

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, Special Fund for Basic Research on Scientific Instruments and Special Grant for Key Academic Journals..

Tianyuan Fund for Mathematics

Tianyuan Fund for Mathematics is a special fund to support mathematical research in China to catch up with the world advanced research level. It 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 six 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 annual meetings, mathematical forum and international cooperation and exchange on special topics, and high level workshops;
- (4) Publication of books and journals and development of computer network;
- (5) Education and dissemination of mathematical knowledge and research on the history of mathematics;
- (6) Problem driven applied mathematical research.

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 will be contracted to relevant schools and research institutes through consultations with the Academic Steering Committee of the Tianyuan Fund.

The aim of setting up the Tianyuan Youth Grants is to encourage and foster more young people to devote to the cause of mathematical research and strengthen interdisciplinary studies. 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 young researchers under 35 who have their Ph.D. degrees for less than three years. The funding will be 30,000 to 50,000 yuan for one year. Postdocs working at the postdoc station may not apply.

Lectures, workshops, academic annual meetings, mathematical forum and international

cooperation and exchange on special topics, etc., are aimed at promoting and improving the development of various disciplines of mathematics, the intercrossing and application of mathematics in other disciplines, and at playing the incubator role in promoting the intercrossing of mathematics and other disciplines. It funds about 15 such projects each year, with a funding of 50,000 to 100,000 yuan per project.

The advanced workshop program mainly supports groups (about 10 members each) of mid aged and young mathematicians to hold workshops on special topics in research frontiers. The fund is for 10 such workshops each year with a funding of 100,000 yuan per workshop for 2 to 4 weeks.

Publication of books and journals and the development of computer network will be contracted to relevant publishers or units through consultation with the Academic Steering Committee of the Tianyuan Fund in accordance with the needs of mathematical development.

Education and dissemination of mathematical knowledge and research on the history of mathematics aim at promoting mathematics to the public, helping the public understand mathematics and culture of mathematics, improving people's logic and inference ability, analysis and judgment ability, imagination and creativity, and fostering more creative talents. About 5 such projects will be funded each year with a funding of 50,000 to 100,000 yuan per project.

Problem driven applied mathematical research projects aim at building a platform for mathematicians, encourage, promote and fund them to have close cooperation with application workers to do applied mathematical research closely related to other areas, and form gradually a working style so as to play an important role of mathematics in S&T development, economic construction and social progress, and promote the overall, healthy and sustained development of mathematics in China. About 10 such projects are to be funded with a funding of 100,000 yuan per year.

All applications mentioned above are supported by the combined ways of free application and special arrangement. For details, please contact the Division of Mathematics of the Department of Mathematical and Physical Sciences and the Office of Tianyuan Fund for Mathematics.

The time of application for Tianyuan Fund for Mathematics is as follows: "Tianyuan Youth Grants" and "Problem driven applied mathematical research" are at the same time as applications for NSFC's General Program projects. Others can be submitted 3 month prior to the project commencement, but may not be later than July this year.

Special Fund for Basic Research on Scientific Instruments

The Special Fund for Basic Research on Scientific Instruments is used to support innovative research or make improvement on important scientific instruments that are urgently needed in the research on frontier areas of basic science, and priority is given to research on scientific instruments that play important roles in promoting basic research and fundamental scientific issues in developing innovative scientific instruments.

Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- (1) Have the ability of conducting basic research;
- (2) Have a senior professional position (title).

Researchers working in postdoc stations or full time graduate students or those listed in Clause 2, Article 10 of the Regulations may not apply.

Notes to applicants

- (1) The general application form for NSFC's projects will be used. Please choose "Special Fund" under the "project 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;
- (2) Applicants should submit the applications after consultation with the relevant department of NSFC;
- (3) The duration of projects supported by the Special Fund for Basic Research on Scientific Instruments is 3 years, and the funding is determined according to the funding scale of the year, less than 3 million yuan per project.

Special Grant for Key Academic Journals

Special Grant for Key Academic Journals is set up by NSFC in order to improve the quality of Chinese academic journals. This fund is mainly used for expenses of soliciting papers, editing, publication and distribution that are directly related to improving academic standard and overall quality of the journals. The governing agencies or home organizations of the journals being funded should provide a good environment for the journals, and give financial aid and facility support in case of needs.

Applications are open every two years in the even year. Journals funded can receive a grant for two consecutive years. The amount of funding will be determined according to budget available.

Eligibility of application

Applicant journals are limited to those natural science journals indexed by SCI, SCI-E or SCI-Search of Thompson Information of USA, or those listed among the top 50 in the citation ranking published by CJCR in the year of application.

Notice to applicants

Applicant journals should use the latest version of the “Application Form for NSFC’s Project”, select “Special Fund” for the “project category”, and “Key Academic Journal” for the “sub-category”, write the outlines according to the text of key academic journals, and send two copies of application form to NSFC.

In 2010 and 2011, about 30 journals are to be funded.