

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

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 work to the benefits of our motherland, NSFC set up the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao, which supports overseas (including Hong Kong and Macao) excellent scholars under the age of 50 to conduct high-level joint research with researchers in mainland China.

I. Eligibility for Application

Scholars applying for the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao should meet all the following requirements:

1. Have fine academic style and scientific ethics;
2. Be under the age of 50 by January 1 of the year of application;
3. Hold professional title of associate professor (or above) in that country (or region);
4. Do research abroad, in Hong Kong or in Marco, and chair a laboratory or an important research project;
5. Guarantee to work in the home institution for more than two months every year;
6. Have made outstanding academic achievements recognized by international peers, and the proposed work is in frontier areas in the world and have the basis of collaboration with collaborators in mainland China;
7. Sign collaborative agreement with the home institution, which includes the following contents:
 - (1) The title, research direction and proposed goals of the joint research project;
 - (2) The home institution should provide main experimental facilities, human resources and other materials necessary for the joint research;
 - (3) The applicant promises to work in the home institution for more than 2 months every year.

II. Mode of Funding

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

Macao adopts the “2+4” model. 200,000 yuan will be provided for the first two years, and after the successive procedures of application, oral defense and evaluation at the end of the first two years, 800,000 to 1,200,000 yuan will be given for another 4 years to projects that play an active role at the forefront of international academic research, enjoy substantial collaborative research, and display high potentials for further development, in accordance with the principle of not exceeding 25% of the total number of projects financed by this fund in the first two years.

III. Notification

1. The Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao mainly evaluates the academic quality of the applicants and the basis for cooperation with their collaborators;
2. Applicants should first find their collaborators and home institutions in mainland China and sign the agreement of cooperation with them before applying for the Fund.
3. Information about the collaborators should be filled in the first line of the “main participants”;
4. Names of the applicants’ institutions and the applicants’ professional titles should be written in English;
5. One applicant and his/her collaborator may only apply for one project at a time. Besides, they should have no on-going project of this category (including projects financed by the previous Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Young Scholars and the Joint Research Fund for Hong Kong and Macao Young Scholars, and the “Two-base” projects);
6. Applicant should provide valid proof materials for his/her professional position and research work.

IV. Application and Submission

In filling in the application form of the National Natural Science Fund which is used for the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao, applicants should provide accurate information and relevant supplementary materials according to the requirement of the outlines for writing applications for the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao. The applications shall be submitted to NSFC via the applicants’ home institutions.

The academic committees or expert panels of the home institutions should make rigorous checks on the applicants and their collaborators and provide comments in accordance with the regulatory conditions. The research management departments of the home institutions send the electronic-form applications to NSFC after the confirmation of the electronic information, and then they should send one copy of the applications in paper

form and supplementary materials (including agreements) to NSFC.

The Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao plans to provide 80 awards in 2010. Each award lasts for 2 years, with a funding of 200 000 yuan.