

Special Fund for Research on National Major Research Instruments

The Special Fund for Research on National Major Research Instruments aims to encourage and foster the exploratory research and development of instruments with creative ideas, and major research instruments and equipment with original creative ideas, which should be based on frontier of science and national needs and guided by scientific targets, so as to provide new means and tools for scientific research and enhance indigenous innovation in China.

Projects funded by the Special Fund for Research on National Major Research Instruments comprise of departmental recommendation projects and free application projects.

Funding of the Special Fund for Research on National Major Research Instruments in 2015

Unit: 10,000 yuan

Category	Applications accepted	Awards	Funding for direct costs	Average funding per award for direct costs
Departmental recommendation	59	5	36,947.70	7,389.54
Free application	593	81	50,263.55	620.54

The funding period for projects of the Special Fund for Research on National Major Research Instruments is 5 years, and the number of collaborating institutions in one project should not exceed 5.

1. Funding scope

- (1) Research and development on indigenous scientific instruments and equipment with originality and important roles for exploring research frontiers.
- (2) Research and development on scientific instruments for discovering new phenomena, revealing new laws, verifying new principles and acquiring new data on the basis of breakthroughs in core technology and integrated innovation.

Besides, free application projects of the Special Fund for Research on National Major Research Instruments are also encouraged to target development of new scientific instruments with potentials of applications in broad areas.

2. Eligibility and requirements for application

- (1) Eligibility: qualified applicants should meet the following criteria:
 - (i) Have the experience of conducting basic research;

- (ii) Have senior professional position (title).

Post-doctors, postgraduate students, researchers without home institutions, and researchers whose home institutions have not been registered at NSFC are not eligible for application.

(2) Requirements:

- (i) For free application projects in 2016, applicants may submit research proposals via their home institutions. The budget cap for direct costs is 10 million yuan per project.
- (ii) For departmental recommendation projects in 2016, the following departments are entitled to recommending projects of the Special Fund for Research on National Major Research Instruments: Ministry of Education, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Land and Resources, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, National Health and Family Planning Commission, China Earthquake Administration, State Administration for Quality Supervision and Inspection and Quarantine, China Meteorological Administration, State Oceanic Administration, China Academy of Engineering Physics, PLA General Armament Department and PLA General Logistics Department. In 2016, the budget for direct costs of the departmental recommendation projects of the Special Fund for Research on National Major Research Instruments should be no more than 10 million yuan per project.

3. Notes on application

- (1) Applicants are advised to read this Guide to Programs carefully and prepare research proposals in accordance with the Outline of Preparation of Applications of the Special Fund for Research on National Major Research Instruments. Please choose the “Special Fund for Research on National Major Research Instruments” from the funding categories, and choose “free application” or “departmental recommendation” under the subcategory of funding. Applicants are advised to clarify the details if they are carrying out projects which have some links with to the current application. Explanation of the similarities and differences in research contents between the ongoing project and the current application should be presented in the application.
- (2) For applicants and participants with senior academic positions (titles), the number of applications plus ongoing projects of the Special Fund for Research on National Major Research Instruments as well as the Special Fund for Research on National Major Research Instruments administered by the Ministry of Science and Technology should not exceed 1 in total.
- (3) Projects of the Special Fund for Research on National Major Research Instruments are funded by way of cost reimbursement, so applicants are advised to make their budget requests in an objective and practical manner according to the real costs of the development of instruments.