

HKUST Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS)

IEMS Research Grant Guidelines 2021

The HKUST Institute for Emerging Market Studies (HKUST IEMS) invites proposals for the 2021 round of IEMS Research Grants.

Background

Since 2013 the HKUST IEMS Research Grants have supported high-quality research that provides valuable insights into the challenges facing societies, businesses and governments in emerging markets. In line with previous years, the 2021 round also gives priority to research proposals in the following areas:

1. Human capital, employment, and structural change
2. Innovation and entrepreneurship
3. Economic integration
4. Financial development
5. Firms, markets, and strategies
6. Behavioral studies

The IEMS also welcomes proposals that contribute to advancing the Institute's research on the following topics: the Greater Bay Area*, the Belt and Road Initiative, and the digital economy.

Eligibility

Applications from all HKUST faculty and post-doctoral fellows are welcome. Priority will be given to research proposals in the abovementioned areas.

Timing

The deadline for proposals is **23:59 Sunday March 28, 2021**. Decisions will be announced in April 2021. The maximum project length for each grant is 2 years, starting no later than September 2021.

Guidelines

Projects can have more than one Principal Investigator (PIs) and also include Co-Investigators (Co-Is). Only HKUST faculty can serve as PIs.

Collaborative proposals should explain clearly how each HKUST investigator will contribute to the project and how the project represents a unified, coherent theme. We also encourage collaboration with researchers outside HKUST (as Co-Investigators), especially those affiliated with institutions in emerging market countries. For projects with multiple PIs, priority will be given to those that convincingly demonstrate multi-disciplinarity, with each PI contributing a different disciplinary expertise.

**IEMS will be working with our main sponsor EY to launch a multi-year Greater Bay Area initiative in the middle of 2021.*

Use of funds

- The maximum grant amount for a project with a single Principal Investigator is HK\$125,000 and the maximum for a project involving multiple PIs is HK\$150,000 per PI.
- No more than HKD 20,000 per PI can be budgeted over the entire length of the project for conference-related expenses, such as travel or submission fees.
- Expenses must be relevant to conducting the approved research project and may not be of a personal nature. General purpose personal computers, personal digital assistants, cell phones, etc. are not supported unless these are specialized equipment needed for the project.
- Indirect costs and administrative overheads are not allowed.
- Expenses (budgeted and actual) must conform to the HKUST guidelines for research projects promulgated by the Research Office and the Office of the Vice-President for Research and Development.
- Deviations from those guidelines must be justified in advance (in the grant proposal or when finalizing budgets for funded proposals) and are subject to approval by the IEMS grant review committee.
- Any unused funds will be returned to IEMS one month after the project end date.

Stipulations concerning collaborative project proposals

1. If the PI is collaborating an individual who is unaffiliated with HKUST, resources may be budgeted to facilitate the proposed research collaboration (e.g., for travel to enable the PI and collaborators to work together directly, or for collaborators to conduct research activities, such as field work).
2. Funds may NOT be budgeted or allocated for collaborators not affiliated with HKUST to travel to conferences, nor to any activity that does not directly facilitate the collaboration. Special situations must be brought to IEMS's attention in the grant proposal for consideration.

Project Deadline

No extensions will be granted. Consideration of new proposals will take into account the timeliness of completion of earlier funded projects. In cases where PI(s) and Co-I(s) leave HKUST while an IEMS-funded project is ongoing, the PI(s) or Co-I(s) may elect to complete the project or transfer the project to other HKUST-affiliated PI(s) pending IEMS's approval.

Reporting requirements

Four deliverables are required from the PI(s) of each funded proposal:

1. a one-page progress report (due 9 months after the start of the grant), and
2. a completion report (including a budget report and a one-page summary of the research and its key findings) due 1 month after the completion date

3. a Thought Leadership Brief (1200-1500 words), if requested
4. an IEMS-hosted academic seminar or business talk, if requested

If available, the PI(s) should also provide a working paper or published article along with the completion report. Papers supported by the grant completed or published after the completion report is submitted, should also be sent by the PI(s) to HKUST IEMS. All working papers supported by the grant should be submitted to the IEMS Working Paper Series.

Acknowledgement

All output resulting from the funded project (working papers, presentations, publications, etc.) should mention that the project has been partly funded by the “HKUST Institute for Emerging Market Studies with support from EY”.

Application and selection procedures

To apply, faculty should prepare a proposal that includes a completed grant proposal form (according to the template provided) and no more than 3 pages of text per HKUST Principal Investigator (not including references, single-spaced, 12-point font) that discusses the relevance of the project to challenges facing emerging markets specifically, the research methodology, and justifications for the budget. Please send your applications including all the required documents by email to iems@ust.hk by the application deadline. The IEMS Executive Committee will evaluate all applications and may request relevant experts (either inside or outside the university) to independently assess applications. If the nature of the research is such that a review is required by any of the University Research Ethics/Safety Committee Panels, appropriate approvals must be completed before awards can be confirmed.

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