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Code no.:	
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Fiscal Year:	

Institutional Grants Program

A1_Application form

Please read the instructions and guidelines carefully before you submit a proposal. All applications must use this form; any applications not using the form will be disqualified. The application form and other documents **MUST** be sent to grants@unitedboard.org by October 31. Late applications will not be considered.

I. Particulars of the Project Team

Name of Institution:	Divinity School of Chung Chi College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Address of Institution:	G/F Theology Building, Chung Chi College, CUHK, Shatin
The Head of Institution (e.g., Rector/Principal/President/Vice Chancellor):	
Title & Name:	[REDACTED]
Position:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Phone:	[REDACTED]
Project Leader(s) (please insert rows for more project leaders if necessary) :	
1) Title & Name:	[REDACTED]
Position:	[REDACTED]
Department:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Phone:	[REDACTED]
Relevant background: (limit to 100 words):	
[REDACTED]	
Previous grant(s) received from the United Board (e.g., Year/Proposal Title/Amount in USD):	
[REDACTED]	

3.	[Redacted]
2)	Title & Name: [Redacted]
	Position: [Redacted]
	Department: [Redacted]
	Email: [Redacted]
	Phone: [Redacted]
Relevant background: <i>(limit to 100 words):</i>	
[Redacted]	
Previous grant(s) received from United Board <i>(Year/Proposal Title/Amount in USD):</i>	
1.	
2.	
3.	
Designated Contact Person:	
	Title & Name: [Redacted]
	Position & Department: [Redacted]
	Email: [Redacted]
	Phone: [Redacted]

II. Narrative Proposal

1. Title of Proposal: (limit to 15 words)	The Summer Academic Exchange Programme for Scholars in Christian and Religious Studies from Mainland China 2018-19
2. Executive Summary (limit to 100 words)	
<p>A 4-week Summer Academic Exchange Programme operated by the Resource Centre of the Contemporary Christian Studies of the Divinity School from July 22 to August 18, 2018. 60 scholars with Master degree or above from universities and seminaries in Mainland China would be recruited. For the first two weeks, intensive lectures that introduce the most recent research in Christian studies would be arranged. Areas of lectures include Biblical Studies, Christian Ethics, Christian Doctrines, Christianity and Modern Society. Individual supervision and academic networking activities would be arranged in the final two weeks.</p>	
<p>3. Objectives (Specify in what ways the project would contribute to whole person education)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To equip professors, lecturers and postgraduate students of the universities and seminaries in Mainland China with leading edge knowledge about Christian studies. b) For those participants whose main research area is not Christianity, this programme aims to help them see the ways how Christian studies could be cross-disciplinarily integrated into their teachings and research, and how educationally and academically valuable it would be to do so. c) To provide academic resources and professional supervision for these lecturers and postgraduate students to prepare their lectures and to do researches independently. d) To enhance the academic exchange between Mainland China and Hong Kong, and between Mainland China and Asian-wide countries in the field of theological and religious studies. e) To facilitate inter-religious and inter-disciplinary dialogue. f) To enable the participants to form a network for future academic exchange and collaboration among themselves and with Divinity School (including the School's Asian-wide and international academic network). g) Besides intellectual input, this programme also aims at opening participants' eyes to see the ways how research and teaching could be integrated into one's own spiritual life. This would be done through a variety of activities, including but not limited to, morning meditation, and they would be encouraged to bring such an integration back to their contexts. 	
<p>4. Project Duration¹(month/year) : from July 2018 to June 2019</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> One-year project <input type="checkbox"/> Two-year project <input type="checkbox"/> Three-year project</p>	
<p>5a. Total cost of the project (in USD): USD [REDACTED]</p>	
<p>5b. Total amount requested from the United Board (in USD): USD [REDACTED]</p> <p><i>For multiyear projects, please indicate the cost and requested amount (in USD) for each year:</i></p>	
1 st year – cost:	amount requested:
2 nd year – cost:	amount requested:
3 rd year – cost:	amount requested:

¹ Project cycle: July 1 to next year June 30.

6. Any involvement with other universities or NGOs? Yes No

If yes, please provide the names below. *(If they are involved in a major way, please include a consent letter from the head/senior administrator, assuring participation as described.)*

7. Background and rationale for the proposal

Please include:

- a. the need or issue the project will address;*
- b. any groundwork that has been done by you or your team; and*
- c. how the project will enhance the teaching/research capacity of your institution/department/unit. (limit to 2 pages)*

Christian studies as an academic discipline has been growing rapidly in Mainland China in the recent decades. Not a few universities are offering courses related to the Christian religions, and this is so rare especially at graduate school level. Yet, due to the religious and educational policies of the country, these courses, as well as research, are offered and done with a variety of perspectives that see Christianity as a cultural phenomenon, and an intellectual tradition of the West. So, Christianity has been studied largely as facets of history, as literary studies of religious text, as systems of philosophy, as social scientific phenomenon, as traditions of art, etc. in Mainland China. To facilitate the sustainability of this highly contextualized mode of Christian higher education in Mainland China, we see the importance of, among others, the following three programming strategies:

1. It must be a long term effort: there are a great number of universities and higher education institutes in Mainland China. While in the past 15 years we have already received over 750 participants, there is still a huge demand. In order to achieve the abovementioned sustainable impact at all levels of higher education, this program must be a long-term one. Besides, we must differentiate different layers and levels of higher education in the country. It therefore has been our strategy that we recruited participants from top-level universities in the first several years of the programme, and gradually and recently shifted to recruiting more participants from mid-level universities.
2. Our approach must be cross-disciplinary: recognizing the above highly contextualized mode of Christian higher education in Mainland China, we deem it obligatory to help participants to see the ways how different academic disciplines could integrate Christian studies into their teaching curriculum and research. As mentioned above, we propose it to be a 4-week programme. These four weeks will be divided into two stages. The first stage would be "intensive lecture weeks," and the second would be "individual supervision weeks." The former would equip the participants with leading edge knowledge about Christian studies, and the latter would help individual participants to see the ways Christian studies could be integrated into their own fields of studies. And throughout the whole programme process, related educational activities, networking activities, as well as activities related to spirituality would be arranged. This 4-week-2-stage model of the programme design that include different pedagogical approaches has proven to be effective in terms of objectives achievement.
3. Christian Studies in Asian Context: besides helping participants to gain leading edge knowledge about Christian studies which is predominantly from the Western research communities, and to gain insights into how Christian studies would benefit the Mainland higher education and research, it has been a strategy of this programme to invite professors from other Asian countries and international scholars who have deep Asian concerns to come over to the summer school to teach, to share their perspectives and experience, and to provide supervision. This is a strategy to encourage participants

to contextualize Christian studies in their own teaching and research. This also helps participants to form not only academic networks among themselves, and with the Divinity School, but also with scholars from other Asian countries and international academic communities. This facilitates future inter-region cooperation. So, over the years, and in the coming years as well, the teachers/supervisors/guest speakers team would continue to be composed of professors from our Divinity School, as well as a number of professors from other Asian countries (such as Dr. Philip CHIA and Prof. YEE Tet-lim from Malaysia, Dr. YANG Myoung Ho from Korea, Rev. Dr. Yosuke MATSUTANI from Japan, Prof. KANG Namsoon from Korea now teaching in the US, Rev. Prof. John YIEH from Taiwan now teaching in the US, Dr. Paulos Zhan Zhu HUANG [Finland citizen] born in China now teaching in Finland, etc.), and international scholars (Divinity School's visiting professors). This strategy has also proven to be successful according to the feedback from previous participants.

We believe that with the rich CUHK library resources, the quality teaching team that the School has, the good Asian-wide and international academic network that the School has established, the effective links between our School and many universities in Mainland China, and the above programme strategies, this programme would be able to achieve the stated objectives.

8. Short description of the participants and ultimate beneficiaries of the project (limit to 1 page)

A total of 60 participants, including 30 lecturers/professors, and 30 postgraduate students from universities and seminaries will be recruited. The designated selection committee will be formed to do the screening. Although the academic level in mainland universities is improving, the resources about Christianity research are still rare. Our participating scholars, with various religious background, come from a wide range of disciplines, such as European studies, music studies, foreign language and art, international relationship, social sciences, philosophy, etc. The inter-religious and inter-disciplinary exchanges would be inspiring to scholars and form a significant moment in their life-long learning.

Ultimate beneficiaries:

Mainland Chinese people (i.e., the participants, the students of the participants, the research communities from where the participants come), Christians or not, could understand and be better informed about what Christianity is and its significance to China and the world.

Besides, while due to the unique situation in China we did not and will not organize the alumni into some structure, such as alumni association, the School's teachers have been maintaining regular contact with the alumni (e.g., during the School's annual visitation to China in May, the teachers will meet with the alumni as regional groups) to serve them with continuing education. Some of the alumni, and academics recommended by them, would apply for coming to the Divinity School for weeks or a semester, to do research and prepare for lecture materials under our professors' supervision. This project shall continue to do so as its post-summer-school ministry in the coming years.

9. Plan for implementation

Timetable for implementation, highlighting the major activities or benchmark events. For multiyear projects, activities should be laid out year by year. (limit to 1 page for activities per year)

Process:**1 Nov. to 28 Feb**

- a) send out invitation to related professionals and all universities in mainland China
- b) collect the application with agreement through online CUwebform system

1-15 March

- a) final call for application
- b) re-check the missing supporting documents from applicants,
- c) call for meeting

15-30 March

- a) **confirm the participating list with selection committee**
- b) send out acceptance/invitation letters or regret letters to applicants
- c) send out visa application information and guidelines of the programme

1-15 April

- a) Check the visa application and related documents from scholars

15-30 April:

- a) Send out the visa applications to HK immigration Department
- b) Invite professional teaching team
- c) Reserve rooms, accommodation, venue(for lectures and seminars) and restaurants

1-30 May

- a) Finalize teaching schedule
- b) Reserve guest room and prepare contract for visiting scholars
- c) Collect first batch of visas from HK immigration Department

June

- a) Collect final batch of visas and send out by courier to all participants in China with clear guideline for applying travel documents in China
- b) Send out guidelines for traveling to CUHK and reminder of flight reservation
- c) Confirm teaching schedule with professors

July

- a) Invite Divinity School's students committee for help in organizing visits
- b) Confirm visit schedule
- c) Final reminder of arrival and pick-up for participants
- d) Administrative and logistic works
- e) Prepare materials e.g. handbook, nametag, information bag
- f) invite donors, related parties and faculty members to join the event

22 July

- a) Pick-up arrangement for participants and visiting scholars

23-31 July

- a) **Prepare Opening Ceremony, first lecture week and welcome dinner**
- b) **Arrange church visit and activities**

1-18 August

- a) **Work out the programme activities e.g. visits to Christian organizations, farewell dinner**
- b) Arrange seminars for participants
- c) Prepare certificates to participants
- d) Departure of participants
- e) Collect brief report and reflection/comments from participants

August

- a) Prepare expenditure report

Sep to Nov

- a) Collect reflection from participants and edit an e-booklet
- b) prepare programme report

10. Evaluation of the project

Include:

- a. how the project will be assessed;*
- b. the name and contact information of the external evaluator, if applicable; and*
- c. what criteria to apply for an evaluation of the changes that may take place.*

- a) Participants will be required to submit reflection reports.
- b) A panel review will be held in the last week of the programme to collect participant's opinions and sharings.
- c) Sharings of all participants will be published in an electronic booklet in October 2018.
- d) A database has been set up and maintained to collect dissertations and publications written by the participants during the programme over the years.
- e) A report will be submitted to United Board in June 2018.

11. Sustainability

Describe how the project will continue after United Board funds are expended. Include potential sources of support for continuing activities, if any.

We expect to raise [REDACTED] from local donars to match the contribution of United Board.

III. Detailed Itemized Budget

The proposed budget should be submitted in U.S. dollars indicating the exchange rate used. Please provide justification and elaborate on how the cost of each item is computed. The budget should align with the project schedule stated in the narrative proposal.

For multiyear projects, please provide the detailed budget and requested amount of EACH year. Please refer to the budget template (A2) and submit the budget worksheet with other required documents for application. For details, please refer to "Institutional Grants Program: Application Guideline (IGP_AG)," point 3: "Budgeting."

IV. Justification for the budget request

Explain why the major budget items are requested. Cost-share as a demonstration of institutional commitment and partnership is welcome.

In order to achieve the long term goals of the programme, a stable funding would be a great support and commitment. The United Board has been (and will certainly continue to be) highly recognized for its contribution to greatly enriching the Mainland academic scholars/institutions. The budget items would be explained below.

1. Concerning the living allowance for participating scholars (HK\$ [REDACTED] for lecturers and HK\$ [REDACTED] for students), it would be a basic offer for their living expenses such as meals, transportation and consumption of materials e.g. publications, copies of microfilm for research in the programme.
2. Accommodation: 2 people per room with common facilities, e.g. bathroom and kitchen, would be offered in hostel. This is a basic charge for a room in hostel.
3. Expense for visiting scholars: we offer the visiting scholars with Honoraria, air-fare for economic class and accommodation during their stay.
4. Promotional charges and miscellaneous: Group Activities and Visits, e.g. welcome and farewell dinner, transportation, promotional banner and refreshment in lecture period, are offered.

All the above items would be so important to help the participating scholars with financial difficulties, especially the postgraduate students. We would share the costs evenly with local donations.

V. Institutional Endorsement

Complete the Institutional Endorsement Form (C) and submit it with other required documents for application.