

## **Bridge Gap Fund 2026**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Application Eligibility**

##### **1. If I do not have a background IP developed or owned by HKUST, can I apply?**

As stipulated in the guideline, “*applicants must use intellectual property developed or owned by HKUST*”, meaning that applications with no HKUST-owned/developed BIP are not eligible for the application. Please check with OKT Intellectual Property team for the procedures to file your background IP as soon as possible and provide the OKT reference number (start with IP.XX.XXXX) in the application form for our verification. Please reserve enough time for the procedures.

##### **2. Am I eligible if I was a BGF awardee in BGF 2025?**

No, each PI CANNOT receive BGF funding in consecutive years. That means, if you are BGF awardee in BGF 2025, you are NOT eligible to apply for BGF 2026.

##### **3. Am I eligible if I was a BGF awardee in or before BGF 2024?**

You may be eligible if your new applying project has not received/ is not receiving other funding support with the same deliverables. Please provide details of the awarded project (especially the differentiation of the project deliverables) in the application form for the checking of OKT. You should also pay attention to the guideline P.2-3 if you have fulfilled other eligibility requirement for the application (e.g. projects must utilize the Intellectual Properties (IPs) with invention/software/know-how/copy-right disclosure submitted to OKT).

##### **4. Can I apply as PI in one project while applying another project as a Co-PI?**

No, each PI and Co-PI can **ONLY** submit **ONE** application. That means, the same applicant can only appear once in the role of either PI or Co-PI for BGF 2026.

#### **Composition of the Project Team and Their Roles**

##### **5. Can PIC approve the BGF expense?**

No, PIC cannot. Once the application is approved, PI will become the recipient of the BGF funding and he/she is responsible for ensuring proper use of the approved project budget in accordance with the guideline. Therefore, PI is the only BCO to approve BGF expenses.

## **Progress Review**

### **6. Is it a requirement to apply for TSSSU, TSSSU+ and/or RAISE+?**

The awarded project team (startup track) should submit the application for Government I&T funding for Supporting Technology Start-ups (e.g. TSSSU, RAISE+) to achieve the Midterm Review and secure the remaining 40% of the BGF funding.

## **During Project Period**

### **7. Can I switch the track of the awarded BGF project (i.e. startup track ↔ Technology Transfer track)?**

No, the project team cannot switch the track once awarded. You are always welcome to discuss with the respective Business Development Team and other OKT units if you encounter any difficulties.

### **8. Can I change the PI and/or PIC?**

No, it is not allowed to change PI and PIC, unless PI/PIC resigns from the current position and has no association with HKUST(CWB).

## **Use of Funding**

### **9. What are the restrictions on using BGF funding?**

Basically, BGF funding can be used to cover expenses incurred during the project period for generating the research outputs committed to in the BGF proposal. For details, please refer to the Page (ii) of the Appendix of the guidelines. Please be reminded that BGF funding does not support the patent application fees and travel expenses outside the Greater Bay Area. If you have any questions about the use of funding, please consult OKT before spending the budget.

### **10. Can I use the BGF funding to cover the expenses incurred in HKUST(GZ)?**

No, you cannot. The BGF funding is restricted to use within HKUST(CWB). The funding cannot be transferred out of the HKUST(CWB).

### **11. What does the consultancy budget cover?**

The budget refers to the cost associated with Business Development consultancy. The consultant may be engaged in a full-time or part-time basis. The consultancy services should be directly related to and contribute to the BGF research output, specifically in terms of how these services assist in conducting research and leveraging the research output for future business development. However, the consultancy budget cannot be solely used to support the operations of the start-up company.

## **12. How will the BGF funding be distributed to the project team?**

Research Office will help establish a project account for each team awarded. PI will be the BCO of the project account. The BGF funding will be distributed to the project account in two installments. The 1<sup>st</sup> installment (60% of the awarded budget) will be disbursed upon receipt of duly signed acceptance of the offer and all the required documents. The 2<sup>nd</sup> installment (40% of the awarded budget) will be disbursed upon verification of the achievement of the Midterm Review.

PI should always follow the University's policy and guidelines for all procurements.

## **13. Can I use the BGF funding after the project period?**

Upon reaching the project end date, any unspent budget will be returned to the University as stipulated in the guidelines. OKT will regularly remind the PI to spend the project budget. Please stay tuned for any notification emails.

### **Deeptech Incubation Training Program**

## **14. What is the DeepTech Incubation training program about? Where can we find the training schedule?**

The training program is arranged by OKT and it aims to equip project teams with the capability to handle the complexities of the project and any business outcomes. It may include business strategy, IP management, fundraising skills etc. The training details will be provided in due course.

### **How to Apply**

## **15. What do I need to submit along with the application form?**

You should enclose the supporting documents listed below.

- [Online Research Project Submission Approval](#) (ORPA) Form;
- Approved record of [Committee on Research Practices Review \(CRP\) Form](#) (if applicable);
- CVs of **ALL** team members (please download the template on the [website](#));
- Business proposal (please download the template on the [website](#));
- Self-Certification of Compliance with Conflict of Interest and Outside Activities (please download the template on the [website](#));
- Other supporting documents, including technology positioning, commercialization plan, including forming startup companies

## **16. How can I apply for the BGF?**

Please submit your application form and supporting documents to [oktdtadmin@ust.hk](mailto:oktdtadmin@ust.hk) on or before the specified deadline. Late applications will not be accepted. You may refer to the [website](#) for the application form and templates.

### **Submission of ORPA Form**

## **17. How to fill in the ORPA Form for BGF?**

When you fill in the ORPA form for BGF, please follow the instructions in the ORPA sample on the [website](#).