RGC Ref No.

RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL

Application for Allocation from the Research Impact Fund (RIF) for 2026/27

Preliminary Proposal

- All project information must follow the format specified in the application form. Failure to comply with the application format and / or the allowable page may lead to disqualification of the proposal.
- To safeguard the interests of the researcher and the university, the awardee university bears the primary responsibility for prevention, detection and investigation of research misconduct, including but not limited to misuse of funds, data falsification, plagiarism and double-dipping. The university is strongly encouraged to vet the applications using anti-plagiarism software before submitting them to RGC.

PART I RESEARCH PROPOSAL

[To be completed by the applicant(s)]

1. Information on the project

(a) (i) Name and Academic Affiliation of Applicants:

	Name (with title)	Post	Unit / Department / University / Institution	ORCID iD	Current Member of the RGC / Committee / Panel as at application deadline (Yes / No)	RGC / Name of the RGC Committee / Panel	Number of Hours Per Week to be spent by the PC and each Co-PI on the Project
Project Coordinator [PC]:							
Co-Principal Investigator [Co-PI]:							
Organisational partner[1]:							
Collaborator:							

[1] Please provide the name and post of the person responsible for the project.

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(ii) Title of Project (in English and Traditional Chinese):

_____

_____

(iii) Nature of Application:

New ☐ Re-submission ☐ Renewal ☐

Reference no. of relevant project:____

Funding Scheme _____

(iv) If the application is a re-submission, please state the funding agency(ies) and the funding programme(s):

Reference number(s) *[for UGC / RGC projects only]*:	
Project title(s) *[if different from Section 1(ii) of Part I above]*:	
Date (month / year) of application:	
Outcome:	
Number of times of re-submission under the RIF since its first submission and proposal reference number(s) *(if applicable)*:	

(v) If this proposal is a re-submission under any of the UGC / RGC funding schemes, please provide a summary of all the previous submissions and the revisions made to each of the previous submissions. Please make sure that sufficient revisions and improvement based on the comments provided by the assessment panels have been made. *(maximum one A4 side)*

(vi) For renewal application, please describe the results achieved in the previously funded research project and explain the prospect for further research work to continue in the relevant area.

(b) (i) Primary Field[2]:_____& Code ____ Percentage:_____

Secondary Field[2]:_____& Code ____ Percentage:_____

(ii) A maximum of five sets of keywords to characterise the work of your proposal *(a maximum of 30 characters for each set of keywords)*

[2] Please refer to the list of field codes/areas in GRF2, which is available on the RGC website: http://www.ugc.edu.hk/doc/eng/rgc/form/GRF2.pdf.

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(iii) Project Duration[3]: Months

(iv) Funding Requested[4]

Total cost of the project: HK$

Less:

Matching fund provided by university: HK$

Matching fund provided by partner(s), if any: HK$

(Should be on 70% (RGC)(excluding on-costs) / 30% (university / organisational partner(s)) basis)

Net amount requested from the RGC[5]: (excluding on-costs) HK$

2. Project Objectives
[Please list the objectives in point form]

1.
2.
3.

3. Pathways to Impact Statement
[a maximum of two A4 pages]

[3] Project duration should range from 36 to 60 months.

[4] PC and Co-PIs are not regarded as project staff and whose salaries must not be funded by the project. Academic staff remunerated by any UGC-funded universities in Hong Kong must not be paid with honorarium or other forms of payment from the project. The estimated cost should not include any "hidden" costs covered by the recurrent block grant expenditure, such as normal salaries of teaching staff who spend a portion of their time on research, cost of utilities, stationery, etc. They should include only expenditure which would not otherwise be separately incurred.

[5] Net amount requested from the RGC should range from HK$3 million to HK$10 million.

A maximum of four A4 pages in total, including all attachments and references, in standard RGC format for Sections 4 – 5 below.

4. Proposed Outline of Research Plan and Methodology

5. Collaboration Plan
   [Please identify the role and specific task(s) the PC and each of the Co-PIs / partner(s) is responsible for.]

6. Brief Curriculum Vitae (CV) for Applicants
   [Please attach a one-page curriculum vitae, in standard RGC format, for the PC and each Co-PI. For organisational partner(s), please also attach a one-page introduction of the organisation.]

7. Applicants' Experience in Collaboration beyond Academia
   [Please describe the experience, if any, of the PC and each Co-PI in collaboration beyond academia (250 words for each person).]

8. Letter of collaboration or supporting statement from each Co-PI and organisational partner
   [Please attach a maximum of one A4 page for each Co-PI / organisational partner.]

9. Undertaking of the PC

By submitting the application, I undertake that the research activity(ies) / expenditure(s) of the project, if funded, will be carefully monitored for its / their compliance with applicable laws, health and safety guidelines and ethical standards, including but not limited to the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

We certify that we have completed this application in accordance with the requirements of the RGC. The information given is complete and accurate to the best of our knowledge. In addition, the PC herewith confirms that he / she has obtained the consent of all the parties in Section 1(a) to collaborate in the proposed research. The PC fully understands that failure to comply with any of the RGC's requirements may lead to disqualification of the application and / or other debarment of applying for future UGC / RGC grants for a certain period of time.

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PART II UNIVERSITY'S ENDORSEMENT

[To be completed by the appropriate authority of the PC's university. The university should confirm that it has evaluated and given support to the application before submission to the RGC, and verify that the PC fully meets the criteria for and is not debarred from applying for UGC / RGC funds. Before giving the various confirmations required, the university should satisfy itself that the PC in all respect meets the requirement of the RGC and can complete the project, if funded. The university is also required to report to the RGC immediately if the PC subsequently becomes ineligible for the grant.]

(* Please tick '√' as appropriate in the boxes)

I confirm the following:

(a) the application has been evaluated and endorsed by the university for submission to the RGC;

(b) the PC, in the staff grade ____, meets fully the stipulated staff eligibility requirement for RIF and is not debarred from applying for the RGC grant;

[where the PC is newly appointed, the university has formally entered into a contract of service with him / her on or before the application deadline and the contract requires him / her to report for duty on or before 1 September 2026.]

□ the PC is / will be primarily engaged in and spending at least 80% of time in degree or higher degree work at the university; **or**

□ the PC is / will be seconded to work at the following Innovation and Technology (I&T) clusters at the Hong Kong Science Park from _____(mm / yyyy) to _____(mm/yyyy), with intellectual property agreements in place that apply to this period of secondment;

□ Health@InnoHK

□ AIR@InnoHK

□ The PC is / will be seconded to conduct research in a university or a research institute / body / agency in the Mainland / overseas jurisdiction from _____ (mm/yyyy) to _____ (mm/yyyy), with intellectual property agreements in place that apply to this period of secondment.

[Name of university / research institute / body / agency: _____
Region / Country: _____]

(c) □ the PC is / will be employed on permanent terms; or

□ the PC is / will be employed on fixed term contract;

[If the PC is / will be employed on a fixed term contract, the PC has to be still eligible for a RIF grant at the time of the funding award being made in December 2026 / January 2027 and throughout the whole project period.]

(d) □ the PC is / will be a visiting scholar; or

□ the PC is NOT a visiting scholar;

[where the PC is a visiting scholar, he / she has a full-time employment with the university covering the whole project period.]

(e) the applicant will have the number of hours per week as declared in Part I to supervise the proposed project without prejudice to his / her existing commitment in other research work, teaching and administrative duties;

(f) the university will inform the RGC as soon as the PC ceases to be eligible to apply, receive or hold a RIF grant, and will withdraw the application; or once funded and commenced, recommend to RGC for approval of a suitable new PC, if any, to take over the funded project. The university understands that failure in identifying a suitable new PC or obtaining approval from RGC for change of PC will result in termination of the funded project;

(g) the university understands that RIF grant, if given, will be withdrawn if the project does not start by 30 June 2027 without justification to the satisfaction of the RGC; or the PC leaves the UGC sector before the project completion and the universities cannot identify a suitable new PC to take over the project. The university should report to the RGC as soon as possible when a PC proceeds on no-pay leave / professional leave for a continuous or cumulative period exceeding 183 days within the project period;

(h) the research project under this RIF application

□ is

□ is not

in line with the role of the university;

(i) the university will provide matching funding on a 70% (RGC) / 30% (university / organisational partner(s)) basis on the total cost of the project. In case the contribution from organisational partner(s) does not realise, the university undertakes to provide the matching funding up to 30%;

(j) the university undertakes to provide a video clip to publicise the project's research achievements within three months upon satisfactory rating of completion report, if the project is funded; and

(k) this application

□ has

□ has not
(please provide reasons for not scanning by anti-plagiarism software:
_____)

been scanned by anti-plagiarism software.