

Guideline for Joint Funding Scheme for NSFC-FDCT Project 2023

In order to facilitate S&T exchanges and cooperation between scientific researchers in the Mainland and Macao, the Science and Technology Development Fund (hereinafter referred to as “FDCT”) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (hereinafter referred to as “NSFC”) signed the *NSFC-FDCT Technical Cooperation and Exchange Memorandum* on 7 January 2016.

According to the *Action Plan on Joint Funding for Collaborative Scientific Research Projects* – the Annex to the aforementioned Memorandum, the two parties launch the joint funding scheme annually for collaborative scientific research projects proposed by the Mainland and Macao researchers (hereinafter referred to as “FDCT-NSFC Projects”).

I. Competent Authorities

1. The competent authorities of this Joint Funding Scheme are FDCT in Macao and NSFC in the Mainland.
2. The project application and acceptance, assessment and approval, implementation and management as well as project conclusion of Macao applicants will be governed in accordance with the *Financial Aid Grant Regulation* as approved by the Chief Executive’s Dispatch No. 64/2021; those of Mainland applicants will be governed in accordance with the *NSFC Management Measures for International(Regional) Collaborative Research Projects*.

II. Key Support Areas

This Funding Scheme mainly supports fundamental research or applied fundamental research projects jointly proposed by the Mainland and Macao researchers, priority will be given to the following fields: Information Science, Traditional Chinese Medicine Research, Marine Science, Environmental Science, Biological Science, New Materials Science and Space Science.

III. Funding Amount

1. The funding amount for each project shall not exceed MOP 2,500,000 (two million five hundred thousand patacas). Each project has a maximum funding duration of three years, with funding amount allocated in installments. The funded entities in Macao are required to implement the approved projects in accordance with the Funding Agreement signed with FDCT.
2. FDCT and NSFC will issue funds to successful applicants of Macao and Mainland respectively. Project funds can only be used locally.

IV. Application Period

16 January 2023 to 28 February 2023

V. Eligibility

Entities that meet the requirements prescribed in paragraphs (1) to (4) of Article 2 of the *Financial Aid Grant Regulation* approved by the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 64/2021 are eligible.

VI. Application Requirements

1. The number of approved research projects that a project leader can undertake will be subject to the current management measures.
2. The applicant in Macao shall consult with the Mainland co-applicant on the research contents, research plans, division of

research tasks, etc., and sign a cooperation agreement or memorandum; fill out the project proposal, and submit the application to FDCT by the application deadline.

3. The project shall have a certain foundation for cooperation; the project applicant shall have proper approach and capability of cooperation, as well as good intention to cooperate and mutual trust with co-applicant; the related issues shall be guaranteed by a signed cooperation agreement or memorandum.
4. The co-applicant shall possess a relatively strong R&D strength or a relatively high scientific research level, also have the initiative and sufficient ability to cooperate with Macao applicant. The co-applicant can collaborate by means of technology, capital, personnel or data and information, advanced equipment and exclusive resources.
5. The parties shall be capable of effectively protecting intellectual property rights generated, justly sharing the R&D findings and upholding the interests of both parties.
6. The Mainland co-applicant must concurrently declare to NSFC. For detailed methods, please refer to the relevant provisions of NSFC.

VII. Formality Review

FDCT and NSFC will respectively conduct a formality review after application deadline and then jointly check the list of projects from their respective reviews. The projects will be considered as “FDCT- NSFC Projects” when such projects are included in both FDCT and NSFC lists.

VIII. Assessment Procedure

1. FDCT and NSFC conduct their respective assessments on the projects accepted.

2. The assessment procedures of FDCT for such projects are the same as those of the current research projects (including peer review, Project Advisory Committee review, Administrative Committee review, Trustee Committee review). Such projects will be prioritized.
3. FDCT and NSFC will organize a joint review panel that consists of experts in relevant academic fields from the two sides, in order to gather the results and opinions of their respective reviews for final review.
4. As per the joint review, FDCT and NSFC will determine the funding amounts and intensity after thorough discussion. The results of the review will be released simultaneously by both parties.

IX. Requirements for Filling out the Project Proposal

1. The project proposal is an important source for FDCT and the peer experts to understand 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 word limit.
2. The basic requirements for filling out the project proposal are as follows:
 - (1) The proposed project shall carry the important meaning, ample reasons, clear goals, specific content, with a feasible cooperation plan provided.
 - (2) The name of the project and the names of the applicants on both sides must be consistent. The contents of the research plan shall reflect the complementary advantages of both sides.

X. Method of Filling out the Proposal

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

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

For more details about account registration and funding system, please refer to the instructions of general scientific research funding on the FDCT website.