

Application Guidelines for the Jointly Funded Scientific Research Project by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund (For the Year 2021)

In order to encourage cooperation with related scientific research institutions and to participate in national-level scientific research projects, the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund (hereafter as: FDCT) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (hereafter as: NSFC) has signed the *NSFC-FDCT Technical Cooperation and Exchange Memorandum* on 7th January, 2016.

And according to the annex- *Plan on launching the Jointly Funded Scientific Research Project* of the Memorandum, both parties will launch the Jointly Funding scheme annually to fund the potential Mainland-Macao Science Research Projects (hereafter as: FDCT- NSFC Projects).

I. Administrative Units

The administrative units of the current joint funding scheme are FDCT in Macao and NSFC in the Mainland.

The issues of applications, acceptance, evaluation, approval, implementation and management as well as final report of Macao applicants are governed by the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 235/2018 *Regulation on the Approval of Granting of Financial Support*. The Mainland part is managed according to *The Management Method of International (Areas) Cooperation Research Project by the NSFC*.

II. Major Area for Support

This scheme mainly supports basic research or applied basic research projects jointly proposed by Mainland-Macao research candidates, prior to the following fields: Information Science, Traditional Chinese Medicine Research, Marine Science, Environmental Science, Biological Science and New Materials Science.

III. Financing of the Macao Participant

The Maximum Applied Amount of each project in this scheme granted by the FDCT is MOP 2.5 millions, to be released in installments in a maximum of 3 years. The Macao grantee must implement the project according to the “Funding Agreement” signed with the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund.

The FDCT and NSFC will release the funded amounts respectively to the Macao and Mainland participants of the selected projects. Please be aware that the released fund can only be used locally.

IV. Application Method and Requirements

1. The Macao applicant must fully discuss with its cooperating partner in Mainland China on issues such as the research content, the research plan and the division of labor. Then the project proposal should be filled out accordingly, together with the signed cooperation agreement or memorandum with the Mainland’s counterpart and submit to the FDCT before deadline.

2. Mainland partners must also declare to NSFC. Details on applications can be referred to the relevant guidelines published by the NSFC.
3. Consistency of the project name and name of the PI of both parties listed in the submitted proposal is strongly recommended, where the research content should clearly state the complementary advantages of this cooperation.

V. Evaluation Procedures

1. FDCT and NSFC will work together to verify the project eligibility after the submission deadline of the scheme. For those projects found on the list of both the FDCT and NSFC projects, will be accepted as “FDCT-NSFC projects” for further evaluation.
2. Projects will be evaluated by both administrative units-the FDCT and the NSFC separately.
3. For any project confirmed to be a cross-border cooperation ones, the evaluation procedures will be the same as the current scientific research projects funded by the FDCT (which include peer review by experts, evaluation by the Supervisory Board, approval by the Administrative Committee or the Trustee Committee), but priority will be given to the assessment of these projects by the FDCT.
4. The FDCT and NSFC will organize joint peer panel for final evaluation of these projects, in order to gather the evaluation results and comments from experts of both units.
5. After Evaluation, the FDCT and NSFC will confirm the funded amounts and intensity after thorough discussion. Both parties will simultaneously

announce the list of jointly funded projects to the public.

VI. Requirements for Filling out the Project Proposal

1. The project proposal is an important source for the FDCT and the peer experts to understand about the conditions of the project, to conduct consultation and appraisal of the project, and to select the best projects. The applicant must carefully fill out the project proposal according to requirements for the content, format and number of words.
2. The basic requirements for filling out the project proposal are as follows:
 - (1) The project applicant must meet the requirements stipulated in Article 2, Chapter 1 of the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 235/2018.
 - (2) The cooperation project should carry important meaning, ample reason, a clear goal, specific content, a feasible cooperation plan and assessable technical indicators.
 - (3) The project must possess adequate foundation for cooperation. The project applicant must possess the relevant channels and ability for cooperation, and can foster a cooperative and trusting relationship with the cooperation partner. A relevant project cooperation agreement or letter of intent with the cooperating partner should be signed.
 - (4) The cooperating partner must possess a relatively strong technological strength or a relatively high scientific research level, and the will and ability to cooperate with Macao. The cooperating partner can collaborate by means of technology, capital, personnel or data and information, advanced equipment and exclusive resources.

- (5) The intellectual property rights can be effectively protected and the findings of the cooperation research will be shared justly, thus upholding the interests of both parties.

VII. Method of Filling out the Proposal

Please log in the online application system to complete the application.

<https://apps.fdct.gov.mo/sams/public/main-page.faces>

For more details, please refer to the instructions of general research grants.