

Croucher Foundation - Croucher Innovation Awards

FAQs

What are the objectives of this scheme?

- ▶ The objective is to identify a small number of exceptionally talented scientists from all countries working at an internationally competitive level and to offer substantial support to these “rising stars” at a formative stage in their careers. The Croucher Innovation Awards are designed to enable recipients to pursue their own scientific, intellectual and professional inclinations, to advance their expertise, to engage in bold new work, and to contribute to the development of education and research in Hong Kong.

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

- ▶ Natural sciences, technology and medicine.

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

- ▶ The selected candidate is expected to be a new recruit and must have secured a tenure-track faculty position in a university in Hong Kong. In any case the selected candidate should not have been in a tenure-track position for more than two years. Also, the selected candidate is expected to have completed his/her doctorate with distinction less than six years ago.

How to apply for this scheme?

- ▶ Applicants please submit the application form in the Croucher Foundation online application system. (<https://cuhk.croucher.org.hk/rounds/cia/2021>)
- ▶ By the internal deadline, please email to Grants Team, Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer Services the application form (in PDF format) which should be generated from the system.

Can PI submit more than one application to the same application round?

- ▶ No, PI cannot submit more than one application to the same application round.

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

- ▶ Application Stage
- ▶ Apart from the application form, applicants please also submit the following documents by the internal deadline:
 - Statement of Commitment from the Head of relevant academic unit addressing to the Croucher Foundation (in PDF format)
 - Declaration form endorsed by Head of relevant academic unit (original copy)
- ▶ Applicants who are shortlisted in internal selection are required to invite 2 academic referees for academic references. The academic references should be sent confidentially to the Croucher Foundation by the external deadline.
- ▶ Selection Interview Stage
 - 3 slides for presentation (in PDF format)

Is there an institutional quota for this scheme?

- ▶ Institutional quota for this scheme is 3.

Any eligibility requirement on Co-applicant(s)?

- ▶ No Co-applicant for this scheme.

What is the range of funding support?

- ▶ Each award carries a value of up to HK\$5 million to be paid in instalments over five years for research expenses to be used at the discretion of the recipient of projects headed by the recipient at a university in Hong Kong (including the necessary equipment and material, personnel, travel expense, etc.). It may be utilized for all expenditure serving this purpose and should be used economically and prudently. It however would not cover salary, housing allowance and/or other benefits of the recipient. Scientific equipment financed by the award will become the property of the host institution immediately upon purchase.

Is administrative overhead fees/indirect costs allowed?

- ▶ administrative overhead is not allowed.

What is the operational timeframe after internal deadline?

- ▶ 3 weeks for internal selection
- ▶ 2 weeks for internal review by internal advisors
- ▶ 1 week for internal vetting

What is the estimated time for PIs' revision and re-submission?

- ▶ 2.5 weeks for PIs' revision and re-submission

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

- ▶ All applications will be subject to selection by the Research Committee if the number of applications exceeds the institutional quota of 3. In this connection, please note that application materials should reach Grants Team, Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer Services by the internal deadline and late submission would not be accepted.

What are the assessment criteria?

- ▶ The selected candidate is expected:
 - to have a strong, internationally competitive track record in research, relative to the stage of his/her career and research experience to date;
 - to have published significant intellectual contributions to research;
 - to have completed his/her doctorate with distinction less than six years ago;
 - to show evidence of achievement as an independent researcher in his/her chosen area;
 - to have been lead investigator on at least one significant research grant from a major funding body, or have been the recipient of an independent research fellowship before taking up his/her current post;
 - to have held competitive fellowships at the key career stages if he/she has clinical qualifications;
 - to have begun to establish a training record and to coach or mentor less experienced researchers.

Will grantor shortlist projects and invite applicants to attend presentation/meeting/interview?

- ▶ Grantor will shortlist projects and invite applicants to attend the following:
 - Selection interview

When will grantor announce the funding result?

- ▶ Results will be announced in May after the interview in the following year.

Are there any requirements for the 6-page proposal?

- ▶ There is no format requirement on the proposal. The proposal can include diagrams, illustrations and formulae as required. References, figures and tables (if any) should be provided within the 6 pages