



Croucher Foundation

501 Nine Queen's Road Central

Hong Kong

T +852 2736 6337

www.croucher.org.hk

Thomas Ka Chung Lam 林嘉聰
Route de Denges 1
1028 Prévèrenge
Switzerland

6 May 2024

Dear Mr Lam,

2024 Croucher Scholarship

I am delighted to confirm that your application for a 2024 Croucher Scholarship was successful.

We have been awarding Croucher scholarships and fellowships since 1981. If you accept our offer, you will join a thriving community of more than a thousand Croucher scholars.

The attached document contains important information about your award which you should read carefully. To accept our offer go to the end section of the document and follow the instructions for electronic signature.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or Anna at any time:

Anna Law, Scholarship Officer, Croucher Foundation
annalaw@croucher.org.hk
T: +852 2736 6337

The next few weeks will be busy. Remember that we are here to help. We will do whatever we can to make sure that this process is straightforward and that you receive the information and support you need.

Congratulations on winning a Croucher Foundation award!

DocuSigned by:
David Foster
5A4DA8814BDA4F0...

David Foster
Executive Director
Croucher Foundation



Croucher Scholarship Terms and Conditions

Terms and conditions

Section A: Your Award

There are eight categories of Croucher study award:

Croucher Scholarships
Croucher Cambridge International Scholarships
Oxford-Croucher Scholarships
Croucher Research Studentships
Butterfield Croucher Studentships
Croucher Science Communication Studentships
Croucher Postdoctoral Fellowships
Max Planck Croucher Postdoctoral Fellowships

You are receiving a Croucher Scholarship.

Name of award recipient: Thomas Ka Chung Lam

Level of study: PhD

Tenure of award: Two years from 16 September 2024 to 15 September 2026

Country/region of study: Switzerland

Institution: Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne

Research topic: From perception to action: neural circuits for limb reaching movements during social interactions

Value of award:

1. Maintenance allowance of CHF35,568 per year
2. Return airfare from Hong Kong to your country of study and back
3. Arrival allowance of CHF916 to cover the costs of your visa, transport to and from the airport, temporary accommodation, and additional costs of arriving in a new country
4. Academic development allowance of up to CHF1,831 per year to enable you to attend conferences, workshops or courses
5. Medical insurance allowance of up to CHF1,831 per year

6. Family allowance, where applicable
7. Commencement award of CHF8,892 after successful completion of your doctoral study
8. Science education allowance for outreach activities
9. Eligibility to apply for start-up allowance on return to Hong Kong

Section B:

Please read the following paragraphs 1-22 carefully, as they will form part of the agreement that you will sign in Section C, below.

1. Maintenance allowance

Your maintenance allowance is fixed at CHF35,568 per year for the duration of your award. We will transfer your maintenance allowance direct to your bank account. The allowance is paid quarterly. We will notify you once the transfer of the first payment has been arranged. After that, payments will be made every quarter without further notification.

2. Travel arrangements

Your award includes two premium economy return airfares (four flights) from Hong Kong to your country of study. To book your tickets please contact our travel agent:

Camy Man
camy_man@poloairtravel.com
+852 2305 6635

The first airfare is for the period of your award. If you are already in your country of study when you receive your award, then you will only receive the return part of this first airfare. The second return airfare is provided to allow you to attend the Croucher Symposium and award ceremony in Hong Kong—see below for more information about these important events.

We ask that scholars book all of their flights through Camy who will settle flight costs directly with the Foundation.

3. Travel documents

In many cases, to take up your award, you will need a visa. Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to check the visa requirements of your country of study.

We recommend that you obtain an unconditional offer of acceptance from your supervisor if you do not have one already. Your supervisor may ask you for a copy of this award letter.

If you plan to visit another country for example to attend a conference, you should make sure that both your passport and visa are valid for an appropriate length of time after you return to your country of study. In some cases, the requirement is at least six months. If you need to renew your visa, make sure you leave enough time. You can check the website of the relevant consulate in Hong Kong for more information.

All visa related matters are your responsibility. If you encounter legal complications because you do not have the proper documentation for the award, we will not be able to offer assistance. Stay up to date with renewals of your visa. You can check the website of the relevant consulate in Hong Kong for supporting information.

4. Arrival allowance

Your award includes an allowance of CHF916 to cover the costs of your arrival in a new country, including inward visa costs, local transport on arrival, temporary accommodation, etc. We will include this allowance together with the first instalment of your maintenance allowance.

5. Medical insurance

Your award includes an allowance for medical insurance of CHF1,831 per year. In many cases, you will not need to claim this allowance because you will be eligible to use the student health service of your university or institution or the national health service of your country of study. If you need to arrange health insurance cover, if your university or institution has a health surcharge you wish to pay, and/or have any other concerns, please feel free to write to us.

6. Personal injury, accident, and loss

We recommend you take out a suitable policy to insure yourself against personal injury, accident and loss. The Foundation is not responsible for costs associated with incidents of this nature.

7. Tax

You are responsible for all tax-related matters, if any, during the period of your award. Any tax imposed on the award is your responsibility. You are also responsible for seeking advice to ensure that you have complied with all applicable tax regulations. Most host countries will have relevant information on government websites. Your host university should also be able to help you access this information.

8. Academic development allowance

To give you an opportunity to present your work and attend academic conferences, your award includes an academic development allowance of up to CHF1,831 per year. To apply for this allowance, please send us a short proposal explaining how you plan to spend the allowance, with a simple estimate of costs.

9. Family allowance

If you are accompanied by one or more of your children during the agreed period of your award, you are eligible to receive a family allowance. The amount of the allowance is as follows:

- CHF14,648 per annum for the first child;
- CHF6,228 per annum for every additional child who resides with you for the duration of your award.

The application process is very straightforward. We simply need an explanation of your situation by email. Please let us know if your family situation changes during the period of your award.

10. Science education allowance

Your award includes a science education allowance. If you are interested in designing and/or participating in science outreach activities during the period of your award, for example, by visiting local schools or contributing to a science festival, please apply by sending us a summary of your planned activity and a simple estimate of costs.

11. Annual renewal

To see how you are getting on with your programme, we will ask you and your supervisor for an annual progress report. These are short written summaries of your progress during the year. Please send us contact details of your supervisor, including their full name, email, and telephone number, so that we can reach out to them. To remind you, we will write to you before the end of each academic year. Awards are generally renewed as a matter of course.

12. Concurrent awards

Your Croucher award cannot, without written permission from the Croucher Foundation, be held concurrently with any other form of monetary award or appointment with remuneration. If you are offered another award or paid employment and wish to accept that offer, please notify us immediately. We may modify the terms of your Croucher award. We reserve the right to terminate a Croucher award retrospectively and/or reclaim funds we have already paid to you if you fail to comply with this requirement.

13. Extension of award

Your award is for a fixed period and in most cases, cannot be extended. The only exceptions to this are for exceptional circumstances such as a global pandemic.

14. Change of research topic or supervisor

We understand that your research topic or supervisor may change during the course of your studies. Since your award is made based on the research plan you submitted in your application, please write to us and let us know as soon as possible if there are any changes. We will review your change of plan and update our records.

15. Change of host institution

Your award is linked to a specific university or institution. If you wish to change university or institution, please let us know as soon as possible to give us enough time to consider any possible change.

16. Commencement award

To mark the end of your doctoral studies, we provide a commencement award. The amount of CHF8,892 will be transferred to your bank account once you notify us that you are ready to submit your thesis. The commencement award is intended to cover the cost of thesis preparation, the cost of sending a hard-bound copy of your thesis to us, as well as a contribution to the travel expenses of friends and family members attending your graduation ceremony.

17. Doctoral thesis

As we will display a copy of your thesis in the Croucher Foundation boardroom, an important requirement of your award is that you send us by airmail or courier a printed and hard-bound copy of your thesis within three weeks of the date of publication. You should also send us a high-resolution electronic copy as a PDF for us to store in our electronic repository. Please also include mention of the Croucher Foundation's support in the acknowledgement section of your thesis.

18. Croucher Symposium and award ceremony

As a Croucher Scholar, you will be required to attend the Croucher Symposium and Foundation Day Dinner, usually held in Hong Kong in early December of the year of the start of your award. You will have the chance to meet other Croucher scholars, discuss your research, and celebrate your award. Croucher will provide you with the airfare needed to support your attendance—see Travel arrangements above.

19. Croucher profile

Every scholar will be given a Croucher profile page, where you will be able to share your journey, meaningful projects you have worked on, and research topics that interest you.

As part of building your profile, we will arrange for high-quality, professional portraits to be taken. The photo sessions are typically conducted at your university, academic institution, laboratory, or research site. We will send you a copy of your portraits so you can use them for other personal or academic profiles as well. We will reach out with more information on the photoshoot once you are settled into your programme.

20. Start-up allowance for Croucher Scholars and Fellows

After the period of your award, if you return to Hong Kong within six years of your PhD graduation and take up a tenure track position in a University Grants Committee-funded higher education institution, you will be eligible to apply for a HKD 500,000 start-up allowance. This enables you to have funds available immediately on arrival in Hong Kong for research expenses, including salaries for research assistants, purchase of laboratory equipment and consumables. To apply, please write to us with a copy of your employment offer and a short research proposal, along with your PhD certificate.

21. Start-up 2.0

Start-up 2.0 is a funding initiative to back the ideas of any Croucher award recipient wishing to use their scientific and technological expertise to start a business with a link to Hong Kong. We have set aside a budget of up to HKD 1 million for each grant. Eligibility extends to include any Croucher award recipient at any career stage. Please check the Foundation's website for more details.

22. Croucher Scholars Association

Through acceptance of this award, you become a member of the Croucher Scholars Association. The Association aims to build connections between all Croucher scholars, irrespective of career stage, to promote the exchange of ideas and encourage a wider understanding of science within the community. The Association has organised several social events, workshops, and has contributed to the send-off parties we organise each year for recipients of Croucher Scholarships and Fellowships and to Croucher Science Week.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our community of scholars and are encouraged that many of them have received international recognition for their work during the period of these awards.

Section C: Signature page

I hereby accept the offer of a Croucher Scholarship for the programme of study as set out in Section A and the terms and conditions in Section B, which I have read and I agree to.

I understand that I am expected to follow the programme of study and abide by the rules of my host institution.

I understand that my Croucher award cannot, without the written permission of the Croucher Foundation, be held concurrently with any other form of monetary award, or appointment with remuneration.

I understand that if there is clear evidence of unsatisfactory progress, Croucher Foundation reserves the right to terminate my award.

I undertake to keep the Croucher Foundation informed of any changes which will affect the administration of the award during my tenure.

This Agreement shall be governed and construed in all respects by Hong Kong law and the parties to it irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____