Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme
Public Policy Research Funding Scheme

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Public Policy Research Funding Scheme &
Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme
Policy Innovation & Co-ordination Office
The Government of the HKSAR

Functions of policy research

- Innovative and effective solution to our social challenges require cross-bureaux and inter-departmental efforts and co-operation.
- To formulate innovative policy responses that would effectively address the identified challenges, the Government needs to examine the challenges at hand from a holistic and strategic perspective.

Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO)

- Provide dedicated research support which transcends conventional institutional boundaries.

- Ensure the quality and practicality of the recommendations of the research, and hence their policy impact, PICO will:

engage the relevant policy bureaux closely in the selection of research topics; and

formulation of the study scope, collection of information, discussion of policy options, formulation of implementation plan and evaluation of results.

Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office

Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme
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Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme Public Policy Research Funding Scheme

- Two of the most well-established government financed funding schemes dedicated to fostering and supporting public policy research in Hong Kong.

- Both managed by the PICO.

- The total annual provision for the two Schemes is around $30 million.

Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (SPPR)
Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPR)

- Both Schemes aim to promote public policy research and evidence-based research to facilitate public policy discussion.

- Specifically, the SPPR Funding Scheme aims to support longer-term public policy research on strategic themes, build up research capacity and facilitate collaboration among institutions/think tanks on the strategic themes.

Application

- Applications for the PPR Funding Scheme are accepted throughout the year.
- Those for the SPPR Funding Scheme are invited once a year (normally in the second quarter of a year).

Eligibility

- Academics, teaching / research staff who are teaching or eligible to teach a course in undergraduate programmes or above in local degree awarding institutions;

- Visiting scholars / adjunct professors / honorary professors / emeritus professors who are teaching or eligible to teach a course in undergraduate programmes or above in local degree awarding institutions; and

- Public policy researchers in local non-profit making public policy research think tanks

Quota

There is no quota on the number of applications for an eligible institution/think tank.

But the maximum number of PPR/SPPR projects that a PI can hold concurrently is two normally.

It is important that institutions/think tanks should satisfy themselves that the applications are of sufficient quality before they are submitted for consideration.

Indicative Research Areas & Strategic Themes

Eight major themes for the PPR Funding Scheme,
- Co-operation with the Mainland;
- Land and Housing;
- Economic Development;
- Livelihood Issues;
- Innovation and Technology;
- Education and Youth Development;
- Environmental Protection; and
- Political Development and Governance

Examples of granted projects (PPR)

https://www.pico.gov.hk/en/PRFS/ppr-granted.html

- Sustainable Planning Criteria (SPC) for Age-friendly Precincts (AFP) in the New Development Areas (NDAs) of Hong Kong

- Towards Sustainability: Exploring the Social and Economic Dimensions of Travel to Hong Kong by Mainland Chinese

- A Study of Aspiration of Fertility amongst Married Women in Hong Kong (Age 15-49)

- Age-friendly Housing Policies

- Family Caregiving and Long-term Care Decision of People with Dementia in Hong Kong

- e-Learning in Formal, Informal and Open Learning Contexts: A Study of Global Trends, Policy Options and Their Implications for Sustainable Development in Hong Kong

- Impacts of the Residential Physical and Social Environment on Daily Walking Behavior of Older Adults in Hong Kong

- Designing a Sustainable Public-Private-Partnership Program to Enhance Diabetes Care and Evaluating Its Impact Using an Outcomes Simulation Model

- Enhancing Executive Functioning of Children Living in Poverty: A Randomized Experiment Study

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For the SPPR Funding Scheme, PICO will identify strategic themes for each year's applications

- Proposals with themes falling outside the strategic themes will not be considered generally, unless with exceptional merits.

For 2021-22, PICO has identified 14 strategic themes for SPPR Funding Scheme

- Development Opportunities from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area under the National 14th Five-Year Plan;

- "Dual Circulation" and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership in Synergy with the Belt and Road Initiative;

- Belt and Road Initiative: Economic and Trade Co-operation Zones;

- Big Data / Smart City;

- Innovation and Technology / Artificial Intelligence / Re-Industrialisation;

- Alternative Procurement Models for Major Infrastructure Projects;

- Developing Green Finance in Hong Kong;

- Consolidating Hong Kong's Position as an International Logistics Hub;

- Transitional Housing;

- Children, Youth and Family Development;

- Ageing Population;

- Healthcare Innovations in the Post-COVID 19 Pandemic Era;

- Manpower Supply and Development and

- Waste Management in the Post-COVID 19 Pandemic Era.

Examples of granted projects (SPPR)

https://www.pico.gov.hk/en/PRFS/sppr-granted.html

- Antimicrobial Resistance Policy Framework in Big Bay Area (Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao)

- Profiling Older Population's Risks in the Kwai Tsing Neighbourhood and Optimising the Service Operations at District Health Centres: Data-driven Service Model and Policy Design

- A Policy Study along the Life-cycle of Hong Kong Youth Entrepreneurship

- The Development of Fintech, Insurtech, and Regtech Manpower to Sustain Hong Kong as a Leading Global Financial Center

- Promoting HK Residents' Cross-border Healthcare Utilization and Cross-border Mobility in the Greater Bay Area: Recent Priorities and Long-term Policy Framework

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Duration

- For the PPR Funding Scheme, normally last from six to 12 months. Projects with a longer duration up to three years will be considered if strong support and justifications are provided.

- For the SPPR Funding Scheme, the duration of research projects will normally last from three to five years. Projects with a shorter duration will be considered if strong support and justifications are provided.

Funding cap

- PPR Funding Scheme will normally be granted HK$1 million or below. Applicants are required to provide strong justifications for any project costing over HK$1 million.

- A sum ranging from $3 million to $5 million will normally be available to each SPPR project.

Review process

- Non-panel reviewers
- Reviewers from relevant government bureaux/departments
- Panel reviewers (https://www.pico.gov.hk/doc/en/prfs/Membership%20of%20PPR%20&%20SPPR%20Assessment%20Panel%20(en).pdf)
- Assessment Panel members

- SPPR – shortlist beforehand.

Assessment criteria

The project

- Scientific/scholarly merit
- Policy relevance/significance of having a major impact on development of public policy in Hong Kong
- Research design and methodology
- Overall feasibility
- Schedule of implementation/duration
- Budget
- Commercial potential of research results

The Principal Investigator

- Ability to undertake the proposal
- Track record in field

Others

- Resources requested

Qualitative comments

- Overall Comments (including strengths and weaknesses)

Rating of each criteria and overall
Excellent (5)
Very good (4)
Good (3)
Fair (2)
Poor (1)

Panel Reviewers

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Definitely be funded	Fundable	Good but subject to availability of funding	Not recommended for funding	Not recommended for funding

My experience

2020-2021 Fourth round	Public Policy Research Funding Scheme, Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office, Hong Kong SAR Government (co-investigator)	Enhancing early recognition and management of dementia for the aging population of Hong Kong – roles of primary care providers	HK$345,000

Success rate??

Announcement of fourth round results of Public Policy Research Funding Scheme 2021-22
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The Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO) announced today (March 14) the results of the fourth round applications to the Public Policy Research (PPR) Funding Scheme in 2021-22.

The PPR Funding Scheme, managed by the PICO, is one of the most well-established government-financed funding schemes dedicated to fostering and supporting evidence-based public policy research by higher education institutions and think tanks in Hong Kong. For the fourth round exercise in 2021-22, PICO received 27 applications. On the advice of the Assessment Panel, PICO has supported nine projects with total funding of about $4.3 million. Among the funded projects, three projects examine research areas relating to environmental sustainability, two on smart city development, while the others look into education and youth development, poverty, innovation and technology, and co-operation with the Mainland.

Applications to the PPR Funding Scheme are accepted throughout the year and assessed by an independent Assessment Panel comprising experienced academics. Each application is considered on its merits and relevance to public policy development in Hong Kong. The Assessment Panel will also take into account comments of outside reviewers who are academics and experts during the assessment process. A declaration of interests system is in place to ensure that the assessments are fair and impartial.

Details of the funded projects have been uploaded onto PICO's website (www.pico.gov.hk/en/PRFS/ppr-granted.html).

Ends/Monday, March 14, 2022
Issued at HKT 17:00

Progress report

- PI's responsibility
- Fulfils funding requirement

Final report

- Self-contained
- Achieve all deliverables

Penalties for non-compliance

- Deduct project funding

- Additional monetary and/or non-monetary punishment

- Take into account non-compliance when considering future application

Multifactorial causes for failure in grant application

Number of applications

Skills

Topic areas

Definition of methodologically strong studies

Reviewers

Composition of panels

Significance

Innovation, novel, critical, impact, relevant, benefits and creation of new knowledge

Team quality and capability

Need successful multidisciplinary group to develop and lead

Do not try to lead a grant application until you have some demonstrable success and a proven track record

Building the grant's scientific quality

Pilot work where possible

Valuable to demonstrate evidence of acceptability/ feasibility of proposed methods

Building a successful research grant

Learn your craft from successful grant-getters

Ask for examples of successful applications

Get advice on what 'made the difference' or;

What made these grants stand out from others they have submitted

It's hard and intellectually challenging

Start early

Prepare to go through countless iterations

Building a successful research grant

Obtain feedback

Obtain feedback from people with no background in the area

Obtain statistical expertise early

Ask external reviewers/collaborators for feedback <u>only when you have produced your best possible draft</u>

Elements of a research plan

What questions is the research to answer?

Why are the questions important?

How will the research seek for answer?

Ingredients of success

- Novel research question

- Good methodology

- Strong research team

- Strong impact

More information for SPPR and PPR

https://www.pico.gov.hk/en/PRFS/how_to_apply.html

Thank you!

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