

Call for Mobility Plus Project Proposals

Identification

Partner country:	China
Partner organisation:	National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
Programme:	Mobility Plus Projects
Implementation period:	1.1.2025 – 31.12.2026
Maximum project duration:	2 years, i.e. 24 months Extension beyond this period is not permitted.

The Call is open from 15 April until 10 June 2024 (23:59).

Legal framework

The call is based on the 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 early career 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 countries

Eligibility criteria

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

Project proposals can be submitted:

- **on the Czech side** by the [CAS institutes](#)
- **on the NSFC side** by the 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 mobility projects implemented by the same research team 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 must 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 (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)

The research experience does not include maternity and parental leave, work disability lasting more than 90 days, compulsory military service, the period during which care is provided to a person who is considered to be dependent on the assistance of another natural person under the Social Services Act.

On the CAS side

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

Financial provisions

Financial contribution must be calculated and provided in compliance with the valid national legislation and internal regulations of the partner organisations. Each partner organisation must meet all costs of its research team and provide travel insurance for its research team members.

Up to three (3) 2-year mobility projects can be selected for funding within this call.

CAS funding regulations

- CAS provides financial contribution only towards the costs of the Czech research team.
- The maximum financial contribution is **CZK 300,000** per mobility project per year (12 months).
- Eligible costs are non-investment costs of the CAS research team:
 - **mobility costs (abroad):**
 - travel and living expenses, conference fee in the partner country
 - if justified, travel and living expenses, conference fee in a “third” country (if active participation in a conference, directly related to the project)
 - **research costs (directly related to the project implementation):**
 - consumables
 - services (incl. travel expenses related to the project within the Czech Republic)
 - small equipment (up to CZK 80,000)
 - networking (organisation of conferences, workshops, etc., in the Czech Republic, conference fee at a conference held in the Czech Republic)

- **Min. 50 % of the requested financial contribution must be used to cover mobility costs each year of the project implementation.**
- **Non-eligible costs are:** personnel, large equipment (exceeding CZK 80,000), overheads, or any investment costs.
- **Eligibility of all costs will be assessed based on specific justification in the project proposal.**
- 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 cost categories.
- A successful project proposal shall be funded based on the respective grant that shall be provided to the CAS institute in accordance with the Guideline of the Academy Council of the CAS on Grants Provided by the Czech Academy of Sciences.

NSFC funding regulations

- NSFC will provide up to 100,000 RMB (CNY) for each Mobility Project; NSFC will cover the travel expenses and daily allowances of the Chinese researches. The fund can also be used for organizing small workshops in China.

Project proposal submission

Project proposals must be submitted in parallel to both partner organisations according to their instruction. Only project proposals considered eligible by both partner organisations will be evaluated.

On the CAS side

- **Complete project proposals in Czech or English must be submitted in the KIS application and simultaneously via the CAS data mailbox within the stated deadline.**
- **Only project proposals submitted simultaneously in the KIS application and via the CAS data mailbox by the deadline of the call are considered as submitted and will be evaluated.**
- Project proposals submitted in any other way will be rejected on formal grounds.

The process of submitting a project proposal is as follows:

- 1) The applicant (PI) is requested to register in the KIS application as “an applicant” at <https://kis.avcr.cz/kis2/oms/register>, and fill in a project proposal.
- 2) After completing the project proposal, the applicant (PI) must forward the complete project proposal via her/his KIS account to the director of the respective CAS institute for approval – the director will receive a notification e-mail.
- 3) The director of the CAS institute must approve and submit the project proposal to OMS KAV ČR (Division of International Cooperation, Head Office of the CAS) via her/his KIS account, and simultaneously send it as a PDF document to the CAS data mailbox (CAS ID fr6adt5) by the stated deadline.

By submitting a project proposal, the director of the CAS institute and the applicant (PI):

- Confirms she/he has read and understood the Privacy Policy (<https://www.avcr.cz/en/academic-public/international-affairs/bilateral-cooperation/practical-information-and-links/>). She/he confirms that the partner principal investigator as well as the members of both research teams are also familiar with the Privacy Policy.

- Confirms that the CAS institute will support the project in accordance with Guideline No. 15/2019 of the Academy Council of the CAS from 26 November 2019 on the Support for International Cooperation at the Research Institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences, as subsequently amended in Guideline No. 17/2021.
- Declares that the information she/he stated is accurate, true and complete and that she/he is aware that if otherwise, there may be legal consequences.
- Declares that, if approved, during the implementation she/he will follow:
 - [The Code of Ethics for Researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences](#)
 - [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity \(Revised Edition 2023\)](#)

On the NSFC 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.

Evaluation and Selection

Consists of two-step process:

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

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 teams
 - 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

15 April 2024	Announcement of the call for project proposals
10 June 2024 23:59	Deadline for submission of project proposals (both KIS and data mailbox)
Sept./Oct. 2024	Completion of the assessment at national level
November 2024	Completion of the joint assessment at international level
Nov./Dec. 2024	Approval of the final results by both partner organisations
December 2024	Announcement of results

Please be aware that the date of announcement of the call and deadline for submission of project proposals might differ on the NSFC side! Pls, therefore, should make sure that their counterpart submits a matching application by the relevant deadline.

Contact persons

On the CAS side

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On the NSFC side

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