



CREDIT: ©VISITBRITAIN / PAWEL LIBERA

Changing ^{the} World

The Hutchison Whampoa Group is committed to enriching the future and the lives of its communities through charitable actions, civic involvement and a responsible corporate agenda. One of these efforts, held closest to Hutchison's heart, is the Hutchison Chevening Scholarship, a programme that sponsors Hong Kong's best and brightest scholars as they further their education in the United Kingdom. Many of the scholarship recipients have gone on to become business leaders in many of Hong Kong's most vital and challenging industries.

Left: View over University spires from the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, UK.

Right: The Old Royal Naval College viewed from the River Thames, in the centre of the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site, Greenwich, London, UK.



CREDIT: ©VISITBRITAIN / JAMES MCCORMICK

THE GLOBAL CHEVENING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME was founded in 1983 with the aim of providing talented young people from around the world the opportunity to study in the United Kingdom and immerse themselves in British culture. The initiative is today the British government's largest and most prestigious scholarship programme. The programme targets post-graduate scholars who demonstrate the potential to rise to leadership positions within their chosen fields.

The programme was brought to Hong Kong in 1997, with the purpose of supporting the link between Hong Kong and the UK following the handover of Hong Kong from Britain to China that same year. Since then, over 600 Hong Kong students have received a Chevening scholarship and the opportunity to further their knowledge – both inside and out of the classroom – at some of the top universities in the UK.

Chevening's global budget each year is approximately GBP19 million (approximately USD30.63 million), the majority of which is funded by the Ministry of Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the UK. The remaining funding is donated by organisations around the world, including Hutchison Whampoa Limited (HWL), which began supporting this scholarship programme in 2002, with a total sponsorship of over GBP5.3 million to date.

"Since taking up my post in Hong Kong last September, I have been struck by what a great friend and commercial partner Hutchison Whampoa is to the UK. This is exemplified by the fact that HWL is the most generous funding partner for Chevening," affirmed Caroline Wilson, British Consul General to Hong Kong. "I am very proud that we have The Hutchison Chevening scholarship, and want to thank HWL for their massive contribution. The work ensures that a fantastic pool of talented candidates have access to the opportunities the programme provides."

As committed students, Chevening alumni have received the best academic and professional development opportunities offered by premier British universities, which rank among the top international universities globally. In addition, and just as importantly, they are also given the chance to explore the UK and its people by venturing outside the university and experiencing all the history, heritage, scenery, art, culture and sport the UK has to offer.

Then, upon their return to Hong Kong, these scholars become part of the lively local alumni network and the Chevening global alumni family – a worldwide network of rising business and government leaders and opinion-formers.

Alan Koo is one such alumni of the Chevening scholarship, who studied a master's degree at the University of Cambridge from 2008-2009. Although now busy as a leading Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) practitioner in a private medical practice and the Chinese medicine operations at a Singaporean hospital group in Hong Kong, Alan is also an ardent supporter of the Chevening scholarship programme. In fact he has been proudly serving as the president of the British Chevening Scholars (Hong Kong) Association, the official Chevening alumni association in Hong Kong, for the past four years.

"Like many Chevening scholars, my experience in the UK was life changing," reflected Alan. "Upon my return to Hong Kong in 2009, the first thing I did was join the executive council of the alumni association." Alan's fervent passion for the Chevening programme and his desire to lead the alumni association stems from his experience in the programme and the opportunities that were made available to him as a result of that experience.



Connie Chue (*first on left*) on her way to sit for final exams with classmates, all in gowns.



River Cam, King's College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.

CREDIT: ©VISITBRITAIN / BRITAIN ON VIEW

To serve all returning Chevening scholars, the alumni association organises regular gatherings, an annual dinner and many networking events throughout the year, along with a presence on numerous social media sites, in order to strengthen and maintain the network of fellow scholars in Hong Kong. “My time in the UK was rich with opportunities and challenged me to grow on both a personal and professional level, a benefit that is present for all Chevening scholars. We are able to come together and share our opinions and experiences and thereby learn from one another,” said Alan. “The network Chevening scholars have when they return to Hong Kong is a crucial benefit of the programme. The entire overseas experience – not simply the classrooms – shapes students for the rest of their lives.”

Indeed, the scholarship offers a window of opportunity for Chevening scholars to meet and develop unique and lasting relationships with other alumni from every corner of the world.

To date, Alan has founded two TCM clinics in Hong Kong that provide state-of-the-art, evidence-based traditional medicine and acupuncture services to the community. “My experiences as a Chevening scholar truly drove my aspirations to start my own business,” said Alan. “The most important key for me in opening that door was the world-class education I received through the programme.”

Alan hopes that by sharing his experiences as a Chevening scholar, he will inspire more of Hong Kong’s future leaders to apply for this scholarship. He has surely been successful, as evidenced by his wife, who was motivated by his experience to complete her own master’s degree in the UK. “Our time in the UK made so much of an impression upon us that we decided to name our joint TCM clinics ‘River Cam’ so that we will always have a reminder of our eye-opening, life-changing experience studying near the River Cam in Cambridge,” shared Alan.

The experiences of so many other Hutchison Chevening

alumni echo Alan’s sentiments. “My year at Oxford gave me new friends, new perspectives and new goals, extending well beyond my books and thesis,” reflected Connie Chue, vice president of a foreign bank in Hong Kong, who attended Oxford as a Hutchison Chevening scholar in 2004-2005. “Some of my most memorable experiences, and the ones that have shaped my future the most, are the ones that took place outside of the classroom, such as having conversations about the issues of the day with friends made from around the world.”

Now a solicitor trainee at an international law firm in Hong Kong, Frankie Tam reaffirms Connie’s experience. While studying a Master of Laws at University College

London during the 2010-2011 year, Frankie interned for Lord Brennan QC at the House of Lords in the UK Parliament, an experience she says was nothing short of “personally transformational”. “By attending Parliamentary debates each week and conducting research for Lord Brennan QC, I learned how effective advocacy can bring about policy change and how to represent the interests of the public in a balanced manner,” said Frankie. “This opportunity was indescribably enriching and provided me with the chance to build an impressive professional network.

Although my classroom education was top-notch, none of these opportunities would have been available if I had not anticipated the importance of going beyond the university.”

Hutchison Chevening scholars for the 2012-2013 academic year commenced their studies in October. This year’s students will study at some of the best educational institutions in the world, including the universities at Oxford and Cambridge and the London School of Economics. Among these students are Amy Leung, Gary Wong, Iris Wong and Jade Siu. Amy, a management associate in the banking industry, was propelled, like many others, to pursue the Hutchison Chevening scholarship because of the changing landscape of the business sector throughout the world.

“Like many Chevening Scholars, my experience in the UK was life changing.”



CREDIT: CHEVENING SECRETARIAT




CREDIT: FROM MEDIA SERVICES AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

“When the global financial crisis broke out in 2008, I seriously reconsidered the industry I worked in and the role that I was to play going forward,” reflected Amy. “That curiosity drove me to further my study in the field of finance through the programme, which I knew would provide me with the precious opportunity to study in the UK amongst some of the brightest scholars in the world.”

Iris agrees. As a principal finance reporter for a local television station, she, too, witnessed the global financial tsunami first hand and was driven to deepen her own knowledge so that she could better help investors to understand the trends in the financial markets and cope with the turbulence and changes. “The Chevening programme is prestigious. I look forward not only to my own studies but also to interactions with other fellow scholars from around the globe,” said Iris.

Working toward his goal of leading what he calls “positive politics” in Hong Kong, Gary was pleased when the Chevening scholarship selection panel recognised his potential of becoming a future leader in Hong Kong, because the competition for this year’s Hutchison Chevening scholarships were highly sought after. “I am most honoured by the fact that Dr Li Ka-shing and Hutchison Whampoa Limited will be supporting my studies,” said Gary. “Because of this support, I can partake in an academic programme that will greatly enhance my intellectual capability and broaden my horizons and global understanding.”

Like Gary and many Hutchison Chevening scholars, Jade understands that the benefits of the Chevening programme will stretch far beyond the walls of her classrooms. “I am looking forward to pursuing my passion of economic development and policy analysis, but I am most excited about becoming highly engaged in the global Chevening community and connecting with and learning from the local people and culture,” said Jade.

“For those considering applying for the Chevening scholarship, I highly recommend that you challenge yourself and apply for this world-class opportunity,” advises Alan. “Once you receive the honour of being a Chevening scholar, you will have the opportunity to grow yourself personally and professionally like never before – truly an opportunity of a lifetime.” 

Above Left: A welcome reception for 2012/13 Chevening Scholars was held at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

Above Right: Campus of Queen’s University Belfast.



The Chevening global family
Clockwise from top left: Iris Wong, Gary Wong, Frankie Tam, Alan Koo.