

Framework grant in antimicrobial resistance, Sweden-NSFC (China) joint research program

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The aim of the grant is to support research collaboration between Sweden and China in the following area: Research on antibiotics and their use on humans and animals, as well as the environmental effect of antibiotics. The research should aim at improved basic knowledge, improved diagnostics and treatment or perfecting use, care and management, minimizing emergence of antimicrobial resistance and environmental effects.

The research should be of a high international quality that is carried out in a long-term and extensive cooperation between researchers in Sweden and China. The cooperation must include at least one Swedish partner (one or more research groups, a research centre, or the like) and at least one Chinese equivalent. An application may also be strengthened by the inclusion of researchers active at other research performing organisations in the two countries, in order to achieve the highest possible scientific quality and the greatest possible continuity.

The joint call is announced by the Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research (FAS), the Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas), the Swedish Research Council and the National Science Foundation of China (NSFC)

Terms and conditions for the grant

Who may apply?

Concerning the Swedish partner:

This call for applications has been preceded by a request for an expression of interest from the administrating organisations. ([Read more about the expression of interest – a precondition for applying for funding.](#)) The result of the evaluation of these expressions of interest is that the grant can only be applied for by researchers (the main applicant) at the following administrating organisations:

- The Swedish Museum of Architecture
- Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH)
- Chalmers University of Technology
- University of Gothenburg
- Stockholm School of Economics
- Dalarna University
- University of Gävle
- Halmstad University
- University of Skövde
- Kristianstad University (HKR)
- The Swedish Institute of Space Physics
- Karlstad University
- Karolinska Institutet
- KTH Royal Institute of Technology

- Linköping University
- Linnaeus University
- Luleå University of Technology
- Lund University
- Malmö University
- Swedish Museum of Natural History
- Swedish Institute for Communicable Disease Control
- SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden
- SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden - Process Development
- National Veterinary Institute
- The Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute
- Institute for Futures Studies
- Stockholm Environment Institute
- Stockholm University
- Swedish Environmental Research Institute
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- Swerea MEFOS
- Umeå University
- Uppsala University
- The Swedish Institute of International Affairs

For all applications, the planned research must be in harmony with the strategy for research cooperation with China that the administrating organisation has submitted to the Swedish Research Council. ([Read more about grants for Swedish-Chinese cooperation](#))

The Swedish part of the grant may be applied for by individual researchers active in Sweden (Swedish main applicant) who also serve as project leaders on the Swedish side and have the scientific responsibility for the Swedish side of the project. Your level of activity in the project must correspond to at least 20 percent of a full-time position. The application must be signed by the vice-chancellor (or equivalent).

You must hold a Swedish doctoral degree or an equivalent foreign degree. The doctoral degree must have been awarded no later than the closing date for applications in this call. We deem your doctorate to have been awarded when all requirements for the degree (e.g. compulsory courses, oral public defence and approved doctoral thesis) were completed.

Concerning the Chinese side:

Please see the NSFC instructions (link will be published shortly)

Co-Workers

Co-workers are researchers who are active in Sweden or China, who hold a doctoral degree and who have the most relevance to the undertaking of the proposed research. It is not a requirement that the participating researchers are employed at a Swedish university or higher education institution (HEI). Please make clear in the description of the collaboration who is the project leader for the Chinese partner.

Special Conditions

The following are required in every awarded project:

- A Chinese senior researcher is to be recruited to Sweden, normally for at least one year, within the framework of the grant period. Read more about this under the heading "Research programme (Appendix A)". Swedish funding may be used for this purpose.
- A coordinating function for the cooperation is to be established. Read more about this under the heading "Research programme (Appendix A)".

Grant Period

The grant is awarded for five years, beginning in January 2014. Proposals with other grant periods will not be eligible for funding.

Costs and Grant Amount

Concerning the Swedish partner:

The grant can be used to cover any type of project-related costs for salaries, travel (including visits to, and stays at, research facilities), publication costs, minor equipment and depreciations, etc. The grant may not be used for scholarships. Please note that funded proposals will be funded both from the Swedish and the Chinese side. The Swedish funding should therefore primarily be used for costs in the Swedish part of the collaborative project.

The Swedish partner may apply for a sum of 2 000 000-4 000 000 SEK per year, including indirect costs. Proposals applying for other sums will not be eligible for funding.

Concerning the Chinese partner:

Please see the NSFC instructions (link will be published shortly)

Number of Grants and Applications (Swedish applicants)

Applications for the framework grants and the project research grants of the Swedish Research Council

Applications for framework grants can be made at the same time as applications for project research grants. A condition for both being approved is that the application for the project is not part of the application for the framework grant. If the project research grant application is part of the framework grant application, the project grant application will be rejected if the framework grant application is approved.

Number of framework applications

You may only submit one application for a framework grant for research cooperation with China. You may though apply for the other framework grants of the Swedish Research Council at the same time as this. A condition for more than one application being approved is that these concern different projects. If the projects of the framework grants overlap, only one application can be approved. The rule regarding overlapping applies both to applicants and to co-workers in the different applications.

Administration (Swedish applicants)

The Swedish grant will be administered by the Swedish HEI, or by another type of Swedish administrating organisation, at which the main applicant is active.

The Swedish Research Council requires that a final financial report must be submitted for every grant within the stipulated time. We will therefore check that financial reports have been submitted for each of the applicant's completed grants. If any final financial report is missing, the current application will be rejected. If you are not sure whether the final financial reports have been submitted, please contact the responsible person at the appropriate administrating organisation.

Employer Status and Terms of Employment (Swedish applicants)

Project leaders with grants financed by the Swedish Research Council must be employed by the administrating organisation when the grant period begins, unless the Swedish Research Council, the administrating organisation, and the other employer agree otherwise. You do not have to be employed at the time that you submit your application. By signing Appendix S, the representative of the administrating organisation confirms its commitment.

Instructions for Applying

Apply electronically via the Swedish Research Council's application system (VR-Direct) by completing an application form and including the appendices required. Indicate your name, personal identity number (if applicable) and the appendix designation on each page of the appendices. A signed paper copy of Appendix S must be sent to the Swedish Research Council.

You are responsible for ensuring that the application is complete, which means that the application form and appendices have been filled out correctly. The Swedish Research Council will not process incomplete applications. Attach only material that we expressly request. Other material, such as letters of recommendation or off-prints will not be evaluated. Failure to comply with the instructions will be taken into account in the evaluation.

We do not allow additional information after the closing date for applications, except for information we ourselves expressly request.

You will have to apply both to the Swedish Research Council and NSFC. The Swedish partner will be funded by the Swedish funding agencies and the Chinese partner will be funded by the NSFC. Central parts of the proposal should be written together in the consortia and submitted to the Swedish Research Council. The PDF version of this submitted proposal will also be a part of the submission to the NSFC.

Language

In order to scientifically evaluate applications, the Swedish Research Council engages foreign experts. The proposal submitted to the Swedish Research Council will also be used as an appendix to the proposal submitted to the NSFC. To ensure that the evaluation and the preparatory work for the decision shall be undertaken in a fair and efficient manner, we recommend that you submit your research programme and other attachments in English.

Font, Size and Pictures

Submit the appendices in A4 format, using a 25 mm margin and a Times New Roman 12 font. Images should be adapted so that they can be interpreted, even if they are printed in greyscale. Ensure that PDF files are not password-protected.

Content of the Application

The application should contain the following:

- Summary
- Popular scientific description (in Swedish)
- Budget (Appendix N)
- Research program (Appendix A)
- CV (Appendix B)
- Publication list (Appendix C)
- Budget and research resources (Appendix N)
- Relevance to the special call (Appendix C1)
- Signatures (Appendix S), signed by the applicant, the vice-chancellor (or equivalent), and the head of department (or equivalent).

Summary

The summary of the research programme should contain a short description of:

- what will be undertaken
- how the research will be conducted and which scientific methods will be used
- the significance of the proposed research
- the Swedish-Chinese collaboration

The text should provide a brief orientation of the purpose and proposed implementation of the research. Write in a style that can be understood by those from other research backgrounds.

Fill in the summary on the form in the application system.

Popular Science Description

Describe the project in a popular scientific style, so that even those unfamiliar with the topic can understand it. Describe what will be done and why, and explain why the new knowledge will be important.

The popular science description is an important tool when the financiers inform others about the research we fund. If your application is awarded funding, we reserve the right to use this description to inform others about your research.

Complete the popular science description, in Swedish, on the form in the application system.

Project Budget, Swedish partners

Complete the budget information concerning the budget for the Swedish partners on the form in the application system. Note that you must express the amounts in thousands of SEK (kSEK).

Indicate the total amount, which may include any project-related costs such as salaries, travel (including stays at research centres), publication costs, minor equipment and depreciation costs. The grant may not be used for scholarships. Include both direct and indirect project-related costs. If you have questions regarding what is considered a direct or indirect cost, contact your HEI.

You can include depreciation costs for equipment that is intended to be used in the project, provided that

- The equipment has at least three years of useful life

- The equipment has an acquisition value of more than the amount stipulated by your administrating organisation
- The equipment needs of the project for which the grant is applied cannot be met by using national or international infrastructure open to all. [Read more about research infrastructures supported by the Swedish Research Council.](#)

You can include only that part of the depreciation costs that represents the use of the equipment in the project for which the grant is applied.

You may not include depreciation costs for equipment that is entirely funded by other grants. If you have questions regarding what is considered as local research infrastructure, acquisition value, or the calculation of depreciation charges, please contact your HEI.

Appendix N, Budget (total for all partners) and Research Resources

Total research resources of the project

Present the current research resources for the project applied for (maximum of 2 pages). Describe also which resources you and your co-workers are applying for, including in this application. Indicate the type of grant, the funding source, the grant holder/project leader, the grant period and the relevant amounts per year.

Common budget plan

State a common budget plan (maximum 2 pages) for the Swedish and the Chinese partners according to the template below. State also how large a percentage of the total cost of the project, per year, is being applied for from the Swedish Research Council. The Swedish partner's budget should be presented in kSEK and the Chinese partner's budget should be presented in kRMB. Briefly justify each item in the submitted budget.

Example of common budget plan:

Kostnader	Kinesisk part	Svensk part
Personal (forskare)	X kRMB	X kkr
Personal (icke-forskare)	X kRMB	X kkr
Förbrukningsmaterial	X kRMB	X kkr
Resor	X kRMB	X kkr
Investeringar	X kRMB	X kkr
Totalt	X kRMB	X kkr

The panel will use the exchange rate (RMB to SEK or vice versa) from the closing date of the call, when making comparisons.

Research Programme (Appendix A)

Appendix A should consist of a brief but complete description of the research objective, on no more than ten A4 pages, including references. Please note that any pages in excess of the number allowed will not be considered in the evaluation.

The research programme, as well as other appendices, **should be written in English** as proposals will be evaluated by international reviewers.

Keep in mind that the application, in accordance with the Swedish act on administrative procedures, becomes a matter of public record. Inform co-workers active in China about this.

The research programme has two sections (in total a maximum of 13 pages):

1. Project description (maximum 10 pages)
2. Collaboration and management (maximum 3 pages)

1) The Project description must include the following information under separate headings:

- **Purpose and aims.** Present the overall purpose and specific goals of the research project (or equivalent)
- **Survey of the field.** Summarise your own and others' research, as well as previous findings in the research field. Provide key references.
- **Project plan.** Summarise the design of the project. Describe theories, methods, the timetable, implementation and the role of the co-workers in the project.
- **Preliminary results.** Describe your own experiments and pre-studies in the research area.
- **Significance.** Describe the project's significance to the research area. Detail why the research proposed is of national importance to both Sweden and China.
- **Added value.** Describe the added value to each party resulting from the collaboration and the complementarity of the parties.
- **Ethical considerations.** Present the ethical issues that the project (or equivalent) raises, and describe how they will be addressed in your research

The five following points concern the Swedish applicant (i.e. based at a Swedish University or other research organisation)

- **Co-funding.** You may use grants from the Swedish Research Council to co-fund related EU projects within the Seventh Framework Programme. Indicate in your research programme if you are planning collaboration of this kind.
- **Recruitment to Sweden of senior researchers active in China.** Describe the research profile and the role of the recruited researcher(s) in the project. State as well the expected extent of the recruited researcher's work in Sweden, which is normally for at least one year.

Present the following under a separate heading if you consider it relevant to your project:

- **Other grants.** Describe any grants awarded to co-workers (as listed on the application form), as well as describing any grant you have applied for from other sources of funds that are significant to the project. If you intend to apply for other grants, or have earlier been awarded Project Research Grants in any of the research areas of the Swedish Research Council, you must clarify the relationships between the projects. Also include a motivation as to why you are submitting one or more additional applications. If you are a co-worker in another Framework Grant application, or in an ongoing Framework Grant, you should describe how the projects differ.
- **Equipment.** Describe the basic equipment for the project that you and your group have at your disposal.
- **Need for infrastructure.** Specify the project's need for national and international research infrastructure. Also specify the need for local infrastructure if depreciation costs for this are included in the application. Read more about research infrastructures supported by the Swedish Research Council.

2) The project collaboration and management

Fully describe the Swedish-Chinese collaboration, including coordination and management of the project (maximum of 3 A4 pages).

CV (Appendix B)

You must submit a CV of no more than two A4 pages for yourself and for each participating researcher. List your publications separately in Appendix C.

Specify the following (items that do not apply to you should be left blank):

1. **Higher education degree(s)** (Indicate year and subject area).
2. **Doctoral degree** (Indicate year, discipline/subject area, dissertation title and supervisor).
3. **Postdoctoral positions** (Indicate year and placement).
4. **Docent Senior Lecturer level** (Indicate year).
5. **Present position** (Indicate period of appointment and percentage of research in the position).
6. **Previous positions and periods of appointment** (indicate the type of employment).
7. **Interruptions in research.** Indicate interruptions in your active research career that affected your opportunities to acquire credentials, such as parental leave, illness, residency and specialist training for clinically active professional groups, positions of trust in trade union organisations and student organisations, or other equivalent considerations. Specify the reason(s), dates and length of the interruption.
8. **Supervision.** Key details of those who have completed their doctoral degree or postdoctoral work under your supervision (as main advisor).
9. **Other information that is relevant to your application.**

Publication List (Appendix C)

Attach your publication list, and that of the participating researchers, **for the last eight years**, indicating for each researcher's list the five publications that are most relevant to the project, using an asterisk (*).

Categorise the publications in the following order:

1. Peer-reviewed articles
2. **Peer-reviewed conference contributions**, whose results do not appear in other publications
3. **Review articles, book chapters, books**
4. **Patents** (indicate registration date)
5. **Open-access computer programs that you have developed**
6. **Popular science articles/presentations**

Note: Include only articles (or the equivalent) that have been published or accepted for publication.

Relevance to Programme Objectives (Appendix C1)

The appendix should be a maximum of one A4 page in length and include an account of the following items:

- Is the subject relevant to the life science area? Justify this, if this is the case.
- Is the subject of the application relevant to the subject areas of Forte or Formas? Justify this, if this is the case. If the subject lies outside of the areas of responsibility of these financiers, write: "No relevance to Forte or Formas".
- Specify the potential benefits of the research for society. This only concerns applications that are relevant to the areas of responsibility of Forte or Formas. See the handbook of Formas (<http://www.formas.se>) for information on the evaluation of social benefit.

Signatures (Appendix S)

Appendix S refers to and is valid for the Swedish partner in the joint proposal. Appendix S is automatically generated when you register your application.

Print Appendix S and sign it. Appendix S must also be signed by the head of department, or equivalent, as well as the vice-chancellor, or equivalent, of the administrating organisation at which the research will be undertaken. The signatures confirm that:

- the research, employment and equipment indicated will be accommodated in the HEI during the time, and to the extent, described in the research programme
- the research described is in keeping with the strategy for research cooperation with China that the administrating organisation has previously submitted to the Swedish Research Council
- the HEI approves the cost-estimate in the application
- you have reported any additional professional activities or commercial ties, and that no conflicts have arisen that would conflict with good research practice
- the necessary permits and approvals are in place at the start of the project, for example, regarding ethical review.

You must discuss the above-mentioned points with the vice-chancellor before s/he approves and signs the application. The administrating organisation is responsible for assuring that the project complies with the terms and conditions established by Swedish legislation.

Send Appendix S by regular mail to the Swedish Research Council.

Remember: Appendix S, complete with signatures, must be received by the Swedish Research Council not later than three working days after the closing date for applications.

The address and closing date of applications can be found in the section "When and how should the application be submitted?"

Evaluation

Your application will be evaluated by a panel of experts in the field. Half of the experts will be appointed by the Swedish funding bodies, the other half by the NSFC.

[How your application will be evaluated](#)

[The management of conflicts of interest by the Swedish Research Council](#)

Decisions

In November 2013, the financiers will publish their decisions on grant funding on the website of the Swedish Research Council. Notification of decisions and comments will be sent to all applicants. The first disbursement of awarded funds will normally begin in January 2014, at the earliest.

When and how should the application be submitted?

Send in your application electronically via the application system no later than midnight (24.00) on Tuesday the 26th September, 2013. The Swedish Research Council is open until 16.00 on the closing date for applications. Within a couple of weeks, you will receive confirmation by e-mail that your application has been registered.

You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete.

Send Appendix S (paper form), complete with signatures, to the address below. The appendix must be received by the Swedish Research Council no later than three working days after the closing date for applications.

Swedish Research Council
Forskningssamarbete Kina
Box 1035
101 38 Stockholm

Contacts

Questions about the content of the application

Sung-Za Ödelycke, email: sung.za.odelycke@vr.se tel: 08-546 44 307

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Lisa Granelli, Formas, email: lisa.granelli@formas.se tel: 08-775 40 68

Lars Wäringård, Forte, email: lars.warngard@forte.se tel: 073-074 5397

Technical questions

If you experience any technical problems with VR-Direct, please contact: vrdirectNT@vr.se

In the subject line, please specify the scientific area that your question addresses. We will acknowledge your inquiry by e-mail.