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**From:** ORKTS\_Grants  
**Sent:** Monday, 21 October 2024 11:36 AM  
**To:** Recipient list suppressed (ORKTS)  
**Subject:** RGC Collaborative Research Fund (CRF) 2025/26: Pre-announcement and Internal Support

**To: Department Chairpersons/School Directors and Directors of Research Institutes**

**It would be most appreciated if you could disseminate the information below to your staff members.**

### **RGC Collaborative Research Fund (CRF) 2025/26: Pre-announcement and Internal Support**

Being deemed as a gateway to obtaining RGC large-scale research grants, the [Collaborative Research Fund \(CRF\)](#) aims to support research groups to engage in creative and high-quality inter-disciplinary / inter-institutional projects. The overall budget for CRF has indeed doubled over the past 5 years and reached HK\$280 million in 2024/25.

The Young Collaborative Research Grant (YCRG) will be regularized with a ring-fenced budget of HK\$50 million starting from 2025/26 exercise. Furthermore, **the institutional quota for YCRG will be removed** in order to encourage more young researchers to embark on collaborative research. A two-stage application process, similar to the project and equipment grants under CRF will be adopted. As an enhancement, proposals eligible for YCRG will be given an additional opportunity for selection under the YCRG track after competing with the normal-track CRF proposals.

The call for 2025/26 applications will be issued in January 2025. The University appeals to researchers to start off planning for it. To encourage quality submission, a support programme is provided by the University which includes:

- CRF Briefing Session (see below for details)
- Internal Mentorship Arrangement
- Funding for External Review Services
- Archive of application materials of awarded CRF for reference upon request ([Link](#))

In addition, the following incentive schemes specifically for CRF will be in place:

- For each successful CRF,
  - a) up to HK\$500,000 matching grant under the Group Research Scheme (GRS)
  - b) HK\$20,000 under Research Incentive Scheme (RIS)
  - c) 3 RPg places allocated to the Faculty
- Seed fund to applications that entered RGC selection interview stage

### **CRF Briefing Session**

As a prelude to the support programme for the upcoming exercise, a Briefing Session will be organized. Past awardees will share their first-hand tips in CRF preparation and participants could raise their questions during the Q&A session. Details are as follows:

**Date:** 8 November 2024 (Friday)  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
**Venue:** Cho Yiu Conference Hall  
**Registration:** [Online web form](#)  
(Deadline: 12:00 noon, 7 Nov 2024 (Thu))

Further details on the aforementioned support programme including the mentorship and funding for External Review will be announced soon.

### **Enquiries:**

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**Grants Team,  
Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer Services**

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*The above message is sent on 21 October 2024 to Department Chairpersons/School Directors, Directors of Research Institutes, and pertinent departmental email accounts for dissemination to staff members, with a copy to the Vice-Chancellor, the Provost, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Mai Har Sham), Members of the Research Committee, Faculty Deans (except for the Dean of Law), Faculty Secretaries, Panel Secretaries, as well as individual staff members who have registered with the ORKTS for research news for information.†*