

**Selection Criteria for
Healthy Longevity Catalyst Awards (Hong Kong) 2025 Applications**

The review process includes the following stages:

(1) Administrative Review

The Secretariat will ensure that universities have endorsed eligibility of the applicants and completeness of the applications.

(2) Innovation Review

For Innovation Review, applications will be assessed on the basis of creativity and innovation, rather than on the basis of pre-existing data, demonstrated work, institutional capabilities, or feasibility alone. Following the National Academy of Medicine's guidelines, each proposal will be assessed with the following assessment criteria in order of descending importance:

- (i) **Innovation***: The extent to which the proposed idea challenges existing paradigms and employs new methodologies or concepts;
- (ii) **Potential for Impact**: The extent to which the proposed idea may have a significant impact on the physical, mental, or social well-being of people as they age;
- (iii) **Quality**: The extent to which the proposed idea and the research methodology are clearly explained and the application includes a compelling or well-defined outcome metric;
- (iv) **Scope**: The extent to which the proposed idea represents a challenge impacting the entire field, and not solely the interests of the applicant.

**Note: Innovation (criterion (i)) is the overriding criterion in evaluating the applications.*

(3) Subject Matter Expert (SME) Review

After Innovation Review, shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit supplementary information regarding the implementation and methodology of their proposals for SME Review. For SME Review, reviewers will comment on academic, scientific merits of the proposals as well as the

soundness of their design and methodology. However, it should be noted that creativity and innovation would remain as the top-priority evaluation criteria in rating the proposal as this is the most important and distinguishing feature of the Catalyst Award competition. The following aspects will be taken into consideration when evaluating the academic and scientific merits and feasibility of the proposal:

- (i) **Originality and Impact** in the subject field: How innovative and important is the proposed idea? What is the potential impact of the proposed idea in the area of study?
- (ii) **Research Questions, Aims and Hypotheses:** Are the objectives and initiatives viable and clearly expressed with logical reasoning?
- (iii) **Project Design and Implementation Plans:** Complexity and feasibility of the proposed approaches and methodology in addressing the key ideas and problems.
- (iv) **Outcomes and Effectiveness:** Are the outcomes clearly defined and aiming towards achieving proof-of-concept in the next stage of development?

(4) Selection Committee Review

A final selection panel will review the shortlisted applications and external reviewers' assessment at different stages, and then identify ten proposals with innovative, novel, and potentially groundbreaking ideas to be recommended to receive the award.

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