

**Research Grants Council (RGC)
and
New Collaboration Scheme with
the European Commission**

20 November 2015

University Grants Committee's Structure

University Grants Committee

Research Grants Council
(RGC)

Quality Assurance Council
(QAC)

Groups to deal with :

- Strategy
- Research policy matters
- General administration
- Financial affairs
- Communications

- Ad hoc groups as required

Research Grants Council (RGC)

<http://www.ugc.edu.hk/rgc/>

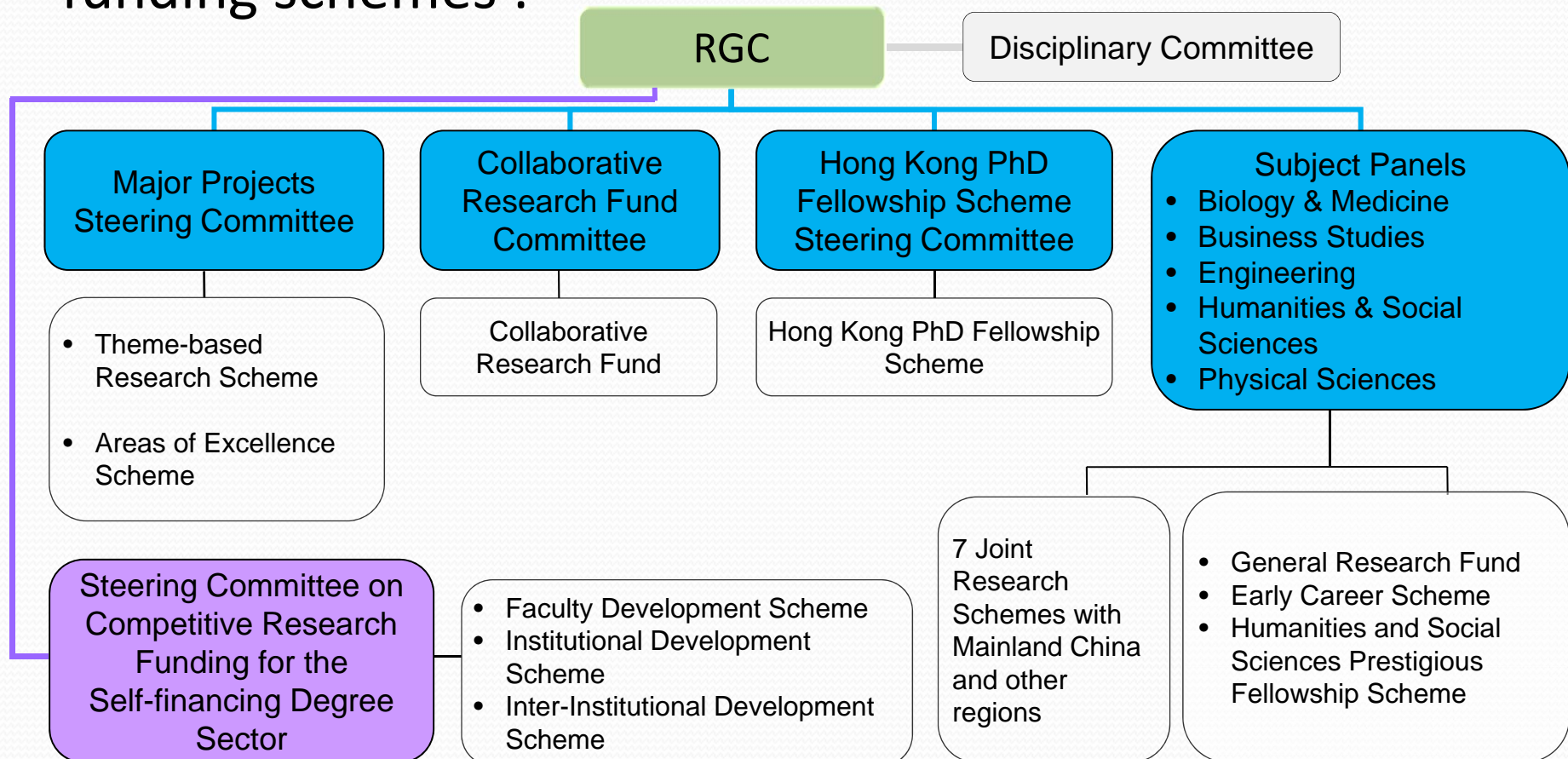
- Established 1 January 1991
- To **advise** the Government, through the UGC, on the **academic research needs** of UGC-funded higher education institutions
- To **review** research proposals and **monitor** the outcome of such projects
- To **review** and **approve** award of fellowships
- To **operate** new research funding schemes for the **local self-financing degree sector**

RGC (Cont'd)

- Council Members
(appointed by Hong Kong Government)
 - Local academics (10)
 - Local lay members (3)
 - External academics (12)

RGC Structure

The RGC has set up Panels/Committees to handle various funding schemes :



Funding for Academic Research

- The Government provides funding for academic research to the 8 higher education institutions mainly through the **University Grants Committee** (UGC) and its **Research Grants Council** (RGC)
- This constitutes the major source of research funding for the 8 institutions, making up about **74%** of their total research expenditure



Joint Research Schemes

Joint Research Schemes (cont'd)

- RGC has collaborations with organisations in the Mainland China and other regions, including:
- Mainland China –
 - **National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)**
- European countries –
 - **The Consulate General of France in Hong Kong**
 - **The French National Research Agency (ANR)**
 - **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**
 - **The Scottish Government**
 - **Scottish Funding Council (SFC)**
- The United States – **Fulbright Scholar Programmes**

Joint Research Schemes (Cont'd)

- Increasing budget for Joint Research Schemes from \$25M in 2011/12 to \$42M in 2015/16 (68% increase)
- Three types of grants

Types	Schemes
Project Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NSFC/RGC JRS• ANR/RGC JRS• SFC/RGC JRS
Travel/Conference Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Germany/HK JRS• <i>PROCORE</i>-France/HK JRS
Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fulbright-RGC HK Programme• HK-Scotland Partners in Post Doctoral Research

New Collaboration with Horizon 2020

- In June 2015, the RGC approved launching a new funding scheme to support Hong Kong researchers in participating in projects funded under Horizon 2020
- Aim: To foster the European-Hong Kong collaboration in academic research
- RGC's Annual budget: HK\$9 million

New Collaboration with Horizon 2020 (Cont'd)

- Scheme: European Commission (EC)/RGC Collaboration Scheme
- First call issued on 18 November 2015
- RGC's submission deadline on 4 July 2016

Key points of the RGC Call

- Both basic and applied research projects of high academic quality will be considered.
- Type of grants:

Proposal Type	Discipline	Grant Size (Max)	Duration
Research project	Science disciplines (viz Biology & Medicine, Engineering and Physical Sciences areas)	HK\$3 million / project	Max. 5 years (should not be longer than the Horizon 2020 project concerned)
Exchange	All	HK\$0.5 million / project	

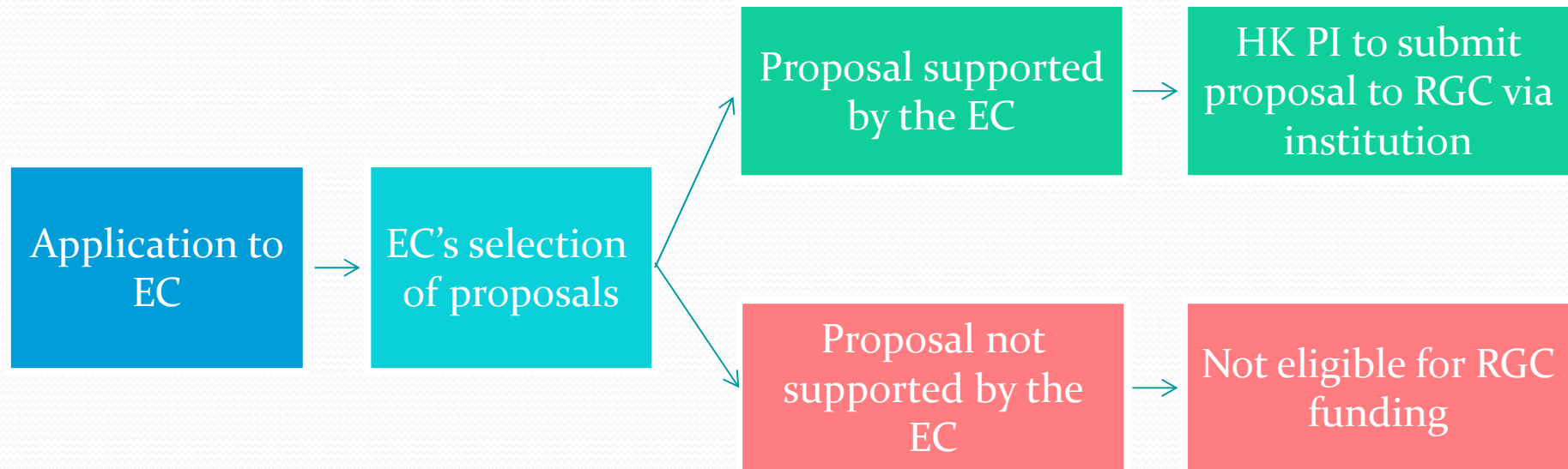
Key points of the RGC Call (Cont'd)

- Eligibility of Hong Kong Principal Investigators (PIs)
 - Meet the eligibility requirement for applying General Research Fund (GRF)
 - Must be a **Partner** in a **successful proposal** submitted in response to the **2016-17 call** of Horizon 2020 (issued on 14 October 2015)
 - A Hong Kong PI can only hold one on-going project under this Scheme at any one time

How to apply?

- Hong Kong researchers should first prepare the Horizon 2020 applications with European collaborators and submit the applications to European Commission (EC) according to the EC's call
- Hong Kong researchers must be a partner in the Horizon 2020 proposals
- EC will assess the proposals according to its review mechanism

Flow Chart



How to apply? (Cont'd)

- Hong Kong PI's application should also attach:
 - A brief summary of the successful Horizon 2020 proposal (to be completed and signed by the coordinator of the Horizon 2020 proposal)
 - EC's official notification of the proposal being funded

Selection Criteria

- The extent to which the existing strengths of each side may complement each other in the proposal;
- Opportunities for training young researchers;
- Credentials of project teams; and
- Impact to Hong Kong.

Tentative Time-table

- Subject to the availability of funding, the RGC has initially planned to receive two rounds of applications in a year

Time	EC	RGC
Oct/Nov 2015	2016-2017 Work Programme published	First call issued
Jan 2016	Deadline of first batch of calls for proposals	-
May / Jun 2016	Result announcement on first batch of calls for proposals	-
Jul 2016	-	Deadline for applications
Early Sep 2016	-	Result announcement of first call

Thank you