

# Research Grants Council (RGC) - PROCORE - France/Hong Kong Joint Research Scheme

FAQs

# What are the objectives of this scheme?

- ▶ Introduced in 1998 by the Research Grants Council (RGC) and the Consulate General of France (CGF) in Hong Kong, PROCORE-France/Hong Kong Joint Research Scheme is designed to promote research collaboration between Hong Kong and France.
- ▶ Objective of Conference/Workshop Grants:
  - To facilitate Hong Kong and French researchers of similar fields to develop new collaboration through dissemination of their recent and unpublished research work.
- ▶ Objective of Travel Grants:
  - To support scholarly collaboration between individual Hong Kong and French researchers.

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

- ▶ All disciplines.

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

- ▶ Only academic staff members whose conditions of employment meet all the following requirements are eligible for applying for RGC grants as Principal Investigator (PI):
  1. having a full-time<sup>1</sup> appointment in the university proper<sup>2</sup> of UGC-funded universities;
  2. being at Staff Grades from 'A' to 'I'<sup>3</sup> (i.e. from 'Professor' to 'Assistant Lecturer');
  3. being primarily engaged in and spending at least 80% of time in degree or higher degree work<sup>4</sup> at the university proper; and
  4. salary being wholly funded<sup>5</sup> by the university proper.

<sup>1</sup> Part-time staff and staff holding honorary appointments are excluded.

<sup>2</sup> Excluding schools/arms of continuing education and professional training and other analogous outfits.

<sup>3</sup> Polytechnic staff grades are excluded.

<sup>4</sup> A Project Investigator who is / will be seconded to work full-time or part-time at the two Innovation and Technology (I&T) clusters (Health@InnoHK and AIR@InnoHK) at the Hong Kong Science Park; or to conduct research in a university or a research institute / body / agency in the Mainland / overseas jurisdiction, is still considered eligible to apply for the FHK.

<sup>5</sup> Staff who are receiving income from paid appointments outside the university proper do not satisfy this requirement.

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

- ▶ Visiting staff will only be eligible if they have a full-time appointment in the university proper covering at least one year or the duration of the project, whichever is the longer. Staff supported by external research grants<sup>6</sup> are however not eligible.
- ▶ As a transitional measure, academic staff who are engaged in non-degree programmes which are still funded by the UGC may also apply as the PI. Eligible staff in this category must be wholly funded from the General Funds of the university concerned. This arrangement would continue until such time when the relevant programmes are no longer funded by the UGC. Cases of an exceptional nature (including circumstances not covered by the above rules) will be considered by the RGC on a case-by-case basis.

<sup>6</sup> These grants are normally awarded for a designated purpose.

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

- ▶ There is no eligibility requirement on Co-I.
- ▶ However, an application without proper justification for delegation of the trip to Co-I or project team members does not meet the eligibility criteria of the scheme and will be disqualified.

# What are the stages of application?

- ▶ PIs submit full proposal
- ▶ Formal submission of full proposal (paper mode)

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

- ▶ Application form (for travel grants)
- ▶ Application form (for conference / workshop grants)
- ▶ Signed undertaking form
- ▶ Mobility statement (for travel grants only)
- ▶ VeriGuide scanning result of the proposal



# Is there an institutional quota for this scheme?

- ▶ There is no institutional quota for this scheme.

# What is the range of funding support?

- ▶ For Conference/Workshop Grants: (one year)
  - Maximum HK\$150,000 per event.
- ▶ For Travel Grants: (one year or two years)
  - Maximum HK\$45,000 for projects involving travel of research postgraduate student(s).
  - Maximum HK\$31,250 for projects not involving students' travel.

# What does the funding budget cover?

## ► For Conference/Workshop Grants:

- Applicants may apply to seek sponsorship of a two or three-day conference/workshop.
- The RGC grant covers travel, accommodation and subsistence costs of guest speakers from France to Hong Kong, and the direct organising costs, e.g. reservation of meeting venue, production of conference/workshop materials etc. Expenditure on meals is not covered by the grant.

## ► For Travel Grants:

- The RGC grant provides only for air passage(s), accommodation and subsistence costs directly related to the proposed exchanges between the two partners in France.
- The RGC grant does not cover expenditure on equipment, consumables or other project-related expenses, as well as insurance. Each PI must make provision for these and any other costs associated with the project.

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

▶ 3 days.

# What are the assessment criteria?

- ▶ The RGC and the CGF will jointly select applications to be supported.
- ▶ The assessment criteria for Conference/Workshop Grants:
  - The research standing of the Main and Co-Organisers, and that of the guest speakers;
  - The degree of intra- and inter-institutional participation by local researchers and students; and
  - Prospects for new/longer-term research collaboration.
- ▶ The assessment criteria for Travel Grants:
  - The academic merits of the proposed research;
  - The possible synergy, the expected benefits, and the prospects for longer-term collaboration; and
  - Opportunities for training of young researchers and research postgraduate students through the proposed exchanges.

# When will grantor announce the funding result?

- ▶ Around January in the next year.

# What is the format for the Conference/Workshop supported by this Scheme?

- ▶ The event comprises sessions where overseas and local guest speakers present on-going research work; local postdoctoral fellows and postgraduate research students post up their current work; and/or interested local parties attend hands-on sessions to acquire new techniques.
- ▶ For each conference/workshop, there should be a Main Organiser and a Co-Organiser. The Main Organiser is responsible for the overall coordination of the event; and the Co-Organiser assists in drawing up the main programme, e.g. suggestion on guest speaker(s) to be invited. For the event to be held in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong applicant should be the Main Organiser, and his/her French counterpart should be the Co-Organiser. For the event to be held in France, the French applicant should be the Main Organiser, and his/her Hong Kong counterpart should be the Co-Organiser.

# For Conference/Workshop Grants, is it allowed to have non-French speaker(s) and non-Hong Kong in the event?

- ▶ If the speakers are not from Hong Kong or France, the organiser may consider to make use of other funding source to support these speakers' expenses. Those who would be participated in the event as speakers, whether or not they will be supported by this grants, their detail would be required



# Is it allowed for the Hong Kong PI can apply for both travel grant and conference grant in the same exercise?

- ▶ Applicant can only submit one application in an exercise for respective grant.