

* Candidates who intend to read for BCL are required to continue their studies for a second year, during which they will follow a course in legal research methods and write a thesis.

The admission application to Oxford is independent of the application for this Scholarship. Candidates must apply separately for an admission offer, though they are not required to have an Oxford offer when they are applying for this Scholarship.

Information about the Oxford Colleges, courses and application deadlines for admission to the University of Oxford may be found in the University of Oxford Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Prospectuses or from the website of the University of Oxford at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/>. The University of Oxford Examination Decrees and Regulations may be consulted.

3. Conditions of Eligibility

Scholarships shall only be awarded to graduates of CUHK and persons holding degrees awarded by CUHK but they may be awarded to final year students of CUHK conditionally upon their graduating from CUHK before taking up their Scholarships.

In the award of Scholarships, the Selection Committee shall seek candidates likely to take advantage of a period of study at the University of Oxford to develop qualities revealed in their period of study at CUHK, which may be expected to render them of service to the community, whether in the pursuit of academic excellence or the provision of leadership or in the use of other forms of ability such as those CUHK seeks to foster in its students.

Scholarships will be awarded to candidates who meet the academic criteria set by the Selection Committee, have a respect for humanity, a curious mind, moral integrity and a spirit of adventure, and reveal the potential to make a contribution to the well-being of the community.

Candidates must be aged 24 or below when they start their first term at the University of Oxford commencing October 2026.

Scholarships will be awarded on merit without regard to gender, race, religion, political affiliation or the candidate's financial resources.

4. Method of Application

Each candidate for the Scholarship is required to make an application using the designated Application Form. **The completed application form together with all the requisite documents** should be submitted online by uploading them at <https://cloud.itsc.cuhk.edu.hk/webform/view.php?id=13706927>, unless otherwise specified, **not later than 14 September 2025 (Hong Kong time)**. The materials to be submitted with the completed application are given in Section 6(a) below and on the “Checklist of Supporting Documents”.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

5. Selection of Candidates

Scholarships are awarded by a Selection Committee consisting of member(s) of CUHK, member(s) of the University of Oxford and prominent member(s) of the community.

CUHK will shortlist candidates, on the basis of English language proficiency, major awards obtained during university studies and non-academic activities including experience in community services, for consideration by the Selection Committee. During this process, a representative of CUHK may ask the candidates to attend a preliminary interview.

The Selection Committee will summon all the shortlisted candidates to personal interviews in Hong Kong. No candidate will be elected without such an interview. The interview process of the final shortlist will normally consist of a social meeting with the Selection Committee, an individual interview with the Selection Committee and a group discussion in which all candidates participate.

It is expected that interviews will be held in October and November 2025. The cost of travel to interviews will not be reimbursed to the candidates.

The decision of the Selection Committee is final and not subject to review. Reasons will not be given for granting or refusing an award. In the absence of sufficiently qualified candidates in any year, no award will be made.

6. Materials to be Submitted by the Candidates

- (a) Each candidate must submit the following materials to CUHK with his/her completed application (please also read the "Checklist of Supporting Documents" carefully and strictly follow the instructions):
- (i) a copy of Hong Kong Identity Card/Passport or, failing that, any other evidence of the date of birth accepted as satisfactory by the Selection Committee;
 - (ii) evidence of the past ten years of full-time education in Hong Kong or elsewhere and the amount of time during which the candidate has been educated in Hong Kong;
 - (iii) a record certified by the Registrar of CUHK, or other responsible officer, of the course of University study pursued, together with honours and degrees, if any;
 - (iv) a copy of school leaving examinations/ public examination results, and if any English test report such as TOEFL, IELTS;
 - (v) proof of major awards and scholarships obtained after entering university; and they should be major awards, not minor ones;
 - (vi) proof of extra-curricular activities and community service after entering university. This proof can be verified either as a reference letter or any other way by the applicant;
 - (vii) a signed statement by the candidate about his/her general interests and activities, the course of study (first choice) which he/she proposes to follow at Oxford and how his/her current study at CUHK relates to it, and the character of the work aimed at in later life. This statement should not exceed 1,000 words in length and must be written by the candidate in his/her own handwriting in English, in as simple and direct a manner as possible, avoiding a diffuse or rhetorical style on the one hand and excessive curtness on the other. The statement will be read not only by CUHK and the Selection Committee, but also by the Oxford Colleges to which the successful candidate applies for admission. If the candidate has left CUHK before applying for an award, he/she should also state his/her occupation;
 - (viii) confidential references from four referees who are well acquainted with the candidate, for confidential references. Two of the referees must be academics under whom the candidate has studied at CUHK. The third should be someone who taught the candidate at secondary school level and the fourth should be a member of the community who has not taught the candidate and who is not a

member of CUHK's staff. References from persons acquainted with the candidate's family or relations, but not with the candidate, should not be offered, because such references will be disregarded;

- (ix) one recent photograph of the candidate. This must be a professional or passport photograph and pasted on Part 1 of Application Form. Amateur snapshot will not be accepted.
- (b) Each candidate who has been shortlisted for the interview by the Selection Committee will be requested to submit to CUHK two samples of his/her own written work which may be typed. Each sample should be approximately 2,000 words in length and may be essays or part of a longer work. The samples of written work should be related to the subject (first choice) the candidate hopes to study at Oxford unless the candidate has not commenced his/her studies in that subject, in which case they should be related to the subject studied by the candidate at CUHK. All written materials must be in English although an English translation made by the candidate on his/her own works will be accepted. In such cases, both the original and the translated works must be submitted.
- (c) Successful candidates will be required to obtain a medical certificate from a medical officer appointed by CUHK, on a special form which will be supplied by CUHK.

7. Admission to and Studies at the University of Oxford

The candidate chosen for the award by the Selection Committee has still to be found a place in an Oxford College. All the Colleges are now participating in the scheme but there is no guarantee of a place. The Scholarship will not be confirmed until the candidate has been accepted by a College for admission. Scholars are required to undertake their studies at Oxford on a full-time basis.

The Scholarships, once confirmed, may be held for up to three years. As the majority of the Scholars obtain a status which makes it possible for them to obtain a degree in two years, awards are made for two years in the first instance. During the second year, the Scholar will be invited to state whether he/she wishes to apply for a third year at Oxford and, if so, what work he/she proposes to undertake in that year.

The Selection Committee will not consider granting a third year unless:

- (a) it can be shown that a third year is eminently in the interests of
 - (i) the Scholar's immediate studies, and
 - (ii) his/her future career;
- and unless:
- (b) his/her work, conduct, and general records have been satisfactory.

Scholars will be subject to the discipline of the University of Oxford during the tenure of these awards. If they are sent down from Oxford during their course, their award will automatically terminate. They are required to refund to CUHK immediately upon request any award money paid to them to which they are no longer entitled.

8. Taking up the Award at Oxford

Scholars will begin residence at Oxford in October 2026. The first instalment of the Scholarship will be paid at the beginning of the Scholar's first term at Oxford. No request for earlier payment will be considered.