

NSTC Directions for Subsidizing Contract Research Fellow Engaged in Contract Research Project

Amended per NSTC Letter No. 1130025320 issued on April 17, 2024

- I. The National Science and Technology Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council” or “NSTC”) has formulated the Directions herein to encourage contract research fellows to engage in long-term and forward-looking research, thereby driving the development of science and technology for, and accelerating the elevation of the technological level and international academic status of, the Republic of China (R.O.C.)
- II. Applicant institutions (i.e., executing institutions) must be the approved subsidized entities by the Council in accordance with the NSTC Directions for Application to Be Subsidized Entities.
- III. The principal investigator (or “contract research fellow” referred to in the Directions herein) must meet the qualifications for principal investigators of the NSTC-funded research projects and be a 2-time recipient of the Outstanding Research Award of the Council, with at least two years apart since August 1 of the year in which the second award was applied for.
- IV. Application institutions are required to submit applications prior to the deadline specified by the Council, whereas late submission will be rejected.
- V. Principal investigators are required to prepare documents as specified in Article XI of the NSTC Directions for Research Project Subsidization online on the website of Council, submit their proposals to the applicant institutions, send it out upon approval by the applicant institutions, and prepare the application roster and statement of principal investigator eligibility to the Council, while failure to complete correction by the deadline in the event of applications with incomplete documentation or not compliant with the regulations will result in rejection of applications:
- VI. The Contract Research Project (hereinafter referred to as “the Project”) is limited to a maximum duration of 3 years. Only one application is allowed in the same period. However, the principal investigator may simultaneously apply for general research projects in accordance with the NSTC Directions for Research Project Subsidization.
- VII. During the execution period of the Project, the principal investigator shall be granted the monthly research allowance of NT\$40,000. Where the principal investigator is unable to continue to execute the Project for any given reason, they shall immediately return the allowance for the principal investigator and research project funds for the unexecuted period.

- VIII. The principal investigator who has received the allowance for the principal investigator from the Project may not simultaneously receive the allowance for the principal investigator from other research projects at the Council.
- IX. The principal investigator may not apply for cancellation or termination of the Project during the execution period unless there are special circumstances approved by the Council.
- X. The principal investigator may execute the Project a maximum of two times. Those who have executed one three-year Outstanding Scholar Research Project shall be deemed to have executed the Project herein once.
- The principal investigator shall not be subject to the restrictions on the number of times specified in Paragraph 1, provided that the total duration shall not exceed six years during the execution of the Project, if the principal investigator meets any of the following conditions:
- (I) The Outstanding Scholar Research Project executed was converted into a general project due to the regulations announced by the Council.
- (II) The Project was terminated due to the execution of other major projects in cooperation with the Council's special tasks.
- The principal investigator who has executed the Project, the Outstanding Scholar Research Project, or the major projects stated in the Subparagraph (II) of the preceding paragraph for a total of six years shall be awarded the trophy of the Merit Research Fellow Award.
- XII. Matters related to the review, subsidy items, contract signing and fund disbursement, change to project in the duration of execution, mid-term progress report submission, fund settlement and research project report submission upon execution expiry, and matters not specified in the Directions herein shall be handled in accordance with the NSTC Directions for Research Project Subsidization, the NSTC Principles for Handling Research Project Grants, the research project grant contract, the research project execution agreement, and other pertaining laws and regulations.