

Fundo para o Desenvolvimento das Ciências e da Tecnologia

# **Funding Scheme for Postdoctoral Researchers of Higher Education Institutions**

## I. Objectives

Serving the MSAR government's policies regarding the vigorous promotion of science and technology innovations and enhanced talent training, as well as fostering cooperation in science and technology innovations in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The Science and Technology Development Fund (hereafter referred to as "FDCT") devised this Scheme according to the Chief Executive's Dispatch n.°235/2018, "Regulations of Fund Granting", Article 15 and 16, published on 3rd October 2018, to support outstanding domestic and overseas doctoral graduates in science and technology areas who work as full-time postdoctoral researchers in local higher education institutions.

# **II.** Applying Entities

Local higher education institutions.

# III. Funding Type

Non-compensated.

# IV. Funding quota, Funding Amount and Duration

- 1. The Scheme offers 50 funding quotas.
- 2. Every eligible full-time postdoctoral researcher is entitled to a monthly payment of MOP40,000 for up to 24 months.



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## V. Application Period

Subject to the period designated by FDCT's Administrative Committee.

### VI. Application Requirements

- 1. The postdoctoral researcher's cooperative supervisor must be at the grade of associate professor or above.
- 2. The person that the applying entity plans to hire as its postdoctoral researcher must have obtained a doctorate degree in the recent three years, with significant research experience in science and technology and meet any of the following requirements:
  - (1) Obtained a doctorate degree from any of the top 200 universities in the latest global ranking by Times, QS, US News or ARWU;
  - (2) Obtained a doctorate degree with subject relevant to any of the top 100 universities in the latest global subject rankings by Times, QS, US News or ARWU;
  - (3) Obtained a doctorate degree from any of the universities in the latest list of the 'Double World Class' project universities released by China's Ministry of Education, or from the Chinese Academy of Sciences;
  - (4) Obtained a doctorate degree from any of the higher education institutions listed in the Guangdong High Level University Development Program in any of the nine mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area, or those graduate from any of the higher education institutions in Macao must



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have won the Macao Scientific and Technological Research and Development Award for Postgraduates (for PhD students).

(5) Published at least two research papers as first author in any of the Q1 SCI journals within the doctoral field of specialization concerned.

#### **VII.** Application Documents

- 1. The applying entity's identification information and relevant certificate(s), and the identification document of the legal representative of the entity;
- 2. Completed application form.

#### VIII. Application Method

The applying entity shall submit all the relevant application documents in the way designated by FDCT before the deadline.

#### IX. Assessment Procedures and Criteria

- 1. The assessment is performed according to the Chief Executive's Dispatch n.°235/2018, "Regulations of Fund Granting", published on 3rd October 2018.
- 2. The assessment criteria are as follows:
  - (1) The amount of research funding that the applying entity received from the Fund in the past three years;
  - (2) The applying entity's research capability and research conditions.

#### X. Qualification Review



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- 1. The funded higher education institutions must complete the recruitment process within one year from the day of the granting of the funds.
- 2. Before the recruitment process begins, the funded higher education institutions must submit to FDCT a list of the postdoctoral researchers candidates that they plan to hire, including their CVs, copies of their identification documents and doctoral degree certificates as well as copies of documents proving that they complies with the regulations mentioned in Paragraph 2 of Article 6 of this Scheme.
- 3. FDCT will review the qualification according to the criteria listed in Article 6 of this Scheme, thus the funded higher education institutions can officially start the recruitment process of the postdoctoral researchers upon the confirmation of FDCT.
- 4. Doctoral graduates who fail to pass the qualification review will not receive the funding for postdoctoral researchers.

### **XI.** Funding Allocation

- 1. A *Funding Agreement* will be requested to be signed by the eligible higher education institutions.
- 2. FDCT will release the funding to the eligible entity.
- 3. The funded entity will then transfer the funds to the eligible postdoctoral researchers on a monthly basis. The funded postdoctoral researchers shall sign the acknowledgement receipts upon receiving the funds.

### XII. Reports



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The funded entity should submit an annual progress report and a final report of the execution respectively for interim and final assessments by FDCT.

## XIII. Termination of the Funding

- 1. The funding to the postdoctoral researchers will be terminated when they stop their research work at the funded entity, and their funded quotas are non-transferable to other eligible individuals.
- 2. The funded entity shall notify FDCT of the termination of the postdoctoral researchers' work in a timely manner, and return to FDCT the remaining funded amount of the terminated researcher(s).

## XIV. Other Funding

Postdoctoral researchers who receive funding from this Scheme shall not accept funding from other public funding schemes or programs.

## XV. Right to Interpretation

The Fund reserves the right of final interpretation of the regulations of this Scheme.