

Call for Mobility Plus Project Proposals

Identification information

Partner country:	China
Partner organisation:	National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
Programme:	Mobility Plus Projects
Implementation period:	2021-2022

Legal framework

The call is based on Agreement on Scientific Cooperation of the year 2017 between the Czech Academy of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as CAS) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (hereinafter referred to as NSFC), and in accordance with art. 2 par. 2 of the Act No. 283/1992 Coll., on the Czech Academy of Sciences, as amended, and art. 3 par. 2 of the Statutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

Basic definitions

Objectives

- Improvement of scientific cooperation between both countries;
- Stimulation of involvement of young researchers and PhD students;
- Support of research teams aspiring to cooperate on large international projects in the future;
- Enabling the use of methodology, infrastructure and equipment for the mutual benefit of both institutions.

Eligibility criteria

Project proposals from the 1st Research area (Mathematics, Physics and Earth Sciences) and 2nd Research Area (Life and Chemical Sciences) are accepted.

Maximum project duration is **2 years, i.e. 24 months**; extension beyond this period is not permitted.

Project proposals can be submitted:

- On the Czech side by the CAS institutes.
- On the Chinese side by institutes according to NSFC regulations.

In case an applicant submits more than one project proposal within one call, only one of them can be funded.

Only two subsequent projects realized by the same research teams can be funded. Applicant submitting a project proposal following a running project with the same team must justify the need for a continuing project and describe outcomes of the running project. This shall be stated in the Project Proposal form in the part "Description of the project".



Research team

Each research team consists of:

- One principal investigator (senior or junior researcher);
- One or more co-investigators.

Research team members are divided into four categories:

- Senior researchers (5 or more years after receiving PhD);
- Junior researchers – postdocs (less than 5 years after receiving PhD);
- PhD students;
- Others (e.g. engineers, technicians).

On the Czech side:

- All members must be employees of the CAS institutes.
- Out of the whole team, at least 1/3 must be junior researchers or PhD students.

On the Chinese side:

- See the Chinese call for proposals.

Financial conditions

Financial contributions must be calculated and provided in compliance with the valid national legislation and internal regulations of the partner organisations.

Up to 3 (three) projects shall be selected for funding.

On the Czech side:

- Financial contribution shall be provided by the CAS towards the costs of the Czech research team.
- The maximum financial contribution shall be CZK 300 000 per mobility project per year.
- Min. 50% of the approved financial contribution shall be used to cover mobility costs: travel, living expenses.
- Min. 30% of the approved financial contribution shall be used to cover research costs: consumables, services, small equipment, and networking.
- Non-eligible costs are: personnel, large equipment (exceeding CZK 40,000), overheads.
- There are no eligible indirect costs.
- The ratio between mobility and research costs shall be maintained on the project level as well as yearly. Transferring financial contributions between these two categories is allowed if the minimal ratio for both categories is maintained.
- The course of project implementation will be monitored through annual and final reports including use of financial means and justification of costs and possible transfers between categories.

On the Chinese side (for information only):

- NSFC will cover the travel expenses of the Chinese researchers to Czech Republic and daily allowances of Chinese researchers in Czech Republic. The fund can also be used for organizing small workshops which are held in China.



Project proposal submission

Project proposals must be submitted in parallel to both partner organisations.

On the Czech side:

- Project proposals in Czech or English must be complete and submitted within the stated deadline exclusively via the “KIS” online application.
- You are requested to register in the KIS application using the following link <https://kis.avcr.cz/kis2/oms/register>, and fill in a project proposal. After finishing your proposal, you shall forward it through your KIS account to the Director of your CAS Institute for its approval. The Director shall approve your proposal by submitting the project proposal to OMS KAV ČR (Division of International Cooperation, Head Office of the CAS) via his KIS account. **Bear in mind that all project proposals must be submitted by the CAS Institute Directors by 1 June 2020.**
- Proposals submitted in other than the above described way may be rejected on formal grounds.

By submitting project proposal, the applicant:

- Agrees to processing of personal data contained in the project proposal pursuant to the relevant Czech legislation;
- Declares that the information he/she stated is accurate, true and complete and that he/she is aware that if otherwise they will face all the legal consequences;
- Declares that, if approved, he/she will during the realization of the project follow:
 - [The Code of Ethics of researchers at the Czech Academy of Sciences](#);
 - [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#);
 - [Recommendations of the International Commission "Self-Control in Science" \(Recommendations of the International Commission on Professional Self-Regulation in Science\)](#)

On the Chinese side (for information only):

The project proposal must be submitted by the Chinese PI **to NSFC**. For conditions for submission and relevant form/s, please refer to the NSFC call text which will be available from the website of the NSFC:

<http://bic.nsf.gov.cn/Show.aspx?CI=22>

Evaluation and Selection

Consists of a two-step process:

- At the national level, each partner organisation evaluates submitted proposals based on its internal rules and prepares a ranking list.
- At the international level, both partner organizations exchange their ranking lists, merge them, negotiate the final ranking and approve the proposals selected for funding. Total number of projects approved for funding is dependent on the financial possibilities of both partner organizations.



Criteria for evaluation of project proposals

- **Quality of the project:**
 - Scientific relevance (concept, innovative character in relation to the state-of-the art, quality of objectives);
 - Methodology, work plan of activities and outputs;
 - Impact of project results, their dissemination and exploitation.
- **Quality of research teams:**
 - Composition and expertise of research teams;
 - Complementarity, methodology and equipment; previous cooperation and outputs;
 - Justification of collaboration needs.
- **Active involvement of junior researchers and PhD students.**
- **Added value and broader impact of bilateral cooperation.**

Evaluation of the final report

The project results and outputs will be evaluated. For definition of results see the Methodology of Evaluation of Research Organizations and Evaluation of Finished Programmes (<https://www.vyzkum.cz/FrontClanek.aspx?idsekce=799796>).

Schedule

1 April 2020	Announcement of the call for project proposals
1 June 2020	Deadline for submission of project proposals on the CZECH SIDE
28 May 2020	Deadline for submission of project proposals on the CHINESE SIDE
September 2020	Completion of the assessment at national level
October 2020	Completion of the joint assessment at international level
November 2020	Approval of the final results by both partner organisations
December 2020	Announcement of results

Czech/Chinese principal investigators should be sure that their counterpart submits a matching application by the relevant deadline.

Contact persons

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On the partner side:

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