

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS**The 21st Epsilon Fund Award to Top Students**

The Epsilon Fund Award was established in 2006 with donations from faculty of the Department of Mathematics, and from the departmental fund to honor excellent students: undergraduates and postgraduates who excel in mathematical scholarship and research. One hundred eighty-two students have been awarded since its establishment. This year, ten students receive the award, while nine students obtain honourable mention. Each of them boasts an exceptionally high cumulative GPA, particularly in their mathematics courses, and many have been recognized with multiple scholarships and academic awards.

Ten Mathematics students receive the Epsilon Fund Award**Two postgraduates:****1. Kaibo WANG (Year 3; PhD)**

汪 楷 波：三年級哲學博士(數學) 研究生

Kaibo is currently a third-year PhD student under the supervision of Professor Yang Xiang. He has achieved a CGA of 4.113 and made remarkable contributions to generative AI and diffusion models, demonstrating strong research productivity and technical depth. Over the past year, he has published four papers in top-tier conferences. His recent work, "*Towards a Golden Classifier-Free Guidance Path via Foresight Fixed-Point Iterations*", was selected as a Spotlight Paper at NeurIPS 2025, representing approximately the top 3% of submissions. In this work, he proposed a unified framework for Classifier-Free Guidance, providing valuable theoretical and practical insights for text-to-image generation. He has also contributed to research on the robustness of diffusion-based adversarial purification, efficient image editing, and stabilising reinforcement learning of diffusion language models, with papers published at NeurIPS 2024, AAAI 2026, and ICML 2026. Kaibo has presented his research at EurIPS 2025 in Copenhagen and at the 8th PKU Symposium for Top PhD Students in Applied Mathematics. He received the HKUST RedBird Academic Excellence Award and has actively served the academic community as a reviewer for NeurIPS, ICLR, AAAI, etc. Upon graduation, he plans to pursue a career in the AI industry, focusing on the development of foundation models.

**2. Yuyao LIU (Year 2; PhD)**

刘 宇 尧：二年級哲學博士(數學) 研究生

Yuyao earned his bachelor's degree from Tsinghua University and is currently our second-year PhD student supervised by Professor Can YANG. He was awarded the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS) in 2024, the Best TA Honorable Mention Award in 2024/25, the Lo Family Postgraduate Scholarship and the Red Bird Scholarship in 2025/26. He also won the highly selective Young Student Basic Research Program of National Natural Science Foundation of China in 2025, a prestigious national honor for outstanding PhD students. His research focuses on developing computational methods to analyze large-scale datasets. To date, Yuyao has published several high-quality papers in top-tier journals, including *Nature Communications* and *Computational and Structural Biotechnology Journal*. "I believe Yuyao has matured into a capable researcher, and I am confident he will continue to make significant contributions throughout his PhD studies," said Professor YANG. Yuyao advises, "Stay focused, but not anxious." as key advice for achieving academic excellence.

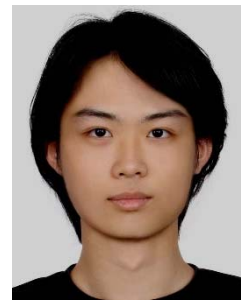


Eight undergraduates:

3. Tairun CHEN (Year 3; MATH-PMA)

陈泰润：三年級理學士(數學)- 高級純數學本科生

Tairun is our third-year student in the Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) Degree in Pure Mathematics Advanced Track. He has demonstrated outstanding academic performance, earning A+ grades in sixteen mathematics courses. Among these, he particularly enjoyed MATH5251 (Algebraic Geometry I) and MATH5261 (Algebraic Geometry II), both taught by Prof. Qingyuan JIANG. In recognition of his academic achievements, Tairun has received multiple prestigious awards, including the University Scholarship, the Chern Class Scholarship, the University Scholarship Scheme for Continuing Undergraduate Students and the Dean's List Award. He was also the second runner-up in 9th UG Math Competition (Senior). His key tip for academic success is the capacity to be alone and to reach out in your own way to the things you wish to learn, rather than relying on the consensus or on notions that claim authority, as inspired by Alexander Grothendieck in *Récoltes et semailles*.



4. Zhibo JIN (Year 3; MATH-IRE)

金智博：三年級理學士(數學)- 國際科研本科生

Zhibo is our third-year student pursuing the elite IRE (International Research Enrichment) program in mathematics. He has been awarded the University's Scholarship Scheme for Continuing Undergraduate Students, the Chern Class Scholarships, the Dean's List Award, and the Jane Street Best-in-University Prize in the individual session of the 2025 Simon Marais Mathematics Competition. He has achieved grades of A/A+ in the seventeen mathematics courses he has taken. He loves MATH 5285 (Applied Analysis) taught by Prof. Hai ZHANG because it shows how analysis techniques can elegantly solve real-world problems. His advice for academic success is "When you are planning research, while not sure where to start or stuck somewhere in the middle, having a discussion with your course TA or doctoral friends always helps. Don't be shy; in most cases, I found the discussions extremely helpful."



5. Ziwen YAN (Year 3; MATH-IRE)

闫子文：三年級理學士(數學)- 國際科研本科生

Ziwen is our third-year student pursuing the elite IRE (International Research Enrichment) program in mathematics. He received the HKSAR Government Scholarship, the Chern Class Scholarships, the University Scholarship Scheme for Continuing UG Students, the Ng Hong Mun Educational Foundation Outstanding Student Scholarship, and the Lee Hysan Foundation Exchange Scholarships. Recognizing his academic excellence, Prof. Can YANG highly praises him, stating that Ziwen "possesses a remarkable passion for inquiry and exploration. Rather than merely skimming the surface of mathematical problems, he delves deeply into the foundational principles that underlie each concept. This thoughtful approach to learning not only enriches Ziwen's understanding but also adds significant depth to his academic pursuits. This honor serves as a well-deserved acknowledgment of such a dedicated and insightful thinker." His key tip for academic success is: "Commit fully to your classes and learn the material by heart, not just for the exam. Have the courage to get things wrong and the curiosity to ask why; navigating through your mistakes is how real understanding is built."



6. Kailin WANG (Year 3; DSCT)

王凯霖：三年級理學士(數據科學與技術)本科生

Kailin is a third-year student pursuing dual major programs. His primary major is the Bachelor of Sciences Degree in Data Science and Technology, and his second major is the program of Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) Degree in Applied Mathematics Track. He has achieved A/A+ grades in thirteen mathematics courses. His academic reference is Prof. Frederick FONG and Prof. Jianfeng CAI. He is the recipient of the Beyond Academic Admissions Scholarship, University Scholarships, the Chern Class Scholarships, the Chern Class Talent Scholarships and the Dean's List award. Kailin advises: "For me, I find making self-made notes or summary very helpful. Understanding the logic and connections between the lectures may help you organize the course better. If you find anything difficult to digest, do not hesitate to reach out to professors (or even AI tools)."



7. Ka In LIU (Year 3; PHYS-IRE)

廖 家 鉉：三年級理學士(物理)- 國際科研本科生

Ka In is doing triple majors in his third year of study. He is now pursuing the elite IRE (International Research Enrichment) program in Physics, the Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) Degree in General Mathematics Track and the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. He is the recipient of the Dean's List Award, the Physics Entry Scholarship, the Chern Class Talent Scholarship, the Paul Ching Wu Chu Scholarship for Physics Students and the Fung Scholarship. Having achieved A/A+ in fourteen of his mathematics courses, his favorite course is MATH4151 (Introduction to Lie Groups) taught by Prof. Ivan IP, which gave him a deeper insight into the mathematics foundation behind physics. For academic references, he would highly recommend Prof. Frederick FONG. His advice for academic success is "challenge yourself to take more difficult courses and enjoy the fun (and suffering) of doing so. You may end up with better grades in future courses due to the mathematical maturity built from those challenging courses."



8. Xiaoyun CHEN (Year 2; MATH-STAT)

陈 筱 筠：二年級理學士(數學) - 統計學本科生

Xiaoyun is a second-year student pursuing the Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) Degree in Statistics. She has received the Dean's List Award and the Qube Research & Technology continuing scholarship. She got A/A+ in five mathematics courses as a second-year student. Among these, she particularly enjoyed MATH2121 (Linear Algebra), as it offered a vivid description of mathematical operations in a spatial context and is crucial for programming, especially NumPy structures in machine learning. For academic reference, she recommended Professor Kani Chen, her assigned academic advisor since entering the math major. She has met with him twice, receiving very valuable career advice, and plans to serve as a student helper in his lab. Outside academics, she was selected as Team MVP for the HKUST women's tennis team in 2024-2025 and led the team to second place in the USFHK tennis competition in 2025-2026. "Try to make good use of different tools to study, and always don't hesitate to ask questions if you have any." is Xiaoyun advice for achieving academic excellence.



9. Dinh Toan KHUC (Year 2; MATH-PMA)

二年級理學士(數學)- 高級純數學本科生

Dinh Toan is a second-year student pursuing the Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) Degree in Pure Mathematics Advanced Track as his first major and the Bachelor of Sciences in Computer Science is his second major. As a second-year student, he has already achieved A+ grades in nine mathematics courses. Among these courses, He particularly enjoys studying MATH3043 (Honors Real Analysis) and MATH4063 (Functional Analysis) taught by Prof. Frederick FONG and Prof. Tianling JIN respectively. He is the recipient the Dean's List, the Chern Class Scholarship, and the University's Scholarship. Additionally, he also won a Bronze Medal in 64th International Mathematical Olympiad in 2023 and the best pair in university in Simon Marais Mathematics Competition in 2025. His key tip for academic success is to understand all concepts in mathematics and being curiosity about the relevant materials, not just the lecture note.



10. Yeung YEUNG (Year 2; PHYS-IRE)

楊 洋：二年級理學士(物理)- 國際科研本科生

Yeung is a second-year student in the elite IRE (International Research Enrichment) program, majoring in Physics with a second major in the Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) Degree in Pure Mathematics Advanced Track. He has earned A+ grades in seven mathematics courses, and his favorite course is MATH3043 (Honors Real Analysis) taught by Prof. Frederick FONG, where he was fascinated by the rigorous notion of measure theory as a formal treatment of an idea humans have used intuitively since ancient times. He has received the Dean's List Award every semester, the HKSAR Scholarship – Continuing Award, the Gifted Star Award from HKAGE, and was first runner-up in the Physics League Across Numerous Countries for Kickass Students (Hong Kong preliminary round). His advice for academic success is: "Sometimes when you are stuck on a problem, instead of forcing yourself to think about it and wasting time, why don't you leave your room and connect with nature? When your mind is soothed, the answer sometimes becomes clear."



Nine Mathematics students receive Honorable Mention

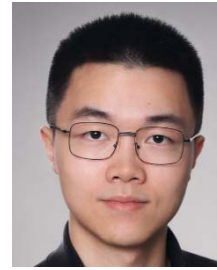
1. Uras SOMER

(UG Year 4; MATH-IRE) *left photo*



2. Yuqi YANG

(UG Year 4; MATH-GM) *middle photo*



3. Yat Long CHENG

(UG Year 4; QFIN) *right photo*



4. Tianrui ZHANG

(UG Year 4; COSC) *left photo*



5. Tingsen LIU

(UG Year 3; DSCT) *middle photo*



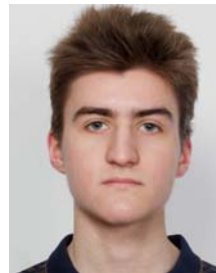
6. Nicholas Minardi ZAENAL

(UG Year 3; DSCT) *right photo*



7. Roman MAKSIMOVICH

(UG Year 2; MATH-IRE) *left photo*



8. Zixiang ZENG

(UG Year 2; MATH-AM) *middle photo*



9. Yunjin SUN

(UG Year 2; DSCT) *right photo*

