

Research Impact Fund

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1. Background

Background

- The 2017 Policy Address
- Review of the Research Grants Council (RGC) (Phase I)

Background (Cont'd)

- Approved by the UGC and administered by the RGC
- Funded initially by UGC's Central Allocation Vote
- \$150 million available in the 2016-19 triennium

2. Objectives

Objectives

- To initiate a change in the local research culture
- To encourage a greater volume of collaborative research beyond academia

3. General Principles

General Principles

- Applies to all eight UGC-funded universities
- Operated on a competitive basis
- Proposals on all academic disciplines are welcome

General Principles (Cont'd)

- Priority given to proposals :
 - that build upon previous work or
 - involving multiple disciplines or are problem-based
- Matching funds
- A longer-term and larger-scale grant supported

4. Operational Framework

Operational Framework

Research Impact

- How to define research impact?

Operational Framework (Cont'd)

Assessment Criteria

- academic merit
- research impact
- others?

Operational Framework (Cont'd)

Measurement of research impact

- How to capture and measure research impact?

Operational Framework (Cont'd)

Evaluation Process

- Two-stage application, i.e. preliminary proposal and full proposal
- Evaluation by panel members, end users and through peer-review
- Interview

Operational Framework (Cont'd)

Evaluation Process

- How to engage potential beneficiaries to participate in the proposal evaluation process?
- To avoid any conflict of interest, should we exclude local academics in the evaluation process?

Operational Framework (Cont'd)

Project duration and grant size

- Are the proposed project duration and grant size appropriate?
 - Up to 5 years
 - \$4 million - \$10 million per project from RGC
 - Up to \$8 million - \$20 million per project with matching funds

Operational Framework (Cont'd)

Project monitoring

- Mid-term review

5. Examples

Examples

1. “Genomic and Molecular Studies of a Salinity Tolerance Locus in the Wild Soybean Genome”
2. “Centre for Research into Circulating Fetal Nucleic Acids”

Examples

3. “Centre for Marine Environmental Research and Innovating Technology”
4. “Hong Kong Institute of Economics and Business Strategy”

6. Timetable

Timetable

Timing	Action
December 2017 – January 2018	To finalize the operational framework for the RIF and consult RGC and UGC
Early 2018	Issue call for proposals
Mid 2018	Shortlist for full proposals
December 2018	Assessment of proposals by RGC Selection interview
January 2019	Announcement of results

Consultation Session

Thank you