

UNIVERSITIES' CHINA COMMITTEE IN LONDON

Application form

Before completing this form, please ensure that you read the UCCL [Homepage](#) and [Applications Instructions](#) document for detailed information on how to fill in and return this form.

Postal address: The Universities' China Committee in London, Swire House, 59 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AJ, tel: 020 7963 9480, universitiesccl@yahoo.co.uk

PERSONAL DATA

1. Family name: [REDACTED]

2. Other names: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6. If you are a PRC national in Britain give your:

a) Date of arrival in the UK:

b) Visa status (please tick only one box) student, dependent, other - please give details

7. Address for correspondence:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8. Are you: a graduate student? Y in some other position? (please specify):

LANGUAGE

11. Please list the languages you know and whether you are proficient in both spoken and written forms (*fluent or first language level*).

| Language(s): | Proficiency: |
|--------------|----------------------|
| English | Native level |
| Cantonese | Conversational level |

RESEARCH DETAILS

12. **Name and address of institution and department:**

School of Humanities, Department of History, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

13. ***If a research student, please state the degree for which you are registered***

a) Degree or qualification for which you are or intend to be registered:

PhD History

b) Date of starting:

April 2018

c) Date of completion or expected completion:

April 2021

14. **Title of proposed research**

Cultures of consumption in Hong Kong New Towns public housing estates, 1950s-1980s

Explain the nature and significance of your research (*max. 500 words*)

My PhD questions the relationship between cultures of consumption and space in Hong Kong's New Towns public housing estates in the mid-twentieth century. It asks how government and government policy affected consumption culture, and how communities responded and spatially negotiate these policy and lifestyle changes. The 1950s to 1980s is well known as a 'Golden Age' in Hong Kong for its emergence as a global industrial and manufacturing hub, and as a time of drastic urban, economic, and social transformation. However, much of the scholarship in this period focuses on the economic and political activity in the city during this time. With this in mind, I will respond to such questions through a historical ethnographic lens, considering cultures and spaces of consumption as central to an alternative history of the city. In doing this research, my aim is to interrogate the changes in everyday life in the New Towns, shifting the lens from the macro-histories of the urban centre to the lives and experiences of the growing working- and middle-class in Hong Kong. My research seeks to draw out the localised experiences of economic stability and colonial modernity in the designed spaces of consumption in the New Towns.

As a design historian, my interests lie at the intersection of material culture, social and global history, and space. Hong Kong is uniquely positioned in relation to these subjects: as a historical global trade and manufacturing hub; as a refuge from political turmoil or an economic opportunity; as a transcultural community with a diversity of experiences; all taking place on a tiny piece of land that was a British

colony and now a critical Chinese territory. By using objects and audio-visual material as part of my methodology, as opposed to only government records, I aim to centre a different narrative of these events. The current discourse of design and design history in Hong Kong is emerging through the growing local design scene and the activities of several museums and institutions but is nevertheless on the margins of academic scholarship. Through this project I aim to address some of these gaps in the scholarship and bring the everyday experiences in Hong Kong history to the fore.

Explain and justify the activity which you will undertake during the funded period (max. 500 words)

I intend to spend two months in Hong Kong from April to June 2019. I will be going during this time as it will coincide with the HKU/Hong Kong History Project (Bristol) conference, one of the few Hong Kong Studies conferences annually, and so as to visit Hong Kong before the summer when many scholars will be away. My activities in Hong Kong will mostly be conducting archival and ethnographic research. As much of the Hong Kong colonial government papers are available in the UK, I will be concentrating on collecting other kinds of material. I will primarily be looking for material and audio-visual records including photographs, oral histories, and films. I intend to use several archives including:

- HKU Special Collections
- Public Records Office
- Information Services Department
- Hong Kong Heritage Project

I will also be visiting museum collections with resources related to the research. Materials include photographs, oral history records, exhibition records, and potentially objects, held in their collections. Museums include:

- the Centre for Heritage Arts and Textiles at Mill6
- Hong Kong History Museum
- Hong Kong Heritage Museum
- M+ Museum

In addition, being based in Hong Kong will allow me to visit some of the remaining public housing estates (such as Wo Lok Estate, Fuk Loi Estate, and Lek Yuen Estate) identified in my research. While many of the establishments will have changed, it will allow me to contextualise the primary material I will collect.

During my fieldwork, I will be fully affiliated as a visiting PhD student with the Hong Kong Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (HKIHSS) at University of Hong Kong (HKU). I will thus be making use of HKU facilities (including libraries) and attending academic events (eg. seminars, workshops) held at HKU. I will additionally be meeting colleagues from M+ Museum and CHAT to discuss my research, in order to strengthen my network in Hong Kong and establish future collaboration or opportunities.

I intend also to attend and present some of my work at the HKU/Hong Kong History Project conference entitled 'All Roads Lead to Hong Kong' in June 2019. Attendance at this event will allow me to network further with international colleagues, particularly those who are not based in Europe.

If you do not have fluent reading and speaking ability in the relevant languages/dialects explain how you will conduct your research.

Although I do not have native level reading and speaking in Chinese, I have a high level of understanding of Cantonese and can conduct regular, everyday tasks using the language. I have also conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Hong Kong before for six weeks during my MA degree. Additionally, I have been taking weekly private lesson since December to develop my Cantonese reading, writing and speaking skills. As I will mostly be conducting archival research in colonial government archives, I will mostly be using material written in English. However, if necessary, I will be able to access help with translation of papers or oral histories.

15. **If relevant, please give details of people to be visited or interviewed and indicate briefly their relevance to the project. If there are groups to be visited, instead of listing their members individually, please make a brief statement on their types/relevance and explain how you will contact and enrol them in your study.**

Should the opportunity arise, I will be supplementing oral history records with my own interviews. These groups might include those who have lived or worked in public housing estates, or indeed those within the Housing Authority who had influence on the design of the commercial areas of estates, to ask about their experiences. These informants are likely to be reached through more informal networks of family and friends.

16. **Give date by which funding is required.**

March 2019

FINANCIAL SITUATION

17. **Give details of previous sources of financial support. If you have been supported by the British Council, please give your reference number and the name of your programme officer.**

Arthur Gardner Travel Grant, during MA degree V&A/RCA History of Design (2016)

Design History Society, Student Travel Award (2017, 2018)

18. **Total amount required precisely: *(give detailed costing)***

Airfare: Manchester – Hong Kong, direct return flight, Weds 10 Apr – Weds 12 Jun, £562.60

Accommodation: AirBnB, room in shared apartment, Sham Shui Po, £1290

Subsistence: £20 per day, £1260

Travel costs in HK: MTR travel (one return journey per day HK\$23) plus return train travel Hong Kong to Hong Kong airport, 145.09+ 29.94 = £175.03

Travel costs in UK: return train travel Leeds – Manchester airport, £20.35

Total: £3164.98

19. **Source and amount of available funds: *(give details and amounts of any scholarships received for your current overall studies. Please also provide the amounts—including their timeframe — of any grants given or applied for this specific project from your school, department or university).***

PhD stipend funding period 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2021: £14,533 per annum

Fieldwork allowance over 3 years: £1800

Conference travel allowance: £600 per conference

20. Reason for seeking this extra financial assistance:

Although I have access to fieldwork allowance, I will need to use half of it to continue my archival research in London. Basic accommodation, subsistence, travel to/from and in London for two weeks would cost around £800 – 900:

Accommodation: AirBnB, room in shared apartment in East London, £506

Subsistence: £20 a day, £280

Travel: return train Leeds to London, two weeks travel on London Underground, 36+30= £66

London Total: £852

The cost of living in both London and Hong Kong are exceptionally high. My current allowance alone would not be able to cover both a research trip to Hong Kong and two weeks in London. It is for this reason that I would like to apply for £1200 to cover one month of accommodation/subsistence in Hong Kong (£40 per day).

I have previously applied for funding from the Design Trust/M+ Fellowship but was unfortunately unsuccessful. Although I have an affiliation with the HKIHSS, their annual fellowship for overseas graduate students (the Sin Kai Wai fellowship) which also provided some funding recently expired. I have also explored fieldwork funding options from other HEIs in Hong Kong but have not come across any programmes for which I am eligible. The UCCL is one of the few funding bodies available to me that is directly relevant to my area of study.

21.

Amount required from this particular application:

£1200

22. **Please give details of other sources of funding to which you are applying (including when you are likely to know whether or not you have been successful):**

I will be applying for funding from the University of Nottingham Asia Research Institute, which offers £500 for conference travel. However no application has been lodged yet.

REFERENCES

23. Give the name, title, and occupation of one or two people whom you have asked to write in support of your application. In the case of research student applications, at least one referee must be the student's supervisor in the UK, and at least one referee must have read this application before submission. Please ask your supervisor to state whether an upgrade or equivalent has taken place. References should be in letter form, signed by the referee, and sent in the post or as a PDF.

1st referee (or supervisor if applicable):

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Additional referee (optional)

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email address:

Postal address: The Universities' China Committee in London, Swire House, 59 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AJ, tel: 020 7963 9480, universitiesccl@yahoo.co.uk

Download "Information for Applicants" from the GBCC webpages for more information on making your application. <http://www.gbcc.org.uk/educational-grants/universities-china-committee-in-london-uccl>

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