



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 of Macao for Science and Technology R&D Talent**

### **1. Objective**

To align with the policy address of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the Science and Technology Development Fund (hereinafter referred to as the “FDCT”) is to launch the Funding Scheme of Macao for Science and Technology R&D Talent (hereinafter referred to as the “Scheme”) in accordance with the relevant provisions of the current Public Financial Aid System of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the Statutes of the Fund for the Development of Science and Technology, and the Funding Regulations of the Science and Technology Development Fund. The aim is to enhance the development of science and technology R&D talent in Macao, attract Macao talents from abroad, support these talents in conducting R&D at higher education institutions and technology enterprises in Macao, promote innovation, and foster appropriate diversification of Macao’s economy.

### **2. Funding Recipients, Application Eligibility, and Relevant Conditions**

#### **1. Funding Recipients:**

- (1) Public higher education institutions in the Macao SAR.
- (2) Private higher education institutions established under Macao law.
- (3) Enterprises certified under the Technology Enterprise Certification Programme of the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (“DSED”) (hereinafter referred to as “Technology Enterprises”).
- (4) Enterprises “engaged in science, technology, and innovation business” recognized by the “Commission for the Review of Enterprises Engaged in Science, Technology, and Innovation Business” as stipulated in Article 6 of the Tax Incentive Scheme for Science, Technology and Innovation Business (Law No. 1/2021) (hereinafter referred to as “Technology Enterprises”).

#### **2. Application Eligibility:**

- (1) Commercial entrepreneurs or entities with legal personality as described above are eligible to apply (hereinafter referred to as



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Applicants).

(2) If the entity does not have legal personality, the application must be made through the entity with legal personality to which it belongs.

**3. Classification and Conditions of Science and Technology R&D Talents under the Scheme:**

(1) For applications made by higher education institutions, R&D talents must meet the following conditions for post-doctoral fellows:

- Hold a Macao Resident Identity Card.
- Have obtained a PhD degree from a government-recognized university in Macao or abroad within the past five years.
- Have experience in academic research or the transformation of research outcomes in the field of science and technology.
- Have been employed for less than six months as of the application date or have yet to formally join but have agreed to do so within one year after the grant is approved.

(2) For applications made by technology enterprises, R&D talents must meet the following conditions:

- Hold a Macao Resident Identity Card.
- Have obtained a PhD or Master's degree in science and technology from a government-recognized university in Macao or abroad.
- Have been employed for less than six months as of the application date or have yet to formally join but have agreed to do so within one year after the grant is approved.
- Must not be a shareholder of the technology enterprise.

**4. Projects conducted by R&D talents must meet the following requirements:**

(1) Projects must align with the Macao SAR's Second Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development (2021-2025), the Development



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Plan for Appropriate Economic Diversification (2024-2028), the Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2024, and relevant plans and proposals for the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. Projects should focus on promoting industries such as traditional Chinese medicine, integrated circuits, electronic components, Internet of Things, big data, artificial intelligence, new energy, space science, advanced materials, and biomedicine.

(2) Each project must have one supervisor or coordinator to oversee the R&D talent's progress. The supervisor or coordinator must meet the following conditions:

- For higher education institutions, the supervisor must be a faculty member, hold a position of at least associate professor, and directly guide the R&D talent.
- For technology enterprises, the coordinator must be a staff member responsible for coordinating the R&D talent's activities.

5. Only one R&D talent per project may apply for the stipend.

### 3. Application Period

16 October 2024 to 15 November 2024

### 4. Type and Scope of Funding

1. This Scheme provides non-reimbursable financial aid.
2. Scope of funding: Stipends for qualified R&D talents.

### 5. Quota of Funding

1. The Scheme provides funding for up to 65 individuals, with:
  - (1) No more than 15 post-doctoral fellows at higher education institutions.
  - (2) No more than 50 R&D talents at technology enterprises, with no more than 10 being PhD holders.
2. The number of R&D talents funded for any technology enterprise must not exceed one-third of the total number of employees holding degrees in the technology field. The maximum number of funded talents per



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enterprise is:

- (1) Five for key enterprises.
- (2) Three for growth enterprises.
- (3) Two for potential enterprises.
- (4) Three for enterprises recognized under the tax incentives for technology enterprises.

## 6. Application Dossier

The application dossier must include the following documents:

1. Identification documents and supporting materials for the applicant.
2. If the applicant is a commercial entrepreneur or enterprise, a business registration certificate issued within the last three months and a copy of the latest annual tax return (M1) must be submitted.
3. A certificate issued within the last three months by the competent authority confirming that the applicant has no outstanding taxes or social security contributions in Macao SAR.
4. Details of other projects and pending applications receiving public funding.
5. Identification, academic certificates, CV, and proof of accomplishments of the R&D talent.
6. Identification and CV of the supervisor or coordinator, with an explanation of their time commitment to the project.
7. For technology enterprises, a list of at least two employees holding degrees in the technology field, not including the R&D talent applying for the stipend, and their academic certificates. This list must not overlap with other applications.
8. A copy of the employment contract or the proposed contract for the R&D talent, specifying their position and monthly salary.
9. The project proposal, including requested funding, personnel, project plan, and timeline.



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## **7. Submission of Applications**

1. Applicants must submit the application in one of the official languages of the Macao Special Administrative Region or in English.
2. The application documents mentioned above must be submitted to the Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) on or before the deadline.

## **8. Preliminary Analysis**

1. FDCT will conduct a preliminary analysis of the application to verify whether the required documents for this program are complete and whether the applicant meets the conditions for the grant.
2. If any required documents are missing, FDCT may request the applicant to provide the missing documents within 15 days as necessary.
3. Applications will not be accepted for review and will be rejected with written notice if any of the following situations occur: (1) The applicant, supervisor, or coordinator does not comply with the provisions of Article 2 of this program. (2) The R&D talent does not meet the requirements specified in Article 2 or Article 12, Clause 2 of this program. (3) The applicant is listed for mandatory collection by FDCT or overdue repayment. (4) The applicant is a debtor of the Macao SAR Treasury. (5) Multiple applications for the same project or projects that have already received FDCT funding are submitted. (6) The application does not comply with the provisions of Article 6 of this program. (7) Failure to correct deficiencies or submit required documents within the prescribed period after notification. (8) Violation of current laws and regulations or failure to ensure the safety and legal rights of participants.

## **9. Evaluation Method and Criteria**

1. Prior to accepting applications, the Administrative Committee of FDCT will invite five to seven experts from the project consultant list to form the Project Consultant Committee.



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2. Applications that proceed to the evaluation phase will be reviewed by the Project Consultant Committee according to the following evaluation elements and criteria: (1) Qualifications of the applicant and R&D talent. (2) Qualifications of the supervisor or coordinator. (3) The impact of the proposed project on the economy and society of Macao.
3. FDCT may conduct on-site inspections of the applicant's research conditions and arrange meetings with the R&D personnel as needed.

## **10. Grant Awarding**

1. The Administrative Committee of FDCT will decide on the application based on the analysis of the application documents and evaluation opinions.
2. The recipient must sign the "Grant Agreement" attached to the grant notification within the specified time, acknowledging the grant decision and agreeing to comply with the terms outlined in the notification.
3. The grant funds will be disbursed in installments according to the terms specified in the "Grant Agreement."
4. FDCT will transfer the grant funds to the recipient.
5. The recipient must sign an employment contract with the R&D talent who has not yet been hired within one year from the grant approval date.

## **11. Amount and Calculation of the Grant**

1. The maximum amount of the grant for each application is MOP 720,000.
2. For higher education institutions, the monthly grant for each postdoctoral fellow shall not exceed MOP 30,000, and the grant period shall not exceed 24 months.
3. For technology enterprises, the monthly grant for each R&D talent shall not exceed 70% of their monthly salary, and the following limits apply: (1) Doctoral degree holders: MOP 30,000 per month for up to 24 months. (2) Master's degree holders: MOP 20,000 per month for up to 24 months.
4. The grant amount provided by FDCT will not exceed the requested amount.



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## 12. Grant Period

1. The grant period for this program is up to three years.
2. Individuals who have previously received grants from FDCT's "Postdoctoral Funding Scheme" or this program may receive further grants if they meet the conditions outlined in Article 2 after the grant period ends. However, the cumulative grant period cannot exceed 48 months.

**13. Termination of the Grant** If the R&D talent leaves the position before the end of the project, the grant will be terminated on the departure date. The recipient must submit a final report according to Clause 6 of Article 15 and return the grant funds according to Clauses 1, 2, and 3 of Article 19.

## 14. Expected Outputs

1. For postdoctoral researchers in higher education institutions, the expected research outputs may include but are not limited to academic or applied results, such as papers, books, research (consulting) reports, patents, software, hardware (prototypes, models), technical standards, formulas, new materials, and new processes.
2. For R&D talent in technology enterprises, the expected outputs must be applied results, including patents, software, hardware (prototypes, models), technical standards, formulas, new materials, and new processes.

## 15. Reports

1. The recipient must submit an annual report on the progress of the work funded by the grant and a final report for mid-term and final evaluations by FDCT.
2. These reports must consist of two parts: a description of the activities undertaken and the results achieved, as well as the financial execution status.



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3. Regarding activities and results, the recipient must provide a detailed description of the work carried out and the results achieved in line with the approved plan and timeline.
4. Regarding financial execution, the recipient must provide a detailed account of the use of grant funds, including all income and expenditures, and retain original receipts for at least five years.
5. The recipient must submit the annual report before the deadline specified in the grant notification.
6. The final report must be submitted within 90 days following the end of the grant period.
7. In cases of force majeure or other reasons confirmed by the FDCT Administrative Committee as beyond the recipient's control, the recipient must notify FDCT within seven working days of the relevant event.
8. If such circumstances are confirmed, the deadline for submitting the report will be suspended from the date of the event until it ceases.

**16. Obligations of the Recipient** The recipient must:

1. Provide truthful information and statements.
2. Apply for changes in the grant if necessary, except in cases where the grant decision or agreement specifies otherwise.
3. Ensure that the grant is used for the purposes specified in the grant decision.
4. Plan and execute the grant expenditure prudently and reasonably.
5. Submit reports on time.
6. Return any unused grant funds intended for specific purposes.
7. Properly record expenditures and maintain specific accounts for related expenses.
8. Cooperate with FDCT in monitoring the use of grant funds, including financial audits and checks on relevant income and expenditure.
9. Return the grant funds in accordance with Article 19.
10. Comply with intellectual property protection laws.





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11. Ensure that the application and project implementation comply with laws and do not infringe on any rights.
12. Comply with the terms set out in the "Grant Agreement" signed with FDCT.
13. Agree that FDCT holds the right to document the entire process, including text, photographs, video, and other forms, and to use all related outputs permanently and free of charge.
14. Agree that FDCT may publish basic project information, summaries, and publicly available results on its website and in external publications.
15. Mention the support of “Science and Technology Development Fund of the Macao Special Administrative Region” or “Supported by the Science and Technology Development Fund of the Macao SAR” in any related promotional activities, press releases, or publicity materials, and report to FDCT.
16. Ensure that no other public financial aid schemes fund expenses covered by FDCT.

**17. Consequences of Breach of Obligations** Except in cases of force majeure or where the FDCT Administrative Committee determines that the breach is not attributable to the recipient, if the obligations mentioned in the previous article are violated, the FDCT Administrative Committee may, depending on the nature and severity of the breach, make one or more of the following decisions:

1. Reject the grant application.
2. Suspend the disbursement of funds not yet granted or impose appropriate restrictions on the amount of actual disbursement.
3. Cancel all or part of the granted funds and require the recipient to return the relevant amounts.
4. Add the recipient or R&D talent to the list of those in breach of obligations, setting a period during which they are restricted from applying for grants, with a maximum restriction period of two years.

**18. Situations with Applicable Consequences**



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1. The consequences mentioned in Clause 1 of the previous article particularly apply when the recipient is in breach of Clauses 6 or 9 of Article 16 of this program during the grant application process.
2. The consequences mentioned in Clause 2 of the previous article particularly apply in cases where the recipient is in breach of Clauses 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, or 12 of Article 16 of this program, and FDCT deems the violation to be a minor offense.
3. The consequences mentioned in Clauses 3 and 4 of the previous article particularly apply in the following situations: (1) The recipient violates the obligations under Clauses 1, 3, 9, 10, 11, or 16 of Article 16 of this program. (2) The recipient violates the obligations under Clause 4 of Article 16, causing significant risks or damage to participants or public interests, especially public safety or social order. (3) The recipient violates Clauses 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, or 12 of Article 16 of this program, and FDCT deems the violation to be serious.
4. When making decisions regarding the consequences mentioned in the previous article, the FDCT Administrative Committee shall provide reasons. If the grant is partially canceled, the amount to be returned must be specified.

## **19. Return, Reimbursement, and Enforcement of Grant Funds**

1. If FDCT confirms that the eligible expenditure is lower than the amount already disbursed, the recipient must return the difference within the period specified by FDCT.
2. If the grant is not implemented within the period set out in the grant decision or agreement, the recipient must explain the reasons for the failure and return the received funds within the period specified by FDCT.
3. Upon reasonable request by the recipient, FDCT may exceptionally approve the recipient not to return funds used for reasonable expenses incurred before the termination of the project.
4. If the grant is wholly or partially canceled or terminated, the recipient must return the disbursed funds within the deadline specified in the notification.



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5. If the recipient fails to return the funds within the specified period without reasonable justification, the Financial Services Bureau shall proceed with enforced collection based on the enforcement procedure for tax collection, using the related certificate issued by the Administrative Committee as the legal basis.

**20. Administrative, Civil, and Criminal Liability** In the event of false statements, provision of false information, or use of any illegal means to obtain the grant, the party involved shall bear any administrative, civil, and criminal liability in accordance with the law, without prejudice to the consequences outlined in Article 17 of this program.

## **21. Monitoring**

1. FDCT has the authority to monitor compliance with this program, the grant decision, or the agreement, especially to verify whether the recipient uses the funds for the purposes specified in the grant decision.
2. To fulfill its monitoring role, FDCT has the right to: (1) Request the recipient to provide necessary information and assistance for project follow-up, on-site inspections, and document checks. (2) Hire qualified third-party institutions to audit the accounts of funded activities or projects.

**22. Appeals** Applicants may appeal any decision in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Code.

## **23. Personal Data Processing**

1. To implement the provisions of this program, FDCT and other relevant public departments or entities may, when necessary, process and verify personal data contained in the application documents, including data sharing, in accordance with Law No. 8/2005 "Personal Data Protection Act."
2. Personal data in the application documents will only be used by FDCT for processing and approving the grant application. For the purpose of evaluating



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the application, the applicant must agree that FDCT may transfer the data to other entities and provide it to the Project Consultant Committee for review.

## 24. Other Notices

1. All application materials are solely for the use of this program. Applicants must ensure the accuracy of the submitted documents and data, and once submitted, the materials will not be returned.
2. Matters not covered by this program are subject to the current "Public Financial Support System of the Macao Special Administrative Region," the "Statutes of the Science and Technology Development Fund," the "Regulations on Financial Support of the Science and Technology Development Fund," and the "Grant Agreement" signed after the grant approval.
3. Details of this program can be obtained at FDCT's service counters or downloaded from the website: <https://www.fdct.gov.mo/>.
4. If the content of the application infringes the rights of others, the applicant shall bear full responsibility. FDCT also reserves the right to pursue legal action.
5. False statements will not only result in disqualification but also other legal consequences.
6. FDCT reserves the right to amend and interpret this program.