

FAQ

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?

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).

Composition of the Project Team and Their Roles

3. Can we have external members as our project team members?

No, the team members should be current HKUST (CWB) staff and students. They can be undergraduate/ postgraduate/ faculty member/ teaching or research support staff. Kindly note that BGF is regarded as a kind of internal funding, and it cannot be used to recruit external members with no association with HKUST (CWB), except for the recruitment of consultants for the project. The funding cannot be subcontracted or transferred out of the HKUST (CWB).

4. 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.

Milestone Achievement

5. What should we do to achieve Milestone 1?

Milestone 1 was set up for the project team to actively communicate with the Business Development Team and/or other responsible units of OKT to refine the BGF proposal, and conclude quantifiable deliverables which will be used as checkpoints in Milestone 2. PI is required to submit the finalized BGF proposal (track change version and clean version) within the 1st month from the project date.

6. Different projects may have different project periods (from 6-12 months). When should we achieve Milestone 2?

All projects should achieve Milestone 2 in the 5th month from the project start date disregarding the project duration.

7. Is it a requirement to apply for TSSSU, TSSSU+ and/or RAISe+?

Kindly note that the awarded project team (startup track) should submit the application for Government I&T funding (e.g. TSSSU, RAISe+) to achieve Milestone 2 and secure the remaining 30% of the BGF funding.

During Project Period

8. 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.

9. 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).

Deeptech Incubation Training Program

10. 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

11. How can I apply for the BGF?

Please submit your application form and supporting documents to oktdtadmin@ust.hk by the specified deadline. Late applications will not be accepted. You may refer to the [website](#) for the application form. For the necessary supporting documents, please refer to the application form Section D.