

Call for Mobility Plus Project Proposals

Identification information

Partner country:	China
Partner organisation:	National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
Programme:	Mobility Plus Projects
Period:	1.1.2023 – 31.12.2024

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 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 early career researchers and PhD students;
- Supporting 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 **all research fields** 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 a [CAS institute](#);
- **On the Chinese side** by institutes according to NSFC regulations

In case 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

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 (8 or more years after receiving PhD at the time of submission of the project proposal);
- Junior researchers – postdocs (less than 8 years after receiving PhD at the time of submission of the project proposal);
- PhD students;
- Others (e.g. undergraduate students, 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 provisions

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) two-year mobility 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.
- Eligible costs:
 - **Mobility costs** (travel and living expenses);
 - **Research costs** directly related to the project implementation (consumables, services, small equipment, and networking – workshops, conferences etc.).
- Min. 50 % of the requested financial contribution shall be used to cover mobility costs and shall be maintained on the project level as well as yearly.
- Non-eligible costs: personnel, large equipment (exceeding CZK 80,000), overheads.
- The course of project implementation will be monitored through annual and final reports including use of financial means, justification of costs and possible transfers between categories.

On the Chinese side:

- 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.
- The applicant is 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 the proposal, the applicant shall forward it through his KIS account to the Director of the respective CAS Institute for approval. The Director shall approve the 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 12 June 2022.**
- Proposals submitted in any other 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 for Researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences;](#)
 - [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity;](#)

On the Chinese side:

- 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.nsfc.gov.cn/Show.aspx?CI=22>

Evaluation and Selection

Consists of 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 organisations 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

- **Scientific and formal quality:**
 - Quality of project implementation (concept, approach, methodology, time schedule, outcomes);
 - State-of-the-art;
 - Innovation potential and perspective to broaden knowledge;
 - Expected mutual benefits for both research institutes;
 - Potential of project results and its possible outreach.
- **Quality of research teams:**
 - Justification of collaboration needs;

- Competence and qualification of research team members;
 - Level of involvement of junior researchers and PhD students;
 - Research teams' complementarity;
 - Previous cooperation.
- **Appropriate project budget.**

Evaluation of the final report

The project results and outputs will be evaluated. For definition of results see the [Methodology for Evaluating Research Organisations and R&D&I Purpose-tied Aid Programmes \(2017+\)](#).

Schedule

14 April 2022 (CAS)	Announcement of the call for project proposals
12 June 2022 (CAS)	Deadline for submission of project proposals
Sept./Oct. 2022	Completion of the assessment at national level
November 2022	Completion of the joint assessment at international level
Nov./Dec.2022	Approval of the final results by both partner organisations
December 2022	Announcement of results

!Please be aware that the date of the call announcement and of the deadline for project submission might differ on the Chise SIDE! Czech/Chinese principal investigators, therefore, should be sure that their counterpart submits a matching application by the relevant deadline.

Contact persons

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