

NSFC Calls for Applications to Cooperative Projects of NSFC and RGB of Hong Kong

According to the agreement on setting up the joint research fund between NSFC and RGB of Hong Kong signed on November 23, 1998, the National Natural Science Foundation of China announced on November 30 that it starts to call for applications to cooperative projects of NSFC and RGB of Hong Kong for 2010.

This joint research fund supports researchers in mainland China and Hong Kong SAR submit jointly research proposals in natural sciences. Key funding areas are information sciences, bio science, new materials science, marine and environmental science, TCM and herbs and management sciences. Each application may only apply to one science disciplines specified by the National Natural Science Foundation of China; therefore applicant must mark the discipline to which the application is made.

The budget for this joint fund in 2010 is 7.5 million yuan and 15 million HKD, namely, NSFC provide 7.5 million yuan and RGB provides 15 million HKD.

According to agreement, this fund mainly supports sustainable projects. The limit on the amount of funding that mainland applicant may apply is 400 000 yuan, and that for applicant in Hong Kong is 800 000 HKD. We plan to fund about 22—23 projects in 2010. The research period is not more than 3 years, so applicants should ask for 2 years or 3 years in the proposal.

According to agreement, as a general principal, the funding from each side may only be spent locally. The funding from NSFC covers the following items: research expenses (including purchasing test agents and materials, computation fee and research business cost), board and lodging for Hong Kong researchers working in mainland, travel fee for mainland researchers to and from Hong Kong, and other expenses approved by NSFC. The funding from RGB of Hong Kong covers the following items: hiring of researcher and support staff, purchasing equipment, general expenses including office supplies, travel fee for Hong Kong researchers to and from mainland, board and lodging for mainland cooperators working in Hong Kong and some allowances, and subsidies for Hong Kong researchers attending international conferences.

Both parties confirm that mainland researchers applying the joint fund should meet the same requirements as applying for projects of NSFC. Applicants in mainland should have stable working position in mainland research unit, and have associate professor title or up. Hong Kong researchers applying the joint fund should meet the same requirements as applying for projects of RGB of Hong Kong. This fund allows joint application by researchers in Mainland and Hong Kong across units and disciplines. Researchers in places other than Mainland and Hong Kong may participate in applications as a member of the research group. Collaborators of Hong Kong must be full time researchers in public universities.

According to NSFC's policy, applications to this joint fund will be included in the limit on number of NSFC's cooperative projects. This means that applicants in mainland that have ongoing or are applying for various types of NSFC's cooperative projects may not apply for this joint fund.

Please see the guide to programs of cooperative projects of NSFC and RGB of Hong Kong for 2010 for details.