



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

Joint Funding Scheme for NSFC-FDCT Project (2024)

I. Objectives

To facilitate S&T exchanges and cooperation between scientific researchers in the Mainland and Macao in line with national policies and the policy address of the Macao SAR Government, 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 *FDCT-NSFC Technical Cooperation and Exchange Memorandum* on 7 January 2016. FDCT has launched the Joint Funding Scheme for NSFC-FDCT Project (hereinafter referred to as “the Scheme”) in accordance with the *Action Plan on Joint Funding for Collaborative Scientific Research Projects* – the Annex to the aforementioned *Memorandum*, 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*, aiming to support the Mainland and Macao scholars to collaboratively conduct fundamental and applied research, improve Macao’s scientific research strength with the help of national scientific and technological resources and research strength, whilst fully leveraging Macao’s role as the intersection of “dual circulation”, so as to facilitate the further integration of Macao’s scientific and technological sector into the national scientific and technological innovation system.



II. Competent Authorities

The competent authorities of this Joint Funding Scheme are FDCT in Macao and NSFC in the Mainland.

III. Key Funding Areas and Areas Ineligible for Funding

1. In the Scheme, priority goes to the areas such as: Information Science, Traditional Chinese Medicine Research, Marine Science, Environmental Science, Biological Science, New Materials Science, and Space Science.
2. The Scheme does not support the development of infrastructure, general equipment procurement, soft science research projects on policies and management, or projects on market promotion.

IV. Amount, Purpose, Methods and Duration of Funding

1. The type of financial support under the Scheme is non-reimbursable.
2. The total amount of FDCT funding shall not exceed MOP 36 million.
3. The funding ceiling for each project is MOP 2.5 million
4. The funding amount granted by FDCT shall not be higher than the applied amount.
5. Eligible expenditures include the following:

1. Allowance for Macao researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● For those who can legally work or study in Macao, including undergraduates, postgraduates, doctoral students, postdoctoral researchers, research assistants, resident doctors, assistant professors/attending doctors, associate professors/deputy director consultants, full professors/director consultants, chair professors, etc.
2. Instruments and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Purchase cost of instruments and equipment, expenses for renewal of instruments and equipment
3. Consumables, reagents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Consumables, reagents● Material processing fee, test/assay/analysis fee
4. Other expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Fees for conference trips of Macao researchers



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incurred due to the implementation of the project	● Transportation fees for Macao researchers commuting to and from the co-applicants
	● Living allowance for personnel of the mainland co-applicants in Macao (excluding transportation fees commuting to and from Macao)
	● Fees for publication/documentation

6. The funding ceilings of some expenditures are shown in the attachment. The Administrative Committee of FDCT may adjust the funding ceilings uniformly every year according to the actual situation, without affecting the total funding ceiling stipulated in paragraph 2 of this Article and the funding amount granted to the approved project.
7. Ineligible expenditures include the following:
 - (1) Expenses for the establishment of an entity;
 - (2) Expenditure of personnel other than those specified in paragraph 5 of this Article;
 - (3) Utilities, telephone fees and other similar expenditures;
 - (4) Hospitality, social expenses and other similar expenditures;
 - (5) Acquisition of vehicles, except for experimental purposes;
 - (6) Expenses of constructing, acquiring, and amortizing immovable property;
 - (7) Amortization of expenses for new machinery and equipment not covered by paragraph 5 of this Article;
 - (8) Decoration and alteration costs, paper polishing fees, expenses for holding seminars and activities of a similar nature;
 - (9) Other expenses specified in the Funding Agreement as ineligible.
8. FDCT and NSFC will issue funds to successful applicants of Macao and Mainland respectively. Project funds can only be used locally.



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9. Each project has a maximum funding duration of three years.

V. Applying Entities

1. Local higher education institutions under the supervision of the Macao SAR Government;
2. Laboratories or other entities engaged in scientific and technological R&D in the Macao SAR;
3. Private non-profit organizations registered in the Macao SAR;
4. Entrepreneurs or commercial enterprises registered in the Macao SAR.

VI. Application Requirements

1. Macao applicant shall apply to FDCT, and its Mainland co-applicant shall apply to NSFC. As for the detailed application methods of the Mainland co-applicant, please refer to the relevant provisions of NSFC.
2. The Principal Investigator (PI) of Macao applicant can only undertake one FDCT-funded project at the same period, and can only submit a new funding application as PI after submitting the completion report upon the closure of the current research project, however there is no restriction on participating in research projects as a project member.

VII. Cooperation Requirements

1. Macao applicant shall consult with the Mainland co-applicant and other co-applicants (if any) on the research contents, research plans, division of research tasks, etc., and sign a cooperation agreement or memorandum.
2. The project shall have a certain foundation for cooperation, a clear division of research tasks, substantive R&D cooperation.



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Macao applicant shall have proper approach and capability of cooperation, as well as good intention to cooperate and mutual trust with co-applicant(s).

3. The Mainland co-applicant shall possess a relatively strong technical strength or a relatively high scientific research level, also have the initiative and sufficient ability to cooperate with Macao applicant, and can collaborate by means of technology, capital, personnel or data and information, advanced equipment and exclusive resources.
4. The parties shall be capable of effectively protecting intellectual property rights generated, justly sharing the R&D findings and upholding the interests of each party.

VIII. Requirements for Achievements

The expected research findings, not limited to academic achievements or application-oriented achievements, may include papers, monographs, research (consultation) reports, patents, talent cultivation, software, hardware (prototype, mock-up), technical standards, formulas, new materials, new technologies, etc.

IX. Application Documents

The application documents shall include the following data:

1. The applicant's identifying particulars and relevant supporting documents;
2. Certificates proving that the applicant is not in arrears with tax and social security contributions (if any) in the Macao SAR;
3. Letters of introduction or recommendation issued by reputable entities in the fields of science, technology and innovation;
4. Data on other projects funded by public funds and other pending applications submitted by the same applicant for



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funding purposes;

5. Identity information and resumes of PI and the members of the project team, with data on the time allocated to the implementation of the project by each person;
6. An application proposal with detailed description of the project;
7. A cooperation agreement or memorandum signed among Macao applicant, the Mainland co-applicant and other co-applicants (if any).

X. Requirements for Filling out the Application Proposal

1. The application 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 application proposal according to requirements for the content, format and word limit.
2. The basic requirements for filling out the application proposal are as follows:
 - (1) 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.
 - (2) The proposed project shall carry the important meaning, ample reasons, clear goals, specific content, with a feasible cooperation plan provided, and technical indicators that can be assessed.

XI. Application Period and Method

1. Application period: 22 January – 29 February 2024



2. Application method: Fill in the application proposal in Chinese, Portuguese or English through the online platform (<https://apps.fdct.gov.mo/sams/public/main-page.faces>), and submit all the application documents mentioned in the above article within the above period.

XII. Formal Examination

1. FDCT conducts a formal examination after the deadline of application to check whether the relevant documents are correct and complete and examines whether the application fulfils the conditions for receiving funding.
2. FDCT may require the applying entity to submit additional documents within 15 days as needed.
3. Applications that fall under any of the following circumstances will not be accepted for the review process. FDCT will reject such applications and provide notification through a letter of notification:
 - (1) The application conditions do not meet the requirements of Article 5 of the Scheme;
 - (2) The application documents do not meet the requirements of Article 9 of the Scheme;
 - (3) The number of research projects undertaken by PI exceeds the maximum number of projects allowed as prescribed by the *Regulations on the undertaking of FDCT-Funded Research Projects by Principal Investigators*;
 - (4) The applicant fails to supplement and correct relevant data after being notified or the application is overdue;
 - (5) The applicant is included in the list of compulsory collection and overdue return of FDCT;
 - (6) The applicant violates the existing laws and regulations or



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fails to protect the safety and legitimate rights and interests of participants;

- (7) The Mainland co-applicant fails to pass the formal review conducted by NSFC.
4. FDCT and NSFC will jointly check the list of projects from their respective reviews. The projects will be considered as “NSFC-FDCT Projects” when such projects are included in both FDCT and NSFC lists

XIII. Review Methods

1. Before accepting an application, the Administrative Committee of FDCT shall invite five to seven advisors from the list of project advisors to form the Project Advisory Committee.
2. FDCT and NSFC conduct their respective reviews on the projects accepted.
3. The application documents entering the review process will be submitted to the Project Advisory Committee formed by FDCT for review according to the review elements and criteria in the following paragraph.
4. Key considerations will be given to the following:
 - (1) The scientific value and cutting-edge technology of the project;
 - (2) Qualifications of the applying entity;
 - (3) Work plan and cooperation foundation of the project.
5. After the review, FDCT and NSFC will select the projects to be jointly funded from the projects that have passed the reviews of both parties.

XIV. Funding Approval

1. For funding applications not exceeding MOP 1 million, the



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Administrative Committee of FDCT shall make a decision after giving full consideration to the submissions made by the Project Advisory Committee, the relevant scores (if any), the opinions of external peer experts (if any), as well as the results of projects to be co-funded by FDCT and NSFC.

2. For funding applications exceeding MOP 1 million, the Administrative Committee of FDCT shall prepare a written submission and submit it to the Trustee Committee of FDCT for deliberation after giving full consideration to the submissions made by the Project Advisory Committee, the relevant scores (if any), the opinions of external peer experts (if any), as well as the results of projects to be co-funded by FDCT and NSFC. After consideration and approval by the Trustee Committee of FDCT, the application will be submitted to the Supervisory Board for clearance within its delegated authorization.
3. The list of co-funded projects will be announced by FDCT and NSFC simultaneously. FDCT will send a letter of notification to notify the applying entity of the approval result.
4. The funded entity shall sign the Funding Agreement accompanying the letter of grant within the time limit, stating that the funded entity is aware of and will comply with the decision on the grant as stated in the letter of grant.
5. The funds will be release in phases, and reimbursed for the actual amount as described in the Funding Agreement.

XV. Reports and Agreed-upon Procedure Reports

1. The funded entity shall submit an annual report and a final report on the progress of project research for annual and final evaluation by FDCT.



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2. For funding applications equal to or exceeding MOP 1 million, certified public accountants, accounting firms, accountants who can provide accounting and tax services, and accounting firms which can provide accounting and tax services shall be engaged to carry out the agreed-upon procedures and prepare reports.
3. The funded entity shall submit the annual report by the deadline set out in the letter of grant.
4. The funded entity shall submit the final report and the agreed-upon procedure report (if necessary) within ninety days of the project completion date.

XVI. Obligations of Funded Entities

1. Provide valid and authentic documents and make a declaration;
2. Use the funds exclusively for the designated purpose;
3. Prudently and rationally plan and organize the funded project;
4. Submit the report referred to in the above article on time, and if the report cannot be submitted on time due to force majeure or other reasons not attributable to the funded entity, FDCT shall be notified within seven working days from the date of occurrence of the relevant fact;
5. Refund the funds that were not used for their intended purpose;
6. Comply with the terms set out in the Funding Agreement signed with FDCT;
7. Accept the supervision and cooperate with FDCT in monitoring the use of funds, including the inspection of relevant revenues and expenditures and financial conditions, and agree that FDCT has the right to record in writing, filming, photography and other forms throughout the project process, as well as the permanent free use right of all relevant outputs;



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8. In any publicity activities, press releases and promotional materials related to the project, indicate that the project is “supported by the Science and Technology Development Fund of Macao SAR” or “Support Institution: Science and Technology Development Fund of Macao SAR”, and report to FDCT for filing;
9. Agree that FDCT shall publish the basic data, project summary and publicly available research findings of the funded project on the website of FDCT and other public documents;
10. Ensure that the content of the funded project and the project implementation procedures do not violate the law, nor do they infringe any rights of others;
11. Projects funded by FDCT shall not accept funding from other public funding schemes or programs.

XVII. Consequences of Violation of Obligations

1. No funds shall be granted;
2. For the funds that have been granted but not yet released, the release shall be suspended or appropriate restrictions shall be imposed when calculating the actual release amount;
3. Cancel the funds already granted in whole or in part, and require the funded entity to refund the relevant funds;
4. Deny the funding application submitted by the relevant PI or private enterprises within one year.
5. The consequences referred to in paragraphs 3-4 of this article shall apply in particular in the following cases:
 - (1) The funded entity intentionally violates the obligations set forth in paragraphs 1-2 of the above article;
 - (2) The funded entity violates the obligations set forth in paragraph 3 of the above article and causes serious risks or



damage to participants or public interests, especially public safety or social order.

XVIII. Refund and Compulsory Collection of Funding

1. If the funding is canceled in whole or in part, the funded entity shall refund the amount received within the notified period.
2. If a funded entity fails to return the funding that shall be refunded to FDCT within the specified period, the Financial Services Bureau shall impose compulsory collection in accordance with the provisions of tax enforcement procedures.

XIX. Supervision

1. FDCT has the authority to monitor compliance with the Scheme, particularly to oversee whether the funded entity utilizes the approved funding for the designated purposes as determined in the grant decision.
2. To perform its supervisory functions, FDCT has the right to:
 - (1) Require the funded entity to provide necessary data and assistance for project follow-up and spot checks;
 - (2) Engage a professionally qualified third party to audit the accounts of funded activities or projects.

XX. Dispute

The applicant may dispute the decision in accordance with the provisions of the *Administrative Procedure Code*.

XXI. Maintain Communication with Other Government Entities

1. To ensure the proper allocation and utilization of public funds, FDCT may check with other government entities for relevant information on applications.



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2. When necessary, the competent department has the right to access, audit, or verify the authenticity of the data submitted by the applicants and whether the procedures for supervising the use of public money are appropriate. Applicants are required to respect, fully cooperate with, and provide real-time assistance to the personnel of relevant competent departments in their investigation work, and promptly provide and present relevant financial statements, receipts, and other documents.

XXII. Processing of Personal Data

The personal data in the application documents are only used by FDCT for processing and approving funding applications. To facilitate the approval of funding applications, applicants are required to consent to the transfer of data contained in the application documents by FDCT to other entities and to distribute it to the Project Advisory Committee for evaluation purposes.

XXIII. Other Notes

1. All application data shall be used for the purpose of the Scheme only. Applicants shall ensure that the documents and data submitted are accurate and error-free. Once submitted, they will not be returned.
2. Any matter not covered in the Scheme shall be governed by the current laws: the *Public Financial Aid System of the Macao Special Administrative Region*, the *Statutes of the Fund for the Development of Science and Technology*, the *Funding Regulations of the Science and Technology Development Fund*, and the *Guidelines for Verification of Funded Activities or Projects* issued by the Office for the Planning of the Supervision of the Public Assets of the Macao Special



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Administrative Region.

3. For information regarding the Scheme, applicants may visit the office of FDCT to request it in person or access the website (<https://www.fdct.gov.mo/>) to download the relevant documents.
4. If the content of the application involves any unlawful infringement of the rights of others, the applicant shall bear all responsibilities. FDCT also reserves the right to pursue legal actions against the applicant.
5. Making false statements will not only result in the loss of eligibility for the application but may also entail other legal consequences.
6. FDCT reserves the right to revise and interpret the aforementioned content.

Attachment: Funding Ceilings of Some Expenditures



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Funding Ceilings of Some Expenditures

Expenditure Category	Expenditure Item		Per Unit	Funding Ceiling (MOP)	Remarks
Allowance for Macao researchers	Undergraduate		Per person/ per month	7,500.00	---
	Postgraduate		Per person/ per month	10,000.00	---
	Doctoral student		Per person/ per month	12,500.00	---
	Postdoctoral researcher		Per person/ per month	25,000.00	---
	Research assistant		Per person/ per month	20,000.00	---
	Resident doctor		Per person/ per month	9,000.00	---
	Assistant professor/ Attending doctor		Per person/ per month	10,000.00	---
	Associate professor/ Deputy director consultant		Per person/ per month	11,000.00	---
	Full professor/ Director consultant		Per person/ per month	13,000.00	---
	Chair professor		Per person/ per month	15,000.00	---
Other expenses incurred due to the implementation of the project	Fees for conference trips of Macao researchers	Domestic conference	Per person/ per time	8,000.00	Including conference registration fee, transportation fees, accommodation and board costs (based on standards such as: hotel – standard room; air ticket – economy class; meal allowance – MOP 300 per person per day maximum, excluding banquet expenses)
		International conference	Per person/ per time	20,000.00	
	Transportation fees for Macao researchers commuting to and from the co-applicants	Outside Guangdong Province	Per person/ per time	4,500.00	---
		Inside Guangdong Province	Per person/ per time	2,000.00	
	Living allowance for personnel of the mainland co-applicants in Macao	Allowance for accommodation, meals and transportation in Macao	Per person/ per day	1,500.00	Excluding transportation fees commuting to and from Macao
Fees for publication/documentation	---	Per piece	10,000.00	---	