

2019 CALL FOR JOINT PROJECTS

Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Fundo para o Desenvolvimento das Ciências e da Tecnologia (FDCT) and the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT), a call for joint scientific research and technological development projects is launched to provide financial support for joint research and innovation activities carried out by scientists from both parties.

The aim of this joint call is to support the development of scientific and technological cooperation between Portuguese and Macao researchers and to strengthen the scientific partnership between research groups from each party by establishing bilateral research networks, enhancing research cooperation and promoting the exchange of knowledge between Portuguese and Macao scientists.

FCT and FDCT invite Portuguese and Macao researchers to submit joint proposals for research, carried out by scientists from both parties. Qualifying scientific applicants from Portugal and Macao may receive research grants from FCT and FDCT, respectively, according to the applicable funding procedures and regulations.

A. MODE AND AREAS OF COOPERATION

Projects will be supported in the typology 'scientific research and technological development projects'.

The research should be multi-disciplinary and be applicable to the needs of the field of **marine sciences**.

Within that scope, Portuguese-Macao research teams are hereby invited to submit joint proposals for research projects in one of the following areas:

- Marine pollution, including the effects of plastics or other emerging pollutants in the marine ecosystem conducting to the development of mitigation strategies;
- Marine biotechnology, including the characterization and optimization of the existing metabolic pathways that could conduct to the development of commercialized products (health, renewable energies, among others).

B. LEVEL of FUNDING and DURATION

It is the intention of the Parties to fund **up to 3 joint research proposals** selected hereunder for a maximum term of **three years**. Funding shall be approved in accordance with the provisions of the research contract. FDCT and FCT will equally finance the eligible research teams in a maximum budget of 1.000.000 MOP (one million Macao dollars) and 100.000 € (one hundred thousand euros) for each project respectively.

Funding for the approved projects depends on the availability of funds and the approval of the government budget in each party.

C. ELIGIBILITY OF BENEFICIARIES AND PROJECT

1. Projects must be conducted by Portuguese and Macao scientific research teams.
2. Each research team must be led by a Principal Investigator (PI) from based in each party.

In Macao, the issues of applications, acceptance, evaluation, approval, implementation and management as well as final report of Macao applicants are governed by [the Regulations for Fund Granting of the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 235/2018](#).

In Portugal, the eligibility criteria for beneficiaries and projects must be consulted in Articles 5 and 6 of the [Regulation on Projects Funded Solely by National Funds](#).

D. Requirements for Filling out the Project Proposal

1. The project proposal is an important source for FDCT and FCT, and for the peer experts to understand the conditions of the project, to conduct consultation and appraisal of the project, and to select the best projects. The applicant must carefully fill out the project proposal according to requirements for the content, format and number of words.
2. The basic requirements for filling out the project proposal are as follows:
 - a) For FDCT, the project applicant must meet the requirements stipulated in [Article 2, Chapter 1 of the Regulations for Fund Granting of the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 235/2018](#); for FCT, the [Regulation on Projects Funded Solely by National Funds](#) shall apply;
 - b) The cooperation project should carry important meaning, ample reason, a clear goal, specific content, a feasible cooperation plan and assessable technical indicators;
 - c) The project must possess adequate foundation for cooperation. The project applicant must possess the relevant channels and ability for cooperation and can foster a cooperative and trusting relationship with the cooperation partner. A relevant project cooperation agreement or memorandum with the cooperation partner should be signed.
 - d) Both research teams must possess a relatively high scientific research level, and collaborate by means of technology, capital, personnel or data and information, advanced equipment and exclusive resources.

For **Macao institutions**,

- e) The principal investigator (PI) of the Macao part can only undertake one project funded by this FDCT-FCT joint grant. After the submission of the final project report, the PI can submit a new application for funding. But project members in the project are not restricted by this rule.
- f) For any project initiated (or participated) by an enterprise, the enterprise is required to provide capital and related supporting facilities to the project.
- g) The funding provided does not support the construction of infrastructure or pure equipment procurement. Neither does it support soft science research projects on policies and management, nor projects on market promotion.

E. SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The proposal must be prepared and jointly carried out by the Portuguese and the Macao project partners and should be submitted simultaneously in English by both the Portuguese and Macao principal investigators, to FCT in Portugal and to FDCT in Macao, through the appropriate channels / forms.

A valid project application consists of the application form **duly filled in**, together with all the necessary application documents required from each side of a joint research team, submitted respectively to FCT and to FDCT. **If the applications are not duly received both in Portugal and in Macao by the date and hour indicated as follows, the project will not be accepted.**

Instructions for Macao research teams:

Macao PIs should log in to the Application Portal (<https://apps.fdict.gov.mo/sams/public/main-page.faces>). Pursuant to the requirements stipulated in the announcement and in [Article 6, Chapter 2 of the Regulations for Fund Granting for the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 235/2018](#), fill out the form online and submit the relevant documents **before July 26, 2019 at 23:59 (local Beijing time)**. The submission will not be accepted under any circumstances after the deadline.

Instructions for Portuguese research teams:

Portuguese PIs should submit proposals in English, using the [application form](#), by **26 July 2019 at 17:00 (local Portuguese time), and will not be accepted under any circumstances after the specified date and hour.**

It is solely the sender's responsibility to receive confirmation that the email was actually received, whether by automatic reply or personal confirmation. As technical problems are possible, **it is strongly recommended to submit the application well in advance of the application deadline.**

In the case of a positive funding decision all Portuguese applicants will be asked to submit a formal national application. For Portuguese institutions affiliated participants the national regulations will apply, namely with regard to: eligibility of participants and eligible costs. The aforementioned regulations are available at

<https://www.fct.pt/apoios/proyectos/regulamentofundossnacionais.phtml.en>.

Portuguese teams also need to send a Declaration of Commitment to the National Programme Manager(s) from FCT, duly signed, dated and stamped by the Head of the Portuguese applicant organization and by the Principal Investigator.

F. ELEGIBLE EXPENSES

Funding provided by this Call is intended to enhance joint collaboration between Portuguese and Macao scientists. Funding will therefore be provided mainly in support of the collaboration vectors and of the local research that is necessary for the collaboration. In any case, each budget item or expenditure for which reimbursement is requested must conform to the respective rules of each applicant.

For Macao researchers:

The eligible and non-eligible expenses are displayed in [Article 3, Chapter 1 of the Regulations for Fund Granting of the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 235/2018](#).

For Portuguese researchers:

The eligible and non-eligible expenses are displayed in Articles 8 and 9 of the [Regulation on Projects Funded Solely by National Funds](#).

G. PROPOSAL REVIEW / EVALUATION

Both sides will coordinately send the submitted proposals to external reviewers for their evaluation. The FDCT and FCT will select the jointly funded projects from the proposals approved by both parties. Both parties will simultaneously announce the list of jointly funded projects.

FDCT:

The evaluation process will be conducted on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Proposals should address the innovativeness of the project, research findings and effectiveness, and also research methodology to reveal the **scientific value of the project** (40%).
2. The reference materials should provide reliable evidence of **academic achievements and qualifications of the applicant**. This criterion includes scientific research ability, qualification of members, number of members, and level of complementariness with the cooperating party (30%).
3. Proposals should list **project feasibility and work plan** in detail. It refers to the feasibility, work progress, research duration, division of labor with the cooperating party (30%).

FCT:

The evaluation process will be conducted on the basis of the following criteria:

1. **A** - Scientific merit and innovative nature of the project from an international stand point in the scientific area and within the goals of the call (50%);
2. **B** - Scientific merit of the research team (20%);
3. **C** - Feasibility of the work plan and reasonability of the budget (10%);

4. **D** - Contribution to the knowledge accumulation and competencies of the National Scientific and Technological System in the scientific areas of the call, to the feasibility of their application to improve the goals of the call, and merit of the demonstration, promotion and disclosure of the project's outputs (20%).

H. CONTRACTS, PAYMENTS and REPORTS

In Macao, [Chapter 3 of the Regulations for Fund Granting of the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 235/2018](#) shall apply.

In Portugal, the [Regulation on Projects Funded Solely by National Funds](#) shall apply.

I. SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING MACAO APPLICANTS

In case of FDCT, all joint funding project must strictly follow [the Regulations for Fund Granting of the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 235/2018](#).

J. SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING PORTUGUESE APPLICANTS

In case of FCT, all projects solely by national funds must strictly follow the [Regulation on Projects Funded Solely by National Funds](#).

K. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

The Portuguese and Macao research teams and their Institutions are strongly encouraged to enter into a "Cooperation Agreement", regarding Intellectual Property rights from the output of the financed project, prior to the start of collaborative activities.

L. INFORMATION

Additional information can be obtained from the following contact persons at FDCT or FCT:

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