

# **Ministry of Science and Technology**

## **Shackleton Program Grant Application Guidelines**

MM/DD/YY

Department of Planning

### **Article 1**

The guidelines herein are established by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) with the purpose of encouraging outstanding scholars to lead research teams in scientific breakthrough, to enhance global competitiveness, and to provide resources for continued research and discovery in order to improve international scientific standing.

### **Article 2**

Eligibility of applying institutions (executing institutions): institutions approved by MOST for grant applications under its funding guidelines.

### **Article 3**

The applicant (principal investigator, PI) must be eligible as defined by Article 3 of the MOST Directions for Research Project Grant and must provide evidence of international honor or be of age 45 or younger.

International honor refers to one of the following:

- I. Recipient of medal(s) from foreign governments, academic and research institutions, or international organizations.
- II. The applicant has served as editor, associate editor, or chief editor of major international journals.
- III. Other outstanding international academic achievements.

### **Article 4**

Eligible research projects should meet one of the following criteria:

- I. Breakthrough research: breakthrough scientific achievements by interdisciplinary research teams.

- II. Coaching projects: research teams (as current recipients of MOST grants) led by internationally recognized scholars.

## **Article 5**

Applicants may apply for the following funds in accordance with project demands.

- I. General expenses

- A. Research personnel:

- 1. The maximum monthly allowance for a PI for breakthrough research projects is NT\$30,000; for coaching projects, NT\$15,000.
    - 2. All research personnel budgets, including for full-time, part-time and temporary staff, should be submitted along with the research proposal and regulated by the MOST Directions for Research Project Grant.

- B. Consumables, goods, books, and miscellaneous: Other expenses directly related to the research project.

- C. Hosting expenses for foreign scholars: The expenses associated with project execution by inviting foreign or mainland Chinese scholars to Taiwan.

- II. Equipment: Equipment required for and directly related to project execution with a unit price of over NT\$10,000 and a lifespan of over two years.

- III. International travel expenses: The expenses for traveling overseas (including mainland China) for project execution.

- A. Overseas visits, exhibitions, or competitions: PI and team members' participation in international exhibitions or competitions related to project execution.

- B. International collaboration and overseas studies: Overseas joint research, experiment, fieldwork, data collection, or use of overseas research facilities related to project execution by the PI and team members.

- C. International conferences: Participation in international conferences by the PI and team members pertaining to the publication of research findings, delivering keynote speeches or serving as moderators.

- IV. Management costs: The expenses required by the executing institution for carrying out

the research project. The administrative expenses shall be allocated and appropriated by the institution in accordance with government regulations. The maximum amount shall not exceed 15% of the total project budget. For breakthrough research projects, the maximum grant amount is NT\$15,000,000 annually; for coaching projects, NT\$5,000,000.

## **Article 6**

Grant period and maximum number of funding projects:

- I. The project duration shall be three to five years.
- II. The PI for breakthrough research projects shall not execute other MOST funded projects during the duration of the Shackleton program, with the exception of one of the following conditions (subject to MOST approval):
  - A. Academic-industrial or bilateral international collaborative research projects involving a third party.
  - B. Research projects led by discipline chairs or other funded projects with significance as approved by MOST on a special case basis.

## **Article 7**

All applications must be submitted before the deadline specified by MOST. Late, incomplete, or unqualified applications will not be considered. Applicants shall fill out applications via MOST's Academic Research Service Portal before sending them to the executing institution for approval. The executing institution shall then compile an application list together with the declaration of the principal investigator to be forwarded to MOST.

## **Article 8**

The main review criteria are as follows:

- I. Breakthrough projects:
  - A. Ambition, worldview, and past research accomplishments of the PI.
  - B. Scientific significance and urgency of the research question, or diversity and complexity of the social issues tackled, based on a theoretical foundation.

C. The interdisciplinary background of the research team members.

D. The interdisciplinary nature of the research project.

II. Coaching projects:

A. Leadership capability, worldview, and past coaching experience of the PI.

B. Coaching plan, methodology, and potential impacts of the research project.

C. Qualifications and professional experiences of the research team members.

During the review process, MOST reserves the right to 1) request a revision of the research proposal in accordance with national policy objectives, and 2) reject the application should such a revision failed to take place.

**Article 9**

Applicants of rejected applications may not file an appeal.

**Article 10**

The contract terms and grant disbursement shall abide by the MOST letter of approval.

**Article 11**

Guidelines pertaining to project revisions:

I. Should there be unforeseen challenges on the research topics or during project execution, the research proposal may be revised upon the approval of the executing institution and MOST.

II. Change of the principal investigator is not allowed.

III. The cancellation, suspension, or extension of a funded research project, and the change of purpose, allocation, or supplementation of project funds shall be subject to the MOST Directions for Research Project Grant and the MOST Principles for Handling Research Project Grant.

**Article 12**

The principal investigator shall execute the funded research project in accordance with the purposes of the approved funds. The PI shall assume full responsibility and liability for the authenticity of all receipts provided.

### **Article 13**

Financial reimbursement and outstanding balance:

- I. All financial reimbursements shall be submitted by the executing institution within three months of the project completion.
- II. The executing institution shall bear auditing responsibility for the research funds. Any expenses not preapproved shall not be allowed and the PI shall be required to abide by the purposes of the allocated funds. Should any misuse of the funds occur, the executing institution shall bear full liability for the misuse of the grant by the PI and report such incidents to MOST.
- III. The outstanding annual balance, if any, shall be returned to MOST.

### **Article 14**

The following guidelines pertain to project auditing:

- I. The executing institution shall request the PI to submit an annual progress report two months prior to year-end.
- II. The executing institution shall request the PI to submit a mid-term report in accordance with the deadline specified by MOST. The grant amount and project duration may be reevaluated following the assessment.
- III. The executing institution shall request the PI to submit a final report within three months of the project completion as specified in Article 19 of the MOST Directions for Research Project Grant.
- IV. Where applicable, MOST may request the PI and executing institution to submit reports relating to project execution and findings.

### **Article 15**

Responsibilities of the executing institution:

- I. The executing institution shall provide office space, manpower, equipment, administrative and general support (including accounting and personnel).
- II. Should the executing institution fail to cooperate with the aforementioned terms, MOST may request the return of the project's overhead in due course, deduct or

discretionarily reduce the proportion of the project's overhead in the next funding cycle.

## **Article 16**

Other related guidelines:

- I. A research proposal can only be submitted to MOST once. Violations will be subject to the MOST Regulations for Academic and Research Ethics.
- II. The ownership, management, and utilization of all intellectual property rights resulted from the research project by the PI shall be subject to the Fundamental Science and Technology Act, Government Scientific and Technological Research and Development Results Ownership and Utilization Regulations, MOST Scientific and Technological Research and Development Results Ownership and Utilization Regulations, and related laws and regulations.
- III. The MOST Directions for Research Project Grant, the MOST Principles for Handling Research Project Grant, the grant agreement, the execution agreement, and other related regulations shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to matters not specified herein.