

**2021 Academia Sinica**  
**Funding Opportunity Announcement**  
**Seed Grant for Grand Challenge Program**

The Academia Sinica **Grand Challenge Program** is established to encourage its researchers to pursue **innovative** solutions for **critical problems** in science and humanities that have broad and lasting **impact**. To catalyze and cultivate ideas still in the early stage of development, shorter term **Seed Grants** are provided to fund exploratory projects for 1-2 years. Successful applicants are expected to deliver key results within that one year or two that would substantiate the ideas proposed and allow them to undertake a more extensive investigation.

Interested Investigators are requested to submit a concise proposal that would clearly describe i) the **specific problem to be solved**, ii) the **innovative ideas and approaches to be taken**, iii) the **impact of the work** if the goals are realized, and iv) the overall **plans to test the ideas**, its feasibility, scientific or technical challenges, potential risks and key deliverables, along with any alternative plans to de-risk. The applications will be critically reviewed based on these criteria, based on which the applicants are advised to prepare the proposal accordingly.

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## **1. Application Process**

### **1.1 Eligibility**

1. The Project PI must be an Academia Sinica Research Fellow of any rank.
2. PI can invite non-Academia Sinica scientists to participate in the project and serve as co-PI, if necessary.
3. Additional collaborators enlisted, if any, should be justified and each is required to provide a Supporting Letter delineating their expertise and specific roles in the project.

### **1.2 Deadlines and Important Reminders**

1. Application deadline is 17:00, **March 15, 2021**; Proposals from Division of Life Sciences and Division of Mathematics and Physical Sciences should be written in English, adhering to the guidelines and format specified within the document template ([Appendix 1](#)) provided.
2. In preparing the proposals, applicants should keep in mind the following review criteria: i) **the significance of the problem to be addressed**, ii) **the degree of innovation**, iii) **the extent of anticipated impact**, and iv) **the feasibility of your plans**. Furthermore, the investigators involved should have relevant expertise and the project be deemed sufficiently competitive. Although this Seed Grant will emphasize the first three criteria and take more risks in unproven methodologies and hypothesis, a major strategic flaw will not convince the reviewers. Applicants are advised to read the attached Review Criteria ([Appendix 2](#), also available online) in the first instance.
3. Applicants may be invited to make oral presentations and answer questions during the review process.

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## **2. Funding Period and other Requirements**

- 2.1 Applicants can request for either one- or two-years' funding.
- 2.2 Grant **Acceptance** and **Requirements** prior to Project Execution

1. Project PI and co-PI(s) of a successful application must sign and abide by the terms as stipulated in the Project Execution Agreement, and complete the Conflict of Interest declaration process, prior to commencing the project.
2. Approval from the relevant AS committees must be obtained before commencing any project involving biological and/or genetically engineered materials, animal experiments or human subjects.
3. In accordance with the AS Research Ethics regulations, all personnel who directly perform any AS-funded research activity should receive at least one hour of research ethics training every three years. Such training must be completed within six months of joining the research project, or within the duration of the project for a project lasting less than six months;
4. Project PI found to have violated research ethics will be subject to actions recommended by the AS Ethics Committee.

### 2.3 Report and Evaluation

1. For 2-year's project, a brief progress summary report must be submitted within a month after completion of the first year. Additional oral presentation by PI to discuss progress and problems may then be arranged.
2. A final written report to the AS Department of Academic Affairs and Instrument Services is due upon completion of each project.

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### 3. Application Materials to be submitted

1. Use the document template provided ([Appendix 1](#)) to prepare the **Proposal**, adhering to the page limit, format and rules specified within. All required information including the summary statements, research plan, budget request and justification, supporting letters, biographical sketch, and a list of current and pending grant supports, should be organized into one PDF file and submitted as email attachment to the Grant Office, before the submission deadline: **17:00, March 15, 2021**. Name the submitted files as "GCS-PI English name", *e.g.* GCS-ChenXX refers to a Grand Challenge Seed grant application submitted by PI ChenXX.
2. A confirmation acknowledgement email will be sent upon receipt and content verification of the submitted proposal. It can be used as proof of submission. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
3. Grant Office contact information:  
Email: grandchallenge@gate.sinica.edu.tw  
c/o Ms. EG Chen (Tel: 2787-2612)  
Department of Academic Affairs and Instrument Service

## 壹、計畫申請作業

### 一、申請人資格

- (一) 研究計畫之(總)主持人需為本院專任助研究員(含)以上。
- (二) 計畫主持人可邀請非本院專家學者參與研究團隊，擔任該計畫共同主持人。
- (三) 若因執行計畫另需邀請協同參與或合作研究人員，計畫主持人可於申請書說明其必要性，並檢附該協同參與或合作研究人員同意提供協助與支持該計畫或合作意願之說明信函(supporting letter)。

### 二、計畫申請時程與其他注意事項：

- (一) 申請時程為即日起至 110 年 3 月 15 日 17 時止，數理組及生命組之計畫書應以英文撰寫，格式請見 [附件 1](#)。
- (二) 撰寫計畫書時，應著眼於欲解決的關鍵議題之重要性、所提出的思維與方法之創新突破性，及研究成果對該領域的影響力。敬請參酌 [附件 2](#) 之英文版的評審基準說明。
- (三) 審查過程如需申請團隊口頭報告或說明之會議安排等事宜將另行通知。

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## 貳、計畫補助年限與執行前需求

- 一、計畫補助年限為一或二年期。

### 二、核定後執行前須知

- (一) 經核定通過之總主持人及共同計畫主持人須簽署相關計畫執行同意書，並於計畫執行前完成利益揭露程序；
- (二) 核定通過之研究計畫，涉及生物材料及基因重組相關實驗、動物實驗及以人為研究對象者，應檢附經相關委員會核准之同意函，方可開始執行該計畫；
- (三) 依據「中央研究院學術研究倫理教育課程實施要點」，執行以本院預算支應之研究計畫者，參與計畫人員每 3 年應接受至少 1 小時之學術倫理教育課程訓練，至遲應於開始參與研究計畫之日起 6 個月內完成；研究計畫執行期限少於 6 個月者，應於計畫執行期限內完成；
- (四) 計畫主持人如涉有違反學術倫理之情事者，依「中央研究院各級倫理委員會設置及作業要點」處理。

### 三、執行進度與成果報告

- (一) 二年期計畫應於執行滿第一年後的一個月內提交精簡進度摘要報告，並視需求得以安排口頭報告討論進度及待解決之問題。
  - (二) 計畫執行期滿，須向學儀處提交完整執行成果報告。
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### 參、申請資料

- 一、**申請計畫書**，請依規定計畫書格式（附件 1）備妥所需資料，含重點摘要、精簡研究規劃、經費需求與說明、計畫支持說明信函、主持人與共同主持人個人履歷、近期研究成果，目前正執行與申請中之計畫件數及經費補助情形等，合併成一完整 PDF 電子檔，於 110 年 3 月 15 日 17:00 時前，以電子郵件方式寄達計畫辦公室。檔名請命名為“GCS-PI 英文姓名”；例如 GCS-ChenXX 為陳姓主持人申請之「關鍵突破種子計畫」。
  - 二、承辦人於收到完整無誤的計畫書後，將回信確認，此回覆信函可當收件之存證。逾期或資料不齊者恕不受理。
  - 三、學術及儀器事務處 計畫辦公室與承辦人聯絡方式：  
grandchallenge@gate.sinica.edu.tw，  
陳羿君 EG Chen，電話：2787-2612
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