Standing Committee on Language Education and Research

"Research and Development Projects 2024-25"

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Who is eligible for submitting an application for Research and Development Projects (R&D Projects) 2024-25?

Answer: The Principal Investigator (PI) as an applicant of R&D Projects 2024-25 must be an academic of a local registered organisation, statutory body or recognised community organisation, and specialised in teaching and/or research of language/language education. In the context of a university or college, an academic generally refers to a member of the full-time teaching staff.

2. Who can be Co-Investigators (Co-Is)?

Answer: Co-Is can either be local or international academics and/or professionals. In the context of a university or college, an academic generally refers to a member of the full-time teaching staff.

3. Can applicants submit more than one application for R&D Projeccts 2024-25?

Answer: An applicant is allowed to submit only one application in the capacity of PI. There is no restriction for the PI to be involved in other projects as Co-I concurrently. Applicants must ensure that they are eligible and have the capacity and capability to satisfy the requirements of all the projects that they hold and/or engage in.

4. Can PIs of successful applications of previous rounds of R&D Projects (i.e. R&D Projects 2015-16, R&D Projects 2018-19 and R&D Projects 2021-22) apply for R&D Projects 2024-25?

Answer: The PIs of successful applications of previous rounds of R&D Projects can apply for R&D Projects 2024-25.

5. Should the proposals cover both research and development elements?

Answer: The proposals should cover both research and development elements. Applicants are welcome to propose any type and/or mode of appropriate, innovative research and development projects that shall be applied research with a primary goal of addressing educational issues of different educational levels and facilitating knowledge transfer between SCOLAR and academics, as well as between academics and frontline practitioners, and thereby enhancing language education and research in Hong Kong.

6. Can applicants initiate other themes for the proposals?

Answer: All applications must be made under one of the priority themes stated in the Guide to Applicants.   The themes are by no means mutually exclusive.   Interrelated themes will also be considered.

7. What is the funding cap for each application?

Answer: No upper limit of grant sought is set for each application. Grants are allocated on a competitive basis.   The number of projects to be approved for R&D Projects 2024-25 is based on the quality of the proposals as assessed by the Vetting Committee under the Working Group

on Language Education Research of SCOLAR, the availability of funds, and any other factors as appropriate.

8. When would be the proposed commencement date of projects?

Answer: The proposed commencement date of projects should be between 1 September 2024 and 1 November 2024 (both dates inclusive).

9. How long can the project period be?

Answer: The duration of a project shall normally last from 12 to 24 months. Projects with a longer duration will be considered provided that there are strong justifications and merits.

10. Is outsourcing research and development work allowed for the projects?

Answer: In principle, the grant awarded for the projects should primarily be used in undertaking research and development work in Hong Kong, and any outsourcing amounting to the sub-contracting of research and development work outside Hong Kong should be strictly prohibited. Nevertheless, it would be legitimate for the PI to use the grant for data collection outside Hong Kong if this is a necessary and justified part of the research and development work and with prior approval from SCOLAR. SCOLAR will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis, having regard to the merits and justifications provided by the PI.

11. Who own the intellectual property rights of project data and results?

Answer: All the PIs and Co-Is of approved projects shall grant to the

Grantor, its authorised users, assigns and successors-in-title irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide, freely transferrable, sub-licensable, licences free of royalty, licence fee or other charges to use the results. In all instances, the copyright of PIs and Co-Is will be duly acknowledged.

12. What would be the schedule of payment for approved projects?

Answer: Grants for the approved projects are normally disbursed to the Grantees[1] by instalment(s) subject to mutual agreement, having regard to the project duration and circumstances of individual cases.

13. What would be the schedule of submission of reports and deliverables for approved projects?

Answer: All of the approved projects are subject to monitoring by SCOLAR and the PIs shall play an active role in the overall development, management, monitoring and self-evaluation of the approved project. The PIs will be required to submit progress reports and interim financial reports on a regular basis during the project period, and an end-of-project report, a final financial report and an audit report within three months upon completion of the project. The PIs will also be required to provide tangible deliverables in addition to research findings/outcomes, as well as teacher-friendly pre-recorded videos and articles/insight notes of the findings and project outcomes/deliverables of the approved projects within three months upon completion of the project.

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[1] Grantees refer to the institutions or organisations which endorse and support the applications and which agree to abide by all the relevant guidelines on disbursement, accounting and monitoring arrangements of the projects by accepting the approved grants and signing the LF Agreements with the Grantor.

14. How much time would be required for processing applications?

Answer: The whole vetting procedures usually take not less than nine months after the application deadline.   During the period of application, SCOLAR may require the applicants to provide additional information and documents.   Failure to provide such information within a reasonable time frame will deem the application to be unsuccessful without further notice.

15. When and how will the application results be announced?

Answer: Applicants will be informed of the result by e-mail not later than June 2024.

16. Can applicants lodge an appeal against the results?

Answer: SCOLAR's decision is final.   The decision and the funding support to be granted would rest with SCOLAR.

Language Education and SCOLAR Section
Education Bureau
April 2023