The HKU Tartan is inspired by the green and blue of the HKU Shield which was granted in 1913. The red and gold are for the lion on its field of crimson. The narrow black lines on white denote the open book bearing the University’s Chinese motto and the Latin version “Sapientia et Virtus”. The vibrant green represents the modern outlook of the University and HKU’s Centenary.
On October 29, 2012, a specially commissioned tartan was presented to HKU by the University of Aberdeen as a gift to celebrate the historic links between the two universities. The links began 125 years ago with the Hong Kong College of Medicine, which was founded in 1887 by Dr Patrick Manson, a graduate of the University of Aberdeen. Two senior officers of the College, Sir James Cantile (who taught Dr Sun Yat-sen) and Sir Ho Kai were also graduates of the University of Aberdeen. The College was incorporated into The University of Hong Kong in 1912.

“The two institutions share very special historic links, which the University of Aberdeen is very proud of, but we are equally proud of the continuing modern relationship we have with what has become one of the great universities of Asia and the world.”

Lord Wilson of Tillyorn
Chancellor, The University of Aberdeen

“It’s a beautiful tartan which we hope you will value and treasure as much as we treasure our relationship with you.”

Professor Ian Diamond
Vice-Chancellor, The University of Aberdeen

“Since we have this wonderful “bon accord”, we will say to you, happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again.”

Professor Lee Sum-ping
Dean of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

“The University of Aberdeen, along with many other prestigious universities in the UK and other parts of the world, constitute HKU’s extensive international network of academic collaborations and exchanges. The links first forged more than a century ago with the University of Aberdeen shall continue with collaborative research programmes and student exchange.”

Professor Lap-Chee Tsui
Vice-Chancellor, The University of Hong Kong