

RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL

PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH (PPR) FUNDING SCHEME FOR INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

Supplementary Notes for Applicants

These notes provide supplementary information, in addition to the Explanatory Notes (PPR2) for completing the Application Form, for applicants of the Public Policy Research (PPR) seeking support for individual research.

Objective

2. The existing PPR funding template has been modified to better support research conducted by individual researchers. Through institutional arrangement for period(s) of time-off, academic staff may be released from teaching and administrative duties to concentrate on the proposed research full-time.

General Framework

3. The PPR applications for individual research will be considered alongside with other PPR applications by the PPR Sub-panel at the same time, and evaluated according to the same criteria. There is no preference for one type of proposal over the other: the principal consideration being the quality of the proposals.

4. Existing General research Fund (GRF)/PPR holders are eligible to apply for the RGC's support for Individual Research. Holders of the GRF/PPR for Individual Research are not eligible to hold another GRF/PPR for Individual Research at the same time, although holders of this support may hold other RGC or non-RGC grants concurrently.

5. This support for Individual Research enables the Principal Investigator to take time-off to carry out research in an individual and independent manner, in contrast to the conduct of research through supervision of research staff (e.g., Research Assistants). The PI may collaborate with others so long as individual ownership of a distinctive piece of work can be demonstrated.

6. The time-off is to be achieved:

- (a) normally through re-arrangements of teaching schedule, utilization of summer vacation or entitled sabbatical;
- (b) failing (a) above and with detailed justification, by recruitment of a relief teacher fully-funded by the RGC during the period of time-off.

7. Within a typical project of 24- to 36-months duration, the minimum period for time-off is four consecutive months, and the maximum period is 12 months

in total. All (overseas) trip(s) must be completed within the project duration. Applicants should apply for time-off from their respective institutions that suits their schedules and needs of the project.

8. During the time-off the Principal Investigator is expected to work full-time on the proposed research. He/she should not accept any teaching assignment (invited seminars and public lectures excluded) or undertake any other major research activity.

9. The time-off is intended mainly for field work, site visits, interviews, library or archival research etc. The time-off is not primarily for solitary contemplation or extensive writing, as these activities can take place outside the period of time-off during the project duration.

10. Upon receipt of this support, the Principal Investigator should ensure that teaching duties are rearranged. Failing that the RGC may withdraw the award.

Points to note in completing the Application Form (PPR1)

11. Before applying for this RGC's support, the Principal Investigator should approach his/her respective institution to seek an agreement-in-principle on the rearrangement of his/her teaching schedule to allow for the proposed time-off. Failing that, and with legitimate justification, the Principal Investigator may apply for funds to support a relief teacher. The RGC, however, would only approve such applications in exceptional circumstances.

12. Under "Research plan and methodology", the Principal Investigator should include period(s) of the proposed time-off and the expected research activities to be conducted.

13. Under "Estimated cost and resource implications", the Principal Investigator should include only expenses arising directly from the proposed research. Examples of these include: airfare, accommodation and travel per diem of the Principal Investigator (if out of Hong Kong); hiring of temporary staff (such as local guides, porters or assistants) for on-site work during the period of time-off; relief teacher for the period of the approved time-off; conference attendance. Expenses covered by recurrent block grant expenditure should not be included.

14. A standard provision of \$12,000 per grant is provided for travelling in connection with presenting their work internationally in their particular areas.

* * * * *

UGC Secretariat

November 2011