IAS Programs

1. Preamble

(a) In addition to continuing its current areas of strength, the IAS has been actively developing itself as a hub for running topical research programs in Hong Kong. The IAS programs promote the creation and development of the IAS' clusters of research activities and new initiatives at HKUST.

(b) Program running has proven to be very productive and successful in other places. Examples are the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics (KITP) at UC Santa Barbara, KITP China in Beijing, the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) at Berkeley, the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IPAM) at UCLA, and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) at Trieste, Italy. Bringing this form of mind-opening learning experience to Hong Kong help nurture our young scholars and postgraduate students to become world-class scholars and innovative entrepreneurs for the future Hong Kong society. Interacting with the best and brightest in the respective disciplines, academics in Hong Kong may start or develop research collaborations with overseas participants, thus promoting research excellence in Hong Kong.

2. Format

(a) Location: HKUST IAS (Participants from overseas will also be in residence at the IAS to interact with the local academics and students during the program period).

(b) Mode: Mainly face-to-face, though online or mixed mode may be adopted if the situation does not allow physical presence of most participants (e.g. during the period of pandemic).

(c) Duration: From one month to at most four months.

(d) Components:

   (i) Short courses, workshops, and in some cases postdoc-led / postgraduate student-led discussion sessions.
   (ii) One to two talks on each day to promote in-depth discussions between the speaker and participants. Discussion of important topics may be carried on for days or even longer. Taking on board the diversity of needs, the IAS will devise appropriate programs that best fit the characteristics of individual research disciplines.

(iii) In many cases, an associated international conference will be held during the program time to benefit a much larger group of people who are unable to commit a longer time to participate in a program.

(e) Number of participants: Ranging from dozens to 200. Occasionally, a small number of program participants may wish to extend their stay beyond program completion to continue with their research at HKUST.

(f) In case the program will operate in online or mixed mode, the IAS and the Program Coordinators may further discuss to come up with a format that serves the purpose feasibly and efficiently.

3. Program Proposal

Please refer to the Appendix for the guidelines for developing an IAS program proposal.

4. Roles

(a) At least one faculty member from a UGC-funded institution in Hong Kong and one overseas academic should commit as Program Coordinators. The Program Coordinators must be on the Organizing Committee of the proposed program and at least one Program Coordinator is required to be in residence throughout the program.

(b) The Program Coordinators are responsible for:-

(i) developing, in conjunction with the Director of IAS, a definition of the IAS program.
(ii) ensuring that the program is delivered on time, on budget and effectively resourced, as well as up to the required quality standard (within agreed specifications).
(iii) managing the relationships with all program participants.

(c) The IAS provides administrative and logistics support to the Program Coordinators as well as offices, discussion areas and seminar room for each program.

(d) The Director of IAS is the authority to issue invitation letters to participants of the IAS programs.

5.   Budget and Financial Support

(a)   The Director of IAS will inform the Program Coordinators in writing the budget for the IAS program.

(b)   Program Coordinators are encouraged to seek external funding to further strengthen the program.

(c)   Working within the approved budget, the IAS provides the following financial support for the IAS program participants who travel from outside Hong Kong:

   (i)   Honorarium
   - HK$2,000/day for senior participants, i.e. assistant professors (or equivalent) and above
   - HK$1,500/day for postdoctoral and student participants

   (ii)   Non-accountable travel allowance for participants

whose home institution is	with a stay of 14-20 days	with a stay of 21 days or more
outside Asia	HK$4,000	HK$12,000
within Asia (excluding Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, and Macau of China)	HK$1,670	HK$5,000
in Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, and Macau of China	HK$330	HK$1,000

(d)   In case a participant gives his/her talk(s) online without being physically present in the program, the IAS will not offer any financial support to him/her but the Program Coordinators may do so by charging against other sources of funding, if any.

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Guidelines for Developing an IAS Program Proposal

1.   Please discuss your ideas with the Director of IAS before preparing your program proposal.

2.   An IAS program proposal should contain:

(a)   The proposed title and date of the program, including justifications as to how long a program you feel is needed and what mode (face-to-face and/or online) is expected.

(b)   A one-page statement to present a clearly motivated academic case that explains the background to the broader audience of your discipline, and where appropriate, why you think it is time for progress to be made on the chosen topics.

(c)   Commitment from at least one faculty member from a UGC-funded institution in Hong Kong and one overseas academic should commit as Program Coordinators. The Program Coordinators must be on the Organizing Committee of the proposed program and at least one Program Coordinator is required to be in residence throughout the program.

(d)   A sense that your academic community agrees the program is a good idea. This is usually accomplished by sending your draft of points in (b) and (c) above to your academic community and asking them the following questions:

(i)   Is the program description broad enough or are some vital subfields missing?

(ii)   If such a program takes place, how long would they be likely to come for (if the program is conducted in face-to-face mode)? It is useful to request them to indicate their commitments to enable preliminary estimation. To make a program more interactive and productive, stays of less than three weeks should be discouraged.

(e)   A list of possible key participants.

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