

Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao

The Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao is an important category in the talent-training program of NSFC. In order to take advantage of the overseas (including Hong Kong and Macao) resources of science and technology and encourage overseas excellent young scholars to serve mainland China, NSFC sets up the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao to support excellent overseas (including Hong Kong and Macao) Chinese scholars under the age of 50 to conduct high-level joint research with scientists in mainland China.

The Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao adopts a “2+4” funding mode, and extended funding may be requested at the end of the two-year period.

Two-Year Funding Projects

1. Eligibility for application:

- (1) Under the age of 50 by January 1 of the year of application (born on or after January 1, 1966);
- (2) Have good scientific integrity;
- (3) Hold professional title of associate professor (or above) in the country (region) that applicant lives in;
- (4) Engagement in scientific research abroad, in Hong Kong or Macao, and in charge of a laboratory or an important research project, and have made outstanding academic achievements recognized by international peers;
- (5) Have collaborator in mainland China, and sign with the host institution of the collaborator the collaborative agreement wherein clarifications are contained on the title, research direction and the proposed goals of the joint research projects, the commitment of the host institution to providing main experimental facilities, human resources and other materials necessary for the joint research;
- (6) Have strong research capabilities in both sides and the proposed research should be focused on the international frontiers of sciences;
- (7) Guarantee to work in the host institution for more than 2 months per year.

Both the applicant and the collaborator may apply for no more than one two-year project of the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao. Those who have not finished their post-doctor or graduate studies are not eligible collaborators in mainland China.

2. Notes to applicants:

(1) The two-year proposals of the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao are mainly evaluated on the academic aspects, and the capacity of the applicants and the background of the cooperation with their collaborators;

(2) Applicants are advised to prepare the research proposals in accordance with the outlines for the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao, and submit the proposal with relevant required supplementary documents, including (i) valid certificate documents for their professional positions and research work, and (ii) agreement on collaboration.

In 2015, NSFC received 327 applications for the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao and granted 116 awards with an average funding amount of 180,000 yuan per project for direct cost. The total funding for direct cost amounted to 20.88 million yuan.

In 2016, the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao plans to fund 120 projects and the total funding for direct cost will be 180,000 yuan per project for 2 years.

Extended Funding Projects

1. Eligibility for application:

(1) Grantees of two-year projects of the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao that were approved in 2013 are eligible, if their projects have made substantial progress and have been completed in due time. For grantees of two-year projects of the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao that were approved in 2012, they are eligible for application if they did not apply for extended funding after the completion of the two-year project or failed to obtain extended funding;

(2) Applicants have to ensure enough time to stay at the host institution for work during the funding period (2 years) of the project;

(3) Applicants have to sign extended agreement of cooperation with the host institution. The agreement should include the such content as the title, research direction and proposed goal of the joint research project, the host institution's promise to provide main experimental facilities, human resources, and other materials necessary for the joint research;

(4) Proposed extended cooperation should be focused on the international science frontiers with much of significance and should facilitate disciplinary development and talent fostering;

(5) The applicant are required to work in the host institution for more than 2 months per year.

Both the applicant and the collaborator may apply for no more than one extended project of the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao. Those who have not finished their post-doctor or graduate studies are not eligible collaborators in mainland China.

2. Notes to applicants:

(1) The extended funding mainly evaluate the progress of the cooperative work, whether the proposed research for extended funding is at the international frontier areas of research, and its contribution to disciplinary development and talent fostering;

(2) Applicants are advised to prepare their research proposals by providing accurate information in accordance with the outlines for the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao, and submit the proposals with relevant required supplementary documents, including (i) valid certificate documents for their professional positions and research work, and (ii) agreement on collaboration.

In 2015, NSFC received 72 extended funding applications for the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao and granted 20 awards with a total funding of 36 million yuan for direct cost.

In 2016, the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao plans to fund 20 extended projects and the total funding for direct cost will be 1.8 million yuan per project for 4 years.