

### Chairman's Foreword

2020 was a year full of challenges and changes. While the COVID-19 pandemic has been highly disruptive to the higher education sector, we at the UGC have continued our efforts in supporting the sector and worked closely with our universities in addressing the unprecedented challenges. Adapting to the "new normal" as a result of the public health concerns and stringent worldwide travel restrictions, UGC meetings in both September 2020 and January 2021, including our annual meeting with the Chief Executive of the HKSAR Government, were all conducted in hybrid mode. Most of our local members and all our non-local members participated virtually from around the world across multiple time zones. While the arrangement was quite a challenge, Members carried on with their work with dedication and all agreed to launch several new initiatives to support the universities. I am grateful to all members who continued to provide unfailing support for the UGC's work and certainly appreciate the Government's commitment to excellence in Hong Kong's higher education under such unprecedented circumstances.

As we look to a new year when the fight against the epidemic may have to continue for some time, the UGC has proactively taken a number of key steps forward to identify emerging needs and address challenges in the evolving environment for our higher education sector, including the strategic development for virtual teaching and learning, enhancing student well-being and career service support, and providing funding for research related to COVID-19 and other novel infectious diseases.

With public health measures and travel restrictions around the world, we noted that virtual teaching and learning has become part of the "new normal" for higher education globally. The UGC and the Quality Assurance Council (QAC) will allocate additional funding of \$165 million to promote the strategic development of virtual teaching and learning in the medium to long run, with emphasis on the need to develop a robust learning ecosystem for virtual teaching and learning in terms of learning experience, support for students and teachers, and the integrity of assessment for virtual learning. We have also rolled out another special grant of \$50 million for universities to strengthen student support services, such as counselling and career development services, that will serve as relief for our students in this difficult time.



Carlson TONG, GBS, JP  
Chairman, University Grants Committee  
大學教育資助委員會主席  
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### 主席的話

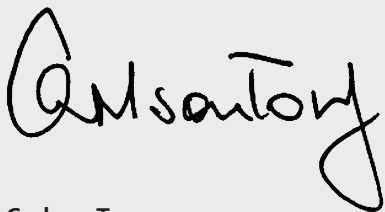
2020是充滿挑戰和轉變的一年。雖然2019冠狀病毒病疫情對高等教育界的日常運作影響甚深，但教資會一直致力支援業界並與大學緊密合作，以應對前所未見的挑戰。因應公共衛生情況及全球嚴格旅遊限制所衍生的「新常態」，教資會在2020年9月和2021年1月舉行的會議，均已透過網上及實體方式同步進行，當中包括我們與行政長官每年一度的會面。一眾本地成員及非本地成員跨越多個時區，在世界各地遙距參與會議。縱使在安排上略有困難，所有成員仍全力以赴參與各項工作，並通過多項支援大學的新措施。我衷心感謝所有成員對教資會一直以來的支持，並感謝政府在這史無前例的時刻依然致力推動香港高等教育精益求精。

展望未來一年，抗疫工作似乎仍會持續一段時間。教資會已主動踏出了重要一步，以識別高等教育界在持續轉變環境下的新需求，並協助他們面對挑戰，包括推動虛擬教學的策略性發展、加強為學生提供的身心健康和職業發展支援服務，並為2019冠狀病毒病及其他新型傳染病相關的研究項目提供資金。

我們注意到自世界各地推行公共衛生措施和旅遊限制，虛擬教學已成為全球高等教育「新常態」的一部分。教資會和質素保證局（質保局）將額外撥款1億6,500萬元推動虛擬教學在中長期的策略性發展，以協助大學發展以學習體驗為本的虛擬教學生態系統、加強為師生提供的支援，以及提升虛擬學習評估的誠信。我們亦為大學提供另一筆5,000萬元的特別撥款，供大學加強學生支援服務，例如輔導和職業發展服務，以協助學生渡過疫情困境。

Over the past months, our universities had demonstrated the importance of their expertise of research work in supporting the community's fight against the epidemic at an extremely difficult time. To provide additional impetus to the sector, the UGC injected \$250 million to support the UGC-funded sector in conducting group research related to COVID-19 and other novel infectious diseases under two collaborative research funding schemes. We have already awarded \$150 million to 27 research projects earlier this year in the first round of the Collaborative Research Fund (CRF) exercise, addressing the impact of the pandemic in various facets across different disciplines. Given the encouraging results and positive response from the research community, we will inject another \$100 million to the CRF, making the total funding injection to \$350 million in support of research to respond to future epidemic and better equip Hong Kong.

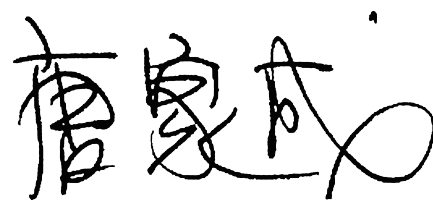
Apart from the new initiatives highlighted above, the UGC has also made significant progress in our work, including the Planning Exercise for the 2022-25 triennium, the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2020 and the Targeted Taught Postgraduate Programmes Fellowships Scheme. I hope you will enjoy reading this issue of the Newswire on our latest activities and progress. May I also take this opportunity to wish you all a very healthy, happy and successful Year of the Ox!



Carlson Tong

在過去數月極其艱難的時期，大學充分展示研究工作對支援社會抗疫具關鍵作用。為進一步推動研究界別進行研究，教資會撥款2億5,000萬元，透過兩項協作研究資助計劃，資助教資會資助界別進行與2019冠狀病毒病及其他新型傳染病相關的集體研究項目。在本年初，我們已公布第一輪的協作研究金計劃撥款結果，批出1億5,000萬元予27個研究項目，以應對疫情在不同範疇各方面帶來的影響。計劃的結果令人鼓舞，並廣受研究界歡迎。有見及此，我們再增撥1億元予協作研究金，使撥款總額增至3億5,000萬元，讓香港為未來的疫情作更好的準備。

除了上述新措施，教資會在多項工作也取得重大進展，包括2022-25三年期規劃工作、2020年研究評審工作和指定研究院修課課程獎學金計劃。今期《教資會快訊》將與各位分享教資會的最新活動及工作進展。我亦藉此機會祝大家牛年身體健康、萬事如意！



唐家成

### Special Grant for Strategic Development of Virtual Teaching and Learning

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, online teaching has been widely adopted and has become the prevalent mode of teaching and learning as the universities suspended face-to-face classes most of the time. Both the UGC and the QAC believe that, after the pandemic, the use of Virtual Teaching and Learning (VTL) will remain a core part in the teaching and learning environment at our universities. The UGC and the QAC will allocate additional funding of \$165 million (including \$15 million dedicated to inter-institutional collaborative activities) to the eight UGC-funded universities to facilitate more systemic collaborations among them to promote the strategic development of VTL in the medium to long run.

The universities are welcome to deploy the additional funding to implement a diverse range of project initiatives, including:

- (1) developing the governance framework, assessment methods, quality assurance system and professional best practices of VTL;
- (2) enriching the overall educational experience of virtual learning, such as organising staff development and encouraging interaction among students during online classes;
- (3) exploring new strategies, pedagogies, platforms and facilities in pursuit of longer-term visions on VTL; and
- (4) promoting the integration of VTL into scenarios such as practicums and on-site training.

The UGC and the QAC hope that the additional funding will catalyse innovative and strategic thinking among our universities, and prepare them for the ever-changing teaching and learning environment as well as their development needs under the "new normal".

### 推展虛擬教學策略性發展的特別撥款

自2019冠狀病毒病疫情爆發以來，大學大部分時間暫停了面授課堂及教學活動，並廣泛採用線上模式授課，逐漸形成教學的主要模式。教資會和質保局相信即使疫情過去，虛擬教學仍會是大學教學環境的重要一環。教資會和質保局將額外撥款1億6,500萬元予教資會資助大學（包括1,500萬元專供大學推行跨院校協作項目的撥款），讓大學更有系統地合作推展虛擬教學在中長期的策略性發展。

大學可利用額外撥款推行多元化項目，包括：

- (1) 發展虛擬教學的管治架構、評核方式、質素保證系統及最佳的專業實踐典範；
- (2) 豐富虛擬學習的整體教育體驗，例如：組織教職員培訓、促進學生在線上課堂上互動交流等；
- (3) 探索新策略、教學法、平台及設施以實現虛擬教學的長遠願景；以及
- (4) 推廣在實習和臨場培訓等情景下融合虛擬教學。

教資會和質保局期望透過額外撥款，促進大學以創新的策略性思維，迎接「新常態」下不斷轉變的教學環境和發展需要。

## Special Grant for Strengthening Student Support Services in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The onset of COVID-19 pandemic has seriously disrupted the learning and daily lives of all university students. In response to the challenges, the UGC allocated \$50 million to the UGC-funded universities for strengthening their student support services through various supporting initiatives, covering the areas of psychological counselling, mental well-being and career planning and development, as well as physical fitness and healthy lifestyle, to take care of the different needs of students.

The UGC-funded universities will make use of the funding to take forward a total of 75 initiatives in the 2020/21 and 2021/22 academic years. They will expand existing services or launch new ones, such as providing online psychological counselling services, organising seminars and activities for promoting mental health, developing mobile apps on brisk walking/hiking trails within the campus, as well as hosting virtual career fairs and workshops for graduating students. These initiatives enable the universities to provide services tailored to the present circumstances, thereby supporting their students to tide over difficult times.

## 為應對2019冠狀病毒病疫情加強學生支援服務的特別撥款

2019冠狀病毒病疫情爆發嚴重擾亂了大學生的學習及日常生活。為應對挑戰，教資會已向教資會資助大學撥款5,000萬元，讓大學透過推展不同的支援項目，加強其學生支援服務，範圍涵蓋心理輔導、精神健康、職業規劃及發展、體能及健康生活等，以照顧學生的不同需要。

教資會資助大學將利用這筆撥款，在2020/21至2021/22學年期間推展75項計劃，以擴展現有學生服務或推出新服務，例如透過提供網上心理輔導服務、舉辦講座和活動以推廣精神健康、開發校園健行路徑手機應用程式，以及為畢業生舉行虛擬求職博覽和工作坊等，讓大學可提供更切合現況的服務，支援學生渡過疫情困境。



## \$250 million to support research related to COVID-19 and Novel Infectious Diseases and Results of Collaborative Research Fund 2020/21

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its evolving global impact, the UGC and the Research Grants Council (RGC) have allocated a one-off additional funding of \$150 million and \$100 million respectively under the CRF and Theme-based Research Scheme (TRS) in May 2020 to support the UGC-funded sector in conducting research related to COVID-19 and other novel infectious diseases (NIDs).

The research community responded actively and swiftly to the one-off CRF COVID-19 and NID Research Exercise. Researchers were keen in joining our fight against the pandemic. Within two months from the call in May 2020, the RGC had received 174 full group research proposals from different disciplines. 37 proposals were selected for interview and 27 proposals were supported at a total amount of \$150 million (exclusive of on-costs). Among the 27 funded proposals, ten are under the biology and medicine disciplines, eight under business studies and humanities & social sciences and nine under engineering & physical sciences. The positive response from our academic community demonstrates the versatility and capability of our universities in developing good research projects in addressing the widespread impact of the COVID-19 pandemic from different disciplines and also longer term challenges of other similar pandemic in the future

For the additional funding of \$100 million for the TRS 2021/22, the RGC has received 17 TRS preliminary proposals related to COVID-19 and/or NIDs. Assessment is in progress and the funding results will be announced in July 2021.

In respect of the regular CRF 2020/21 exercise, the RGC received a total of 175 preliminary proposals and shortlisted 70 proposals for submission of full proposals. 69 full proposals were received eventually, of which 39 were selected for interview. Eventually, 21 Collaborative Research Project Grant and eight Collaborative Research Equipment Grant applications were supported at a total amount of \$146 million (exclusive of on-costs).

## 資助與2019冠狀病毒病及其他新型傳染病相關集體研究項目的 2億5,000萬元撥款及協作研究金2020/21撥款結果

因應2019冠狀病毒病疫情及其帶來的全球性影響，教資會及研究資助局（研資局）於2020年5月，分別額外撥出一次性的1億5,000萬元及1億元，透過協作研究金及主題研究計劃資助教資會資助界別進行與2019冠狀病毒病及其他新型傳染病相關的集體研究項目。

協作研究金與2019冠狀病毒病及新型傳染病相關的一次性研究計劃推出後，研究界別反應積極及迅速，以期共同對抗疫情。在2020年5月計劃推出後的兩個月內，研資局共收到174份來自不同學科的正式研究計劃書。當中37份獲邀出席遴選面見，而最終有27份獲批共1億5,000萬元（不包括附加行政費用）的撥款。在27份獲資助的研究項目中，有十個關於生物學及醫學、八個關於商業、人文科學及社會科學，以及九個關於工程學及自然科學。學術界的反應正面，充分反映我們的大學有足夠能力在不同學科範疇靈活制定優質的研究項目，以應對2019冠狀病毒病疫情及將來類似流行病（如流感、新型傳染病等）所帶來的影響。

有關主題研究計劃2021/22的1億元額外撥款，研資局共收到17份與2019冠狀病毒病及新型傳染病相關的主題研究初步計劃書。評審工作正在進行，有關撥款結果將於2021年7月公布。

至於協作研究金2020/21年度計劃，研資局共收到175份初步計劃書，當中70份獲邀提交正式研究計劃書。在收到的69份正式研究計劃書中，39份獲邀出席遴選面見。最終分別有21份協作研究項目補助金及八份協作研究設備補助金下的研究，獲批共1億4,600萬元（不包括附加行政費用）的撥款。

## Second Round One-off Collaborative Research Fund COVID-19 and Novel Infectious Disease Research Exercise

Given the encouraging results of the first round one-off CRF COVID-19 and NID Research Exercise, the UGC and RGC further injected \$100 million to launch the second round one-off CRF COVID-19 and NID Research Exercise in January 2021 in conjunction with the regular CRF 2021/22 exercise. Invitation has been issued to the eight UGC-funded universities on 18 January 2021. Deadline for submitting preliminary proposals is on 22 February 2021.

With more preparation time, it is hoped that the research community could come up with more high-quality proposals that are beneficial to the community and could prepare Hong Kong better in facing future NIDs. In particular, we call on innovative ideas to address the challenges our community would face under the "new normal" with the changing societal needs as we recover from COVID-19. It is expected that around 16 to 20 medium scale projects could be funded under the second round exercise. We look forward to the positive impacts and benefits brought by the research projects.

Funding results are expected to be announced by late December 2021/early January 2022. The successful project teams should commence their research soon after the results are announced, and in any case no later than 30 June 2022.

## 第二輪資助 2019冠狀病毒病及 其他新型傳染病相關 集體研究項目的一 次性計劃

有見第一輪計劃值得鼓舞的撥款結果，教資會及研資局於2021年1月再增加1億元撥款以進行第二輪資助2019冠狀病毒病及其他新型傳染病相關集體研究項目的一次性計劃，並與協作研究金2021/22年度計劃一同推行。研資局已於2021年1月18日邀請八所教資會資助大學提出申請，截止提交初步計劃書的日期為2021年2月22日。

在這次有更充裕時間準備研究計劃的情況下，我們希望研究界別提交更多優質的研究項目，為社會帶來更多裨益及為將來新型傳染病作出更好準備。我們特別鼓勵創新的想法，以回應社會在「新常態」下面臨的挑戰，以及在這次疫情復元過來後社會需求出現的轉變。預計是次第二輪資助計劃可資助16至20個中型研究項目。我們期待這些研究項目帶來的正面影響及效益。

撥款結果預計於2021年12月底或2022年1月初公布。成功獲資助的研究項目須盡快於結果公布後，開始進行研究，並且無論如何不得遲於2022年6月30日開始。

### Planning Exercise for the 2022-25 Triennium

The UGC adopts a triennial planning cycle in determining the recurrent funding for the UGC-funded universities. The Planning Exercise for the 2022/23 to 2024/25 triennium (the 2022-25 triennium) is in full swing, and the UGC has endorsed the overall approach and evaluation framework for the exercise in January 2021. Specifically, the Planning Exercise Proposals to be submitted by the universities will be assessed against the following seven criteria -

- (1) institution mission and strategy;
- (2) meeting the needs of society over the next decade;
- (3) quality of undergraduate student experience of learning and teaching;
- (4) quality of research performance and of research postgraduate student experience;
- (5) impact of knowledge transfer and wider engagement activity;
- (6) enhancement of internationalisation activities; and
- (7) financial health and institutional sustainability.

In addition, to achieve better interface with the University Accountability Agreement (UAA), the performance measures and key performance indicators submitted by the universities as part of their UAA annual progress reports would directly inform the Planning Exercise, thereby streamlining the preparatory work for the Planning Exercise Proposals for the universities and also rendering the Planning Exercise more data-driven. The Planning Exercise for the 2022-25 triennium is targeted to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2021.

### 2022-25三年期規劃工作

教資會以三個學年為一周期，釐定教資會資助大學的經常撥款。2022/23至2024/25三年期規劃工作（即2022-25三年期）正如火如荼進行當中，教資會已於2021年1月訂定規劃工作的整體安排和評審框架。具體而言，教資會將會按以下七項準則評審大學提交的《規劃工作建議書》：

- (1) 院校使命和策略；
- (2) 滿足未來十年社會的需求；
- (3) 學士學位課程學生學習體驗和教學質素；
- (4) 研究表現和研究院研究課程學生體驗的質素；
- (5) 知識轉移和更廣泛參與活動的影響；
- (6) 加強國際化活動；及
- (7) 整體財務健康和院校可持續性。

為加強與《大學問責協議》的相互銜接，規劃工作將直接採用大學按《大學問責協議》提交的年度進度報告內所載的表現衡量標準及主要表現指標，以簡化大學擬備《規劃工作建議書》的工作，並使規劃工作更加數據為本。教資會預計於2021年第四季完成2022-25三年期的規劃工作。

## Follow Up Work on the Review Report on Research Policy and Funding

The implementation of the recommendations from the Review of Research Policy and Funding continued to make good progress. The \$20-billion Research Endowment Fund (REF) injection was officially placed with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority in September 2019 to generate more investment income to meet the research funding demand of the higher education sector. With the lifting of the fences of the different pots of REF, more flexible and effective deployment of resources is now feasible. Other deliverables include the following:

### Research Matching Grant Scheme

Universities / Institutions continue to perform well in soliciting and securing new donations. Since the launch of the Research Matching Grant Scheme on 1 August 2019, five processing cycles have been completed. All the eight UGC-funded universities and 10 of the 13 local self-financing degree-awarding institutions have submitted applications for matching grant under the Scheme. After completion of the fifth processing cycle on 30 September 2020, donation / sponsorship / research contract applied for matching amounted to about \$1.87 billion in total. Matching grants at a cumulative amount of \$1.15 billion have been disbursed to 18 universities and institutions. So far, seven universities and one institution have reached the matching floor of \$50 million. The remaining balance available for matching stood at about \$1.85 billion after five processing cycles. The Scheme will continue to operate till 31 July 2022.

## 《研究政策及資助檢討報告》的跟進工作

教資會在落實《研究政策及資助檢討報告》建議的工作繼續取得良好進展。向研究基金注資的200億元，已於2019年9月正式由香港金融管理局作投資安排，增加投資收入，以配合高等教育界的研究資金需要。研究基金內不同款項的運用限制已予撤除，將能更有彈性及成效地進行資源調配。其他成果包括如下：

### 研究配對補助金計劃

參與計劃的大學/院校在籌募新捐款繼續表現出色。自研究配對補助金計劃於2019年8月1日開展以來，已完成五個申請期。八間教資會資助大學及13間本地自資學位頒授院校中的10間均有遞交申請。截至2020年9月30日第五個申請期的結束，配對的申請已涉及共約18億7,000萬元捐款/贊助/研究合約。經審批後，我們已累積發放共11億5,000萬元配對補助金予18間大學/院校。目前已有七間大學及一間院校獲取超過5,000萬元「最低款額」的配對補助金。五個申請期過後，配對補助金的餘額約有18億5,000萬元。計劃將繼續接受申請至2022年7月31日。



### Three New RGC Research Fellowship Schemes

The three new schemes, namely the RGC Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme (PDFS), RGC Research Fellow Scheme (RFS) and RGC Senior Research Fellow Scheme (SRFS) have been well received, as evident in the favourable response from the universities in making nominations and the high quality of the candidates being attracted locally and also worldwide.

A joint award presentation ceremony for the first cohort of SRFS, RFS and PDFS awardees, together with awardees of 2019 and 2020 Humanities and Social Sciences Prestigious Fellowship Scheme (HSSPFS) and the Early Career Scheme (ECS), was held on 24 November 2020 in hybrid mode. Ten SRFS awardees, who attended the ceremony at the UGC Secretariat, received their award plaques in recognition of their contribution and achievements from the Permanent Secretary for Education in person. Other awardees and guests joined the ceremony online.

### 研資局三項新傑出學者計劃

三項新計劃，即研資局博士後獎學金計劃 (PDFS)、研資局研究學者計劃 (RFS) 及研資局高級研究學者計劃 (SRFS)，均廣受歡迎。這從大學的踴躍提名及成功吸引本地以至全球的高質素候選者可見一斑。

先拔頭籌獲選的首屆SRFS、RFS及PDFS得主，連同2019及2020年度的人文學及社會科學傑出學者與傑出青年學者，已於2020年11月24日的聯合頒獎典禮獲得表揚。當天十名SRFS得獎者親臨教資會秘書處領取獎牌及接受教育局常任秘書長的恭賀。其餘得獎者及嘉賓則於網上參與盛事。



The first cohort of ten RGC Senior Research Fellows photographed with Ms Michelle Li, JP, Permanent Secretary for Education (front row, second from right), Professor Joseph Lee, Chairman of the Research Grants Council (front row, second from left), Professor James Tang, Secretary-General, University Grants Committee (front row, first from right) and Miss Amy Chan, Deputy Secretary-General, University Grants Committee (front row, first from left) at the award presentation ceremony on 24 November 2020

十位首屆研資局高級研究學者於2020年11月24日的頒獎禮上與主禮嘉賓合照。教育局常任秘書長李美嫦太平紳士（前排右二）、研資局主席李行偉教授（前排左二）、教資會秘書長鄧特抗教授（前排右一）及教資會副秘書長陳婉雯女士（前排左一）

All three schemes are competitive in nature, with quota of 50 awards for PDFS and 10 awards each for RFS and SRFS. They become regular and are operated annually, with recurrent expenditure of \$190 million per year to benefit post-doctoral fellows as well as researchers at Associate Professor and full Professor ranks. The second PDFS exercise (2021/22) was opened for nominations by the eight universities in August 2020. By close of nomination on 30 October 2020, a total of 90 nominations have been received. Assessment of the nominations will be conducted within the first quarter of 2021, and the results are expected to be announced in April 2021. In response to the call for nominations which closed on 30 November 2020, the eight universities submitted 35 nominations for SRFS and 32 for RFS in the second exercise (2021/22). Among the 67 nominations competing for the ten SRFS and ten RFS awards, 18 are from Humanities, Social Sciences and Business Studies (HSSB) disciplines, and 49 from Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Assessment of the nominations will be conducted in the first half of 2021, and shortlisted finalists will be invited for panel interview in May/ June 2021. Selection results are expected in July 2021.

三項計劃均屬競爭性質，PDFS每年頒發獎學金名額50個，RFS及SRFS每年各頒發十個獎項。三項計劃會恒常每年推行，年度的經常開支為1億9,000萬元，以惠及博士後、副教授級及教授級的研究人員。第二屆PDFS計劃(2021/22)已於2020年8月公開接受八間大學提名。截至2020年10月30日提名期結束，我們共收到90宗提名。評審將於2021年首季進行，擬於2021年4月通知最終結果。截至2020年11月30日提名期結束，八間教資會資助大學就第二屆SRFS及RFS分別提交35宗及32宗提名。在合共67宗提名中，18宗屬人文學、社會科學及商科範疇，49宗屬科學、科技、工程及數學範疇。評審將於2021年上半年進行，進入最後入圍名單的參選者將於2021年5月/6月獲邀接受遴選小組的面試。我們擬於2021年7月通知得獎結果。

## Targeted Taught Postgraduate Programmes Fellowships Scheme

The UGC implements the Targeted Taught Postgraduate Programmes Fellowships Scheme on a pilot basis for five cohorts starting from the 2020/21 academic year to attract meritorious local students to pursue further studies in priority areas conducive to the development of Hong Kong. With the conclusion of the first cohort fellowship awards, the Scheme has been successful in attracting high-calibre local students to enrol in the targeted taught postgraduate (TPg) programmes. Starting from the second cohort (i.e. 2021/22 intake), the number of fellowship places is doubled to 1 000 per cohort so as to benefit more meritorious local students who wish to pursue further studies. The priority areas under the second cohort are broadened to cover a wider spectrum of academic disciplines. Upon detailed assessment by the UGC, a total of 102 TPg programmes are selected for the 1 000 fellowship places under the second cohort. The outcome has been announced in September 2020 and uploaded to UGC's website.

Looking ahead, the UGC has already invited universities to nominate TPg programmes for the third to fifth cohorts (i.e. 2022/23 to 2024/25 intakes) of the Scheme. We aim to announce the list of programmes and allocation of fellowship places for these three cohorts in September 2021.

## 指定研究院修課課程獎學金計劃

教資會於2020/21學年起，以先導形式推行為期五屆的指定研究院修課課程獎學金計畫（獎學金計畫），吸引優秀的本地學生於有利香港發展的優先範疇深造。計劃第一屆的獎學金名額已全數頒發，成功吸引優秀的本地學生修讀指定的研究院修課課程。

自第二屆起（即於2021/22學年入學），每屆獎學金名額倍增至1,000名，惠及更多有志修讀不同指定研究院修課課程的優秀本地學生。相比第一屆，第二屆獎學金計畫的優先範疇覆蓋更廣泛的學術範疇。經過教資會詳細審核後，共有102個研究院修課課程獲甄選納入第二屆獎學金計畫，提供1,000個獎學金名額。有關名單已於2020年9月公布，並上載至教資會網站。

展望未來，教資會已邀請大學提名第三至五屆獎學金計畫（即於2022/23至2024/25學年入學）的研究院修課課程。我們的目標是於2021年9月公布這三屆的合資格課程名單和各項課程獲分配的獎學金名額。

### Research Assessment Exercise 2020

The RAE 2020 is in progress. Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UGC has worked closely with the 13 RAE panels and the universities and responded swiftly to set up alternative arrangements in virtual mode for the assessment process. The panel assessment meeting period was extended from the original two months in August and September 2020 to six months from August 2020 to January 2021. With the dedicated effort of over 360 panel members who are experts in the subject matter of the respective panel, with 70% of them from overseas, they concluded the highly demanding assessment through virtual settings, with the robustness and credibility of the exercise remaining intact. Behind the scene, the Panels and the Secretariat worked hard over the past ten months to implement special measures and to ensure the effective operation of the assessment system under the difficult pandemic situation. The UGC is very grateful for the effort made by the Panel Members and the Secretariat.

From August 2020 onwards, the 13 RAE panels have conducted over 140 virtual meetings with over 340 meeting hours and the panel assessment stage has been completed in end January 2021. The Secretariat is compiling the results and the RAE 2020 results will be announced in May 2021.

After the results announcement, a series of engagement and publicity activities will be arranged to showcase the wider social benefits and impact of the research conducted by our universities and to bring the our research community closer to members of the public.

### 2020年研究評審工作

2020年研究評審工作正在進行。因應2019冠狀病毒病爆發，教資會一直與大學及13個評審小組緊密合作，迅速改以視像會議進行評審流程。評審小組的正式會議由原來2020年8月至9月兩個月時間，延長至由2020年8月至2021年1月為止的六個月。評審小組由超過360名來自各個領域的專業人士所組成，當中七成成員來自海外，有賴他們的不辭勞苦，我們得以在視像會議形式下順利完成艱巨的評審工作，並確保評審工作保持嚴謹及公信力。過去十個月，評審小組及教資會秘書處一直在背後努力採取特別措施以確保評審系統在疫情下能夠有效運作。教資會十分感謝評審小組成員及秘書處付出的努力。

自2020年8月起，13個評審小組進行了超過140場逾340小時的視像會議，而小組評審階段已在2021年1月底完成。秘書處正在彙編評審結果，並將於2021年5月公布。

教資會會評審結果公布後，將推出一連串宣傳及推廣活動以展示大學進行的研究所帶來的廣泛社會效益和影響，並讓研究界別更接近大眾市民。



### Research Grants Council Review

As recommended by the Review of the RGC (Phase II), an external consultant was engaged to review the RGC documents and its external reviewer (ER) database. The final consultancy report with its findings and recommendations, based on extensive documentary review and stakeholder consultations, was presented to the RGC in December 2020 and was accepted.

The report's recommendations on RGC documents include the following: improved language and tone, improved structure for navigation, reduced duplication, improved format and consistency, and improved transparency on reviewing process. The revised documentation will be launched in the next funding exercise of individual research funding schemes. On the enhancements to the ER database, the report proposed removal of blacklisted and non-active ERs as well as systematic assessment of under-performing / non-active ERs, and its recommendations will be implemented by phases starting from 2021.

### 研究資助局檢討

因應研資局第二階段檢討建議，研資局委聘外部顧問檢討其文件及外部評審員資料庫。經大量檢閱文件及諮詢持份者後，顧問在其最終報告闡述檢討的結果及建議，並為研資局接納。

報告對研資局文件的建議包括以下：改善用語和語氣、改善結構以便於瀏覽、減少重複、改善格式和一致性，以及增加評審程序的透明度。修訂後的文件將於個別研究資助計劃的下一輪計劃推出。對於外部評審員資料庫的優化措施，報告建議剔除被列入黑名單或不活躍的評審員，以及有系統地評估表現欠佳或不活躍的評審員，報告的建議將於2021年起分階段落實。

### 2020 UGC Teaching Award

The presentation ceremony of the 2020 UGC Teaching Award was held smoothly on 28 September 2020 to honour faculty members of the UGC-funded universities for their outstanding teaching performance and achievements. The three award recipients were Professor Carmen Wong of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Mr David Seungwoo Lee of The University of Hong Kong, and the Inter-institutional Team for the AIE-AR Project led by Dr Eva Y W Wong of Hong Kong Baptist University, with Professor Siu Yin Cheung of Hong Kong Baptist University, Professor Siu Cheung Kong of The Education University of Hong Kong, Professor Lai Chuen Paul Lam of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Dr Andrew Morrall of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University as team members.

To promote and recognise excellence in teaching and learning, the UGC produced highlight videos of both awardees and finalists. We hope that the videos, which are available on the UGC website, can encourage a deeper understanding of the teaching philosophies and contributions of the awardees/finalists.

### 2020年教資會傑出教學獎

2020年教資會傑出教學獎頒獎儀式已在2020年9月28日順利舉行，以嘉許教資會資助大學教學人員的優秀教學表現和成就。三組得獎者為香港中文大學黃嘉雯教授、香港大學李乘雨先生及由香港浸會大學王周綺華博士所領導的「學術誠信與道德 — 增強現實技術」團隊，其成員包括香港浸會大學張小燕教授、香港教育大學江紹祥教授、香港中文大學藍澧銓教授及香港理工大學 Andrew Morrall 博士。

教資會為得獎者及入圍決賽者製作了短片，並上載至教資會網頁，以推廣及表揚他們的卓越教學表現。我們期望短片能讓大眾更深入了解得獎者及入圍決賽者的教學理念及所作的貢獻。



The Chairman of the UGC, Mr Carlson Tong (right), presented the 2020 UGC Teaching Award for General Faculty Members to Professor Carmen Wong.

教資會主席唐家成(右)頒發2020年教資會傑出教學獎(一般教學人員組別)予黃嘉雯教授。



The Chairman of the UGC, Mr Carlson Tong (right), presented the 2020 UGC Teaching Award for Early Career Faculty Members to Mr David Seungwoo Lee.

教資會主席唐家成(右)頒發2020年教資會傑出教學獎(新晉教學人員組別)予李乘雨先生。



The Chairman of the UGC, Mr Carlson Tong (first left), presented the 2020 UGC Teaching Award for Teams to the Inter-institutional Team for the AIE-AR Project led by Dr Eva Y W Wong (second left), with Professor Siu Yin Cheung (second right), Professor Siu Cheung Kong (third left), Professor Lai Chuen Paul Lam (first right) and Dr Andrew Morrall (third right) as team members.

教資會主席唐家成(左一)頒發2020年教資會傑出教學獎(隊伍組別)予「學術誠信與道德—增強現實技術」團隊。團隊由王周綺華博士(左二)領導,成員包括張小燕教授(右二)、江紹祥教授(左三)、藍濃銓教授(右一)及Andrew Morrall博士(右三)。

## Special Grant to Enhance the Support for Students with Special Educational Needs (Phase Three)

To help university students with special educational needs (SEN) to adapt to campus life, the UGC launched Phase One and Phase Two of the Special Grant for enhancing the support for students with SEN in 2015 and 2018 respectively. Universities had made use of the Special Grant to purchase assistive aids and equipment, arrange staff training and organise campus inclusion activities in support of SEN students.

Following the completion of Phase Two in November 2020, the UGC allocated an additional \$30 million to the UGC-funded universities for Phase Three of the Special Grant. Universities may use the additional funding to enhance accessibility to learning experience for SEN students, raise awareness and strengthen capacity towards SEN students as well as encourage integration and mainstreaming of SEN students into campus life. The UGC will also explore regularisation of such funding support to UGC-funded universities in the 2022-25 triennium so as to sustain the efforts of the universities on this front.

## 加強支援有特殊教育需要學生的第三階段特別撥款

為協助有特殊教育需要的大學生適應校園生活，教資會分別於2015及2018年兩度作出特別撥款，加強支援有特殊教育需要的學生。教資會資助大學利用了撥款增添輔助工具及器材、安排員工培訓及舉辦校園共融活動，以加強對有特殊教育需要學生的支援。

隨着第二階段的資助計劃於2020年11月結束，教資會增撥了3,000萬元予教資會資助大學推行第三階段的資助計劃。大學可利用這筆額外撥款提升有特殊教育需要學生的學習體驗、提高對有特殊教育需要學生的認知及加強對相關學生提供支援的能力，以及鼓勵有特殊教育需要的學生融入主流校園生活。教資會亦會探討於2022-25的三年期將有關的財政支援恆常化，以支持大學延續在這範疇的工作。



### UGC's Meeting with the Chief Executive

As an annual tradition, the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, met members of the UGC on 14 January 2021 in a video conference to exchange views on the latest developments of the higher education sector. The UGC Chairman briefed the Chief Executive on the concerted efforts by the UGC and the universities to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and adapt to the "new normal" with an online teaching and learning environment when most face-to-face classes are suspended.

The Chief Executive expressed her gratitude to the UGC Chairman and all members for the tremendous efforts they have made during an unprecedented challenging environment brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. She said this was her fourth annual meeting with the UGC and she was pleased to note the sterling progress made on each and every initiative announced in her previous Policy Addresses to promote Hong Kong's higher education sector. She was particularly grateful to the research and expert support given to the Government by UGC-funded institutions in the enduring battle against the pandemic. She also briefed UGC members on the Global STEM Professorship Scheme announced in the 2020 Policy Address and looked to members for their support, in particular overseas members, in identifying suitable talents to come to teach and conduct research in UGC-funded institutions. Mrs Lam also remarked that the city's quality universities represented Hong Kong's strengths in nationally, regionally and globally. She was also appreciative of the vision and commitment of the efforts by local institutions in setting up new campuses in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The Government would continue to render support to such endeavours.

### 行政長官與教資會成員會面

作為每年傳統，行政長官於2021年1月14日透過視像會議與教資會成員會面，就高等教育界的最新發展交換意見。教資會主席唐家成向行政長官簡介教資會與各大學合力抗疫的情況，以及如何適應「新常態」下大量面授課堂轉為網上授課的教學環境。

行政長官感謝唐家成及各教資會成員在新冠肺炎疫情所帶來前所未見和充滿挑戰的環境中，作出重大努力。她說她是第四次與教資會進行年度會議，欣悉她過去發表的《施政報告》內每一項推動香港高等教育發展的措施都有良好進展。她亦特別感謝各教資會資助院校在抗疫的持久戰中，為政府提供研究和專家方面的支援。她亦向教資會成員介紹她於2020年《施政報告》中宣布的「傑出創科學人計劃」，期望成員特別是海外成員支持，識別合適人才到教資會資助院校任教和進行研究工作。她指出優質的大學是香港在國家、區域和全球的優勢。對本地院校在粵港澳大灣區設立新校舍的努力，她欣賞這些院校長遠的目光和承擔，並表示政府會繼續就有關項目給予支持。

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam (right), met members of the UGC on 14 January 2021 in a video conference to exchange views on the latest developments of the higher education sector. Also present was the Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung (left).

行政長官林鄭月娥(右)(一月十四日)透過視像會議與教資會成員會面，就高等教育界的最新發展交換意見。教育局局長楊潤雄(左)亦有出席。

