

Regulations for Subsidizing Cutting-Edge Research Projects

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Article 1 To cultivate top international research talents in specialized fields for conducting cutting-edge research of high academic contribution, and aid advancement of Kaohsiung Medical University (hereinafter “KMU”) into the ranks of the world's leading universities, the Regulations for Subsidizing Cutting-Edge Research Projects (hereinafter “the Regulations”) are hereby established.

Article 2 Qualifications for Applying as a Project Principal Investigator (Limited to Individual and Integrated Project Principal Investigator):

Full-time faculty members of KMU, full-time attending physicians, or medical staff of senior level or above at affiliated institutions and related businesses, who meet any of the following criteria:

1. Recipients of significant academic awards from domestic or international government agencies.
2. Authors of articles published in Nature, Science, or journals with an Impact Factor of 30 (inclusive) or higher.
3. Authors who, in the past five years, have published as first or corresponding authors at least two journal articles in journals with an Impact Factor of 5 (inclusive) or ranked within the top 5% (inclusive) in their fields, or at least one journal article with an Impact Factor of 10 (inclusive) or higher.

Project Principal Investigator (including sub-projects) are limited to executing one project at a time.

Article 3 Types of Research Projects:

1. Individual Projects:

Individual projects must undergo annual evaluations, with subsequent year's funding and amounts determined based on these evaluations. The average annual funding for each project should not exceed NTD 1,200,000, guided by the standard of the research project. Each project must have a co-principal investigator, and if the project leader is a basic science teacher, a full-time attending physician or senior medical staff must be invited as co-co-principal investigator, and vice versa.

2. Integrated Projects:

Integrated research projects emphasize originality, significance, and the complementarity between sub-projects. An integrated project must include at least three (inclusive) approved sub-projects to be established, covering both basic and clinical areas. Integrated projects

should plan for a three-to-four-year research period; however, funding is only provided for the first year. The amount for each integrated sub-project should not exceed NTD 1,500,000.

3. Clinical Cohort Research Projects:

To promote KMU's distinctive clinical cohort research, this plan primarily subsidizes the personnel, operational, and equipment costs needed for collecting, storing, and using clinical biological specimens and medical databases. Each project should include a three-to-five-year research plan, with annual reviews, and the subsidy capped at NTD 1,000,000 per year, for up to three consecutive years. Projects must be jointly executed by a team of more than ten (inclusive) KMU faculty members or physicians in both basic and clinical disciplines, with at least one-third being aged 45 (inclusive) or below, or young faculty members or physicians who are assistant professors (inclusive) or below.

Article 4 Application methods and deadlines must comply with the specified format and submission times as announced, with proposals to be submitted to the Office of Research and Development of KMU. Submissions that do not meet these requirements will not be accepted. The project implementation period will follow the schedule announced.

Article 5 Review Focus and Method:

1. Review Focus: The research results of the project principal investigator in the past five years, the innovation, foresight, and international competitiveness of the project content and preliminary results; the novelty and feasibility of the research methods, and the expected results of the project and its academic contributions to KMU.

2. Scoring Criteria:

(1) Project content accounts for 70% of the total score.

(2) Research performance of the project principal investigator accounts for 30% of the total score.

Article 6 Funding Usage and Reimbursement:

1. Budget Allocation:

(1) Costs for research assistants or postdoctoral researchers.

(2) Research equipment expenses.

(3) Other research expenses: Consumables and pharmaceuticals required for executing the research project, survey expenses, postal and telecommunication fees, printing costs, etc.

2. Approved project funds should be used in accordance with KMU's accounting regulations and must be fully reimbursed before the end of the project execution period.

3. If no funds are utilized within three months after the approval of the application, the project will be considered as not executed and the funds will be fully reclaimed by the school without objection.

4. During the project implementation period, any personnel changes or budget

modifications must be submitted in advance in an application to the Division of Academic Research of the Office of Research and Development for approval before any changes can be made.

Article 7 Project Implementation and Result Auditing:

1. Within two months of the project's completion, the project (main) principal investigator must submit a research result report (not exceeding 5 pages including KPIs) to the Office of Research and Development for auditing of its effectiveness.
2. If a project principal investigator resigns during the project implementation period, the project may be transferred to a professor or physician who meets the qualifications for a project principal investigator. If no qualified personnel are available, the project funds must be reclaimed.
3. Individual Projects: Within one year after the project closure, the project leader must publish an original research paper as the first or corresponding author in a journal with an Impact Factor of 5 (inclusive) or higher, or in a journal ranked within the top 10% (inclusive) of their field. The subsidized project number must be acknowledged in the paper's acknowledgments. This is a prerequisite for applying for new annual research project funding.

After the subsidy period of the funded project, a research paper must be published as per the above criteria to qualify for new annual research project funding. Failure to comply will result in loss of eligibility to apply for new projects.

4. Integrated Projects:

Within one year of project completion, Integrated Projects must either:

(1) Apply for and secure approval for multi-year integrated projects.

(2) Or, each sub-project must publish at least one original research paper as the first or corresponding author in a journal with an Impact Factor of 5 (inclusive) or higher, or in a journal ranked within the top 10% (inclusive) of their field, or at least 0.5 papers in a journal with an Impact Factor of 10 (inclusive), acknowledging the subsidized project number in the paper's acknowledgments.

Recipients of integrated project subsidies must meet these criteria after the subsidy period to apply for new annual projects. If an application for an integrated project is not approved externally, it can be resubmitted following revision based on the external review committee's feedback, but this is limited to one additional application.

5. Clinical Cohort Research Projects:

From the start of the project, progress reports must be submitted every three months detailing the number of clinical biological specimens and medical database collections, storage conditions, and utilization rates. The annual goal achievement rate is an important basis for applying for funding for the following year.

- Article 8 The implementation and audit of the project results shall be separately established by each affiliated institution and executed following approval by their respective College Affairs Meetings and the Administrative Meeting of KMU.
- Article 9 Funding for the Cutting-Edge Research Projects shall be budgeted separately by the school and its affiliated institutions.
- Article 10 These Regulations shall be reviewed and revised annually in a rolling manner in accordance with KMU's medium and long-term institutional development plans.
- Article 11 After being reviewed and approved by the Administrative Meeting and the Board of Directors Meeting of KMU, the Regulations shall be implemented from the date of announcement, and the same applies to amendments.