

# Guidelines: Tohoku-Tsinghua Collaborative Research Fund

## BACKGROUND

In order to strengthen research collaboration and deepen relationships, Tohoku University (“**Tohoku**”) and Tsinghua University (“**Tsinghua**”) have each agreed to provide up to RMB 500,000 per year and up to RMB 1 million per year respectively, to a joint collaborative research fund (“**Fund**”) over three years commencing April 1, 2019.

The fund will be used to promote and encourage collaborative research and development in the areas of Materials Science, Spintronics, and Disaster Science, provide facilities for this purpose and enhance the activities, profiles and reputation of each party. It is expected that the outcomes of funded collaborations will be submission of co-authored publications, joint workshops or seminars, reciprocal visits by faculty, staff and students, and joint applications for external grant funding.

## GRANT SIZE AND DURATION

Each institution will provide funds to its own researchers. Funds may only be spent at the home institution/country.

### Seed Grants

Grants of up to RMB 200,000 per project may be awarded for a duration of up to 24 months at Tsinghua, and grants of up to RMB 200,000 (approximately JPY 3.5 million) per project may be awarded for a duration of up to 24 months at Tohoku. The purpose of the seed grant is to establish a joint research collaboration leading to the submission of at least two joint co-authored publications, at least 2 reciprocal visits for staff and/or students, and targeting a suitable scheme for the submission of a joint application for external research funding.

## APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS

### 1. Requirements for Application

- (1) Each research proposal must be jointly prepared by lead investigators from both institutions and each lead investigator must submit an application on the provided application form to his/her own institution by the deadline.
- (2) Lead investigators from both institutions must have substantive research exchanges or collaborations prior to applying for this Fund and at least one of the following conditions must be met:
  - a) at least one joint publication on international academic journals in the past three years (lead investigators or core group members of both institutions must be the first, the second or the corresponding author(s));
  - b) have received external funding toward their joint research projects;
  - c) the work of the joint research proposal is part of an international big science project;
  - d) research which is expected to develop into a full-fledged collaborative research in the future.

## **2. Selection of Applications**

- (1) Applications will be first assessed by each institution in accordance with its internal policies. Then both institutions will submit its recommendations to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will decide which projects to be funded and how much funding shall be allocated to each project.
- (2) Selection criteria will be:
  - a) Quality, expected outcomes and impact of proposed research program
  - b) Strength of research team relative to opportunity
  - c) Alignment of proposal with purpose and expected outcomes of the fund

## **ELIGIBLE ITEMS FOR FUNDING**

### **Seed Grants**

- Travel costs of researchers and/or research students associated with the project
- Reimbursement of living and hosting costs of visiting researchers from each institution
- Minor research costs associated with the project. Not to exceed 25% of grant.
- Salaries and scholarships will not be funded

## **SUBMISSION**

The lead investigators from Tohoku and Tsinghua need to work together to prepare a joint application. The application needs to be submitted to the lead investigator's institution to be eligible for consideration.

Applications will only be accepted via email in either PDF or Word format:

Tohoku applicants: International Exchange Division, kokusai-k@grp.tohoku.ac.jp

Tsinghua applicants: Xiaojun Lu, Luxiaojun@tsinghua.edu.cn

Deadline: 5pm (local time) on March 8, 2019

Announcement of successful grants: April 1, 2019

## **ANNUAL REVIEW**

Each lead investigator shall comply with the internal annual review requirements at his/her home institution, and each project shall participate and present the project progresses at the annual review meeting jointly held by both institutions.

## **FINAL REVIEW**

Upon completion, each funded project must have achieved the following goals:

1. At least two joint publications on international academic journals (such as journals of SCI or EI) with lead investigators and/or core group members from each institution being the first, the second or the corresponding author(s); or at least one joint international patent (Tsinghua and Tohoku shall be joint patent owners); and
2. In addition to above, one of the following results must be achieved:
  - a) Researchers, graduate students, or postdoctoral fellows from Tohoku worked in Tsinghua for 3 months or longer continuously, and

- Researchers, graduate students, or postdoctoral fellows from Tsinghua worked in Tohoku for 3 months or longer continuously;
- b) Researchers from Tohoku taught at least one course at Tsinghua campus for at least half semester continuously, and  
Researchers from Tsinghua taught at least one course at Tohoku campus for at least half semester continuously;
  - c) The research project has received new external funding during the term of this Fund;
  - d) The lead investigators from both institutions are engaged in an international big science project jointly based on the collaboration supported by this Fund.