

Excellent Young Scientists Fund

As one of the program categories in the talent-training program, Excellent Young Scientists Fund is a good link between the existing Young Scientists Fund and the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars, so as to promote fast growth of creative young talents. It mainly supports young scientists having 5 to 10 years research experience and obtained certain research achievements with creative ideas and active in frontiers of science to conduct basic research in directions of their own choice.

I. Eligibility

1. Applicants should meet the following qualifications

- (1) Chinese citizenship;
- (2) <38 years old (man) by January 1 of the year of application (born on or after January 1 of 1975), and less than 40 years old (woman) by January 1 of the year of application (born on or after January 1 of 1973);
- (3) With senior professional position (title) and Ph.D. degree;
- (4) Have no official employment relations with foreign institutions;
- (5) Guarantee to work at home institutions for at least 9 months every year.

Young overseas Chinese scientists without Chinese citizenship may apply if meeting conditions of (2)-(5) listed above.

2. The following people may not apply

- (1) Do not have employer or employer is not home institution;
- (2) Have on-going or have been awarded the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars.

II. Notification

- (1) Key considerations in evaluation of applications to Excellent Young Scientists Fund include basis of applicant's research experience and further development. When writing proposal, these two factors should all be emphasized. For the background of research, the creativity and scientific merits of research results of the applicant should be described. For the potential of creative research, the scientific merit and creativity

in proposed research, and feasibility of the research plan should be described.

- (2) Please select “Excellent Young Scientists Fund” for Funding Category”, and “research area” rather than specific title of the research project for the project title section of the application form.
- (3) It is not necessary to list “main participants” and the Excellent Young Scientists Fund mainly reviews the research ability and creative potential of the applicant only.
- (4) The funding for all financial grants obtained by the applicant from the central government agencies or local government should be mentioned in the application form.
- (5) Applicant may obtain funding from the Excellent Young Scientists Fund for once only.
- (6) Applicant cannot apply for Excellent Young Scientists Fund and the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars at the same time. PIs of ongoing projects of Excellent Young Scientists Fund may not apply for the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars unless the former terminates in that year.

III. Application and submission

Please follow instructions for preparing applications of the Excellent Young Scientists Fund and provide accurate information and relevant supplementary documents. The home institution should check carefully and verify the information provided by the applicant, and submit the application to NSFC in accordance with relevant requirements.

In 2013, the Excellent Young Scientists Fund plans to support 400 projects, each for 3 years, with funding of 1 million yuan per project.

Funding of Excellent Young Scientists Fund in 2012

Department	Applications	Approved projects	Funding rate (%)
Mathematical and Physical Sciences	384	52	13.54
Chemical Sciences	500	57	11.40
Life Sciences	553	56	10.13
Earth Sciences	302	40	13.25
Engineering and Materials Sciences	646	73	11.30
Information Sciences	532	53	9.96
Management Sciences	163	15	9.20
Health Sciences	507	54	10.65
Total	3,587	400	11.15