



Funding Scheme for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation — Joint Funding Category

Application Guidelines for the Joint Research Funding Programme of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the French Republic (Year 2026)

To build a higher-level platform for international openness and a hub for attracting high-end international talent, the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Government of the French Republic signed, on 8 May 2025, the *Agreement between the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the French Republic on the Implementation of a Scientific Research Cooperation Programme*. Pursuant to this agreement, Macao and France will jointly launch a research funding programme to promote mutual visits and academic exchanges between researchers, as well as to facilitate scientific research collaboration between institutions of the two sides.

I. Authorities and Management

1. The competent authorities for this joint research funding programme are: the Science and Technology Development Fund of Macao (hereinafter referred to as “FDCT”) for the Macao side, and the Campus France Agency in Paris for the French side.
2. Applications submitted by Macao entities — including application, acceptance, evaluation and approval, implementation, management and project completion — shall be administered in accordance with the current *Funding Scheme for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation* and these guidelines.
3. FDCT and the Campus France Agency in Paris will respectively allocate funds to the recipients in Macao and France, with the grants limited to local use in each respective location.
4. For approved projects, the Macao side shall sign a *Consent of Funding* with FDCT, while the French side shall act in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Campus France Agency in Paris.

II. Eligibility Requirements

1. The lead applicant must be a public higher education institution of the Macao Special Administrative Region or a private higher education institution legally established in the Macao Special Administrative Region.
2. If the above-mentioned entity does not possess legal personality, the application must be submitted through its affiliated entity that holds legal personality.

III. Areas of Support and Ineligible Project Types



1. Priority areas of support include: integrated circuit design, digital technology, aerospace technology, biomedicine, and environmental science.
2. Ineligible projects include: infrastructure development, acquisition of equipment only, market promotion projects, and soft science research such as policy or management studies.

IV. Funding Scope and Duration

1. The funding supports exchange visits and academic meetings between the cooperating parties in relation to ongoing or planned joint research projects. Eligible expenses include travel costs and the costs of organizing academic exchange activities.
 - 1.1. *Travel expenses*: Each project may receive funding for travel expenses of up to three researchers, limited to airfares for Macao-side researchers traveling to France, as well as accommodation and subsistence allowances in France.
 - 1.2. *Academic meetings*: The funding is limited to academic exchange meetings or similar activities held in Macao. The expenses may include costs related to the organisation, as well as transportation expenses for participants travelling between France and Macao, accommodation, and subsistence allowances.
2. The maximum funding amount per project is MOP150,000.
3. The funding duration for each project shall not exceed two years.

V. Application Period

From 5 February to 5 March, 2026.

VI. Cooperation Requirements between the Two Parties

1. Applicants must sign a cooperation agreement, memorandum of understanding or letter of intent with the French partner, and submit it at the time of application. Agreements concerning intellectual property arrangements may be submitted at the time of signing the Consent of Funding.
2. Projects must include effective intellectual property protection, reasonable sharing of cooperative results, and safeguarding of the interests of all parties.
3. The French partner must have strong technical capabilities or a high level of scientific research, as well as the willingness and capacity to cooperate with Macao. Cooperation may involve the provision of technical expertise, funding, personnel, data and information, advanced equipment or proprietary resources.
4. The French partner is also required to submit an application to the Campus France Agency in Paris. For details on the application process, please refer to the relevant regulations of the Campus France Agency in Paris.



5. During the period of cooperation, the following basic requirements must be met:
 - 5.1 The Macao project leader must conduct an exchange visit or research at the partner institution for no less than 7 days.
 - 5.2 Visits to Macao by the French project leader shall follow the relevant requirements set by the French side.
 - 5.3 At least two project meetings per year must be held with the participation of key personnel from both sides (format not limited).
6. All participating personnel must purchase personal insurance covering risks such as death, illness, disability, and damage to personal or third-party property, as a precautionary measure. Any liability arising from project-related activities shall be borne by the said insurance. The cost of the insurance shall be borne by the individual or the institution to which the individual belongs.

VII. Requirements for the Project Proposal

1. The project proposal serves as an important basis for FDCT and the expert reviewers to understand, evaluate, and select the projects. Applicants must complete the proposal carefully in accordance with the specified content, format and word count.
2. Each project leader may only submit one application.
3. Basic content requirements for the proposal are as follows:
 - 3.1 The project should promote current or future research collaboration and related technology development through the exchange of personnel.
 - 3.2 The cooperation should have significant value, be well justified, have clear objectives and specific content, a feasible cooperation plan, and a reasonable budget.
 - 3.3 The research team must have a clear structure and the ability to complete the project, with well-defined roles for the lead and participating institutions.
 - 3.4 The project titles, cooperating institutions, project leaders, and project duration indicated in the applications submitted by both sides must be identical.

VIII. Requirements for Matching Contributions

1. If the project involves cooperation with Macao-based commercial entrepreneurs or enterprises, such parties must provide a matching contribution of no less than 10% of the amount funded by the FDCT.