

Pre-announcement: Research Grants Council (RGC) Early Career Collaborative Research Grant (ECCRG) under Collaborative Research Fund (CRF) 2022/23 Exercise

The Research Grants Council (RGC) will launch an Early Career Collaborative Research Grant (ECCRG) under the Collaborative Research Fund (CRF) in the coming 2022/23 exercise (to be invited in January 2022), to support early career researchers in conducting collaborative research.

The objective of ECCRG is to enable researchers to gain experience in leading and managing collaborative research at their early career stage so as to pave the way for seeking larger collaborative research funding in future. **It will support around 10 group research projects per year, each with a funding of \$5M or below**, on a three-year pilot basis.

Apart from the existing eligibility criteria on RGC funding schemes, to ensure the new stream can benefit the target group of researchers, **Project Coordinator (PC) and at least half of the number of Co-Principal Investigators must meet the following additional eligibility criteria** at the closing date of the application:

- i. Not exceeding 3 years of full-time academic appointment as an Associate Professor or career equivalent (academic staff at Assistant Professor rank or career equivalent included) involving teaching and research duties and in substantiation track / tenure track position in any university (local or overseas);

OR

Not exceeding 12 years of post-doctoral / equivalent terminal qualifications in relevant fields experience,

whichever is shorter.

- ii. Being in Staff Grades “C” to “I” as defined in the Common Data Collection Format.

Application period of ECCRG will be from January to April 2022. **An institutional quota of five is set.** With the new stream, **applicants may choose to apply for the normal CRF or ECCRG (if eligible) in the same exercise.** Similar to the Early Career Scheme (ECS), an awardee of ECCRG as PC cannot apply for the ECCRG again as PC. Details on the ECCRG will be announced in our call circular which will be sent once the information is received from the RGC.

On a separate note, the budget set aside by the RGC for the existing Collaborative Research Equipment Grant will increase from HK\$50M to HK\$100M.

Interested colleagues may visit RGC website for more information about the [Scheme](#) and the [previously awarded projects](#). Archive of application materials of past CRF awardees can be accessed via ORKTS (please click [here](#)).

Grants Team,
Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer Services

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