

# **International (Regional) Cooperation and Exchange Programs**

In order to promote China's scientific research capability and its international competitiveness, the International (Regional) Cooperation and Exchange Programs aim at funding Chinese scientists to conduct substantial cooperation with their international collaborators in science frontiers and take full advantage of international scientific and technological resources on the basis of "equal cooperation, mutual benefits, and equal sharing of research results".

The funding scheme of the International (Regional) Cooperation and Exchange Programs is currently comprised of Key International (Regional) Joint Research Program, International (Regional) Joint Research and Exchange Programs funded under the Agreements/MOUs between NSFC and its foreign partners, and Research Fund for International Young Scientists.

## **Key International (Regional) Joint Research Program**

The Key International (Regional) Joint Research Program (hereafter referred to as Key Joint Research Program), gives priority to the following aspects: joint research in the priority funding areas of NSFC, joint research in areas that China urgently needs to develop, international mega projects and programs with Chinese participation, and joint research projects utilizing large-scale scientific facilities abroad.

Researchers applying for this program shall, in accordance with the priority funding areas announced by relevant scientific departments, choose innovative joint research subjects centering on major scientific issues, and clarify the necessity and complementarities of the cooperation. The partners from each side shall have long-term steady collaboration (e.g., coauthored publications and continued personnel exchanges and communications) and the overseas partners shall have matching fund for this research. In the collaborative research, attention shall be given to the protection of intellectual property rights.

In 2015, altogether 105 out of the total 618 applications under the Key International (Regional) Joint Research Program were funded with a total funding of 300 million yuan for direct costs, with an average success rate of 16.99%.

In 2016, the Key International (Regional) Joint Research Program plans to fund 100 projects with an average funding amount of around 3 million yuan per project for direct costs, and each project usually lasts for 5 years.

### **Eligibility of Applicants**

- (1) With the title of professor or associate professor;

(2) Principal investigators of on-going or completed NSFC research project with the duration of no less than 3 years.

**Eligibility of Foreign Partners**

(1) Independent researchers in charge of research laboratories or key research projects abroad;

(2) With the title of professor or associate professor in the host countries/regions.

**Appendix documents**

Aside from the Chinese application form, the applicant should also submit the following documents as required.

(1) English Application Form: the blank English Application Form can be downloaded in the Internet-based Science Information System (ISIS) of NSFC and should be uploaded online after completion.

(2) Letter of Agreement: a copy of the Letter of Agreement signed between the collaborating PIs should be provided. Unilaterally signed letters are not valid. The Letter of Agreement mainly covers but is not limited to the following items:

- (i) Research contents and objectives;
- (ii) List of PIs and participants from each side;
- (iii) Period, mechanism and plan of joint research;
- (iv) Ownership, use and transfer of IP rights;
- (v) Relevant budgetary arrangements.

The applicant can refer to the sample Letter of Agreement which can be downloaded at <http://www.nsfc.gov.cn/nsfc/cen/gjhz/cjwt/cjwt2011-10-26-06.html>.

(3) Documents verifying the foreign partners' involvement of in research projects related to the submitted application, as well as a list of publications related to the submitted application by the foreign partners in the past 3 years.

(4) Letter of confirmation by the foreign collaborator: if the foreign collaborator cannot sign the English Application Form, a letter of confirmation by him/her should be provided. The letter of confirmation should contain true contact information about the foreign collaborator. The letter should be written in official forms including the title, logo and contact information of the foreign collaborator's host institution. In addition, the letter should contain detailed information such as the title of the research, the content and period of cooperation, the way to share IPR, etc. The foreign collaborator should confirm in the letter that he/she has read and agrees with the full content of English Application Form.

**Priority Funding Areas of the International (Regional) Joint Research Program in 2016**

**Department of Mathematical & Physical Sciences**

- (1) New methods and new technologies of experimental mechanics
- (2) Nonlinear mechanical issues of complex systems
- (3) Sky surveys and space observations
- (4) New astronomical technological methods associated with the large telescopes
- (5) Superfast and super strong light physics and precision measurement physics
- (6) Advanced materials physics
- (7) Key acoustic issues in complex media
- (8) Low-dimensional systems of quantum transport experiments
- (9) Research on high performance particle detector
- (10) Hadron structure and new cutting-edge research of hadron states
- (11) Magnetically confined fusion beam injection and related physical and technical issues

- (12) Physical issues in new energy
- (13) Joint research based on large-scale scientific facilities at home and abroad

#### **Department of Chemical Sciences**

Applicants are encouraged to focus on topics featuring basic, interdisciplinary, frontier and complementary research.

- (1) Process and mechanism of surface and interface chemistry
- (2) Biological analysis and imaging
- (3) Molecular assembly, structure and function
- (4) Theoretical and computational chemistry
- (5) New system of materials chemistry related to energy and resources
- (6) Green chemical processes and technique
- (7) Natural products chemistry and drug discovery
- (8) Environmental pollution chemistry and control
- (9) Chemical biology

#### **Department of Life Sciences**

International Joint Research proposals are encouraged to be guided by national needs and interest, with reference to the national mid- and long-term plan of S&T development and major S&T research program. Due attention will be paid to joint research between strong partnering research teams and joint research between Chinese researchers and foreign counterparts with superior research capacities or facilities. Chinese applicants are encouraged to take the lead in joint research activities.

- (1) Basic and applied research on stem cells
- (2) Synthetic biology
- (3) Theory on the construction and bionic building of vital organs
- (4) Collection, data base and analysis of large-scale biological data
- (5) Adaptation and response of species and ecosystems to global climate change
- (6) Biodiversity
- (7) Cross-border monitoring, warning and prevention of major animal and plant diseases and biological invasion
- (8) Collection, evaluation and utilization of agricultural biological germplasm resources
- (9) Response of agricultural production to global climate change

#### **Department of Earth Sciences**

- (1) Global change and surface process
- (2) Environmental pollution and its impacts
- (3) Eco-environment effect of globalization and human activities
- (4) System and mechanism of metallogenic accumulation
- (5) Processes in and between continental plates
- (6) Coupling relation between deep and surface earth processes
- (7) Solar-terrestrial energy transfer between and its impact on human activities
- (8) Water cycle and ecohydrological process
- (9) Mechanism and numerical simulation of weather and climate system changes
- (10) Asia monsoon-arid environmental systems and global environmental change
- (11) Mechanism, monitoring, early warning and risk prevention and control of geological disasters
- (12) Origin and major evolutionary events of key biological taxa and the environmental backgrounds
- (13) Life process under extreme conditions

- (14) Dynamic process and mechanism of marine multi-scale interactions
- (15) Marine ecological system security and deep-sea biological resources
- (16) Advanced technology platforms to promote the development of earth sciences
- (17) Resources, environment and ecology along the “One Belt and One Road” regions

#### **Department of Engineering and Materials Sciences**

- (1) Energy materials
- (2) Nano material and devices
- (3) Biomedical materials
- (4) High performance structural materials
- (5) Resource circulation and clean metallurgy
- (6) Advanced manufacturing
- (7) Efficient utilization of energy and the environment
- (8) High efficiency power electronic system
- (9) Water resources and water environment
- (10) Urban water environment and water quality safety
- (11) Civil engineering disaster prevention
- (12) Deep-sea engineering

#### **Department of Information Sciences**

- (1) Basic theory and key technology of electromagnetic vortex
- (2) THz science and technology
- (3) Intelligent network and E-Health science applications
- (4) Brain-like computing and machine intelligence
- (5) Big data calculation theory and system practice
- (6) Next generation internet exploration and practice
- (7) Design method and application verification of new control system analysis
- (8) Novel high precision and reliable testing technology and system
- (9) High-performance robotics and advanced artificial intelligence system
- (10) UV photo detectors
- (11) Integrated circuit design
- (12) Narrow linewidth fiber laser
- (13) Interactions between spatial structure light field and semiconductor materials
- (14) Micro-nano structure optoelectronic devices
- (15) Integrated theory and design of millimeter wave circuits and antennas
- (16) Calculating camera and its applications

#### **Department of Management Sciences**

- (1) Urban logistics and city traffic management
- (2) Service innovation design and service operations management
- (3) Information system management
- (4) Chinese management practices based theoretical innovation of leadership, strategic management, technological innovation and entrepreneurship
- (5) Change behavior and management innovation of China’s companies/organizations
- (6) Management of medical operations
- (7) Big data based management decisions and business management
- (8) Public (emergency) safety management
- (9) Financial risk management
- (10) Management of urbanization

### **Department of Health Sciences**

In principle, PIs of programs with large funding amounts such as Key International (Regional) Joint Research Program, Major Program, Key Projects of Major Research Plan Program granted in 2015 will not be considered for funding under the Key International (Regional) Joint Research Program in 2016.

- (1) New mechanisms of the common pathology of development, inflammation, metabolism, probiotics, microenvironment, etc.
- (2) Pathogenesis and precise diagnosis and treatment of major chronic diseases
- (3) Epidemiology of chronic diseases and injuries and related prevention and intervention strategies
- (4) Rapid identification, pathogenesis, prevention, early warning new treatment of emerging and emergency infectious diseases
- (5) Infectious diseases and antibiotic resistance
- (6) Frontier research on first aid, trauma, rehabilitation and regenerative medicine
- (7) Women and children's health
- (8) Research on the frontier of reproduction, development, aging-related diseases
- (9) Nutrition, environmental, genetic and health
- (10) Stem cells and diseases
- (11) Organ fibrosis and prevention mechanism
- (12) Tissue and organ damage, dysfunction and intervention
- (13) Protection of organs and replacement therapy
- (14) Pathogenesis and intervention of neuropsychiatric disorders
- (15) Mechanisms of immune-related diseases and new immunotherapy strategies
- (16) Interdisciplinary scientific research on diseases
- (17) Medical imaging and biomedical engineering
- (18) Innovative medical technologies and personalized medicine
- (19) Biomarkers and personalized medicine
- (20) Discovery of new drug targets and pharmacological validation
- (21) Modern scientific connotation of traditional Chinese medicine theories
- (22) Material basis and mechanism of traditional Chinese medicine
- (23) Basic research on special and forensic medicine

## **International (Regional) Cooperation and Exchange Programs under Agreements/MOUs**

Jointly organized and funded by NSFC and foreign science funding agencies (or research institutions and international organizations), the International (Regional) Cooperation and Exchange Programs under Agreements/MOUs support bilateral and multilateral joint research and academic exchanges between Chinese scientists and their foreign partners. NSFC has by far concluded 85 cooperation agreements/MOUs with science funding agencies and research institutions in 40 countries/regions. By consultation, NSFC has reached agreements with some foreign partners on cooperation and exchange pattern, funding area, amount of awards, funding amount and review mechanism. Based on mutual agreement, NSFC launches joint call for proposals with its foreign partners on their websites and does follow-ups like correspondent review and joint panel review, etc. The International (Regional) Cooperation and Exchange Programs under Agreements/MOUs include Joint Research Program, Personnel Exchange Program and Academic Conference Program.

The Joint Research Program under Agreements/MOUs includes bilateral or multilateral joint research projects funded by NSFC and its international partners under the framework of agreements/MOUs signed between them in hope of supporting Chinese researchers and their collaborators abroad to carry out research in basic sciences.

The Personnel Exchange Program under Agreements/MOUs aims to encourage NSFC grantees to participate in extensive international cooperation and exchange activities, and to enhance the innovativeness, talent training, disciplinary development and research quality of the on-going NSFC projects. The Personnel Exchange Program under Agreements/MOUs include personnel exchange program and academic conference program featuring the mobility of scientists. Meanwhile, it encourages scientists to maintain sound bi/multilateral relations with overseas partners through wide cooperation and exchange, laying a solid foundation for future substantial collaboration. Academic Conference Program under Agreements/MOUs is aimed at supporting scientists to hold bilateral or multi-lateral international conferences in China with a view to enabling Chinese scientists to keep pace with the latest research frontiers and hotspots in the international academic arena, to enhancing the partnership between Chinese scientists and their foreign peers, and to promoting the visibility of the results achieved by NSFC funded projects and raising the profile of China's academic community.

Applicants can refer to the following introductions and the calls for proposals irregularly launched on NSFC website for application eligibility, funding priority, funding duration, and application requirements. Besides, applicants can also refer to the International Cooperation column of NSFC's website for relevant information about these programs in 2015. An introduction of the funding opportunities under this category in 2016 is listed as follows.

## **Asia and Africa**

### **Japan**

#### **Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)**

The NSFC and JST Joint Research Program initiated in 2004 on the theme of "S&T for Environmental Conservation and Construction of a Society with Less Environmental Burden". Every year both sides negotiate and define specific priority areas for cooperation, followed by a bilateral workshop alternately held in China and Japan in the defined priority area. Participants in the annual workshop will propose concrete research topics for joint funding. Since 2015, the priority area for both sides has been changed into biological genetic resources.

In 2016, the joint call for proposals with specific collaborative topics will be launched by NSFC and JST on their websites respectively, and no more than 5 projects with duration of 3 years will be funded per year, with an investment of 2 million yuan (including direct and indirect cost) by NSFC for each project.

#### **Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)**

The call for proposals of exchange project and bilateral workshop is issued jointly by both NSFC and JSPS on their respective websites in June every year. The submission deadline is on Friday of the first complete week in September.

##### **(1) Exchange Project**

NSFC and JSPS jointly support 10 exchange projects each year, the duration of which is 3 years. The exchange volume shall not exceed 60 person-days per year for each side.

##### **(2) Bilateral Workshop**

NSFC and JSPS support 4 bilateral workshops per year organized jointly by Chinese

and Japanese scientists, of which two are held in China and two in Japan. Participants of a bilateral workshop from each side must come from at least three institutions.

## **South Korea**

NSFC and National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) will jointly support joint research project, exchange project and bilateral workshop in 2016.

The call for proposals would be released twice in 2016 by both organizations on their respective websites for joint research project, and exchange project & bilateral workshop. The joint funding for exchange project and bilateral workshop will be decided at the Sino-Korean Joint Committee meeting on basic science.

### **(1) Joint Research Project**

2 three-year joint research projects are planned to be funded by NSFC and NRF in 2016 with NSFC investing 2 million yuan (including direct and indirect cost) for each project.

### **(2) Exchange Project**

Around 20 two-year exchange projects are planned to be funded by NSFC and NRF in 2016.

### **(3) Bilateral Workshop**

Around 10 bilateral workshops are planned to be funded by NSFC and NRF in 2016. Participants of bilateral workshops from each side must come from at least three institutions.

## **Israel**

NSFC and Israel Science Foundation (ISF) carry out their joint funding on joint research project and bilateral workshop.

### **(1) Joint Research Project**

Since 2012, NSFC and ISF have launched joint calls annually for proposals on their respective websites. The priority areas are Life Sciences and Medical Sciences in 2016. No more than 25 three-year projects are planned for joint funding with NSFC investing 2 million yuan (including direct and indirect cost) for each project.

### **(2) Bilateral Workshop**

Each year, no more than 2 bilateral workshops are planned to be funded by NSFC and ISF. The workshop themes are decided by both sides through negotiation.

## **Three Asian Countries (China, Japan and South Korea)**

### **A3 Foresight Program**

Jointly sponsored by NSFC, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF), the A3 Foresight Program supports the cooperation of scientists from China, Japan and South Korea to conduct cutting-edge research in selected strategic areas, so as to foster excellent young researchers and make contributions to the solution of common regional issues.

The priority area of A3 Foresight Program for each year is in accord with the theme of the Northeastern Asian Symposium jointly organized by NSFC, JSPS and NRF in the previous year. The funding priority in 2016 is chemical biology.

The call for proposals is simultaneously announced on the websites in November by the three parties and 2 five-year projects will be jointly funded annually, with NSFC investing 4 million yuan (including direct and indirect cost) in each approved project.

## **South Africa**

NSFC and National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF) carry out their joint

funding on joint research project and bilateral workshop.

(1) Joint Research Project

Starting from 2014, NSFC and NRF launch joint call for proposals every two years on their respective websites. The duration for joint research project is 3 years with NSFC investing 0.8 million yuan (including direct and indirect cost) for each project. The priority areas in 2014 were physics and life sciences and 9 projects were jointly funded.

(2) Bilateral workshop

NSFC and NRF support bilateral workshops every year. The themes and number of workshops to be funded are decided by both sides through negotiation.

## **Thailand**

### **National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)**

NSFC and NRCT would jointly support joint research project, exchange project and bilateral workshop.

(1) Joint Research Project

In 2016, the joint call for proposals with specific collaborative topics will be launched by NSFC and NRCT on their websites respectively, and no more than 6 projects with duration of three years will be funded, with an investment of 3 million yuan (including direct and indirect cost) by NSFC for each project.

(2) Exchange Project

Chinese and Thai scientists are required to submit proposals to NSFC and NRCT respectively. The two agencies will make a funding decision after consultation.

(3) Bilateral Workshop

NSFC and NRCT support bilateral workshops every year. The themes and number of workshops to be funded are decided by both sides through negotiation.

### **Thailand Research Fund (TRF)**

NSFC and TRF would jointly support joint research project, exchange project and bilateral workshop.

(1) Joint Research Project

In 2016, the joint call for proposals with specific collaborative topics will be launched by NSFC and TRF on their websites respectively, and no more than 5 projects with a duration of three years will be funded, with an investment of 3 million yuan (including direct and indirect cost) by NSFC for each project.

(2) Exchange Project

Chinese and Thai scientists are required to submit proposals to NSFC and TRF respectively. The two agencies will make a funding decision after consultation.

(3) Bilateral Workshop

NSFC and TRF support bilateral workshops every year. The themes and number of workshops to be funded are decided by both sides through negotiation.

## **Other Cooperation Channels**

NSFC has signed scientific agreements for funding personnel exchange projects and bilateral workshops with the Department of Science and Technology of India (DST), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research of India (CSIR), Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of the Arab Republic of Egypt (ASRT), Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and etc. The specific projects are jointly decided on a case by case basis through mutual agreement. NSFC and PSF will jointly fund joint research project in 2016. The joint call for proposals, with specific collaborative topics and the targeted number to be funded, will be launched by NSFC and PSF on their websites respectively.



## **International Scientific Organizations**

### **1. Center of European Nuclear Research (CERN)**

According to the cooperation agreement with CERN, NSFC supports Chinese scientists' participation in LHC experiment at CERN together with the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology and the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

### **2. International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)**

About 50 Chinese young scholars are funded by NSFC every year in the areas of mathematics, physics and earth sciences to participate in various research activities at ICTP, such as summer seminars and short-term joint research.

The list for specific activities and an open call for candidates is announced on NSFC's website in November every year. A name list of candidates would be recommended by NSFC to ICTP after being selected by relevant experts. The recommended candidates should apply to ICTP according to ICTP requirements.

### **3. International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)**

NSFC encourages Chinese scientists to conduct multilateral cooperation with various IIASA project groups in the areas of energy, environment, land use, water, population, etc., and to jointly apply for research funding from various governmental organizations, private and national foundations, World Bank and EU Framework Program.

NSFC provides full support for 5-7 Chinese young scholars to participate in the annual 3-month Young Scientists Summer Program (YSSP) from June to August at IIASA in Vienna every year. For detailed information and application forms, please refer to the IIASA website at <http://www.iiasa.ac.at>. Besides, NSFC also supports workshop, personnel exchange and joint research projects jointly applied by Chinese and IIASA scientists.

As per its 10-Year Strategic Plan (2011-2020), Chinese scientists and IIASA researchers are encouraged to conduct joint scientific research on 3 global issues, i.e., food and water, energy and climate change, poverty and equity, based on systematic analysis methods.

For more information about 2016 funding opportunities, please refer to the call for proposals to be launched by NSFC on its website in due time.

### **4. Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)**

NSFC has reached agreements with 11 CGIAR institutes/centers (i.e., Bioversity, CIAT, CIFOR, CIMMYT, CIP, ICARDA, ICRAF, ICRISAT, IFPRI, ILRI and IRRI) to fund joint research projects conducted by scientists from both sides.

The call for proposals will be released by NSFC on its website in February every year, and the deadline for application is April 20th. No more than 15 projects are planned for funding in 2016 with an average funding amount of 2-3 million yuan (including direct and indirect cost) per project for 5 years.

### **5. United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)**

According to the cooperation agreement between NSFC and UNEP, both sides would support scientists to conduct scientific collaborative research in the fields of eco-system management, climate change and chemical management. Special emphasis is attached to cooperation with developing countries in Africa and Asian-Pacific regions.

17 priority funding areas have been defined for the years from 2013 to 2017 as follows.

Eco-systems: research on the soil erosion mechanism and rain-fed farming on the sloping fields of the Upper Nile hilly areas; Amazon Basin ecosystem assessment system (elevation gradient+ rainforest); study on mechanisms for maintaining spatial patterns of the ecosystem diversity in East Africa; service functions of ecosystem in East African Natural Reserves (biodiversity hotspots); assessment of changes in land use and their effects on environment (application of China's satellite data product); centennial changes in Asian

land-use and ecological environment elements.

Climate change: ecological adaptation (water cycle/water and climate change) in the Greater Mekong Basin; impact and response of climate change on the patterns and processes of ecosystems in Northeast Asia (China-Mongolia-Russia-North Korea-South Korea); climate and environmental changes in the semi-arid regions in Central Asia; regional analysis of the impacts of climate change on Africa's food security and water resource vulnerability; mechanism and scenario analysis of the ecosystem degradation (desertification) in Niger River Basin in Africa.

Chemicals: key technologies and methods for global POPs monitoring and effectiveness evaluation; chemical hazard assessment and prioritization methods and tools; toxicity mechanism and screening methods for propagation and development of environmental endocrine disruptors (reproductive); survey methods for listing unconsciously produced POPs; life cycle assessment of typical chemicals and environmentally sound management techniques; substitutes and alternative processes for high-risk chemicals.

The call for proposals will be released by NSFC on its website in February every year, and the deadline for application is April 20th. 3 projects are planned for funding in 2016 (one project in each field), with an average funding of 3 million yuan (including direct and indirect cost) per project for 5 years.

#### **6. International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)**

According to the agreement among NSFC, Sao Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), the US National Science Foundation (NSF), the German Research Foundation (DFG), and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), scientists from above countries were co-funded to carry out joint research in the field of sustainable chemistry starting from 2013. IUPAC is responsible to provide the project implementation framework and scientific guidance including the launch, review and funding of multilateral projects under the support of all contracting funding agencies and research organizations. For more information regarding application in 2016, please refer to the call for proposals to be launched by NSFC on its website.

#### **7. Multilateral Collaboration under Belmont Forum (BF/IGFA)**

According to the agreement between NSFC and Belmont Forum, since 2014 NSFC has supported Chinese scientists to participate in the multilateral cooperation under the framework of Belmont Forum. For more information regarding application in 2016, please refer to the call for proposals to be launched by NSFC on its website.

## **America and Australasia**

### **USA**

#### **The National Science Foundation (NSF)**

NSFC and NSF jointly support research projects and bilateral workshops.

##### **(1) Joint Research Project**

NSFC and NSF accept joint research applications in the areas of environment sustainability, biodiversity, etc., irregularly throughout the year.

##### **NSFC-NSF Joint Research Program on Biodiversity**

To promote joint research on biodiversity between Chinese and US scientists, NSFC and NSF together fund joint research projects with an implementation period of 5 years between scientists from both countries. NSFC provides up to 3 million yuan for each approved project. One project of this kind was jointly funded by NSFC and NSF in 2015. For information about the specific application requirements in 2016, please refer to the call for proposals to be released on NSFC's website.

### **NSFC-NSF Joint Research Program on Environment Sustainability**

NSFC and NSF together fund joint research projects in the area of Environment Sustainability between scientists of China and the US. NSFC provides up to 3 million yuan (including direct cost and indirect cost) for each approved project with an implementation period of 4 years. Three projects of this kind were jointly funded by NSFC and NSF in 2015. For information about the specific application requirements in 2016, please refer to the call for proposals to be released on NSFC's website.

#### **(2) Bilateral Workshop**

NSFC and NSF will continue to fund bilateral workshops in areas and numbers mutually identified and agreed by both parties.

### **The National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

NSFC and the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) signed an MOU in October 2010 to jointly support research projects and bilateral workshops.

#### **(1) Joint Research Project**

NSFC and NIH launched joint call in 2013 for joint research projects with duration of 3 years on cancer, allergic diseases, infectious diseases including HIV/Aids and comorbidities, medical immunology, mental health, etc. A total of 33 projects were granted for joint funding with around 2 million yuan each project.

In 2014, NSF and NIH launched a call in HIV/Aids with an average funding of 3 million yuan for 3 years per project. Five projects of this kind were jointly funded and NSFC provided approximately 3 million yuan for each project.

In 2016, NSFC and NIH will continuously support research projects in the above areas. For information about the specific application requirements in 2016, please refer to the call for proposals to be released on NSFC's website.

#### **(2) Bilateral Workshop**

NSFC and NIH will continue to fund bilateral workshops in areas and numbers mutually identified and agreed by both parties.

## **Canada**

### **Canada Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)**

NSFC and CIHR jointly support research projects and bilateral workshops.

#### **(1) Joint Research Project**

In 2016, NSFC and CIHR will jointly support Healthy Life Trajectories Initiative. For information about the specific application requirements, please refer to the call for proposals to be released on NSFC's website.

#### **(2) Bilateral Workshop**

NSFC and CIHR will continue to fund bilateral workshops in areas and numbers mutually identified and agreed by both parties.

### **Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)**

#### **Exchange of Postdoctoral Fellows**

Based on the agreement between NSFC and NSERC, the two agencies will jointly support Canadian postdoctoral fellows to do basic research in China for two years starting from 2015. NSERC will cover the salaries and living costs of the Canadian postdoctoral fellows. NSFC will cover relevant research costs of the Canadian postdoctoral fellows. For specific application requirements in 2016, please refer to the call for proposals to be released on NSFC's website.

### **Fonds de Recherche du Québec (FRQ)**

NSFC and FRQ jointly support research projects and bilateral workshops.

#### **(1) Joint Research Project**

In 2015, NSFC and the Department of Natural Science and Technology of FRQ

(FRQ-NT) launched a call for proposals in areas of global change and photonics. Three projects of this kind were jointly funded. In 2016, NSFC and the department of Health Research of FRQ (FRQ-S) will launch a call for proposals in the area of cancer research. For specific application requirements in 2016, please refer to the call for proposals to be released on NSFC's website.

(2) **Bilateral Workshop**

NSFC and FRQ will continue to fund bilateral workshops in areas and numbers mutually identified and agreed by both parties.

## **Australia**

### **National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (NHMRC)**

NSFC and NHMRC signed an agreement on cooperation in January, 2013 to jointly support research projects and bilateral workshops.

(1) **Joint Research Project**

Based on mutual agreement, NSFC and NHMRC launched a joint call for research proposals in the field of type-2 diabetes in February 2015. Funding results will be released at the end of 2015. For specific application requirements in 2016, please refer to the call for proposals to be released on NSFC's website.

(2) **Bilateral Workshop**

NSFC and NHMRC will continue to fund bilateral workshops in areas and numbers mutually identified and agreed by both parties.

## **Brazil**

### **National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq)**

In May 2014, NSFC and CNPq signed an agreement of scientific cooperation to jointly support research projects and bilateral workshops. Biodiversity, green energy, aerospace and ocean research were identified as priority research areas for collaboration.

For specific application requirements in 2016, please refer to the call for proposals to be released on NSFC's website.

## **Chile**

### **National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research of Chile (CONICYT)**

In August 2014, NSFC and CONICYT signed a MOU to jointly support research projects and bilateral workshops. Aerophysics and seismic study were identified as priority areas of collaboration.

For specific application requirements in 2016, please refer to the call for proposals to be released on NSFC's website.

## **Argentina**

### **National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina (CONICET)**

In June 2015, NSFC and CONICET signed a MOU to jointly support research projects and bilateral workshops.

For specific application requirements in 2016, please refer to the call for proposals to be released on NSFC's website.

## **Ecuador**

### **Secretaria de Educacion Superior, Ciencia, Tecnologia e Innovacion (SENESCYT)**

In January 2015, NSFC and SENESCYT signed a MOU to jointly support research

projects and bilateral workshops.

## Europe

### European Union

#### European Research Council (ERC)

##### Talent Program

NSFC and ERC together fund Chinese researchers to go to Europe for single long-term (6-12 months) or multiple short-term research visits. NSFC-funded researchers could join the ERC-funded project teams to carry out joint research of mutual benefits in closely related scientific fields. NSFC will support the international travel costs of the Chinese researchers while ERC will provide local costs in Europe through its funded projects. For detailed requirements, please refer to the call for proposals to be launched on NSFC's website.

### UK

#### Royal Society (RS)

##### (1) Exchange Program

NSFC and the Royal Society of UK (RS) provide support for exchange visits between Chinese and UK researchers with duration of 2 years. NSFC provides up to 100,000 yuan for each project, covering international travel costs of Chinese scientists and local costs of British scientists in China. RS provides at most 12,000 pounds for each project, covering international travel costs for British scientists to China and local costs for Chinese scientists in UK. In August 2016, NSFC and RS will announce their call for proposal simultaneously in both countries. Chinese scientists shall submit proposals directly to NSFC and UK scientists to RS, and the results will come out in January 2017. Projects approved will start on April 1, 2017 and end on March 31, 2019.

##### (2) Talent Program

NSFC, RS and the Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS) together set up the Talent Program to support the exchange visits as well as joint research activities between excellent young Chinese researchers and their British collaborators. NSFC will provide, in a period of three years, up to half a million yuan for each grantee while RS or AMS will offer up to 111 thousand pounds for each grantee to use as salary top-up, research and training as well as international cooperation and exchange costs. For detailed requirements, please refer to the call for proposals to be launched on NSFC's website.

#### Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE)

##### Exchange Program

NSFC and the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) provide joint funding for 2-year joint research projects between scientists from China and Scottish region in areas of common interest, according to the MOU signed between NSFC and RSE. The specific areas for cooperation and the number of projects to be approved each year are decided by both sides through negotiation. NSFC provides up to 100,000 yuan for each project, covering international travel costs for Chinese scientists to UK and local costs for British scientists in China. RSE provides at most 6,000 pounds for each project, covering the international travel costs for British scientists to China and local costs for Chinese scientists in UK. NSFC and RSE will announce their call for proposal simultaneously in both countries at the end of 2016. Chinese scientists should submit proposals directly to NSFC and Scottish scientists to RSE, and the result will come out at the start of 2017. Projects approved start on May 1, 2017 and end on April 30, 2019.

### **Research Councils UK (RCUK)**

#### **(1) Joint Research Program**

NSFC and RCUK support substantial collaborations between scientists of both countries in areas of common interest, in consideration of the existing cooperation between scientists. NSFC and the RCUK will announce their call for proposal after discussion, and scientists from both countries shall submit proposals to their respective funding agencies. According to the evaluation results, NSFC and RCUK will jointly make decisions for funding regarding research expenditure, international travel costs and living expenses for personnel exchange. For detailed requirements, please refer to the call for proposals to be launched on NSFC's website.

#### **(2) Bilateral Workshop**

NSFC will continue to cooperate with RCUK such as EPSRC, BBSRC, NERC, MRC and ESRC to fund small-scaled bilateral workshops co-organized by Chinese and British scientists.

### **British Council (BC)**

#### **Bilateral Workshop**

NSFC will together support small-sized bilateral academic workshops between young Chinese and British researchers in 2016. For detailed requirements, please refer to the call for proposals to be launched on NSFC's website.

## **Germany**

### **German Research Foundation (DFG)**

According to the agreement on cooperation between NSFC and DFG, both sides provide support for short-term (no longer than 3 months) research visits, bilateral workshops and joint research projects.

#### **(1) Joint Research Program**

NSFC and DFG encourage substantial joint research between scientists of both countries.

#### **(2) Exchange Program**

Chinese and German scientists shall submit their applications to their own funding organizations 3 months in advance. Applicants may submit their applications anytime throughout the year. The final decision for funding will be jointly made after evaluation and consultation.

#### **(3) Bilateral Workshop**

Chinese and German scientists shall submit their applications for workshops to their respective funding organizations 3 months in advance. Applicants may submit their applications anytime throughout the year. The final decision for funding will be jointly made after evaluation and consultation.

## **France**

### **French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)**

#### **Exchange Program**

NSFC and CNRS support exchange visits with duration of 3 years between Chinese and French scientists. NSFC funds up to 150,000 yuan for each project, covering the international travel costs for Chinese scientists to France and the local costs for French scientists in China, and CNRS funds the local expenses for Chinese scientists in France and international travel costs for French scientists to China. For detailed application requirements, please refer to the call for proposals launched on NSFC's website.

### **French National Research Agency (ANR)**

According to the MOU signed between NSFC and ANR, both sides encourage substantial cooperation in areas of common interest between scientists and research groups from both countries. For detailed application requirements, please refer to the call for proposals launched on NSFC's website in 2016.

## **Italy**

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)**

According to the cooperative agreement between NSFC and MAECI, both sides encourage and support substantial joint research between researchers and research teams from both countries. For detailed requirements, please refer to the call for proposals to be launched on NSFC's website.

## **Russia**

### **Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR)**

According to the MOU between NSFC and RFBR, both sides support personnel exchange (usually less than 3 months) and joint research program between Chinese and Russian researchers.

#### **(1) Joint Research Program**

NSFC and RFBR encourage scientists or research teams of both countries to carry out substantial joint research in areas of common interest. Funding for the projects includes research expenditure and international exchange costs. The call for proposals will be launched on NSFC's website in January 2016.

#### **(2) Exchange Program**

NSFC and RFBR jointly support exchange activities between Chinese and Russian researchers for duration of 2 years. Projects approved receive a two-year funding of 90,000 yuan from NSFC, for Chinese researchers' international travel and living expenses in Russia. RFBR also provides funding for Russian researchers' international travel and living expenses in China. The call for proposal will be announced on the websites of NSFC and RFBR in January 2016.

## **Finland**

### **Academy of Finland (AF)**

According to the agreement of scientific cooperation between NSFC and the Academy of Finland (AF), both sides provides necessary support for exchange activities (usually less than 3 months) and bilateral academic workshops between Chinese and Finnish researchers.

#### **(1) Joint Research Program**

NSFC and AF encourage scientists or research teams of both countries to carry out substantial joint research in areas of common interest. Funding for the projects includes research expenditure and international exchange costs. For detailed requirements, please refer to the call for proposals launched on NSFC's website.

#### **(2) Exchange Program**

Chinese and Finnish researchers shall submit their applications for personnel exchanges and visits anytime throughout the year to their respective funding agencies 3 months in advance, and the joint funding decision is made according to respective evaluations and consultation.

#### **(3) Bilateral Workshop**

Chinese and Finnish researchers shall submit their applications for bilateral workshops anytime throughout the year to their respective funding agencies 3 months in advance, and

the joint funding decision is made according to respective evaluations and consultation.

## **Netherlands**

### **Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO)**

According to the MOU between NSFC and the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), both sides support short-term academic studies, personnel exchange (usually less than 3 months) and bilateral academic workshops between Chinese and Dutch researchers.

#### **(1) Joint Research Program**

NSFC and NWO encourage scientists or research teams of both countries to carry out substantial joint research in areas of common interest. Funding for the projects includes research expenditure and international exchange costs. For detailed requirements, please refer to the call for proposals to be launched on NSFC's website.

#### **(2) Exchange Program**

Chinese and Dutch researchers shall submit applications for personnel exchanges and visits to their respective funding agencies 3 months in advance, and both organizations will make joint funding decisions based on respective evaluations. Applicants may submit their applications anytime throughout the year.

#### **(3) Bilateral Workshop**

Chinese and Dutch researchers shall submit applications for bilateral workshops to their respective funding agencies 3 months in advance, and both organizations will make joint funding decisions based on respective evaluations. Applicants may submit their applications anytime throughout the year.

## **Austria**

### **Austrian Science Foundation (FWF)**

#### **Joint Research Project**

NSFC and FWF support substantial joint research between scientists from both countries in areas of mutual interest based on the existing collaboration. NSFC and FWF will together publish guide to programs, determine through discussion how to organize evaluation and jointly make the final funding decision. Researchers from both countries shall submit their proposals to their respective funding organizations.

## **Switzerland**

### **Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)**

#### **Joint Research Project**

NSFC and SNSF support substantial joint research between scientists from both countries in areas of mutual interest based on the existing collaboration. NSFC and SNSF will together publish guide to programs, decide through discussion how to organize evaluation and jointly make the final funding decision. Researchers from both countries shall submit their proposals to their respective funding organizations.

## **Portugal**

### **Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)**

#### **Joint Research Program**

NSFC and FCT support substantial joint research between scientists from both countries in areas of mutual interest based on the existing collaboration. NSFC and FCT will together publish guide to programs, decide through discussion how to organize evaluation and jointly make the final funding decision. Researchers from both countries shall submit their



proposals to their respective funding organizations.

## **Sweden**

### **Swedish Research Council (VR)**

#### **Exchange Program**

NSFC and VR jointly support exchange visits and small-sized bilateral workshops between scientists from both countries, and the duration of the approved projects is 2 years. NSFC provides the international travel costs for Chinese researchers to Sweden as well as the accommodation, meals and inter-city transportation of the Swedish researchers in China; VR supports the international travel costs for Swedish researchers to China as well as the accommodation, meals and inter-city transportation of Chinese researchers in Sweden. Up to 250 thousand yuan from NSFC and up to 700 thousand Swedish krona from VR is allocated for each approved joint project. For detailed requirements, please refer to the call for proposals to be launched on NSFC's website.

### **Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT)**

#### **Exchange Program**

NSFC and STINT together support the exchange visits and small-sized bilateral workshops between Chinese and Swedish researchers, and the duration of the approved projects lasts 3 years. The funding from NSFC and STINT will cover the international travel costs for Swedish researchers to China and Chinese researchers to Sweden, as well as the accommodation, meals and inter-city transportation of Swedish researchers in China and Chinese researchers in Sweden.

## **Belgium**

### **National Fund for Scientific Research (FWO)**

#### **Exchange Program**

NSFC and FWO together funds the exchange visits between Chinese and Belgian researchers from the Flanders regions, and the duration of the approved projects lasts 2 years. NSFC will provide the international travel costs for Chinese researchers to Belgium and the local costs of Belgian researchers in China, while FWO will pay for the international travel costs for Belgian researchers to China as well as the local costs of Chinese researchers in Belgium. For detailed requirements, please refer to the call for proposals to be launched on NSFC's website.

## **Czech Republic**

### **Academy of Science of the Czech Republic (CAS)**

NSFC and CAS together funds the exchange visits between Chinese and Czech researchers. NSFC supports the international travel costs for Chinese researchers to Czech Republic as well as the accommodation, meals and inter-city transportation of Czech researchers in China. CAS funds the international travel costs for Czech researchers to China as well as the accommodation, meals and inter-city transportation for Chinese researchers in the Czech Republic. For detailed requirements, please refer to the call for proposals to be launched on NSFC's website.

## **Hong Kong and Macau SARs and Taiwan Region of China**

NSFC has established cooperation with the Research Grant Council of Hong Kong (RGC), Beijing-Hong Kong Academic Exchange Centre, Macau Foundation, Macau

Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology, and K.T. Li Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology in Taiwan, jointly funding cooperation and exchange between researchers from mainland China and Hong Kong and Macau SARs, and between researchers from two sides of Taiwan Strait in areas of common interest. Types of activities that can be funded are joint research projects and exchange projects (including academic workshop and exchange visit).

### **Hong Kong**

NSFC and the Research Grant Council of Hong Kong (RGC) will continue to fund joint research in areas of natural sciences in 2016. Priority funding areas include information sciences, biological sciences, new materials, marine and environmental sciences, medical sciences, and management sciences. For detailed requirements, please refer to the call for proposals launched on NSFC's website.

### **Macau**

In 2016, NSFC and Macau Foundation for Science and Technology Development (FDCT) will, under the framework of the newly signed cooperative agreement, together fund joint basic research projects between scientists from inland China and Macau. The priority areas include: information science, TCM research, marine science, environmental science, biological science, new materials, as well as management science. Meanwhile, NSFC and FDCT will organize and fund bilateral academic workshops in areas of mutual interest for academic communities from inland China and Macau region. For detailed requirements, please refer to the call for proposals launched on NSFC's website.

### **Taiwan**

NSFC has been dedicating to encouraging and promoting scientific cooperation and exchange between scientists on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. In 2016, NSFC will continue to support cross-Straits academic workshops held by scientists from mainland China and Taiwan region. NSFC will also fund substantial joint research projects according to the consensus reached with K.T.Li Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology. For detailed requirements, please refer to the call for proposals launched on NSFC's website.

In view of the fact that some universities in Hong Kong and Macao have established research branches in different forms in mainland China, NSFC will not accept applications by one scientist as both inland and outside PIs at the same time.

## **Sino-German Center for Research Promotion**

The Sino-German Center for Research Promotion, jointly founded by NSFC and DFG, aims at promoting scientific cooperation and exchange between Chinese and German researchers in the fields of natural sciences, engineering sciences, and management sciences. NSFC and DFG provide respectively 50% of the Center's budget and the budget for 2016 is around 4,350 million yuan.

The budget of the Center is a special fund from NSFC and DFG. Scientists from universities and academic institutions from both China and Germany are eligible to apply for the funding. The funded projects by the Center will not be counted into the limitation on the number of projects one PI may hold according to NSFC regulations. Chinese applicants shall have been previously funded by NSFC, with the exception of young researchers under

the age of 35 with a PhD degree. German applicants should apply in line with DFG requirements. The Center accepts proposals submitted jointly by Chinese and German scientists at any time of the year, but applications have to be submitted at least 3 months prior to the implementation of the planned academic activities. Applications must be written in both Chinese and German or Chinese and English and the content of the Chinese and German (English) version applications shall be the same. In the applications, the content, theme, academic significance and academic purpose of the project, the participants, contact information, detailed schedule as well as specific costs and distribution shall be specified. Related personnel costs shall be listed according to the funding standard set by the Center on its website. The application form can be downloaded from the Center's website, and shall be submitted directly to the Center after completion (8 hard copies and one electronic copy for each application). The applications will be evaluated by Chinese and German reviewers and the Center will make final decision according to the evaluation results.

Specific requirements and relevant information are available on the website of the Center (<http://www.sinogermanscience.org.cn>).

The Center currently provides funds for the following categories of activities.

### **1. Bilateral Academic Workshop**

The Center encourages Chinese and German scientists to have in-depth discussion on cutting edge issues in a certain scientific research area. The main purpose of the workshop, which can be held either in China or in Germany, is to foster joint research projects through discussion and exchange. Each workshop can have 8-15 participants from the sending party, more but at most 25 participants from the host party. Participants shall represent the academic level of the relative country and come from different universities or scientific institutions. The Center provides funding for international travel expenses and local subsistence of all formal participants and other necessary costs for the workshop. The Center does not provide funding for participants from industries or administrative institutions or postgraduates. Participants from a third country can be invited to attend the workshop and their costs will be covered by the workshop, but the total number of them should be no more than 20% of the number of participants from the sending party.

### **2. Sino-German Joint Research Group**

The Center adopts flexible modules to funds Sino-German joint research groups for in-depth cooperation between Chinese and German scientists in areas of common interest. Chinese and German scientists may apply for this program to plan for larger projects and establish necessary collaborative platform. Funding for this program covers costs for bilateral workshops, short-term exchange visits, joint research, publications and consumables, etc. Applicants may apply for funding according to the funding requirements of the Center, which does not provide staff salaries. Applicants must be participants of workshops or undertakers of projects funded by the Center so as to ensure a solid foundation for cooperation. The funding period is 3 years and should not be extended. Funding for each project approved is usually 3 million yuan (or equivalent Euros) for both Chinese and German scientists.

### **3. Funding Schemes for Young Scientists**

#### **(1) Short-term Seminar**

The scheme aims to introduce advanced scientific methods, techniques and their applications and provide training on specific issues in a certain area. The Center may fund 4 to 6 senior scientists from both countries as lecturers and participants shall be mainly university undergraduates, graduates or young researchers. The number of participants is assessed according to specific conditions, such as equipment and infrastructure of the laboratory, but it shall not exceed 40 people in total. The number of participants shall not exceed 15 from sending party, and 25 from the hosting party. The seminar can be held either

in Germany or in China and usually lasts at most 14 days, including two days for arrival and departure. Funding includes international travel, local accommodations as well as costs for the organization of the meeting and academic tours.

**(2) Lindau PhD Students Program and Post-Lindau Program**

The Center, together with Lindau Nobel Laureates Foundation, funds 30 (including 15 in the field of economics) excellent PhD students or post-doctors under the age of 35 to participate in the Nobel Laureate meeting in Lindau, Germany, followed by a week-long visit to the German research institutions. Candidates are selected throughout the country and must be recommended by their home institutions. The final approval list is decided by correspondence review and interviews by Chinese and German reviewers.

Post-Lindau Program: grantees with PhD degree of this program may apply for the funding from the Center for a stay of less than 12 months in Germany if they could get invitations from German research institutes or universities, and approval from their host institutions.

**(3) Visit of German Excellent Young Researchers to China**

This funding scheme is launched by the Center for excellent young German scientists. During the trial period, eligible applicants for this program are grantees of DFG's Emmy Noether Program or other programs of equivalent quality, such as the principle investigators of SFB-excellent Young Research Groups, grantees of the ESF Starting Grants, Lichtenberg Professorship and principle investigators of Young Research Teams. The Center funds German young scientists to come to China for academic visits and research, and explore bilateral cooperation with their Chinese partners. The funding covers international and domestic travel costs and local subsistence in China. Short-term academic visits usually last less than 2 weeks, cover at most 3 cities, and shall be arranged by host institutions and hosts.

**(4) Young Scientists Forum**

The forum aims at providing an opportunity for Chinese and German young scientists to meet and discuss with the outstanding scientists in their own fields. The forum shall have a specific focused theme and can in principle invite at most 40 young scientists under the age of 40, and several senior scientists depending on the scale of the forum. Funding includes international and domestic travel costs, local subsistence and other necessary costs for the forum.

**4. Publication**

The Center funds publication of proceedings, joint publications and special journals for scientific results of Chinese and German cooperation. Funding will be at most 5,000 Euros or 50,000 yuan. The Center does not fund publication of textbooks, translated works, etc.

**5. Pre-Activity Planning**

The Center invites application from qualified applicant who would like to pay a visit to make preparation and plans for a meeting or a project, and to organize small-scale meetings to formulate such plans. The funding is provided for a short visit and only 1 person can be funded.

## **The Research Fund for International Young Scientists**

The Fund supports foreign young scientists to conduct basic research in mainland China in all areas of NSFC's funding scope so as to promote long-term sustainable academic collaboration and exchanges between Chinese and foreign young scientists.

Grantees are also eligible for renewing the existing Fund once in case of need.

**Applicants with foreign citizenship should meet the following qualifications:**

- (1) Less than 40 years old by January 1, 2016 (born on or after January 1, 1976);
- (2) Have a PhD degree;
- (3) Have the experience of conducting basic research or postdoctoral research;
- (4) Guarantee of full-time work at the host institutions during the project implementation;
- (5) Abide by Chinese laws and NSFC's relevant rules and regulations while doing research in China.

**The host institution should assume the following conditions:**

(1) Appoint a contact person responsible for providing consultation to the institution's applicant and assist project management such as the use of budget.

(2) Sign an agreement with the applicant. The agreement should include the following items:

- (i) The title of the research project and the expected outcomes;
- (ii) Living expenses and necessary working conditions that the host institution offers;
- (iii) The attribution of the intellectual property;
- (iv) Obligation to have applicant work in full time at the host institution during the project implementation.

The PI of the granted project can apply for renewal if needed and provided that the on-going project has made good progress.

In 2015, 107 foreign young scientists were granted with 28 million yuan direct cost. Among them, 17 foreign young scientists were granted project renewal. It is expected that 120 foreign young scientists (includes 20 project renewal) will be granted with 30 million yuan direct cost in 2016.

Project duration: one year or two years starting from January 1, 2017.

Award size: 200,000 yuan per project for one year or 400,000 yuan per project for two years, the award includes direct cost and indirect cost.

**Application procedure**

Applicants should fill out and submit on-line proposal forms via the Internet-based Science Information System (ISIS) with the following supplementary documents:

- (1) Copy of agreement signed by applicant and host institution;
- (2) Copy of applicant's PhD degree certificate;
- (3) Copies of the front pages of no more than five representative papers.

Please pay attention to the column of Research Fund for International Young Scientists on NSFC's homepage for more detailed information on application and requests.

<http://www.nsfc.gov.cn/nsfc/cen/gjhz/jjzb/index.html>