

Conditions of submission and selection of Chinese-Dutch joint research projects for 2011

The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) are long-term partners in international research cooperation. In 2009, NWO and NSFC have decided to expand their existing agreement focusing on exchange of researchers with an additional component focusing on funding joint research projects.

The current edition of joint research projects focuses on 5 themes within the field of Plant Developmental Biology.

Who can apply?

Eligible research teams are composed of Dutch and Chinese researchers, with active involvement in the project of a senior Principal Investigator on both the Chinese and the Dutch side.

For Dutch scientists the NWO eligibility criteria are applied, i. e. the Dutch principal investigator should be affiliated to:

- A Dutch university; or
- A Dutch non-profit institution for scientific research, qualified to submit research proposals to NWO.

In line with the rules for Chinese applicants, Dutch scientists may be involved with one application only.

What can be applied for?

For the Chinese part of the project, the NSFC criteria apply, as can be found on the NSFC website. The Dutch PI can apply for 1 PhD or Post-doc researcher.

The budget for material costs (travel, materials, fieldwork a. o.) may not exceed €60 000; the total budget of the Dutch part of the project may not exceed €280 000.

Information on the budget available to Chinese researchers within a Joint Research Project can be found in the programme brochure and through NSFC.

When can be applied?

- Closing date for submitting proposals is 28 April 2011, 11:00 hrs.

Extra Information

Although the application is for Joint Research Projects, describing projects carried out in both China and the Netherlands, the actual submission of the proposal should be done by the Dutch PI, who will serve as contact during the evaluation procedure. All information, application form and correspondence will be in the English language.

Selection

Criteria

In assessing and ranking the proposals, the assessment committee will consider the following criteria:

- Relevance to the theme of the call (Plant Developmental Biology);
- Scientific quality of the research proposal;
- Challenging content;
- Originality of the topic;
- Innovative elements;
- Potential impact on advancement of science;
- Suitability of the proposed method;
- Quality of the research groups;
- Sino-Dutch cooperation.

Procedure

After submission, the proposals will be checked for eligibility by both NSFC and NWO. The eligible proposals will be sent to referees. Through the Dutch PI, the applicants will be able to write a rebuttal.

The Sino-Dutch evaluation committee considers the applications, reviews and rebuttals during a joint meeting. The resulting advice and ranking list is then presented to both NSFC and NWO. After both organisations have reached a joint decision, the applicants are informed, after which the granted projects officially start on 1 January 2012.

Committees

There is one joint Sino-Dutch evaluation committee, consisting of scientific experts from China and the Netherlands.

Additional information

Budget

The budget for the Dutch parts of the Joint Research Projects amounts to €1 500 000.

Financiers

Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC).

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