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# Special Funds

Special funds are set up by NSFC to support or strengthen research in certain areas or aspects, and currently they include Tianyuan Fund for Mathematics and Special Fund for Basic Research on Scientific Instruments. Among them, Tianyuan Fund for Mathematics does not count in the limitation search for NSFC projects and the Special Fund for Basic Research on Scientific Instruments counts in the limitation search for Key Program projects. Applicants should pay attention to this change.

## Tianyuan Fund for Mathematics

Tianyuan Fund for Mathematics is a special fund to support mathematical research in China to catch up the world advanced research level in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It is open to all mathematical researchers in China and is managed by NSFC. Tianyuan Fund is coherent with NSFC's funded projects by the Division of Mathematics in giving a unified support to mathematical research. Tianyuan Fund mainly supports research in the following five areas:

- 1) Mathematical summer schools for postgraduate and undergraduate students, summer camps for middle school students and training workshops for young teachers in the western regions of China;
- 2) Tianyuan Youth Grants;
- 3) Lectures, workshops, academic year, mathematical forum and international cooperation and exchange on special topics;
- 4) Publication of books and journals, developing computer network and improving the research conditions of mathematicians;
- 5) Necessary education and dissemination of mathematical knowledge and research on the history of mathematics.

The aim of setting up the Tianyuan Youth Grants is to encourage enthusiasm from young people for the cause of mathematical research. The Tianyuan Youth Grants are open only to institutions that are qualified to award master and doctor degrees in mathematics. The qualifications for the applicants are: 1) young researchers under 35 who have their Ph.D. degrees for less than three years; 2) young researchers in less developed regions enjoy certain preferential treatment; 3) postdoc researchers who are still working in the postdoc centers.

Through lectures, workshops, academic year, mathematical forum and international cooperation and exchanges on special topics, it is to strengthen the intercrossing and application of mathematics in other disciplines, and to promote the development of mathematics.

## Special Funds

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All applications, except that for summer schools of postgraduate students, summer schools for undergraduate students, summer camps for middle school students and training workshops for young teachers in the western regions of China, are supported by combined ways of free application and special arrangement. All the others are open to free application. For details, please contact the Mathematics Division of the Department of Mathematical and Physical Sciences and the Office of Tianyuan Fund for Mathematics.

The time of application for Tianyuan Youth Grants is the same as the time for NSFC's General Program projects. Others can be submitted 3 month prior to the project commencement.

All applicants to the Tianyuan Fund for Mathematics shall fill out the unified NSFC application form, choose "Special Fund" under the "Projects Category" and "Tianyuan Fund for Mathematics" under "Sub-category" when writing the proposals. The duration for the project is one year.

Please log onto NSFC website (<http://www.nsf.gov.cn>), click Download Center and download the application form. The procedures of the submission for NSFC's General Program shall apply and the Science and Technology Offices of the host institutions are responsible for the submission of their own proposals. One hard copy of the proposals shall be sent to the following address:

Division of Mathematics,  
Department of Mathematical and Physical Sciences  
National Natural Science Foundation of China  
P.O. Box: Beijing 8610  
Zip Code: 100085

The identical electronic version of the proposal shall be sent to [support@mail.nsf.gov.cn](mailto:support@mail.nsf.gov.cn)

The Academic Steering Committee meeting of the Tianyuan Fund for Mathematics is convened every year to discuss the work of the Fund and approve the funding of projects. New information will be announced on the journal *Mathematical Progress* and *Communications of the Chinese Mathematical Society*.

## **Special Fund for Basic Research on Scientific Instruments**

In order to strengthen the support to basic research on scientific instruments, NSFC has

set up the Special Fund for Basic Research on Scientific Instruments. The Fund is used to support innovative research or make improvement on important scientific instruments that are urgently needed in the research in frontier areas of basic research. The support is focused on:

1. Research and development of key scientific instruments and components that have important roles in promoting disciplinary development;
2. Research and development of scientific instruments and components that are needed to verify new principles and new methods.

Encouraged research areas for the projects of the Fund will be decided according to the disciplinary needs as well as the technology basis and strength in China. NSFC scientific departments will organize and recommend research groups that have good research basis in the General Program to apply for the Fund. The general application forms for NSFC's programs will be used. Please choose "Special Fund" under the "Projects Category" and "Special Fund for Basic Research on Scientific Instruments" under the "Sub-category". Please use the main text of the relative General Program project in the syllabus. The project will be counted in the limitation search for NSFC's projects.