

Research Grants Council (RGC) Germany/Hong Kong Joint Research Scheme

FAQs

What are the objectives of this scheme?

- ▶ The Scheme aims to promote research collaborations between Hong Kong and Germany by providing researchers in the two places with one-year or two-year travel grants.

Which discipline(s) is(are) covered in this scheme?

- ▶ All disciplines.

Who is eligible to apply (as a PC/PI)?

- ▶ Only academic staff members whose conditions of employment meet all the following requirements are eligible for applying for RGC grants as Principal Investigator (PI):
 1. having a full-time¹ appointment in the university proper² of UGC-funded universities;
 2. being at Staff Grades from 'A' to 'I'³ (i.e. from 'Professor' to 'Assistant Lecturer');
 3. being primarily engaged in and spending at least 80% of time in degree or higher degree work⁴ at the university proper; and
 4. salary being wholly funded⁵ by the university proper.

¹ Part-time staff and staff holding honorary appointments are excluded.

² Excluding schools/arms of continuing education and professional training and other analogous outfits.

³ Polytechnic staff grades are excluded.

⁴ A Project Investigator who is / will be seconded to work full-time or part-time at the two Innovation and Technology (I&T) clusters (Health@InnoHK and AIR@InnoHK) at the Hong Kong Science Park; or to conduct research in a university or a research institute / body / agency in the Mainland / overseas jurisdiction, is still considered eligible to apply for the GHK.

⁵ Staff who are receiving income from paid appointments outside the university proper do not satisfy this requirement.

Who is eligible to apply (as a PC/PI)? (continued)

- ▶ Visiting staff will only be eligible if they have a full-time appointment in the university proper covering at least one year or the duration of the project, whichever is the longer. Staff supported by external research grants⁶ are however not eligible.
- ▶ As a transitional measure, academic staff who are engaged in non-degree programmes which are still funded by the UGC may also apply as the PI. Eligible staff in this category must be wholly funded from the General Funds of the university concerned. This arrangement would continue until such time when the relevant programmes are no longer funded by the UGC. Cases of an exceptional nature (including circumstances not covered by the above rules) will be considered by the RGC on a case-by-case basis.

⁶ These grants are normally awarded for a designated purpose.

Any eligibility requirement on Co-PI/Co-I?

- ▶ There is no eligibility requirement on Co-I.

What are the stages of application?

- ▶ PIs submit Application Form and proposal
- ▶ Formal submission of Application (three hard copies and one soft copy)

What document(s) should be prepared before and/or during application stage?

- ▶ Full set of application materials in PDF format
- ▶ Signed Undertaking form (PDF format)
- ▶ Statement of Endorsement from the Head of relevant academic unit (original copy)
- ▶ VeriGuide scanning reference number (for proposal section)

Is there an institutional quota for this scheme?

- ▶ There is no institutional quota for this scheme.

What is the range of funding support?

- ▶ Applicants may apply for one-year or two-year travel grants. For each selected Hong Kong applicant:
 - Maximum HK\$45,000 per year for projects involving travel of research postgraduate student(s); or
 - Maximum HK\$30,000 per year for projects not involving students' travel.

What does the funding budget cover?

- ▶ Travel expenses only.

If PIs opt to submit without vetting by ORKTS, what will the minimum processing time be?

- ▶ If PIs opt to submit without vetting by ORKTS, ORKTS will proceed the application form to University's endorsement and submit to the RGC for review. The processing time is around four days.

What are the assessment criteria?

- ▶ The assessment criteria are as follows:
 - the academic merits of the proposed research;
 - the possible synergies, expected benefits, and prospects for long-term collaboration; and
 - training opportunities for young researchers and research postgraduate students through the proposed exchanges.
- ▶ The RGC and the DAAD will jointly select applications to be supported. Only applications that have been agreed upon by both sides will be considered for funding.

When will grantor announce the funding result?

- ▶ The RGC will announce the selection results around December in the same year via ORKTS.