

Research Grants Council (RGC) Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme

FAQs

What are the objectives of this scheme?

- ▶ The RGC Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme (PDFS) aims to encourage doctoral graduates in pursuing career in research and provide promising researchers with support at a pivotal time in their very early career, so as to ensure a supply of talent with scientific and research skills for research and development in Hong Kong.

Which discipline(s) is(are) covered in this scheme?

- ▶ PDFS covers all academic disciplines which are grouped into two streams: (i) Science, Medicine, Engineering and Technology (S disciplines); and (ii) Humanities, Social Sciences and Business Studies (H disciplines).

Who is eligible to apply (as a PC/PI)?

- ▶ The PDFS nominee must (i) obtain a legal right to work and reside in Hong Kong during the fellowship period; (ii) have obtained / been conferred a PhD degree or an equivalent qualification not more than three years before the year of nomination, or will complete the requirement of a PhD degree or an equivalent qualification by the 31 August of the following year of nomination; and (iii) be supported by a UGC-funded university at which he / she wishes to hold the fellowship.

Any eligibility requirement on Co-PI/Co-I?

- ▶ There is no such role of “Co-PI/Co-I” for PDFS projects.

What are the stages of application?

- ▶ Internal selection
- ▶ PDFS candidates submit application materials Two academic referees submit Academic Referee's Report Forms (paper mode) Formal submission of Nomination Form (paper mode)

What document(s) should be prepared before and/or during application stage?

- ▶ Candidates should submit the following by the internal deadline:
 - Soft copy of the nomination form (PDFS-1) except Sections I and J (in MS WORD format)
 - Scanned copy in a single PDF file of each of the followings:
 - i. HKID / passport
 - ii. recommendation from past / current affiliated University, if any
 - iii. certificate / official transcript / qualifications / awards mentioned in Sections D & E

What document(s) should be prepared before and/or during application stage? (continued)

- ▶ VeriGuide scanning report for scanning Section F (except F(ii)(d) - References)
- ▶ Completed and duly signed checklist and endorsement form (original copy)
- ▶ Besides, PdF candidates should invite two academic referees to return the completed Academic Referees' Report Form directly to Grants Team, ORKTS by email (orkts_grants@cuhk.edu.hk), or by mail to: Rm 301, Pi Ch'iu Building, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, Hong Kong (Attn: Grants Team), by the internal deadline.

Is there an institutional quota for this scheme?

- ▶ Institutional quota for this scheme is 12.

What is the range of funding support?

- ▶ Fellowship period: 36 months
- ▶ Fellowship grant: For PDFS 2021/22, the supporting university will receive an annual stipend of HK\$405,330 per year for the basic salary of each awardee as well as a conference and research-related travel allowance (of HK\$12,880 per year inclusively). The amount of the annual stipend will be adjusted after every 12 months during the fellowship period with reference to the Composite Consumer Price Index (CCPI) and related factors, and supporting universities will be informed of the updated rate in April / May every year.

What does the funding budget cover?

- ▶ The annual stipend is to cover the awardee's basic salary as well as a conference and research-related travel allowance throughout the 36-month fellowship period.

If PIs opt to submit without vetting by ORKTS, what will the minimum processing time be?

- ▶ Not applicable as internal selection procedure is required.

What are the assessment criteria?

- ▶ Candidates will be assessed based on the following criteria:
 - Record of academic excellence;
 - Research ability and track record to date;
 - Leadership potential in the respective field;
 - Merit of the proposed research project(s) /activities;
 - Potential impact of the proposed research project(s); and
 - University's support.

Is it possible to include/exclude specific potential reviewers? If yes, how can I file a request?

- ▶ If the nominee wants to exclude any individuals from access to the submitted information, please inform the RGC (via ORTKS) separately at the juncture of submission of nomination.
- ▶ Applicants should submit the request in writing separately through ORKTS setting out the full circumstances and justification.

When will grantor announce the funding result?

- ▶ Announcement and notification of PDFS results: April 2021

I have read the application guidelines but am still not sure if I am eligible for applying for PDFS. What should I do?

- ▶ Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the ""FAQ"" section on the RGC's website (https://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/funding_opport/pdfs/) if they have any questions about the eligibility issue.