

Collaborative Agreement Between CAMIS-SCNU and HKUST

We propose several collaborative programs between the *South China Research Center for Applied Mathematics and Interdisciplinary Studies (CAMIS)*, *South China Normal University (SCNU)* and *the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)*. On the HKUST side, the main partners will be the Department of Mathematics and the Computational Science Group.

The proposed agreement aims to strengthen broad research collaborations between CAMIS-SCNU and HKUST. To foster such collaborations the two parties agree to the following initial programs in postdoc joint supervision, PhD student mentoring, bilateral faculty and researcher exchange. More specifically we propose:

1. CAMIS-HKUST Joint Postdoctoral Supervision

Faculty members at CAMIS and HKUST can have jointly supervised postdocs. Each postdoc will have CAMIS as his/her host institution for two years, but will spend a significant portion of their time in HKUST. Besides the stipend of the postdoc from CAMIS, HKUST will also contribute additional 25% of the stipend of CAMIS for the two years. After the first two years, the postdoc can continue as a HKUST postdoc (funded by HKUST) for an additional year upon agreement by both the candidate and the HKUST faculty mentor, and will be given a stipend comparable to the regular postdocs in HKUST. In some cases the postdoc might be assigned teaching duties.

2. CAMIS-HKUST Research Exchange and Virtual Institute

CAMIS and HKUST will each provide local support for exchange visits by faculty members and PhD students from both institutions. Also, faculty members on both sides are encouraged to jointly sponsor workshops and small scale focused group meetings involving PhD students and postdocs.

A component of the research exchange between the two institutions is the CAMIS-HKUST Virtual Institute (CHVI). This program connects HKUST and CAMIS through faculty collaboration and graduate students training. Each year, teams of two HKUST faculty members will join two CAMIS researchers, together with 4-8 postdocs and graduate students (half from HK and half from the US), to engage in two intensive research workshop sessions on a cutting-edge research topic. One session each will be held at CAMIS and HKUST. The length of each session is around one week, but can be flexible. CAMIS and HKUST will provide the local expenses for the sessions at CAMIS and HKUST, respectively. Researchers from other institutions are also welcome to participate, and can be members of the teams. Each team will be responsible for their own travel expenses.

3. Joint Supervision of PhD Students

CAMIS and HKUST both feel that this could potentially be very fruitful. But given the various administrative constraints we are still looking for ways to make it work. One such option is the so-called jointly supervision (联合培养). Basically, CAMIS provides a quota (指标) and finds a partner at the other side as co-chair to supervise a student. As a counterpart, HKUST may also provide a quota and find a partner at CAMIS as co-chair to supervise a student. In that way, the student from mainland side has opportunity to spend several semesters in Hong Kong after basic training including course requirement, and the Hong Kong student has opportunity to spend some time in Guangzhou as well, etc. At the graduation time, a student based on CAMIS may obtain a certificate from HKUST (and diploma from SCNU) and a student based on HKUST may obtain a certificate from SCNU (and a diploma from HKUST). To make this plan work, the Graduate School of SCNU should sign a formal contract with HKUST, the Dean of the Graduate School, agrees to do so.

4. Workshops on Focused Topics

The format of these workshops follow very closely to the regular workshops sponsored by IAS-HKUST. Each workshop focuses on one special topic, and we invite about 15-20 experts to give lectures. Both sides take turns to host the workshop: HKUST will use the IAS facility and CAMIS will use our own facility. Host institute provides local expenses and travel subsidiaries.

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