



澳門特別行政區
Região Administrativa Especial de Macau
科學技術發展基金
Fundo para o Desenvolvimento das Ciências e da Tecnologia

Funding Scheme for External Science and Technology Cooperation (Joint Funding)

Application Guidelines for MOST and FDCT's Joint Funding for Collaborative Research and Development Projects (2025)

In accordance with the “Agreement between the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People’s Republic of China and the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund on Joint Funding for Collaborative Research and Development Projects between the Two Regions,” the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) jointly announce the launch of the 2025 Joint Research Funding Scheme.

I. Supervising Authorities and Management

1. The supervisory authority for this joint research funding scheme is FDCT in Macao and the Office of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs of MOST in Mainland China.
2. The application, acceptance, evaluation, approval, implementation, management, and project conclusion on the Macao side shall be governed



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by the current Funding Scheme for External Science and Technology Cooperation and these guidelines.

3. FDCT and MOST will each disburse funds to their respective collaborators in Macao and Mainland China. Funds disbursed by each party can only be used within their respective jurisdictions.

II. Supported Fields and Excluded Project Types

1. Supported Fields are Information and Communication Technology, where the primary academic discipline codes under the “Primary Academic Discipline” completed in the “Online Application System for Project Funding” must be 413, 510 and 520, and Life Sciences and Medicine, where the primary academic discipline codes under the “Primary Academic Discipline” completed in the “Online Application System for Project Funding” must be 180, 190, 210, 220, 230, 240, 310, 320, 330, 340, 350 and 360. Priority will be given to projects focusing on the following:

- (1) Projects that leverage scientific resources from mainland China to resolve critical technological challenges impeding Macao’s social and economic development.



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(2) Projects closely aligned with industrial and application needs that contribute to forming intellectual property or relevant technical standards.

(3) Collaborative projects with novel perspectives, innovative content, interdisciplinary scope, and potential for practical application and commercialization.

2. Types of Projects Not Supported: Basic infrastructure projects, projects focused solely on equipment procurement, policy and management research in soft sciences, and projects solely aimed at market promotion are not eligible for funding.

III. Application Period

November 4, 2025 - December 11, 2025

IV. Collaboration Requirements

1. Within 5 years prior to the start of the application period, the project leader from Macao and the project leader from the Mainland China must have a foundation of prior cooperation, which may include: co-authored papers, books, or papers accepted by journals; co-applied patents; co-applied project funding; co-supervised graduate students; and



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co-organized academic activities. The application form must include relevant supporting documents.

2. At least one of the collaborating entities from Macao and Mainland China must be an enterprise and must provide matching funds. The matching fund requirements for Macao entities are defined by the current FDCT's Funding Scheme for External Science and Technology Cooperation, while Mainland China's matching fund requirements are governed by the Ministry's regulations.
3. The lead applicant from Macao must negotiate with the Mainland partner on research content, the research plan, and the division of responsibilities. They must sign a cooperation agreement, memorandum of understanding, or letter of intent, which must include specific provisions on intellectual property rights.
4. The roles and responsibilities of the lead and participating entities must be clearly defined, ensuring substantive R&D collaboration. The project must effectively protect intellectual property rights, equitably share the results of collaborative research, and safeguard the interests of all parties involved.
5. Collaborating partners must have strong technical capabilities or high research standards and must be willing and able to cooperate with Macao.



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They may contribute to the collaboration through technology, funding, personnel, information resources, advanced equipment, proprietary resources, or other means.

6. Cooperation between Macao-based research institutions and their Mainland subsidiaries is not supported under this program.
7. Mainland China partners must also submit their application to the Ministry. For detailed application procedures, please refer to the Ministry's relevant regulations.

V. Expected Outcomes

Expected outcomes may include patents, technical standards, prototypes, models, or formulas. Quantifiable indicators for the outcomes must be set, and the project should generate economic and social benefits upon completion.

VI. Application Form Requirements

1. The application form is a key document used by the Fund and peer reviewers to understand the project, consult on it, and select the best proposals. Applicants must carefully fill out the application form, adhering to the required content, format, and word limits.



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2. The basic content requirements for the application form are as follows:

- (1) The project should achieve collaboration in relevant research areas and technology development.
- (2) The significance of the collaboration should be substantial, with clear goals, specific content, a reasonable and feasible cooperation plan, measurable technical indicators, and a rational budget.
- (3) The research team's structure should be well-organized, with clear divisions of labor between the lead and participating entities, ensuring substantive R&D cooperation.
- (4) The project title, collaborating entities, project leaders, and project duration must be consistent across both Macao and Mainland China's application forms.

VII. Submission of Application

1. Applications must be written in one of the official languages of the Macao Special Administrative Region or in English.
2. Applicants who have applied for an electronic signature shall submit the application documents via the online application system of the FDCT on or before the deadline



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3. Applicants who have not applied for electronic signature shall, in addition to submitting the application documents via the online application system of the FDCT on or before the deadline, deliver the signed and stamped application documents to the FDCT.