Cyberport University Partnership Programme 2026

Co-organising Universities:

Information Session
(as of 16 Jan 2026)

CUPP Overview

Background

Cyberport University Partnership Programme (CUPP) supported by Cyberport Creative Micro Fund (CCMF) has nurtured over 500 talents in 90+ teams since 2015. It is a life-changing training plus competition programme for local university teams to unleash their full potential and gain global market insights

Objectives

CUPP aims to groom and develop promising young tech and entrepreneurial talents in Hong Kong, who could become future entrepreneurs

CUPPers' Eligibility

18-30 years old students or alumni from CUPP 2026 Co-organising Universities

CUPP Offer to 20 Selected CUPP teams

- A series of pre-camp nurturing sessions in Hong Kong
- An Entrepreneurship Boot Camp by overseas hosting university
- Mentorship and insight from local and global industry elites
- Innovative business idea pitching to investors
- HK$100,000 seed funding to develop project prototype for the top 10 winning teams

Snapshot of Previous CUPP

CUPP 2024-2025
Draper University
Video Link

CUPP 2022-2023
University of Cambridge

CUPP 2020-2021
IESE Business School,
University of Navarra

CUPP 2018-2019
Chicago Booth

CUPP 2015-2017
Standford Graduate
School of Business

Cyberport University Partnership Programme (CUPP) 2026 Info Session to Potential Nominees (Teams):

Date: 5 February 2026 (Thursday)
Time: 11:30 - 12:30
Format: Live Webinar
                (Note: post recording video would NOT be provided)
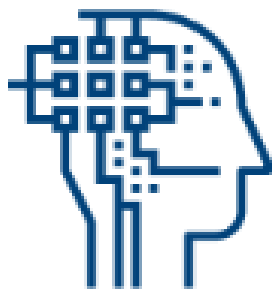Fee: Free of charge
Language: English

Scan QR code or visit online form Cyberport University Partnership Programme 2026 Info Session to Potential Nominees (Teams) – Fill out form to register for info session by 3**:00pm, 2 February 2026**

Cyberport University Partnership Programme 2026 Info Session to Potential Nominees (Teams)

數碼港
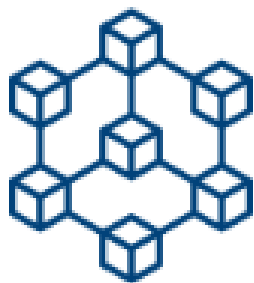Cyberport

CUPP 2026 Introduction

CUPP 2026 - Theme and Focused Industries

AI

Data Science

Blockchain

Cybersecurity

Smart City & Government

Banking & Finance

Healthcare

Education & Training

Green Environment

Digital Entertainment

Culture & Tourism

Property Management

Construction

Transportation & Logistics

數碼港 Cyberport

CUPP 2026 Program Timeline

Stage 1

Promotion	Online Info Session	Nomination Deadline	Online Application Form, Online Written Test & In-person Interview	Announcement of Admitted Teams
15 Jan – 9 Mar 2026	5 Feb 2026	9 Mar 2026	10 Mar – 15 Apr 2026	Late Apr 2026

Stage 2

Opening Ceremony & Orientation	Pre-camp Nurturing & Mentorship	Boot Camp (London)	Demo Day (Vetting Team)*	Graduation Ceremony
13 Jun 2026 (Sat)	Mid-Jun- End Jul 2026	4-12 Aug 2026	28 Aug 2026 (Fri)	29 Aug 2026 (Sat)

*Vetting Team members are external industry professionals, please click HERE for details

What CUPP 2026 Participants can learn?

Top 20 teams (a maximum of 3 members) can attend

- Pre-camp nurturing Sessions & Mentorship from Jun – Jul 2026

- Overseas bootcamp at LSE London from 4 Aug – 12 Aug 2026 (9 Days 8 Nights)
- **-** Accelerator Visits and Pitch
- - Company Visits and Cultural Exposure Tour
- - Meeting mentors
- - Outreach Activities in London

What CUPP 2026 Participants can achieve?

Top 10 winning team will be awarded **CCMF grants at HK$100,000** each to support their prototype development in next 6 months and may convert into CIP with limited quota and subject to CIP vetting

數碼港
Cyberport

CUPP 2026
Pre-camp Nurturing & Mentorship

Date	Venue	Format	Details
13 June 2026 (Sat) 09:30 – 12:00	Cyberport	Physical	**CUPP Opening Ceremony & Orientation**
Weekday in June 2026 11:00-12:00	Via ZOOM	Online	**Online Pre-camp Nurturing Session** • Introduction of CUPP 2026 Boot Camp: what to be expected, what to be prepared, and homework assignment • Speaker: LSE
27 June 2026 (Sat) 09:30-17:00	HKUST	Physical	**Pre-camp Nurturing Session One** • Training - Pitching & Storytelling Speaker: Prof. Carrie Ling, Director, Entrepreneurship Center, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology • Group exercise • Lunch provided by HKUST & Networking • Sharing & mentoring by HKUST startups (4 teams)
11 July 2026 (Sat) 09:30-17:00	CUHK	Physical	**Pre-camp Nurturing Session Two** • HSUHK Industry Guest Speakers' Sharing Sessions • Lunch provided by CUHK and networking • Mentoring session
18 July 2026 (Sat) 09:30-17:00	Lingnan@WestKowloon	Physical	**Pre-camp Nurturing Session Three** • HKBU Industry Guest Speakers' Sharing Sessions • Lunch provided by LU and networking • Mentoring session
25 July 2026 (Sat) 09:30-17:00	HKU	Physical	**Pre-camp Nurturing Session Four** • SFU Innovative Project Support Training Session: Designing a Business: From Idea to Execution Speaker: Dr. Ken Ip, Associate Director, Innovative Incubation Centre, Saint Francis University • CityU HK Tech 300 Startup Sharing Session • Lunch provided by HKU and networking • CityU HK Tech 300 Mentoring session

9

CUPP 2026 Boot Camp Partner

THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE

數碼港 Cyberport

CUPP 2026 Boot Camp Partner

A week with
the London School of Economics

4th to 12th of August 2026

London School of Economics

An institution with over **125** years of history, empowering more than 20,000 changemakers worldwide through social science and business.

LSE is a future-oriented organisation. Every innovation, policy, and enterprise it nurtures is directed toward the **betterment of society** — ensuring that knowledge leads to positive, inclusive, and sustainable change.

- #1 University in UK (Times & Sunday Times 2026)
- Top ten in the world for Management and Economics (QS, 2025)
- 5th in the UK for Statistics, 28th in the world

CUPP 2026 Boot Camp Partner

LSE innovation ecosystem

It takes a village to build a start-up...

- Data Science Institute
- Global School of Sustainability
- Marshall Building and 100x Impact Accelerator
- LSE Generate

Fun facts:

- **We produce the most entrepreneurs out of all UK universities**
- **An ecosystem of 25,000 active founders**
- **In 2023, LSE student-founded start-ups have raised £2.9 billion**
- **26 unicorns and counting**

CUPP 2026 Boot Camp Partner

LSE Generate
The school's centre for entrepreneurship

- A top 6 start-up hub in Europe (FT/Statista/Sifted 2024)
- 87.5% start-up survival rate vs 20% UK average in accelerator

We are on a mission to support LSE start-ups striving towards UNSDGs development.

- Launching our AI founders vertical in January 2026
- Women Founders Program, competitions, social innovation treks...

Lufthansa   CITÉ GESTION   Google Cloud

AstraZeneca   forvis mazars   EFG   EDB: SINGAPORE

CUPP 2026 Boot Camp Partner

LSE

Generate
Entrepreneurship at **LSE**

The Program

The methodology - Knowledge-Skills-Attitudes (KSA) Entrepreneurship Education Framework

- Knowledge (K): Foundational Knowledge about Entrepreneurship as a topic and a process

- Skills (S): Practical Skills related to venture growth, best practices to be implemented within the organisation

- Attitudes (A): Mindsets and behaviours required to practice responsible entrepreneurial thinking

CUPP 2026 Boot Camp Partner

The Program

Carefully designed to address AI founders 'challenges in -

- Quality Data Management

- Business Acumen

- Developing competitive advantage

- Fundraising

CUPP 2026 Boot Camp Partner

The Program

Perfect Your Brand

01	Pitching & Storytelling
02	Product & Market Fit
03	Social Innovation

Product Development

01	AI Tools for product dev & Rapid Testing
02	Financing through VCs
03	Tech Risk & Crisis
04	Competitor Analysis
05	Innovation Competitive Advantage

LSE

Generate Entrepreneurship at **LSE**

Participate in the Ecosystem

01	Angel investment and UK fundraising landscape
02	Cybersecurity and psychology
03	Emerging technology Landscape
04	Site Visits

數碼港
Cyberport

CUPP 2026
Nomination Eligibility & How to Apply

Roles of CUPP Co-organising Universities

- Promoting CUPP 2026 among university from mid Jan – 9 March 2025

- Nominate eligible and potential teams to participate in CUPP 2026
  - Period Open for Nomination: 15 Jan – 9 Mar 2026
  - Deadline for nomination: 9 March 2026

- A maximum of 10 teams from each university

- Co-organising Universities are required to submit the nomination **by email by 9 Mar 2026** using the nomination template, which will be provided by Cyberport.

CUPP 2026 Nomination Eligibility

- Project must be rooted in digital tech and focus on **AI, Blockchain, Cybersecurity and Data Science.**

- Applicants must be **between 18 to 30 years old (inclusive)** upon the nomination deadline **(i.e. 9 Mar 2026).**

- Applicants must be current undergraduate, postgraduate students or graduates nominated by the co-organising universities.

- Applicants must have a good command of English.

- Team members could be joined from the same or other CUPP co-organising universities.

- Each team could have up to 5 members with suggested team structure as follow:
    - 1 Team Leader (i.e. principal applicant) must be Hong Kong ID card holder, the main contact person of the team, and he/she must be joining Boot Camp.
    - Up to 2 Core Team Members with technical/UIUX knowledge, who will be joining Boot Camp;
    - Up to 2 Supporting Team Members, who will **NOT** be joining Boot Camp
    - **Maximum 3 members per team to join the Boot Camp.**

> Note:
> - Please click HERE to read CUPP Guides and Notes for detail
> - Vetting Team members are external industry professionals, please click HERE for details

20

How to apply for CUPP?

- CUPP is a programme on **nomination-based**.

- Interested applicants should contact CUPP 2026 Co-organising universities for nomination details.

- Nominated teams should provide their academic performance, award received, entrepreneurial experience and proposed project to your respective universities for consideration.

- Written test and interview will be arranged after the nomination deadline.

- Written test and video upload (via Typeform to be sent to individual team upon confirmation of nomination) will be reviewed by the overseas hosting university, LSE. Link for written application key information to facilitate preparation.

- Nominated teams shall pitch their business idea (max 4-minute in English) to Cyberport Vetting Team (Industry Professionals) during the interview.

- Selected teams will be notified by email from Cyberport by end April.

CUPP 2026 Key Dates

Stage 1 – Key Dates

Promotion: 15 Jan – 9 Mar 2026

Nomination :   9 Mar 2026

Application Form & Written Test Submission :   10 – 20 Mar 2026

In-person Interview at Cyberport: 13- 15 April 2026

Announcement of Admitted Teams: End April 2026

Stage 2 - Key Dates

Demo Day: 28 Aug 2026 (Friday)

Format :   In-person

Pitch :   A maximum of 6-minute pitch plus 4-minute QA

Announcement of Top 10 Teams
cum Graduation: 29 Aug 2026 (Saturday)

Stage 1 - Written Test with Video (10%) + Interview (90%)

A. **Written test with video (10%) :** the written test will **assess conceptual and strategic clarity**, while the **video** will offer insight into the applicant team's confidence, fluency, ability, and chemistry with teammates to articulate their vision without external assistance (such as Chat GPT). Each application will be reviewed independently by the LSE Generate team using a standardised scoring framework to evaluate against the following **five core criteria** :

Five Core Criteria	Key Attributes
Problem and solution fit	clarity in articulating the problem being solved and the novelty or effectiveness of the proposed solution
Market understanding and validation	evidence of market research, customer discovery, and early traction through pilots, user testing, or initial sales
Business model and scalability	soundness of the business model, financial feasibility, and scalability potential within Hong Kong and wider markets
Team and execution capacity	diversity of skills within the founding team, clarity of roles, team member compatibility and demonstrated ability to deliver on strategic objectives
Impact, relevance and alignment	With AI, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, and/or Data Science fields

* Assessment Rating Scale : Each criterion will be scored on a 1-5 scale, for each criterion, rate from 1 (Very Weak) to 5 (Excellent)

B. **Interview (90%)**: nominated teams shall come to Cyberport to pitch their business idea **in person. Maximum 4-minute pitch in English plus 4-minute QA** if there are questions from the Vetting Team, during the interview. The interview assessment criteria as follow:

Interview (90%)	Attitude - 20% Communications - 20% Entrepreneurial Aspiration - 20% Knowledge of AI, Blockchain, Cybersecurity and Data Science Technologies - 20% Project Idea - 10%
Written test (10%)	

数碼港
Cyberport

CUPP Demo Day Judging Criteria

Project Management Team (30%)
The capability of the project management team is evaluated according to track record, execution ability, probability of launch, individual qualifications and roles within the team.

Business Model and Time to Market (30%)
The business model is evaluated by the short and long term objectives, apparent market need, target market and marketing strategy, and realistic assessment of the project viability. Projects that launch within three months of grant disbursement are preferred.

Creativity and Innovation of the Proposed Project, Product and Service (30%)
Innovative technology, creative solutions, disruptive ideas, emerging technology and higher score will be given to solutions with breakthrough problem-solving attribute.

Social Responsibility (10%)
Preference will be given to projects with socially responsible dimensions, such as open source software, creative commons IP, ethical decision making, or which contribute to solving social problems.

CUPPers Admission Fee and Deposit
(paid upon successful admission)

Admission Fee

All CUPP participants are required to pay a **non-refundable HK$3,000 Admission Fee, no matter join Boot Camp or not**

Deposit

A refundable deposit will be collected from all CUPP Participants

HK$6,000 deposit for individuals joining the Entrepreneurship Boot Camp; or

HK$3,000 deposit for individuals NOT joining the Entrepreneurship Boot Camp

This deposit will be refunded upon full attendance of the CUPP Programme and satisfactory performance as assessed by Cyberport.

Notes
1. The above payment shall be settled at admission in Apr-May 2026.
2. The admission fee covers part of CUPP administrative costs, and all the fee collected would be used for Cyberport public mission start-up training programmes.
3. CUPPers successfully admitted into CUPP will join CUPP 2026 funded by Cyberport for pre-camp nurturing sessions in Hong Kong and Entrepreneurship Boot Camp at the hosting university, including training fee, insurance, accommodation and air ticket (Note: round-trip economy group air tickets will be provided, but CUPPers are allowed to purchase round-trip economy class air tickets and reimburse the air ticket fee up to an approved amount from Cyberport. The reimbursement is only allowed if they could provide valid reasons and supporting documents for travelling from cities outside of Hong Kong or having a longer stay in the destination. After the CUPPers are admitted to CUPP 2026, they need to confirm whether they would like to travel with the group air tickets provided or purchase their own air tickets when they submit the CUPP terms and conditions confirmation reply slip. For details, please refer to the terms and conditions which will be dispatch to CUPPers later).
4. CUPP teams are required to join all activities throughout the programme. Cyberport reserved the right to request applicants and/or CUPP teams, who do not participate in CUPP 2026 Demo Day, to pay back the expenses incurred for their attendance in the CUPP 2026.

Contact Your University for Nomination

City University of Hong Kong
- Department: HK Tech 300
- Contact Email: hktech300.seed@cityu.edu.hk

Hong Kong Baptist University
- Department: Career Centre
- Contact Email: bucareer@hkbu.edu.hk

Hong Kong Metropolitan University
- Department: Lee Shau Kee School of Business and Administration
- Contact Email: szhang@hkmu.edu.hk

Hong Kong Shue Yan University
- Department: Department of Applied Data Science & Department of Economics and Finance
- Contact Email: laukw@hkeyu.edu & tylee@hksyu.edu

Lingnan University
- Department: Lingnan Entrepreneurship Initiative (LEI)
- Contact Email: lei@ln.edu.hk

Saint Francis University
- Department: Innovative Incubation Centre
- Contact Email: mh2ip@sfu.edu.hk

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Department: PI Centre, Knowledge Transfer Office
- Contact Email: picentre@cuhk.edu.hk

The Education University of Hong Kong
- Department: Entrepreneurship Development Unit, Knowledge Transfer Sub-office
- Contact Email: kt@eduhk.hk

The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong
- Economics and Finance
- Contact Email: florenceli@hsu.edu.hk

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- Department: Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship Office
- Contact Email: inno.hub@polyu.edu.hk

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Entrepreneurship Center
- Contact Email: ecenter@ust.hk

The University of Hong Kong
- Techno-Entrepreneurship Core
- Contact Email: hkutec@hku.hk; tim.cheung@hku.hk