

CHAT 2025 Research Grant: Open Call

CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) is pleased to announce the open call for applications for the CHAT 2025 Research Grant, which encourages researchers to illustrate fresh perspectives on the textile history of Hong Kong, the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

Applicants are requested to conduct independent research on subjects related to Hong Kong's textile culture from transregional and/or cross-cultural perspectives that can highlight new narratives. Such examples may include:

- ✧ Spinners' Association: Textile Industrial Families of Hong Kong
- ✧ Women and Machines: Depictions of Factory Spaces in Hong Kong Cinema
- ✧ Woven Knowledge: Hakka Weavings from Hong Kong and Southern China
- ✧ Designed and Made in Hong Kong: Small-Scale Boutique Culture of the 1980s
- ✧ Tracing Diaspora: Early Cantonese Opera Costumes from the 1920s

Please note that these are only examples of possible research subjects. Other research topics from applicants' unique angles are welcomed.

Application Process

Applicants are required to submit a Proposal via email to heritage@mill6chat.org with the subject title 'CHAT Research Grant Proposal'. The Proposal should include:

- I. a summary of the proposed research topic and scope (minimum 500 words), research objectives, methodology and schedule;
- II. a CV (A4, maximum 2 pages);
- III. significant papers published in the last 5 years; and
- IV. names and contacts of two referees who are familiar with your research

Applicants are expected to view CHAT's exhibitions, website and past publications to understand our institution and mission before submitting a Proposal. In addition, applicants should be sensitive to the unique geographic, historical and social contexts of Hong Kong and leverage them in the proposed research. The work should be original in scope and have an impact on the field of study.

The copyright belongs to the author of the paper; however, CHAT has priority in publishing the outcome of the research on its online and offline platforms.

The successful applicant (hereinafter referred to as the grantee) will receive a grant of HK\$60,000 (Hong Kong Dollars Sixty Thousand) for completing a Research Paper and Presentation to CHAT's appointed jury by the end of March 2026. The payment of the research grant will be made in two instalments: 70% at the time of award and the remaining 30% at the completion of the Research Paper and Presentation in March 2026.

The grantee will conduct research independently and, at the discretion of CHAT, be granted access to the archival documents, oral history, objects and materials in CHAT's collection for research purposes. The grantee is expected to be self-sufficient during the course of the research.

CHAT may assist the grantee with connecting with local external parties, such as relevant individuals, organisations and archives. However, CHAT will not be responsible for any translation required for the research.

The grantee may elect and is encouraged to host, with the support of CHAT, public programmes related to their research, including but not limited to talks, workshops, screenings and performances.

Who Should Apply:

Independent scholars, researchers, archivists, writers and postgraduate students with solid experience and research skills and are able to pursue independent study. Applicants with a record of peer-reviewed publications are preferred.

The selection panel comprises scholars, professional researchers and CHAT's curatorial team. The decision by CHAT will be final. Candidates who have not been selected will be informed accordingly.

For projects by past grantees, please refer to:

- ✧ 2021 – Dr Johanna von Pezold, University of Amsterdam: [Overview](#) | [Interview](#) | [Blog](#)
- ✧ 2023 – Lionel Wong, PhD Candidate, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University: [Overview](#)

Key Deliverables:

The expected deliverable is a formal Research Paper with reference images, captions, footnotes and a bibliography. The grantee should submit an electronic copy and a hard copy of the Research Paper to CHAT's office. The paper should be written in English, between 8,000 words and 12,000 words (including footnotes and captions) and accompanied by relevant visuals and references. We recommend double-spaced text in Times New Roman 12-point font. Standard Harvard referencing should be used.

Supplementary Deliverables:

Creative endeavours in addition to the Research Paper, including but not limited to visual arts, performances and time-based media, are optional. Such pursuits will only be regarded as supplementary and secondary to the Research Paper. This research grant is not for artistic research or development.

Key Milestones:

1. Submission of Proposal – 31 January 2025, 23:59 HKT (UTC+8)
2. Panel Interview – February 2025
3. Announcement of Grant Results – March 2025
4. Submission of First Draft – 30 November 2025
5. Submission of Research Paper – 15 March 2026
6. Presentation of Research Paper to CHAT's panel – End of May 2026

For further enquiries, please email heritage@mill6chat.org

About CHAT

CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) is Hong Kong's textile heritage museum located on 2/F of The Mills, the former cotton-spinning mills of Nan Fung Textiles in Tsuen Wan. Through its multifaceted curated programmes, which include exhibitions and co-learning programmes, CHAT aims to weave creative experiences for all.

CHAT's Vision

In the state of geo-political turmoil in the 1950s Asia Pacific, the textile industry in Hong Kong sowed its seed and rapidly developed throughout the latter half of the 20th century. Today, CHAT represents a place of new beginnings in the next phase of Hong Kong and Asia's textile arts development and innovation.

Paying homage to the progressive energy of Hong Kong's textile industry in the past and taking advantage of the multiple meanings associated with plain cotton yarn, CHAT tells the stories of Hong Kong's textile industrial history and beyond, challenge the conventional meanings of textile arts and present myriad interpretations of textile material and subject matters. We invite our visitors to experience the spirit of the innovative legacy of Hong Kong's textile industry and engage in new dialogues and inspirational journeys that interweave contemporary art, design, heritage and community.