

**Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (SPPRFS)
Strategic Themes (2025-26)**

	<u>Code</u>
1. Development Opportunities from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA)	SH01
2. New Quality Productive Forces	SH02
3. Integrated Development of Education, Technology and Talents	SH03
4. International Financial, Shipping and Trade Centre	SH04
5. Integrated Development of Culture, Sports and Tourism	SH05
6. Elderly and Healthcare Services	SH06

Important Note: Applications for SPPRFS 2025-26 must be made under one of the strategic themes and in line with the specified research area(s). Those falling outside the specified strategic themes and specified research area(s) will NOT be considered generally.

SH01 - Development Opportunities from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA)

Specified Research Areas

1. Measures to capitalise on the GBA's comparative advantages to further develop Hong Kong's positioning in one of the "eight centres" (including international financial centre, international innovation and technology centre, East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange, international trade centre, international shipping centre, international aviation hub, centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region, and regional intellectual property trading centre).
2. Strategies for scaling up medical collaboration in the GBA.
3. Measures to support Hong Kong young people to seize the opportunities of the GBA development.
4. Studies to understand the situation and needs of Hong Kong residents in other cities of the GBA.

SH02 - New Quality Productive Forces

Specified Research Areas

1. Policies to promote the development of new energy, particularly hydrogen, sustainable aviation and maritime fuel, in Hong Kong. Assessing the business opportunities, priority areas, and the social and economic impacts of such development.
2. Strategies for further development of digital economy, including accelerating the digital transformation of industries, developing Artificial Intelligence (AI), strengthening digital infrastructure, developing a data-trading ecosystem, and exploring cross-boundary data flow within the GBA.
3. Strategies for fostering the development of green transformation, including application of high-quality and cost-effective green construction technologies, and climate actions to reduce and recycle waste.
4. Strategies for developing Hong Kong into an international health and medical innovation hub, including manpower training and biomedical technology innovation and development.

SH03 - Integrated Development of Education, Technology and Talents

Specified Research Areas

1. Measures for developing Hong Kong into an international hub for education and high-calibre talents.
2. Development of micro-credentials and a holistic ladder of sustainable development and training of talents to support lifelong learning and the development of Information and Technology industries.
3. Strategies and measures on the use and promotion of education technology (EdTech), e.g AI.
4. Studies on how schools and educators collaborate to ensure the education system/ curriculum/pedagogies are responsive and relevant to the future needs of youths, and the core skills, competencies, values and attitudes required.
5. Analysis on the role of parents/family on students' well-being and sense of contentment/happiness and promote good practices on parent-school co-operation.

SH04 – International Financial, Shipping and Trade Centre

Specified Research Areas

1. Policies to strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international risk management centre.
2. Strategies to enhance port competitiveness of Hong Kong, including developing new markets for bringing about new growth points in Hong Kong Port (HKP)'s container throughput, reinforcing the stickiness of the traditional shipping lines to HKP, enhancing Hong Kong's status as a smart port, and enhancing attractiveness of HKP to be included amidst re-shuffling of liner routes.
3. Studies on the sector(s) to be focused on as the new growth point for high value-added maritime services, and measures to promote the development of the sector(s).
4. Measures to improve the commodity trading ecosystem in Hong Kong, including attracting commodity-related enterprises, boosting demand for the related services, and providing supportive systems and talents.
5. Policies to develop Hong Kong as a high value-added supply chain service centre, including measures to strengthen the relevant services, e.g. production chain management, export credit risk management, trade financing, marketing, testing and certification, accounting and other professional services.
6. Measures to promote the development of a headquarters economy, especially attracting strategic enterprises to set up headquarters in Hong Kong.

SH05 - Integrated Development of Culture, Sports and Tourism

Specified Research Areas

1. Strategies for enhancing the cultural soft power of Hong Kong and promoting the development of cultural and creative industries.
2. Policies to raise Hong Kong's contributions towards cultural development in the GBA, and measures to enhance Hong Kong's collaboration with cultural partners in other GBA cities.
3. Policies to promote sports development and build Hong Kong into a centre for mega international sports events, enhancing professionalism and developing sports as an industry.
4. Policies to support the development strategies set out in the Development Blueprint for Hong Kong's Tourism Industry 2.0.

SH06 - Elderly and Healthcare Services

Specified Research Areas

1. Policies to improve quality and sustainability (financial, manpower) of local elderly services, including different funding (subsidised and non-subsidised) and service provision models.
2. Strategies for leveraging the comparative advantages of the GBA to support development of elderly services and the silver economy.
3. Studies on innovative healthcare services delivery models, including enhanced medical-social collaboration and sustainable healthcare financing.
4. Strategies for enhancing development of primary healthcare in Hong Kong, including strengthening health promotion and disease prevention, and improving public healthcare services.