

# NSTC Directions for Research Project Review Mechanism and Review Committee Member Selection

Amended per NSTC Letter No. 1110048674 issued on July 28, 2022

- I. The National Science and Technology Council (hereinafter referred to as the “Council” or “NSTC”) has formulated the Directions herein to promote academic development, maintain the independence of academic review, implement a fair and impartial peer review mechanism, and establish a rigorous research project review procedure.
- II. The research projects applied by applicant institutions to the Council, except stipulated otherwise, shall be reviewed in accordance with the Directions herein.
- III. The review of research projects is divided into two stages: preliminary review and secondary review.
  - (I) Preliminary review: The review is conducted by means of document review.
  - (II) Secondary review: The Academic Discipline Review Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Secondary Review Committee”) for review, which may be conducted by correspondence, if necessary.
- IV. The number of preliminary reviewers for each research project shall be no less than two members in principle. Each academic department may consider the significance and scale of the project to determine the number of preliminary reviewers.

Regarding the preliminary reviewers, the candidates thereof shall be recommended by the secondary reviewers, with reference to the suggested list of candidates generated by the research talent database of the Council or, depending on the research topic of the project, to a list outside the aforementioned database with reasons specified.

The preliminary reviewers conduct a substantive review of the project content based on their academic expertise and submit their preliminary review comments to the Secondary Review Committee.
- V. The Secondary Review Committee shall conduct a secondary review of the research project and appoint several reviewers on the committee as needed.

The Secondary Review Committee shall consolidate the review comments of the preliminary reviewers and recommend the approval results of research projects after comprehensive discussion and deliberation.
- VI. One convener shall be appointed for each academic discipline. In addition, subject to the needs of the business, up to two co-conveners may be additionally appointed to assist in the development planning and the research projects review of the academic discipline.
- VII. The selection of academic discipline conveners, co-conveners, and secondary

reviewers should consider academic expertise as well as the balance in academic fields, regions, public and private institutions, and gender. The respective directors of the academic departments shall consult with experts and scholars in the academic fields to make recommendations for the Minister to approve.

The term of office of the convener and co-conveners of the academic discipline is a maximum of three years, with one term in principle.

The term of office of the secondary reviewers is a maximum of three years. Upon completing a three-year term, there must be at least a one-year interval before reappointment to the same position.

The same position in the preceding paragraph refers to the position in the same academic discipline. Where there are other classifications such as sub-disciplines under the discipline, it refers to the positions in the same sub-discipline.

- VIII. The convener, co-conveners, secondary reviewers, and preliminary reviewers of an academic discipline shall abide by the relevant regulations on the recusal from conflict of interest and confidentiality promulgated by the Council.
- IX. The convener, co-conveners, and secondary reviewers of an academic discipline shall be appointed by the Council with a letter of appointment.  
No letter of appointment shall be issued to the preliminary reviewers in principle.
- X. For other special projects, in addition to being able to form the secondary review committee for projects in line with the nature of projects and adding review procedures such as the pre-proposal stage per actual needs, shall be governed *mutatis mutandis* by the provisions of the Directions herein.