

# NSTC Directions for Research Project Subsidization

Amended per NSTC Letter No. 1150023735A issued on April 10, 2026

- I. The National Science and Technology Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council” or “NSTC”) has established the Guidelines herein for subsidization of tasks pertaining to the scientific and technological research by colleges, universities, and academic research institutions in an effort to elevate the level of scientific and technological research and development in 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 Operation Guidelines for Application to Be Subsidized Entities.
- III. The qualifications for principal investigator and co-investigator are as follows:
  - (I) A full-time member of the personnel at the applicant institution that meets one of the following qualifications:
    1. Public or private colleges and universities:
      - (1) Personnel at the level of Assistant Professor or above.
      - (2) Lecturer who has served for at least three years and has published works in renowned domestic or international academic journals or has authored patent technical reports or monographs.
      - (3) Personnel with a doctoral degree and appointed as Assistant Researchers or equivalent positions.
      - (4) Medical personnel in affiliated hospitals who have served as attending physicians for at least two years, or have a master’s degree and have engaged in research for at least three years, along with publications in renowned domestic or international medical journals.
    2. Public or private research institutions:
      - (1) Personnel at the level of Associate Researcher, (Senior) Technical Specialist, or equivalent position to Associate Researcher or above.
      - (2) Personnel with a doctoral degree and appointed as Assistant Researchers or equivalent positions.
      - (3) Medical personnel who have served as attending physicians for at least two years, or have a master’s degree and have engaged in research for at least three years, along with publications in renowned domestic or international medical journals.
    3. Medical institutions:
      - (1) Medical personnel who have served as attending physicians for at least two years, or have a master’s degree and have engaged in research for at least three years, along with publications in renowned domestic or international medical journals.

(2) Personnel with a doctoral degree and appointed as Assistant Researchers or equivalent positions.

(II) Personnel who have retired in accordance with pertinent regulations:

Academicians of Academia Sinica, recipients of the National Professorship, the Academic Award, or the National Award for Distinguished Contribution to Industry-Academia Cooperation from the Ministry of Education, two-time recipients of the NSTC Outstanding Research Awards, recipients of the Outstanding Scholar Award from the Foundation for the Advancement of Outstanding Scholarship, or other equivalent awards recognized by the Council, for whom the applicant institution states in the application its willingness to provide relevant space and equipment for research and be responsible for all relevant administrative affairs.

(III) Full-time teaching and research personnel appointed by universities/colleges with an endowment fund system in force in accordance with the National University Implementation Directions for Employing Teaching Personnel, Research Personnel, and Staff Using the University Endowment Fund, who meet the qualifications for principal investigator in Item 1 of Subparagraph (I).

(IV) Full-time teaching and research personnel appointed by private colleges and universities with an endowment fund system in force in accordance with the National University Implementation Directions for Employing Teaching Personnel, Research Personnel, and Staff Using the University Endowment Fund, who meet the qualifications for principal investigator in Item 1 of Subparagraph (I).

(V) Rare technicians with doctoral degrees in rare fields such as nuclear energy and aeronautics at public colleges and universities selected and appointed in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Selection and Appointment of Rare Technical Staff at Public Universities and Colleges.

(VI) Full-time attending physicians who have been employed for more than two years by public medical institutions through the Medical-Related Operations Fund or full-time research personnel with doctoral degrees who have been engaged in research work for more than two years and have published works in renowned domestic and international academic journals.

Personnel meeting the qualifications specified in Subparagraph (I) of the preceding Paragraph, and on secondment in accordance with relevant regulations, may have their applications submitted by their original employing institutions.

IV. Special research projects may fall into two categories as follows:

(I) General research project:

Those who meet the qualifications of principal investigators may submit application for such project in line with their research expertise or with

reference to items planned by the academic disciplines of the Council.

(II) Research project for newly-recruited personnel:

Full-time teaching or researching personnel, who have taught or conducted research full time at domestic or foreign institutions in the past five years, or who have completed their doctoral degree in the past five years, along with the qualifications for principal investigator, may apply for such project, with priority given to projects spanning three to five years. Those who have served as full-time teaching or research personnel for more than five years combined at the time of application will not be considered as newly-recruited personnel.

V. Research projects may fall into two types as follows:

(I) Individual research project:

The project proposed by principal investigator in line with their research expertise or with reference to the items planned by the academic disciplines of the Council.

(II) Integrated research project:

Comprising a main project and sub-projects, the cross-disciplinary or cross-campus project proposed by the principal investigator of the main project after establishing a research group in accordance with the objective-oriented key research items the Council has planned and promoted, or the project proposed after the said principle investigator has established a research group dedicated to a specific topic.

VI. Subsidies as follows may be applied for research projects per actual needs:

(I) Operating expenses:

1. Research personnel costs:

Salaries for full-time and part-time personnel, and wages for temporary workers, shall be disbursed in accordance with the Guidelines for Research Personnel Contracted by NSTC-funded Special Research Project.

2. Consumables, materials, books, and miscellaneous expenses:

Other expenses directly related to the research project.

3. Expenses for foreign scholars to Taiwan:

Expenses required for inviting foreign or Mainland Chinese scholars to Taiwan for the purpose of research project execution.

(II) Research equipment fees:

Equipment required for and directly related to research project execution with a unit price at NT\$ 10,000 or more and a lifespan of two years or more.

(III) Overseas travel allowance:

1. Travel expenses incurred due to the need for traveling abroad or to Mainland China for research project execution, with such overseas travel

limited to the two categories as follows:

(1) Execution of international collaboration and off-site research:

The principal investigator and relevant personnel involved in the research project are required to collaborate with foreign researchers or institutions to conduct research, experiments, field studies, sample collection, or access to foreign research facilities for off-site research, due to project needs.

(2) Attendance in international academic conferences:

The principal investigator and relevant personnel involved in the research project take part in an international academic conference to present research papers, give a keynote speech or serve as the chair of the conference. This shall not apply to the participation in a significant international academic conference of the field, with an approval from the Council upon the reasons specified and reported thereto.

2. Travel expenses incurred for the principal investigator and relevant personnel to make official visits or inspections abroad for the promotion of projects planned and subsidized by the Council.

VII. Where a research project has been reviewed and approved by the Council, the allowance for the principal investigator may be approved and disbursed during the execution period of the research project.

For integrated research project, or a project planned and promoted by the Council, the co-investigator who is not serving as the principal investigator on other special research project of the Council, the allowance may be approved and disbursed to the co-investigator during the execution period of the project.

The principal investigator and co-investigators may only collect one allowance during the execution period of research project. This restriction does not apply to allowance for the principal investigator, research pay, or planning fees collected for industry-academia collaboration research projects, or projects promoted by the Council.

In the event the individuals eligible for the allowance for the principal investigator, who are required to undertake short-term research overseas, leave their position, transfer to an institution not funded by the Council, or retire, resulting in their inability to execute the project or not meeting the qualifications stipulated in Article III, the applicant institution shall immediately cease disbursing the allowance and return the amount to the Council. This restriction does not apply to cases where the Council has approved to the disbursement of the allowance.

Should the principal investigator be seconded to a government agency to serve as a political appointee, legislator, or staff stationed overseas per regulations, and have been executing NSTC research projects with the allowance for the principle investigator approved prior to the secondment, they may not collect the allowance

in the duration of their service as a political appointee, legislator, or staff stationed overseas. In such cases, the applicant institution shall return the allowance to the Council. For a political appointee, legislator, or staff stationed overseas, who have applied for and have been approved for NSTC research projects per regulations, they shall not receive the allowance during their service period. The applicant institution shall return any allowance that has been disbursed back to the Council.

- VIII. Administration fees may be disbursed in the duration of research project execution after the research project has been reviewed and approved by the Council.
- IX. Both principal investigators and co-investigators shall not be contracted as the research personnel for other NSTC research projects and claim related pay in the duration of research project execution.
- X. Applicant institutions are required to submit applications prior to the deadline specified by the Council. Late applications will not be considered. However, applications may be reviewed on a rolling basis under the circumstances as follows:
- (I) Newly-appointed or existing personnel at the applicant institutions, whose qualifications meet the requirements and who have never applied for a research project of the Council, may submit an application within three years from the date of appointment, the date of obtaining a doctoral degree or the date meeting the qualifications of principal investigator as specified in Article III herein.
  - (II) Principal investigators, who have previously applied for a NSTC research project and taught or engaged in research abroad for more than one year, and who have been invited to provide services at home without having submitted an application for a NSTC research project upon their return, may submit their application within one year from the date of their appointment.
  - (III) Personnel who have been formerly on secondment to overseas government agencies and have not apply for NSTC research project upon return to their original post may submit their application within six months from the date of returning to their original post.
  - (IV) Personnel who were on secondment to central government agencies to serve as political executives or legislators may submit their application within six months from the date of returning to their original post.
  - (V) Principal investigators who hold a disability certificate and are not executing any NSTC research projects may attach valid certificates.
  - (VI) Principal investigators who are not executing any NSTC research projects in the duration from pregnancy that has been diagnosed and verified by a medical doctor to caring for children till the age of three may submit supporting documents proving their pregnancy or childbirth.

(VII) Male principal investigators who are single parents or on parental leave without pay to care for children till the age of three and are not currently executing any NSTC research projects may submit supporting documents.

The number of applications is limited to one application for Subparagraph (I) and (II) in the preceding Paragraph; the number of applications may be one application each year for Subparagraph (V) to (VII), and an application may also be made within three months before the expiry of the previous project execution.

An application of any aforementioned categories that has entered the substantive review process and then has been withdrawn by the applicant institution may not be submitted again.

Tasks and other objective-oriented research projects planned and promoted by the Council shall be handled in accordance with the application deadlines prescribed by regulations otherwise.

XI. Principal investigators are required to prepare the following documents online on the Council's website, submit their proposals to the applicant institutions, send it out upon review and 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:

(I) Project proposal.

(II) Personal information forms of the principal investigator and co-investigators (for individual research project or for the main project and sub-projects of integrated research project)

(III) As required by the Council, the forms of principal investigator's research performance or relevant results within a specific period prior to the deadline shall be added (the period may be extended for two more years per each childbirth, provided that the applicant has given birth or taken maternal leave, or be extended for the duration of military service served if the applicant has served their compulsory military service, along with relevant supporting documents required).

(IV) Documents concerning research ethics reviews:

1. Research projects involve human subject research, human trials, or research on human embryos and embryonic stem cell, should include approval documents from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Research Ethic Committee (REC). Projects involving gene recombination experiments should include the approval document for genetic recombination experiment application from the Institutional Biosafety Committee. Projects involving field trials of genetically modified organisms should include approval documents from the

competent authority. Projects involving animal experiments should include approval documents from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Projects involving experiments with Risk Group 2 or higher infectious biological materials should include approval documents from the relevant authorities. In the event that approval documents cannot be submitted at the time of application, proof of submission for review must be provided, and the approval documents are required to be submitted by the end of the month in which the project implementation begins.

2. Research projects under the NSTC Department of Humanities and Social Sciences that involve individuals or groups as subjects, use of intervention or interactive methods, or use of data that can identify specific individuals, and conduct systematic investigations or disciplinary knowledge exploration activities related to the individuals or groups, should submit proof documents of having undergone research ethics review prior to project execution.

(V) For research projects applying to the use of marine research vessel, the applicant is additionally required to complete a Marine Research Vessel Usage Application.

(VI) Research projects involving human subject research or human trials shall additionally complete the Checklist for Gender/Sex in Research.

XII. Principal investigators applying for and carry out two or more projects within the same year are required to specify the priority of each project in their proposals. Research projects spanning multiple years should take precedence over new applications. The Council shall conduct review with increasing scrutiny based on the number of projects involved.

Personnel who were on secondment to central government agencies to serve as political executives, legislators, or staff stationed overseas may only undertake one research project within the same year. The annual budget for their project execution during their tenure may not exceed the total amount of budget for ongoing projects at the time of their appointment .

XIII. Applications for multi-year research projects shall be handled in accordance with the following regulations:

(I) For research projects that fall under the category of continuous projects, applications should be submitted as multi-year projects, with research content and budget requirements specified on a yearly basis.

(II) Approval for multi-year budgets

1. Single approval covering multiple years: During the entire course of execution, the project shall be assigned with a single project number, and the total grant amount will be contracted in the first year. For

projects receiving funds in installments, if budget adjustments are needed during the execution period, such requests shall be processed in accordance with NSTC Principles for Handling Research Project Grants.

2. Annual approval for multiple years: Different project number will be assigned on a yearly basis, and where the budgets for subsequent years are pre-approved lists, except for the first year in which there is the list of approved budget, any change to the pre-approved budgets shall be made with the budget change application prepared online at the website of the Council for submission thereof along with the progress report for budget approval.
- (III) NSTC-approved multi-year projects shall be executed in accordance with the approved time frame, with a progress report to be submitted online to the Council's website two months before the expiry of execution period each year in the project duration. Where the report is not submitted as required, or if the execution performance does not meet expectations and that the principal investigator does not make sufficient effort to improve, the Council may reduce the funding for the following year or terminate the project execution.
- (IV) For granted multi-year research projects that involve human subjects research, human trials, or research on human embryos and embryonic stem cell, the relevant approval documents issued by an ethics review committee, which remain valid as of the start date of the following year's project implementation, shall be submitted together with the progress report. In the event that such documents cannot be submitted at the time of progress report submission, they must be supplemented by the end of the month in which the following year's project implementation begins.
- (V) For a continuous project spanning multi years that has not received the single approval covering multiple years, application shall be submitted yearly for the project in the subsequent year. The application shall include the research progress report of the previous year and the work focuses of the current year.
- (VI) Ongoing multi-year research projects shall be executed with top priority and may not be applied for cancellation except under special circumstances.
- (VII) For principal investigators approaching or has reached the age of sixty-five and has been approved for extended service, the applicant institution shall attach their letter of appointment or other official certificates to substantiate the extension of their tenure when applying for multi-year projects. The Council will determine the approval of the project based on the review results and the duration of the principal investigator's tenure.

XIV. Review methods, focuses, and period for research projects are as follows:

(I) Review methods:

1. Reviews are conducted in accordance with the NSTC Operation Guidelines for Research Project Review Mechanism and Review Committee Member Selection.
2. For a project that is deemed unsuitable for a grant as an integrated research project, and yet the proposed sub-project is suitable as an individual project, the Council may reclassify and review the sub-project as an individual research project.
3. For an integrated research project, when deemed necessary, the Council may request the principal investigator to report in person at the Council, or the Council conducts an on-site visit to the applicant institution.

(II) Review focuses:

1. For individual research projects, factors to consider include the principal investigator's research performance and ability for project execution; the significance and innovativeness of the project topic; the feasibility of research content and methods; the expected deliverables and results; and the reasonableness of the budget and manpower.
2. For integrated research projects, in addition to the review focuses for individual research projects, other factors to be considered include the necessity of project integration (i.e., the overall objective, overall framework of task division and collaboration, and the relevance and degree of integration between sub-projects), human resource coordination (i.e., the coordinating and leadership ability of the principal investigator, the expertise and cooperative harmony of the sub-project investigators), resource integration (i.e., the status of various instruments and equipment under shared use needed for various sub-projects, research experiences, ideas of result sharing, etc.), the cooperation of the applicant institution or other units, and the anticipated synergy after integration and so forth.

(III) Review Period: The reviews shall be completed within six months from the date following the submission deadline, with the results thereof announced upon approval. Extensions may be granted if necessary.

XV. For research projects not approved for a grant or subsidy, an appeal may be made in accordance with NSTC Operation Guidelines for the Appeal for Special Research Project Subsidization Application Review.

XVI. The contract signing and subsidy disbursement for project funding shall be handled in accordance with the letter of approval issued by the Council.

If the required annual funds are not reviewed and approved by the Legislative Yuan or are partially reduced, the Council may reduce the subsidy funds based on the review results and handle the matter in accordance with Article 54 of the

Budget Act.

XVII. A research project with grants approved shall be carried out duly in accordance with the contents of its proposal and may not be arbitrarily changed, except in the following circumstances, and relevant materials shall be submitted to the Council for approval within the execution period, in which case the restriction will not apply:

- (I) In the event of failure of the principal investigator or co-investigators to continue the project, or of meeting the required qualifications stipulated in Article III, project cancellation, termination, suspension, transfer to a new institution, or replacement of the principal investigator or co-investigators shall be made, unless under special circumstances that are approved by the Council to continue the project.
- (II) Changes to budget purpose, transfer or increase may only be made with the approval from the Council after notifying the Council of such matter per the regulations of the Council.
- (III) Changes to the execution period: Except for special circumstances, the extension period is limited to a maximum of one year, with no additional funding to be granted for expenses incurred in the duration of extension.
- (IV) Where the personnel, who are on secondment to central government agencies to serve as political executives, legislators, or staff stationed overseas, fail to meet the requirements stipulated in Paragraph 2 of Article XII, their original employing institution shall submit an application to the Council for project change within three months from the date of their assumption of office.

For applications to transfer to a new employing institution as specified in Subparagraph (I) of the preceding paragraph, the original employing institution shall submit the application with a photocopy of the appointment letter from the new employing institution attached to the Council before processing the transfer upon the approval received from the Council.

XVIII. Applicant institution shall handle the fund settlement with the Council within three months after the expiry of each project execution in accordance with the provisions as follows:

- (I) A copy of the income and expenditure statement of special research project shall be submitted to the Council for fund settlement.
- (II) Should any project end up with any remaining amount, the amount shall be returned in full. However, universities/colleges with an endowment fund system in force, institutions operating under the National Institutions for Social Education Operation Fund, and Academia Sinica are exempted from returning the amount, except otherwise stipulated by the Council.

In conducting fund settlement, applicant institution is required to visit NSTC website to prepare and print out the income and expenditure statement and the fund settlement checklist of special research project.

XIX. Applicant institutions ought to supervise principal investigators by reminding them to submit electronic copies of necessary documents such as their project report and overseas travel report within three months after expiry of their project execution online at the website of the Council:

- (I) Project report, except those of National Core Technology Research Projects, shall be made available for public query immediately in their entirety. However, for a report involving patent applications, technology transfers, other intellectual properties, or dissertations that have yet to be published, the release thereof may be postponed for a maximum of two years upon the date of project execution expiry. This restriction may not apply under special circumstances with the approval from the Council. In the event of a postponed release of full report, an abridged report should be submitted instead for immediate release, while the full report will be automatically released upon the expiry of the release postponement.
- (II) Reports on the overseas travel or the results of the collaborative research should be submitted for projects funded for overseas travel in order to conduct international collaboration, off-site research, or visits and inspections.
- (III) Report on the conference, along with the supporting documents as proof of acceptance of their papers by the conference, and the full text or abstract of the papers, should be submitted for projects funded for overseas travel in order to attend an international academic conference.
- (IV) The Checklist for Gender/Sex in Research is additionally required for research projects involving human trials or human subject research in submission of project report.

XX. Applicant institutions executing NSTC-funded research projects are required to complete the fund settlement and submit the project report in accordance with Article XVIII and XIX herein for the research projects to be considered closed.

XXI. Principal investigators who fail to complete their fund settlement or submit their project report will no longer be granted project funding by the Council.

Applicant institutions that fail to complete their fund settlement or submit a project report within the specified deadline, and does not complete the project closure after being notified by the Council, the Council may claw back a certain percentage of the administration fees for the project or deduct the unclosed funding from the subsequent project allocation and, depending on the circumstances, suspend all or part of the funding for the applicant institution. The same applies to applicant institutions that fail to complete

their fund settlement or submit project reports per regulations and fail to rectify in time upon notification from the Council for rectification by a specified period.

XXII. Should an applicant institution be found any instance of violation of academic research ethics committed by any participant in the research project thereof, appropriate actions shall be taken immediately, and the outcome of the actions shall be reported promptly to the Council.

Should the conception, execution, or result presentation of a project by the principal investigator or co-investigators violate academic research ethics, the violation shall be handed in accordance with the Guidelines for Handling and Investigating Research Misconduct by the National Science and Technology Council.

XXIII. Projects approved for execution shall be supervised by the applicant institutions.

Where the expected research outcomes cannot be delivered, the research works cannot be proceed, the applicant institutions fail to fulfill its supervisory responsibilities, or that the applicant institutions fails to comply with the NSTC regulations on the application, execution, and management of grants/subsidies, the Council may, depending on the severity of the circumstances, terminate the funding, claw back the grant funds for relevant projects, deduct or reduce the grant amount for incentivizing universities or colleges from the Council, or lower the administration fee subsidy ratio for part of or all types of Council-funded projects as appropriate.

XXIV. The principal investigator shall use the funds in accordance with the purposes of the grant and is liable for the authenticity of the expenditure vouchers submitted for each expense claim during the execution of the project. Any false claim will result in corresponding liabilities thereof.

The applicant institution shall faithfully review all the expenses of the research project grants and may not reimburse any expenses not used per the grant purposes by the principal investigator and shall request the principal investigator to make improvements. In the event of false or inflated claim of expenditure vouchers by the principal investigator, appropriate actions shall be taken with the outcome of the actions reported to the Council.

XXV. Where, upon audit by the Council, the expenditure vouchers incurred by the applicant institution in the execution of research project are found to have been used for purposes other than those for which the grant was awarded, the Council shall claw back the amount of such expenditures.

Where there is suspicion of false or inflated claims regarding any expenses incurred by the applicant institution in the execution of research project, the Council will conduct a preliminary review, during which the applicant institution and the principal investigator of the project should be requested

to provide justifications in writing. If the preliminary review concludes that there is evidence of false or inflated claims, the Council shall convene a taskforce meeting for further review:

- (I) The taskforce shall be chaired by the Deputy Minister of the Council, with members comprising heads of relevant NSTC departments and external experts.
- (II) Where the evidence is determined to be conclusive in the results of the taskforce meeting, the taskforce may, depending on the severity of the circumstances, make one or more of the following disciplinary actions, and notify the applicant institution and the principal investigator:
  1. Written reprimand for the principal investigator;
  2. Deprivation of the privilege of the principal investigator for life or for a specified number of years;
  3. Request to the applicant institution and principal investigator to reflect upon the violation and rectify the situation;
  4. Recovery of all or part of the grant;
  5. Recovery of the administration fees from the applicant institution with the amount ranging from one to three times the total of any inflated or false claims; or
  6. Reduction in the percentage of the administration fee subsidy from the grant for the applicant institution starting from the following year.
- (III) If the false or inflated claims are serious and deemed necessary to be transferred to the prosecution and investigation authorities for investigation, such matter will be handled as a separate case and transferred accordingly.

#### XXVI. Miscellaneous terms:

- (I) The applicant institution is under obligation to verify a principal investigator's qualifications and only prepare the application roster upon verified, and signed or stamped by relevant personnel, to indicate responsibilities. Should a principal investigator be found not to have the required qualifications after the project has been approved for the grant, the applicant institution shall handle matters such as returning or recovering the research grant in accordance with relevant regulations.
- (II) Principal investigators are obliged to carry out their projects in accordance with Confidentiality Guidelines for Technological Data and other pertinent laws and regulations.
- (III) Applicant institutions and principal investigators are required to establish corresponding safety and control measures in accordance with the Handbook of Safety Control Operations for Government-Funded

National Core Technological Research Projects during the execution of projects that have been classified by the Council as national core technological projects and shall comply with pertinent laws and regulations as well as the relevant regulations for confidentiality of the Council. In the event of failure to comply with relevant regulations, aside from legal liabilities, the Council may reject the principal investigators in future applications for project grants or subsidies for a number of years depending on the severity of the circumstances and claw back the funds for the research projects.

- (IV) For research projects with execution periods overlapping with each other for more than three months (any extended periods permitted by the Council included), except for projects that are not counted as general research projects per the regulations of the Council, all such projects shall be included in the count of special research projects host by the principal investigator under the Council.
- (V) The same research proposal may not be submitted repeatedly for NSTC grants. The Council shall take action against such violations in accordance with the Guidelines for Handling and Investigating Research Misconduct by the National Science and Technology Council.
- (VI) In the event of application for subsidies from the Council and other institutions (domestically or internationally, including Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macao) for the same project, a detailed list of the items and amounts applied for subsidies from the Council and other institutions shall be accounted in the project proposal. Duplicate application for the same item and amount is not permitted.
- (VII) Principal investigators and the applicant institutions shall fully and faithfully disclose details of the projects executed for the past three years (domestically or internationally, including Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macao) and provide relevant information to meet the operational needs of the Council. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the Council recovering the research project grant funds.
- (VIII) For research projects involving animal experimentation, the application institution shall apply for review in accordance with the Implementation Guidelines Governing Animal Science Application, Organization, Supervision, and Administration. If the applicant institution received a “Poor” rating and has failed to make relevant improvements, the project may not be funded by the Council.
- (IX) The applicant institution shall complete the items as follows, whereas failure to do so may result in rejection of research project by the Council

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1. Establish academic research ethics management and self-discipline guidelines;
2. Designate or set up a dedicated unit governing academic research ethics;
3. Establish an academic research ethics education system; and
4. Establish a standard operating procedure to handle cases of academic research misconduct.

(X) The principal investigators submitting their proposal to the Council for the first time and all the listed participating researchers in their proposal are required to complete a minimum of six hours of research ethics training within three years prior to the date of application by the applicant institution. Supporting documents of their training shall be sent to the applicant institution for record. The researchers participating in the NSTC project for the first time after commencement of project execution shall submit relevant supporting documents of their completion of six hours of research ethics training to the application institution for record within three months upon the date of their appointment.

(XI) Applicant institution shall urge the principal investigator to retain relevant raw data, such as experimental parameters, data, pictures (images), and records during the research project execution for at least 3 years after the expiry date of execution period. Any pertaining laws and regulations that require a longer retention period shall prevail.

(XII) In the event of principal investigator found to have violated laws and regulations related to gender equality, and verified by the relevant authorities, the Council shall convene a taskforce meeting to review the case. Depending on the severity of the violation, the Council may terminate the grant, replace the principal investigator, or prohibit the principal investigator from applying for or executing research projects under the Guidelines herein for a specified period.

XXVII. The NSTC Principles for Handling Research Project Grants, the research project grant contract, the research project execution agreement, and other pertinent regulations shall apply to matters not covered by the Operation Guidelines herein.