



澳門特別行政區
Macao Special Administrative Region
科學技術發展基金
Science and Technology Development Fund

Funding Scheme for External Science and Technology Cooperation

I. Objectives

To support the positioning of Macao by the state and policy objectives of the Macao SAR Government, the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund (hereinafter referred to as “FDCT”) launched the Funding Scheme for External Science and Technology Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as “the Scheme”) based on the relevant provisions of the *Public Financial Support Scheme of the Macao Special Administrative Region*, the *Statutes of the Science and Technology Development Fund* and the *Regulation on Financial Support of the Science and Technology Development Fund*. The Scheme aims to enhance external exchanges and cooperation of Macao’s scientific and technological workers, promote Macao to become an international high-end talent cluster, and boost the scientific research cooperation, industry-university-research collaboration, and talent cultivation between Macao and foreign countries, so that Macao can make greater contribution to the external science and technology cooperation between China and foreign countries.

II. Types of Application and Maximum Funding Amount

1. Joint funding: Joint funding provided based on documents such as joint funding agreement, memorandum of understanding and work plan signed between the FDCT and a foreign entity of a similar nature. The amount of funding applied for this type shall not exceed MOP5 million and shall not exceed the funding amount specified in the aforementioned signed document.
2. International collaborative research: Funding provided for collaborative research projects with eligible foreign organizations. The amount of funding applied for this type shall not exceed MOP5 million.

III. Funding Recipients, Application Eligibility and Relevant Conditions

1. Funding recipients:
 - (1) Public higher education institutions or public medical institutions in the Macao SAR;
 - (2) Private higher education institutions established by law in the Macao SAR.
 - (3) Private non-profit-making entities established by law in the Macao SAR.



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- (4) Commercial entrepreneurs or commercial enterprises registered in the Macao SAR.
2. Application eligibility:
- (1) Entities with legal personality referred to in the preceding paragraph are eligible to apply for funding.
 - (2) If an entity referred to in the preceding paragraph does not have a legal personality, the application shall be made through the entity with legal personality to which it belongs.
 - (3) If the funding recipient is a commercial entrepreneur or commercial enterprise referred to in item (4) of the preceding paragraph, and the application amount does not exceed MOP1 million, the following requirements shall also be met:
 - The commercial entrepreneur or commercial enterprise shall be registered in the Macao Special Administrative Region for one year or more. For incubating enterprises of the national-level maker space in Macao, the registration period can be less than one year.
 - There are no less than three full-time employees. If the number of full-time employees is less than three, recommendation by a national-level maker space established in Macao is required.
 - (4) If the funding recipient is a commercial entrepreneur or commercial enterprise referred to in item (4) of the preceding paragraph, and the application amount exceeds MOP1 million, any of the following qualifications shall also be met:
 - Enterprises accredited under the Technology Enterprise Certification Programme of the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED).
 - “Enterprises engaged in technological innovation business” recognized by the “Commission for the Review of Enterprises Engaged in Technological Innovation Business” as stipulated in Article 6 of the Policy of Tax Incentives for Enterprises Engaged in Technological Innovation Business (Law No. 1/2021).
 - (5) Each research project must have a project leader who is responsible for leading and coordinating the project (hereinafter referred to as “project leader”).
 - (6) For international collaborative research, the collaborating foreign organizations shall meet any of the following conditions:
 - Foreign higher education institutions ranked in the top 200 in any of the latest editions of Times, QS, US News or ARWU.



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- Foreign higher education institutions ranked in the top 100 in any discipline by the latest edition of Times, QS, US News or ARWU.
- Foreign enterprises in the latest list of Fortune 500.
- Higher education institutions, research institutes or business enterprises established by law in Portuguese-speaking countries participating in the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao).

IV. Requirements for Collaborative Research

1. The applicant shall sign a cooperation agreement or memorandum of understanding or letter of intent with the partner of the project.
2. For joint funding applications, the specific collaborative research requirements are stipulated in the Application Guidelines.
3. For applications for international collaborative research, the following basic requirements shall be met during the period of cooperation:
 - (1) The average time spent by the project leader of Macao on exchange visits and research at the partner shall be not less than seven days per year.
 - (2) The average time spent by the project leader of the partner on exchange visits and research at the partner in Macao shall be not less than seven days per year.
 - (3) At least two project working meetings shall be convened per year (in any form) with the participation of the key personnel of the partners.
4. For applications for international collaborative research, the cost on the partner shall not exceed 40% of the funding amount.

V. Application Period

To be determined (Applications are will be accepted from time to time every year and the application period will not exceed two months. The acceptance period for application is determined by the Administrative Committee of the FDCT).

VI. Type and Scope of Funding

1. The Scheme is a non-reimbursable financial assistance.
2. Scope of funding: Projects in line with the purpose of the FDCT and the objectives of the Scheme.



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VII. Supporting Input

1. For applicants who are not commercial entrepreneurs or commercial enterprises, if they collaborate with commercial entrepreneurs or commercial enterprises in Macao, such commercial entrepreneurs or commercial enterprises shall provide a supporting input of no less than 10% of the amount funded by the FDCT.
2. For applicants who are commercial entrepreneurs or commercial enterprises, corresponding supporting input of self-raised funds is required, which shall not be less than the amount funded by the FDCT. The supporting input shall conform to the provisions of Article 9 of the Scheme.

VIII. Application Guidelines

For joint funding applications, the Administrative Committee of the FDCT will negotiate with the relevant cooperative entities each year to compile application guidelines on details such as key areas supported, cooperation requirements of both parties, output requirements, requirements for the application proposal, and requirements for supporting input.

IX. Expenditure Eligible for Funding

1. The expenditure eligible for funding includes the following expenses incurred for the implementation of the project:
 - (1) Personnel expenses.
 - (2) Expenses on acquiring the necessary new machinery and equipment by any means.
 - (3) Expenses on consumable materials, reagents, and equipment maintenance.
 - (4) Direct costs of patent application.
 - (5) Other derivative expenses.
2. Other derivative expenses referred to in (5) of the preceding paragraph do not include:
 - (1) Expense on the establishment of the recipient entity.
 - (2) Electricity, water, telephone charge and other expenses of a similar nature.
 - (3) Entertainment.
 - (4) Audit fee.
 - (5) Expense on the acquisition of vehicles, except for experimental purposes.



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- (6) Expense on construction, acquisition and repayment of real estate by installments.
- (7) Other expenditures ineligible for funding as stipulated in the *General Guidelines for Project Management of the Science and Technology Development Fund*, the approval decision and the consent of funding.

X. Application Documents

The application documents shall include the following materials:

1. The applicant's identification information and relevant supporting documents.
2. If the applicant is a commercial entrepreneur or commercial enterprise, a business registration certificate issued by the competent authority in the last three months and a copy of the Supplemental Income Tax Return (M1) in the last 1 year are required.
3. A document issued by the competent authority in the last three months certifying that the applicant does not owe any tax or social security contributions to the Macao SAR.
4. Information on other projects financed by public funds and other pending applications submitted by the same applicant for the purpose of applying for the funding.
5. Identification information and curriculum vitae of the project leader and members, as well as information on the time allocated to the implementation of the project.
6. An application proposal containing a detailed description of the project, which shall set out in detail the estimated amount of the project.
7. A statement of responsibility for the project.
8. A cooperation agreement or memorandum of understanding or letter of intent signed with the cooperating party.
9. For applications for international collaborative research, the collaborating foreign organizations shall conform to the supporting information in Article 3 of the Scheme.

XI. Submission of Application

1. Applicants shall prepare applications in any of the official languages of the Macao SAR or in English.



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2. Applicants who have applied for an electronic signature shall submit the application documents via the online application system of the FDCT on or before the deadline.
3. Applicants who have not applied for electronic signature shall, in addition to submitting the application documents via the online application system of the FDCT on or before the deadline, deliver the signed and stamped application documents to the FDCT.

XII. Preliminary Analysis

1. The FDCT will conduct a preliminary analysis of the application documents after the application deadline, respectively, to verify whether the application has the required documents under the Scheme and whether the applicant meets the conditions for funding approval.
2. If the documents required for the application are not sufficient, the FDCT will request the applicant to supplement materials within 15 days, if necessary.
3. Applications under any of the following circumstances will not be accepted for review and will be rejected by the FDCT, and the relevant applicant will be notified by letter:
 - (1) The applicant does not meet the requirements of Article 3 of the Scheme.
 - (2) For applications for international collaborative research, the collaborating foreign organizations does not meet the requirements of Article 3 of the Scheme.
 - (3) The applicant is on the list of mandatory levies and overdue returns of the FDCT.
 - (4) The applicant is a debtor to the treasury of the Macao SAR.
 - (5) The number of active research projects undertaken by the project leader exceeds the maximum number of active research projects that the project leader can undertake under the FDCT.
 - (6) The project leaders cannot submit a new application for funding.
 - (7) Multiple applications for the same project are submitted at the same time or the same project has been funded by the FDCT before.
 - (8) The supporting input (if any) does not meet the requirements of Article 7 of the Scheme.
 - (9) The application documents do not meet the requirements of Article 10 of the Scheme.
 - (10) The applicant fails to supplement or promptly submit relevant application materials after notification.



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- (11) The applicant violates existing laws and regulations or fails to protect the safety and legal rights and interests of participants.
4. For joint funding applications, the FDCT and the relevant entities shall jointly verify the list of projects that have passed their respective preliminary analyses. For projects that are included in the list of projects of both the FDCT and the relevant entities, the relevant applications will be accepted.

XIII. Assessment Method and Criteria

1. Before accepting an application, the Administrative Committee of FDCT shall invite five to seven advisors from the list of project advisors to form the Project Advisory Committee.
2. The application documents that may enter the review process will be submitted to the Project Advisory Committee formed by FDCT for review according to the review elements and criteria in the following paragraph.
3. Review elements and criteria:
 - (1) Project value.
 - (2) Eligibility of the applicant.
 - (3) Feasibility, work plan and cooperation foundation of the project.
4. The Administrative Committee of FDCT may formulate specific assessment criteria based on the above review elements.
5. The Administrative Committee of the FDCT may invite external experts to review specific or more complex funding applications.
6. FDCT may conduct site inspection to verify the research conditions of the applicant, interview with the project team and partners (if any) as necessary.
7. For joint funding applications, the FDCT and the relevant entity review the accepted applications, respectively. After the review, the FDCT and the relevant entity will jointly select projects to be funded from the projects that have passed the review of both parties.

XIV. Funding Approval

1. For a project application not exceeding MOP1 million, the Administrative Committee of the FDCT will make a decision after considering the analysis of the application documents and the review opinions.
2. For a project application exceeding MOP1 million, the FDCT will supervise the entity and make a decision on the application after



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considering the analysis of the application documents and the review opinions.

3. The recipients shall sign the *Consent of Funding* attached to the approval letter within the time limit to declare that they are aware of and will comply with the approval decision as set out in the approval notice.
4. The funds will be disbursed by installments in the manner as described in the *Consent of Funding*.

XV. Funding Amount and Calculation Method

1. The funding amount approved by the FDCT is not more than MOP5 million and shall not be higher than the funding amount applied for.
2. For a joint funding application, the specific limit is set out in the signed document referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 2.

XVI. Funding Term

1. The funding term of the Scheme does not exceed three years.
2. For a joint funding application, the specific term is set out in the signed document referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 2.

XVII. Requirements for Output and Intellectual Property Rights

1. For a joint funding application, the relevant requirements re set out in the annual application guidelines.
2. For an application for international collaborative research, it is expected that the research results are not limited to academic results or application results, but may include theses, publications, research (consulting) reports, patents, talent cultivation, software, hardware (prototypes, samples), technical standards, formulas, new materials, new processes, etc.
3. The applicant and the partner shall make ex-ante arrangements for intellectual property issues related to the collaborative research. Through consultation, the applicant shall reach an agreement on intellectual property terms with the partner, and clarify the basic principles of intellectual property ownership and utilization of research results, so as to ensure that it can effectively master and reasonably share the research results and intellectual property rights.



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XVIII. Report and Report on Agreed-upon Procedures

1. The recipients shall submit annual and final reports on the progress of the funded project to facilitate interim and final assessment by the FDCT.
2. The report referred to in the preceding paragraph shall consist of two parts, namely, the activities carried out and their effectiveness, and the financial performance.
3. Regarding the activities carried out and their effectiveness, the recipients shall describe in detail the work implemented during the relevant period and the results achieved in accordance with the approved planning and timetable.
4. Regarding the financial performance, the recipients shall set out in detail the use of the funding, particularly all income and expenditures, and completely retain the original vouchers of income and expenditure involved in the funding for at least five years.
5. The recipients shall submit an annual report by the deadline specified in the approval letter.
6. The recipients shall submit a final report and a *Report on the Implementation of the Agreed-upon Procedures* (if required) within 90 days from the day of expiry of the funding term.
7. When the cumulative amount of funding granted to a recipient in the current year of the Scheme equals or exceeds MOP1 million, the recipient must engage a certified public accountant, an accounting firm, a certified public accountant that can provide accounting and tax services, and an accounting firm that can provide accounting and tax services to implement the agreed-upon procedures for the funded project, and prepare a *Report on the Implementation of the Agreed-upon Procedures*.
8. If the report cannot be submitted on time due to force majeure or for reasons confirmed by the Administrative Committee of the FDCT as not attributable to the recipient, the recipient shall notify the FDCT within seven business days from the date of the occurrence of the matter in question.
9. In the case referred to in the preceding paragraph, with the approval of the Administrative Committee, the reporting period shall be suspended from the date of the occurrence of the matter in question and shall continue from the day after the disappearance of such matter.

XIX. Obligations of the Recipient

The recipient shall fulfill the following obligations:

1. Truthfully provide information and make declarations.



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2. Apply for any changes to the approved funding to the FDCT in advance, unless as otherwise specified in the approval decision or the consent letter.
3. Ensure that the funding is used for the purposes specified in the approval decision.
4. Plan and execute the funded expenditure prudently and reasonably.
5. Submit reports on time.
6. Refund any unspent subsidies on time.
7. Properly maintain an account for the expenditure incurred in implementing the funded project and keep specific entries for recording such expenditure.
8. Accept and cooperate with the supervision of the use of funding by the FDCT, including reviewing the relevant income, expenditure and financial position.
9. Refund subsidies according to Article 22.
10. Comply with the laws and regulations for intellectual property protection.
11. Warrant that the details of the application and the procedures for the implementation of the project do not violate any laws or infringe any rights of others.
12. Comply with the terms and conditions set out in the *Consent of Funding* signed with the FDCT.
13. Agree that the FDCT will own the rights to record in writing, photograph, film and record in other manners throughout the project, as well as the right to use all related outputs in perpetuity without compensation.
14. Agree that the FDCT will publish basic information, project summaries and publicly available results of the project on FDCT's website and in documents available to the public.
15. State that "The project is supported by the Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) of the Macao Special Administrative Region" or "Supported by: Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) of the Macao Special Administrative Region" in any promotional activities, press releases and publicity materials related to the project, and file with the FDCT.
16. Expenditure funded by the FDCT shall not be eligible for subsidies from any other public funding programs.

XX. Consequences of Breach of Obligations

If the recipient breaches the above obligations, except in the event of force majeure or that the Administrative Committee of the FDCT considers that the



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responsibility is not attributable to the recipient, the Administrative Committee may make the following decisions, either individually or jointly, in accordance with the nature and severity of the breach by the recipient:

1. No funding will be approved.
2. Funds that have been approved but not yet disbursed will be suspended or appropriately limited in the calculation of the actually disbursed amount.
3. The approved funding will be canceled in whole or in part, and the recipient will be required to refund the relevant funding.
4. The recipient or the project leader will be included in the list of breach of obligations and subject to a restriction on the submission of applications for funding, but the maximum period of restriction will not exceed two years.

XXI. Application Scope of Consequences

1. The consequences referred to in paragraph 1 of the preceding article apply, in particular, to recipients in breach of paragraphs 6 and 9 of Article 19 at the time of application for funding.
2. The consequences referred to in paragraph 2 of the preceding article apply, in particular, to recipients in breach of paragraphs 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 12 of Article 19, and recognized by the FDCT to have minor faults.
3. The consequences referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the preceding article apply, in particular, in the following cases:
 - (1) The recipient breaches the obligations under paragraphs 1, 3, 9, 10, 11 and 16 of Article 19.
 - (2) The recipient breaches the obligations under paragraph 4 of Article 19, leading to serious risks or damages to the participants or the public interest, especially public safety or social order.
 - (3) The recipient breaches the provisions of paragraphs 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 12 of Article 19, and recognized by the FDCT to have caused serious consequences.
4. If the project summary report is assessed as non-compliant in accordance with the *General Guidelines for Project Management of the Science and Technology Development Fund*, the FDCT reserves the right to impose the consequences referred to in paragraph 4 above on the relevant project leader.
5. The Administrative Committee of the FDCT will give reasons for its decision on imposing the above consequences and, if the approved funding has been canceled in part, set the refund amount.



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XXII. Refund, Repayment and Compulsory Levy of Funding

1. If the amount of expenditure to be financed, as confirmed by the Administrative Committee of the FDCT, is less than the amount of funding already disbursed, the recipient shall refund all the difference within the specified period as notified by the FDCT.
2. If the approved funding is not used within the period specified in the approval decision or the consent letter, the recipient shall explain the reasons for such failure and refund the funding received within the period specified by the FDCT.
3. Upon application by a recipient with reasonable grounds, the Administrative Committee of the FDCT may exceptionally approve that the recipient is not required to refund the funding that has been used to cover expenditure reasonably incurred prior to the termination of the use of funding.
4. If the approved funding is canceled in whole or in part or the funding is terminated, the recipient shall refund the amount of funding received within the notified period.
5. If the recipient fails to refund or repay the funding within the specified period and fails to provide reasonable explanation, the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) will, in accordance with the tax enforcement procedures, leverage the relevant certificate issued by the Administrative Committee to enforce compulsory levy.

XXIII. Administrative, Civil and Criminal Liabilities

Any person who makes false statements, provides false information or uses any illegal means to obtain the funding in the procedures related to the funding shall, without prejudice to the consequences referred to in Article 20 of the Scheme, assume administrative, civil and criminal liabilities (if any) in accordance with the law.

XXIV. Supervision

1. The FDCT shall have the authority to supervise the compliance with the Scheme, the approval decision or the consent letter, especially whether the recipient uses the funding approved for the purposes specified in the approval decision.
2. To perform the supervision function, the FDCT shall be entitled to:
 - (1) Require the recipient to provide necessary information and assistance for project follow-up, site survey and random document inspection.



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- (2) Engage a professionally qualified third party to audit the accounts of the funded activities or projects.

XXV. Complaint

The applicant may appeal the relevant decision in accordance with the *Administrative Procedure Code*.

XXVI. Personal Data Processing

1. In order to implement the Scheme, the FDCT and other relevant public authorities or entities may, when necessary, adopt any means, including data interconnection, to process and verify the personal data involved in the files, in accordance with the *Personal Data Protection Act* (Law No. 8/2005).
2. The personal data provided in the application documents will be used only for the processing and approving the funding application by the FDCT. To review and approve the funding application, the applicant shall consent to the transfer of information contained in the application documents by the FDCT to other entities and to the printing of the information to the project advisory committee for review.

XXVII. Others

1. All application materials shall be used for the Scheme only. The applicants shall ensure the accuracy of the documents and materials submitted, which will not be returned once submitted.
2. For matters not covered by the Scheme, the applicable *Public Financial Support Scheme of the Macao Special Administrative Region*, the *Statutes of the Science and Technology Development Fund*, the *Regulation on Financial Support of the Science and Technology Development Fund*, the *Guidelines for the Inspection of Subsidized Activities or Projects* of the Public Assets Supervision and Planning Office (GPSAP) of the Macao SAR, the General Guidelines for Project Management of the Science and Technology Development Fund, other funding rules or guidelines of the FDCT, and the *Consent of Funding* signed after approval shall prevail.
3. This Scheme is available at the office or the website (<https://www.fdct.gov.mo/>) of the FDCT.
4. The applicant shall assume all responsibility if the content of the application involves illegal infringement of the rights of others. The FDCT also reserves the right to proceed with legal actions against such applicant.
5. The applicant's false statement will lead to disqualification and other legal consequences.



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6. The FDCT has the right to revise and interpret the above content.