

**Areas of Excellence Scheme 2025/26 (Thirteenth Round)**  
**Funding Results**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Participating UGC-funded Universities#</b>	<b>Approved Budget* (HK\$ million)</b>	<b>Funding from RGC* (HK\$ million)</b>
<b>Proposals with Five-Year Budget</b>			
Centre for Plant Vacuole Biology and Biotechnology	CUHK, HKBU, HKU, HKUST, PolyU	87.777	75.000
The Study of Topological and Strongly Correlated Quantum Materials	HKUST, CUHK, HKU	65.415	58.874
<b>Total (Two projects)</b>		<b>153.192</b>	<b>133.874</b>
<b>Exploratory Proposal with One-Year Budget</b>			
Optimizing Early Childhood Development of Children from Low-Resource Settings by Leveraging Technology and Biological Data	CUHK, HKU, PolyU	-	10.000
<b>Total (One project)</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>10.000</b>

- # CUHK: The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
 HKBU: Hong Kong Baptist University  
 HKU: The University of Hong Kong  
 HKUST: The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
 PolyU: The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

- \* Inclusive of indirect costs / on-costs. The RGC's funding allocation for the two projects with five-year budget in AoE Scheme 2025/26 is \$134 million. The remaining \$19 million of the approved budget will be matched by the universities concerned. For the exploratory project, the RGC's funding allocation is \$10 million and the university matching is subject to a revised one-year budget plan to be submitted by the project team which requires approval from the relevant Committee.