

Fund for Less Developed Regions

The Fund for Less Developed Regions is one of programs for the talent fostering in the National Natural Science Fund that is developing very fast. It supports scientists in specified regions of China to conduct creative research within the funding scope of NSFC, so as to foster and support researchers in these regions, and stabilize and gather outstanding talents to facilitate the construction of the regional innovation system as well as the social and economical development of the region.

Applicants for the Fund for Less Developed Regions should be satisfied with following qualifications:

- (1) Have the experience of undertaking basic research project or doing other basic research;
- (2) With senior academic rank (title) or doctoral degree, or recommendations by 2 researchers with senior academic rank (title) in the same research area.

Researchers, who are satisfied with above qualifications and working in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Qinghai Province, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Tibet Autonomous Region, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Hainan Province, Guizhou Province, Jiangxi Province, Yunnan Province, Gansu Province, Yanbian Korean Prefecture, EnshiTujia and Miao Prefecture in Hubei Province, XiangxiTujia and Miao Prefecture in Hunan Province, Liangshan Yi Prefecture in Sichuan Province, Ganzi Tibetan Prefecture and Aba Tibetan and Qiang Prefecture in Sichuan Province may apply for the Fund for Less Developed Regions.

Researchers from other provinces and regions, and researchers from the affiliated institutions to the central government or the PLA in the above regions and provinces can not apply, but may join the application as main participants. Graduate students can not apply, but on-job students may apply through their employer institutions at the consent of their supervisors. Scientists listed in Clause 2, Article 10 of the *Regulations of the National Natural Science Fund* can not apply for the Fund for Less Developed

Regions.

The application, evaluation and management mechanism of the Fund for Less Developed Regions are almost the same as those for General Program projects. Its feature is the promotion of talent training and development by using the management model for General Program. Please refer to the Outlines of Applications for the Fund for Less Developed Regions and make out your application form accordingly. The collaborative units cannot exceed 2, and the research period is 4 years.

In 2012, the Fund for Less Developed Regions funded 2,472 projects with a total funding of 1.2 billion yuan. The average funding was 485,400 yuan per project, which is 6,100 yuan less than that in 2011. The funding rate was 21.96%, which is 1.89% lower than that in 2011 (please refer to the table below for the funding statistics). In 2013, the average funding per project will be 500,000 yuan. Please refer to sections in relevant departments for actual funding level.

Funding for Projects of the Fund for Less Developed Regions in 2012

Unit: 10 000 yuan

Department	Applications	Projects and funding approved				Funding rate(%)
		Projects	Funding	Average funding per project	Percentage of the total (%)	
Mathematical and Physical Sciences	534	155	7,720	49.81	6.43	29.03
Chemical Sciences	858	206	10,310	50.05	8.59	24.01
Life Sciences	2,706	644	32,200	50.00	26.83	23.80
Earth Sciences	692	157	7,830	49.87	6.53	22.69
Engineering and Materials Sciences	1,415	299	14,960	50.03	12.47	21.13
Information Sciences	971	206	9,100	44.17	7.58	21.22
Management Sciences	612	115	4,130	35.91	3.44	18.79
Health Sciences	3,470	690	33,750	48.91	28.13	19.88
Total	11,258	2,472	120,000	48.54	100.00	21.96

Please refer to sections of the General Program of various departments for the funding scope of the Fund and funding statistics in recent years and relevant requirements.

Department of Mathematical and Physical Sciences

The Fund for Less Developed Regions in mathematical and physical sciences is aiming at creating a good research environment for these regions,

fostering and stabilizing an appropriate amount of researchers, training talents in basic research for local scientific and technological development, and increasing the capability of solving urgent scientific problems in the development of national economy and society. In the evaluation of proposals for the Fund, special attention is paid to researches that have relative good research background with characteristics and advantage, so as to give full play to the role of the Fund for Less Developed Regions in talent fostering, and strengthen the support to researchers in the western regions of China.

Funding for Projects of the Fund for Less Developed Regions in the Department of Mathematical and Physical Sciences in the Last Two Years

Unit: 10 000 yuan

Divisions		2011			2012		
		Projects	Funding	Funding rate(%)	Projects	Funding	Funding rate(%)
Mathematics	Math I	29	1,343	34.11	38	1,700	31.14
	Math II	29	1,329	31.86	32	1,450	26.45
Mechanics	Basic problems and methods in mechanics	1	35	100.00	1	56	20.00
	Dynamics and control	6	324	60.00	4	217	26.67
	Solid mechanics	6	289	20.00	10	517	34.48
	Fluid mechanics	4	206	26.67	4	230	23.53
	Bio-mechanics	2	102	66.67	1	60	50.00
	Explosive and impact dynamics	1	56	50.00	0	0	0
Astronomy	Astrophysics	7	364	41.17	4	215	33.33
	Astrometry and celestial mechanics	0	0	0	2	109	66.67
Physics I	Condensed matter physics	18	864	30.50	23	1,240	28.40
	Atomic and molecular physics	7	315	43.75	6	292	33.33
	Optics	7	346	35.00	12	678	30.00
	Acoustics	2	94	28.57	1	55	20.00
Physics II	Fundamental physics and particle physics	9	446	31.03	7	372	21.21
	Nuclear physics, nuclear technology and its application	4	186	44.44	7	372	35.00
	Particle physics and nuclear physics experimental facilities	2	113	40.00	2	107	50.00
	Plasma physics	1	48	20.00	1	50	50.00
Total		135	6,460	33.17	155	7,720	29.03
Average funding per project		47.85			49.81		

Department of Chemical Sciences

On the basis of stabilizing the funding scale of the Fund for Less Developed Regions, the Department of Chemical Sciences will make efforts to further promote improvement of the research quality and efficiency of the Fund, stabilize a batch of research talents for basic research, and continuously bridge the gap with developed regions. Applicants are encouraged to carry out research work related to the local resources so as to promote the economic development of the regions. The average funding will be around 500,000 yuan per project in 2013.

Funding for Projects of the Fund for Less Developed Regions in the Department of Chemical Sciences in the Last Two Years

Unit: 10 000 yuan

Divisions		2011			2012		
		Projects	Funding	Funding rate(%)	Projects	Funding	Funding rate(%)
Division I	Inorganic chemistry	23	1,150	25.27	28	1,378	24.35
	Analytical chemistry	23	1,161	25.00	26	1,321	23.42
Division II	Organic chemistry	47	2,335	25.68	51	2,530	24.88
Division III	Physical chemistry	25	1,263	25.00	27	1,368	23.48
Division IV	Polymer sciences	13	618	27.66	17	845	23.94
	Environmental chemistry	18	918	24.66	25	1,250	23.81
Division V	Chemical engineering	24	1,165	25.53	32	1,618	23.53
Total		173	8,610	25.44	206	10,310	24.01
Average funding per project		49.77			50.06		

Department of Life Sciences

In 2012, the Department received 2,706 applications for the Fund for Less Developed Regions (accepted 2,610), and funded 644 projects. The funding rate was 24.67% with the average funding of 500,000 yuan per project. The average funding for 2013 will be 500,000 yuan per project. In the future, the Department will continue to follow the principle of “fostering regional talents, supporting sustained exploration, gathering outstanding talents and promote regional development” for this Fund, provide steady support to local talents and encourage and fund research applications related to local resources and natural conditions. For details, please refer to the sections in the General Program of the Department in this Guide.

Funding for Projects of the Fund for Less Developed Regions in the Department of Life Sciences in the Last Two Years

Unit: 10 000 yuan

Divisions		2011			2012		
		Projects	Funding	Funding rate ^{***} (%)	Projects	Funding	Funding rate ^{***} (%)
Division I	Microbiology	35	1,728	25.74	35	1,749	24.31
	Botany	44	2,227	26.04	50	2,487	26.32
Division II	Ecology	61	3,062	25.31	69	3,451	24.82
	Forest science	40	1,982	25.64	48	2,380	24.87
Division III	Biophysics, biochemistry, and molecular biology	9	464	24.32	18	892	25.00
	Immunology	6	279	27.27	6	297	24.00
	Biomechanics and tissue engineering	5	247	26.32	7	345	25.00
Division IV	Neuro, cognitive science and psychology	11	574	22.45	12	619	24.00
	Physiology and integrated biology	11	536	29.73	9	464	23.68
Division V	Genetics and bioinformatics	14	760	24.56	21	1,059	24.14
	Cytobiology	5	254	25.00	5	238	25.00
	Developmental biology and reproductive biology	5	240	25.00	7	357	23.33
Division VI	Fundamentals of agronomy and crop science	61	3,059	25.52	74	3,701	24.92
	Food science	41	2,031	25.47	52	2,606	24.30
Division VII	Plant protection	32	1,630	26.23	40	1,987	24.69
	Horticulture and plant nutrition	37	1,868	25.17	51	2,535	24.64
Division VIII	Zoology	19	953	25.33	24	1,202	25.53
	Animal husbandry and grassland science	50	2,522	25.51	57	2,868	24.26
	Veterinary science	39	1,969	25.16	46	2,297	24.08
	Aquaculture	10	495	25.64	13	666	23.64
Total		535	26,880	25.51	644	32,200	24.67
Average funding per project		50.24			50.00		

Note: In 2012, no project for Small Fund for Exploratory Studies in the Fund for Less Developed Regions was funded.

Department of Earth Sciences

In 2012, the Department of Earth Sciences received 692 applications for the Fund from 122 research institutions. Among them, 591 are from universities, accounting for 85.4%, and 88 from research institutes, accounting for 12.7%. 157 projects were funded with a total funding of 78.3 million yuan, an average funding of 499,000 yuan per project and a funding rate of 22.7%. Among the projects funded in 2012, 139 were conducted by universities, accounting for 88.5%, and 16 by research institutes, accounting for 10.2%. In 2013, the average funding will be about 500,000 yuan per project.

Funding for Projects of the Fund for Less Developed Regions in the Department of Earth Sciences in the Last Two Years

Unit: 10,000 yuan

Divisions		2011			2012		
		Projects	Funding	Funding rate (%)	Projects	Funding	Funding rate (%)
Division I	Geology (including soil science and remote sensing)	93	4,700	27.80	112	5,567	22.76
Division II	Geology	12	610	26.70	13	694	21.67
	Geochemistry	8	379	28.60	11	532	23.40
Division III	Geophysics and space physics	4	217	25.00	6	294	23.08
Division IV	Marine science	2	95	28.60	4	215	21.05
Division V	Atmospheric science	11	529	28.20	11	528	22.92
Total		130	6,530	27.70	157	7,830	22.69
Average funding per project		50.23			49.87		

Department of Engineering and Materials Sciences

According to the policies of NSFC on the Fund for Less Developed Regions, the Department will provide steady support to foster research talents in these regions, and encourage applicants conduct basic research in conjunction with local resources and features of economic development. In 2012, the Department received 1,415 applications for the Fund with an increase of 35.67%. 299 projects were funded with a total funding of 149.6 million yuan. The average funding per project was 500,300 yuan with a funding rate of 21.13% (23.87% in 2012).

Funding for Projects of the Fund for Less Developed Regions in the Department of Engineering and Materials Sciences in the Last Two Years

Unit: 10,000 yuan

Divisions		2011			2012		
		Projects	Funding	Funding rate (%)	Projects	Funding	Funding rate (%)
Materials sciences I	Metallic materials	25	1,240	26.88	28	1,420	21.88
Materials sciences II	Inorganic and non-metallic materials	26	1,288	27.08	32	1,595	20.65
	Polymer materials	16	821	20.78	21	1,045	20.19
Engineering sciences I	Metallurgy and mining science	34	1,746	25.37	39	1,950	22.81
Engineering sciences II	Mechanical engineering	44	2,179	24.58	51	2,555	21.52
Engineering sciences III	Engineering thermo physics and energy utilization	14	691	23.33	16	805	21.33
Engineering sciences IV	Architecture, environmental and structural engineering	47	2,354	22.17	58	2,925	20.28
Engineering sciences V	Hydrology and marine engineering	25	1,251	25.51	33	1,630	20.00
	Electrical science and engineering	18	890	19.15	21	1,035	22.34
Total		249	12,460	23.87	299	14,960	21.13
Average funding per project		50.04			50.03		

Please refer to sections in the General Program for various divisions for the funding scope of the Fund.

Department of Information Sciences

In 2012, the Department of Information Sciences received 971 applications for the Fund and funded 206 projects with a total funding of 91 million yuan. The funding rate was 21.22% (22.51% in 2011) and the average funding was 441,700 yuan per project (485,300 yuan in 2011). In 2013, the Department will continue to give preferential support to the Fund for Less Developed Regions, and properly increase the funding rate. The average funding will be 500,000 yuan per project. All eligible researchers are welcome to apply.

Funding for Projects of the Fund for Less Developed Regions in the Department of Information Sciences in the Last Two Years

Unit: 10 000 yuan

Divisions		2011			2012		
		Projects	Funding	Funding rate (%)	Projects	Funding	Funding rate (%)
Division I	Electronic science and technology	11	524	21.15	17	730	25.76
	Information and communication system	9	437	18.75	11	483	17.46
	Information acquisition and processing	15	712	26.79	20	834	21.51
Division II	Theoretical computer science and computer software and hardware	15	677	22.06	25	1,086	21.37
	Computer application	33	1,605	21.29	46	2,040	20.54
	Network and information security	18	858	22.22	20	895	20.83
Division III	Control theory and control engineering	12	575	22.64	21	921	24.71
	Systems science and system engineering	8	423	25.00	10	430	17.54
	AI and intelligent systems	16	748	23.19	17	764	21.52
Division IV	Semiconductor science and information devices	8	414	22.86	8	386	21.62
	Information optics and photoelectric devices	7	355	26.92	5	241	21.74
	Laser technology and technical optics	4	196	22.22	6	290	19.35
Total		156	7,570	22.51	206	9,100	21.22
Average funding per project		48.53			44.17		

Department of Management Sciences

In 2012, the Department of Management Sciences received 612 applications for the Fund, which was largely increased from that in 2011, and funded 115 projects. The funding rate was 18.79% and the average funding was 359,100 yuan per project.

The average funding in 2013 will be 320,000 to 380,000 yuan per project for 4 years.

The requirements given in the general description of the General Program in the Department of Management Sciences in this guide are also valid for this Fund. Applicants may carefully refer to related information.

Funding for Projects of the Fund for Less Developed Regions in the Department of Management Sciences in the Last Two Years

Unit: 10 000 yuan

Divisions		2011			2012		
		Projects	Funding	Funding rate (%)	Projects	Funding	Funding rate (%)
Division I	Management science and engineering	21	754	24.13	26	934	20.16
Division II	Business administration	27	969	23.48	32	1,149	19.98
Division III	Macro management and policy	47	1,687	21.46	57	2,047	17.70
Total		95	3,410	22.57	115	4,130	18.79
Average funding per project		35.90			35.91		

Department of Health Sciences

The Department of Health Sciences supports mainly basic research on the occurrence, development, transfer, diagnosis, therapy and prevention of diseases.

Eligible scientists are welcome to carry out basic research on diseases and submit proposals to the Department for the Fund for Less Developed Regions. The Fund for Less Developed Regions aims to stabilize and foster research teams in less developed regions, promote S&T development and serve regional economy and society. Applicants are encouraged to propose creative research ideas, and conduct basic research on diseases with local features by using modern medical research means. It is also encouraged to carry out the joint research together with research institutes and labs in developed regions for fully utilizing their various advanced research facilities. Applicant should attach to the proposal the clearly scanned copies of the first pages of papers (not more than 5) relevant to application. Please refer to sections in the Fund for Less Developed Regions and General Program in this guide for detailed information.

In 2013, the funding for the Fund for Less Developed Regions will be 500,000 yuan per project. Please make a reasonable research budget according to the actual need, and provide budget explanations in addition to the budget form.

Funding for Projects of the Fund for Less Developed Regions in the Department of Health Sciences in the Last Two Years

Unit: 10,000 yuan

Divisions		2011			2012		
		Projects	Funding	Funding rate ^{**} (%)	Projects	Funding	Funding rate ^{**} (%)
Division I	Respiratory System, Circulatory System, Digestive System, Blood System, Gerontology	75	3,778	21.99	93	4,555	21.33
Division II	Urinary System, Reproductive System/Perinatology/Neonatology, Endocrine System/Metabolism and Nutrition Support, Ophthalmology, Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Science, Oral and Craniomaxillo-facial Science	64	3,180	21.55	78	3,836	20.42
Division III	Neurological and Psychiatric Diseases	33	1,646	21.71	41	1,983	21.24
	Medical Imaging and Biomedical Engineering	16	805	27.59	20	970	20.62
Division IV	Medical Pathogenic Microorganism and Infection, Skin and Appendages, rthopedics and Sports Medicine, Emergency and Intensive Care/Trauma/burns/cold Injury/plastic Surgery/Special Medicine/Rehabilitation,	56	2,777	23.43	68	3,349	20.86
Division V	Oncology I	85+1 [*]	4,302+14 [*]	20.67	107	5,201	17.86
Division VI	Oncology II	35	1,763	22.88	43	2,121	24.71
	Medical Immunology, Forensic Sciences	15	683	23.44	17	821	25.37
Division VII	Preventive Medicine, Endemiology, Occupational Medicine, Radiology	36	1,833	22.64	45	2,206	22.61
Division VIII	MateriaMedica and Pharmacology.	144	7,219	22.22	178	8,708	20.27
Total		559+1 [*]	27,984+14 [*]	22.16	690	33,750	20.59
Average funding per project		50.00 (50.06 ^{**})			48.91		

Note: * Projects of Small Fund for Exploratory Studies.

** Not including projects of Small Fund for Exploratory Studies.

++ Including projects of Small Fund for Exploratory Studies.