

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Research Institute for Advanced Manufacturing (RIAM)
Guidelines for RIAM Funding Schemes (5th round)

Objectives

The RIAM funding schemes aim to

- promote and nurture interdisciplinary research collaborations related to the [fields of RIAM](#);
- support projects that have the potential to bid for large external grants such as TRS, AoE, CRF;
- support initiatives that create societal and public impacts of the research outcomes and activities;

Eligibility

- PolyU full-time academic staff, who are members of RIAM, at the rank of RAP or above, unless otherwise specified in the funding schemes;
- To ensure that RIAM-funded projects are completed in a timely manner, a tenure-track PC applicant may have up to **three** ongoing RIAM projects, while a non-tenure-track PC applicant may have up to **two** by the application deadline. **Impact fund applications are not subject to this rule.**
- PC may only submit a maximum of one proposal per funding scheme, **except applications for impact fund.**

Duration

The maximum project duration is 24 months.

Funding Schemes

1. Critical-Mass Strategic Fund (Up to HK\$1.5M in three installments)

Major research initiatives that lead to new paradigms, models and modes, technological and business innovations in advanced manufacturing:

- The applicant should be the PC (or PI as appropriate) of the preliminary / full proposal in the format required by the corresponding funding body. The applicant has already submitted at the time of application or intend to submit the proposal by 31 March 2026. Meanwhile, the grant size should generally meet the following requirements:
 - RGC (e.g. TRS / AoE / CRF / STG / RIF) and NSFC grants with size \geq HK\$3 million
 - other external grants (e.g. ITF / STF / GTF) with size \geq HK\$5 million
- The proposal must team up with internal / external colleagues to conduct interdisciplinary research as required by the funding body.
- PC should usually be at the rank of Assistant Professor or above.

More details can be found in Appendix 1.

2. Exploration Fund (Up to HK\$0.25M):

Initiatives for new research addressing grand new challenges (both basic and applied) with high risks and high potentials or outstanding research outcomes:

- Applicants should be well-established researchers with excellent track record.
- The proposal should explore new research area(s) extended from the PI's existing one(s).
- PC should be at the rank of Associate Professor or above although exceptionally excellent proposals from Assistant Professors can also be considered.

3. Impact Fund (Up to HK\$0.5M): All Year Round

Major applied research initiatives that create major impacts on business, society and technologies:

- start-ups that demonstrate high-quality business propositions and measurable societal impact with business plan vetted and supported by investor(s);
- patent application expenses in HK, mainland China or overseas ready to submit or already submitted;
- joint labs that foster partnerships between academia, industry and NGOs with minimum funding amount approved by the University or not less than HK\$2 million;
- external donations to conduct research work with financial support of not less than HK\$2 million;
- international networking and activities (e.g. organizing international conferences) (normally up to HK\$50,000 per event);

4. Matching Fund (Up to HK\$0.5M):

Major external grants already secured or grant applications submitted or to be submitted to the funding bodies, with the grant size not less than HK\$2 million.

- The applications must be successful within RIAM operating cycle.
- PC, PI or Co-PI should report at least HK\$2 million grant to RIAM in PGMS (Please note that the grants CANNOT be double counted among [PAIR Research Institutes/Centres](#)).

Application

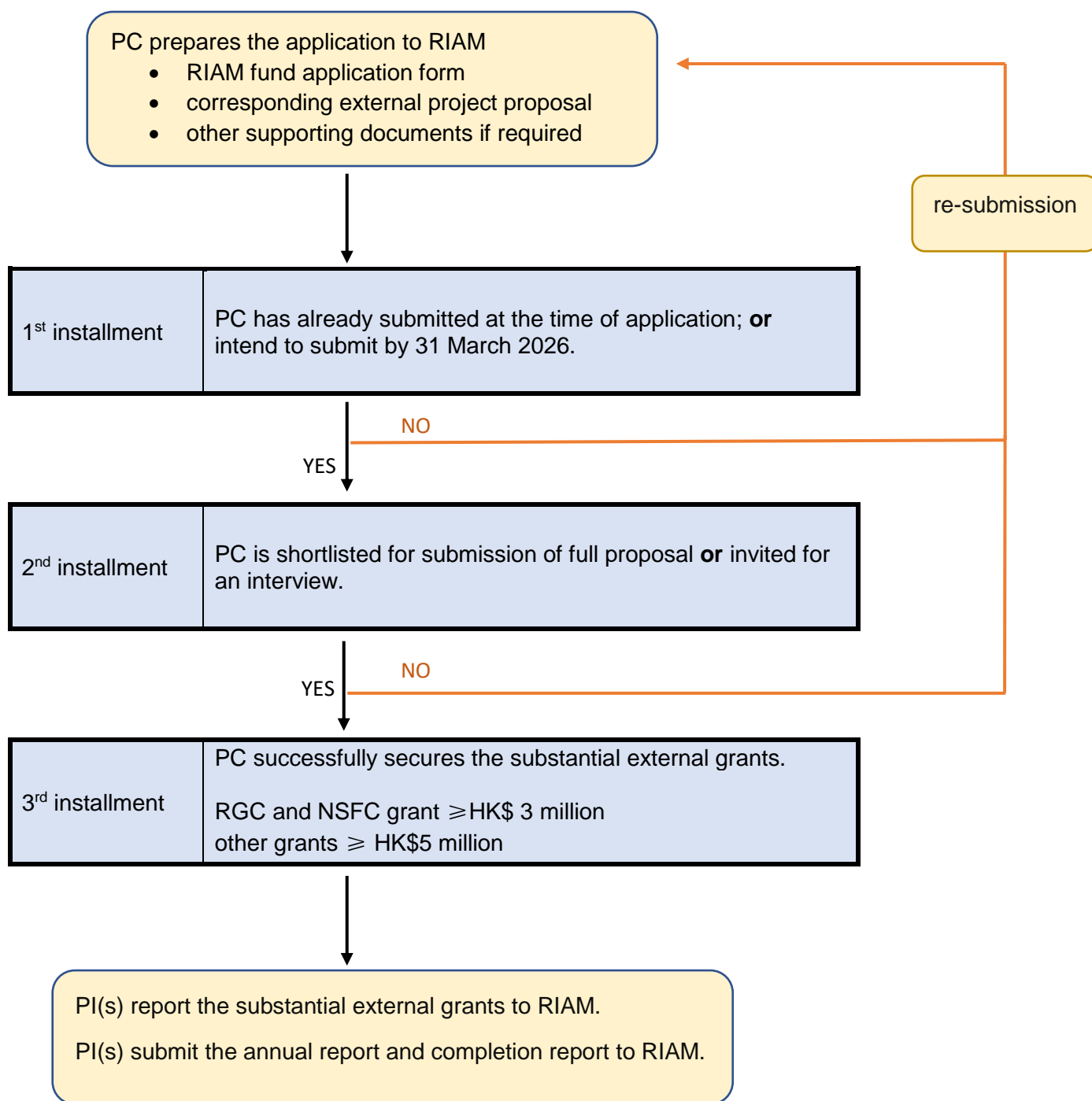
Please submit the RIAM application form as the cover sheet and your proposal or required documents to RIAM (chi-ha-cheryl.li@polyu.edu.hk) on or before 20 July 2025. Successful applicants will be notified of the results by September 2025.

Note

RIAM Management Committee will schedule an information session on 22 May 2025 at 2:00 p.m. to share the details of the funding schemes. Interested applicants can come for a face-to-face discussion before submitting their applications. Please click here for registration:

<https://forms.office.com/r/R6D91qaTrz>.

1. Workflow of Critical-Mass Strategic Fund



Notes

1. Each PC can submit one application under critical-mass strategic funding scheme and receive a maximum of HK\$1.5 million in funding support, subject to RIAM Management Committee's decisions and available funding balance.
2. The priority of funding allocation may be lowered for re-submission cases.
3. The maximum budget allocation for conference attendance of Critical-Mass Strategic Fund is HK\$40,000 per funded project and it will be disbursed in two or three installments.

Application Materials for Exploration Fund, Impact Fund, Matching Fund

2. Exploration Fund

- RIAM fund application form
- RIAM proposal template

3. Impact Fund

RIAM fund application form and the corresponding supporting documents, including but not limited to those listed below:

• start-ups:	business plan, letter of intent for investment;
• patent application:	KTEO invention disclosure form , application documents submitted to the official authorities;
• joint labs:	signed MoU or agreement
• external donations:	donation agreement or equivalent
• international networking and activities:	RIAM budget plan (please contact the RIAM secretary for the template)

4. Matching Fund

- RIAM fund application form
- proof of records for grants of not less than HK\$2 million (e.g. approved project proposals, result letters, agreements)
- A preliminary check will be conducted with PAIR and more supporting documents may be required upon request.

Notes

1. The maximum budget allocation for conference attendance of Exploration / Impact / Matching Fund is HK\$20,000, if applicable.

2. Successful applicants may be required to submit a brief proposal for account setup in PGMS, as requested by RIO.

22 May 2025