

Sabbatical Leave Application 2025/26

I am applying for sabbatical leave to spend a year at a renowned (TBD) university overseas in the academic year 2025/26. I am applying now so that I can plan ahead.

My last sabbatical leave was 2014/15, nine years ago, visiting Harvard University. I cannot apply for sabbatical leave in the academic year 2024/25 because the earliest I can terminate my apartment lease is December 2024. Sabbatical leave in the *calendar year* 2025 is probably unaffordable for me as it would entail an additional (and comprehensive) tax liability outside Hong Kong.

My sabbatical leave application is in line with the university rules on sabbatical leave. I am aware that HKUST managers have at various times defined “sabbatical leave” to mean something other than the definition of sabbatical leave provided in any dictionary. Their creation of their own private language is of no concern to me.

In the course of my previous sabbatical leave applications of 2021 (denied) and 2022 (withdrawn) I received some (in my view rather inappropriate) comments from HKUST managers to which I responded at the time. In case these earlier manager comments were still relevant, my earlier responses are attached.

Since I do not receive a HKUST housing allowance, my sabbatical leave has no housing implications for HKUST. The financial implications for HKUST should be minimal as I am one of the lowest remunerated faculty members at HKUST (being in the bottom 20%, if not lower). My CV is at <https://carstenholz.people.ust.hk/CV/CarstenHolz-CV.pdf>.