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## Mobility Programme

In accordance with an agreement reached by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) and endorsed by the Joint Committee of the Sino-German Center for Research Promotion (SGC), the SGC will continue to launch a call for proposals of Mobility Programme in 2021.

### I Programme Information

#### 1. Objective

The “Mobility Programme” facilitates bilateral cooperation between a research team in China and a research team in Germany by funding multiple visits (up to 3 months per visit) and small-scale workshops over a period of 36 months. The aim of the programme is, to build up an active collaboration between groups from both countries on a longer timescale to work together in small research projects and this way to prepare a long term collaboration (for example in form of common applications in the calls for bilateral scientific projects between NSFC and DFG).

#### 2. Subjects covered

All fields of natural sciences are covered, including but not limited to the life sciences, medical sciences, engineering sciences and management sciences.

#### 3. Implementation period

The implementation period for mobility projects approved in response to this call will be from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2025.

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## 4. Eligibility

Applicants must be researchers based at a Chinese/German university or research institution.

- Applicants from Germany must have completed their research training by obtaining a doctorate and be eligible to apply for funding from the DFG. Proposals may not generally be submitted by persons working at an institution that is not non-profit, at a government-run institution or at one that does not permit the immediate publication of research findings in a generally accessible form.
- Applicants from China must be a PI or participant in a NSFC grant (ongoing or already completed) with a duration of at least 3 years. The Chinese applicant's support organization must have registered at the NSFC. Lindau alumni previously supported by the Sino-German Center for Research Promotion but without an NSFC grant at the time of submission are also eligible to apply.
- Applicants who have already served as PIs on the SGC's 3-year-projects are not eligible to apply for this program.

Please contact the Head Office of the Sino-German Center if you have specific questions.

## 5. Funding

Funding is granted in the form of standard allowances. Please observe the Sino-German-Center's guidelines for the usage of funds (  [Chinese](#) /  [German](#) ).

The projects need to have a specific topic and should bring together researchers especially qualified in this field. The projects should be applied for by one research team in China and one research team in Germany, each led by the applicant, to facilitate bilateral cooperation. The exchange visits may take place in China and in Germany.

The Sino-German Center covers domestic and international travel expenses, catering and hotel accommodation costs, conference room expense according to its funding rates for research stays (  [Chinese](#) /  [German](#)), and  [for workshops to be held in China and Germany](#). If additional items that are not covered by these funding rates (e.g. expenses for scientific excursions, visa-application related costs) are applied for, these have to be mentioned separately and explicitly justified. Details about the planned exchange visits must be specified in the proposal.

A maximum of 1.5 million RMB (or equivalent sum of euros) per project for multiple exchange visits and workshops would be provided to both Chinese and German teams to be completed within three years. The SGC will award a maximum of 50 grants in this call.

Framework conditions:

- The duration of a mobility project is three years. It will include multiple visits by multiple scientists (early career scientists' involvement is encouraged) from each side every year and small-scale workshops.
- The visits can take place in China and Germany.
- The total number of research visits from both China and Germany should be based on the need for academic exchange and fall within the budget of up to a total of 1.5 million RMB (or equivalent sum of euros) per project including both sides.
- Each participant for whom funding is requested should contribute actively to the mobility project and his/her role must be described in the proposal.
- The applicants should outline in detail the exchange plan for each year including the length of visits, outgoing and/or incoming scientists' names and the anticipated research contents for each visit and fill in the budget table in good faith.

## 6. Submission

The Chinese applicant and the German applicant should submit a single joint proposal after in-depth and full consultation. The proposal must be written in English, and its format and the information provided must be in accordance with the “application form for Mobility Programme” as provided in attachment 1.

### **Other Submission requirements:**

Please note that proposals submitted in this call must follow the guidelines outlined in this document.

For all participants, short CVs have to be included in the proposal application form.

### **Good scientific practice**

In their work on the scientific project applicants are obliged to adhere to the principles of good scientific practice. Scientific results must be published in a generally accessible form following international standards.

**Ethical issues:** Research that involves experiments on animals and/or humans must be conducted in such a way that is in accordance with the laws and regulations in each country. If the project involves tests on humans or on material taken from humans will form part of the project, the applicants, need to submit a statement from the appropriate ethics committee/ relevant authorities with the proposal. This should be requested as early as possible to avoid unnecessary delays. For the German side, this statement needs to be provided before the final funding decision is made at the latest. If the project involves Informed Consent, the relevant regulations must be followed.

**Data management and transfer of materials:** Collection and exchange of data and materials must be in strict compliance with the funding agencies terms and the legislation in effect in the respective countries.

**Collaboration Agreement:** The Chinese applicant and the German applicant should also sign a Mobility Program Collaboration Agreement in which they reach a

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consensus on issues such as the collaboration content, exchange plan and intellectual property. This agreement (sample copy is provided in attachment 2) is supposed to be submitted when the proposal has been granted funding and before the first instalment is transferred to the institutions.

## 7. Deadline

Proposals must be submitted as searchable PDF files (generated from the WORD application form) and named according to the following pattern:

*Mobility2021-ChinesePILastName-GermanPILastname.pdf* .

Proposals must be submitted via Email to [mobility@sinogermanscience.org.cn](mailto:mobility@sinogermanscience.org.cn) by 18:00 h Beijing time on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Proposals submitted later than that time will be declined. Please ensure that the attached file(s) do not exceed a total size of 15 MB.

**Please note that after submission via email, three copies of application forms (final version) for each proposal must be printed out, signed by both applicants (electronic signature allowed for German applicant) and sealed by Chinese applicant's support organization, and mailed to Sino-German Center for Research Promotion (Address: No. 83, Shuangqing Road, Haidian District, Beijing, China, postal code 100085).**

**The hard copies of afore-mentioned proposals must be couriered to SGC before September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and must be postmarked by the deadline.**

**Attachment 1: Application form for Mobility Programme**

**Attachment 2: Mobility Program Collaboration Agreement (sample copy)**

As explained above, submission the collaboration agreement is not required by the deadline, but may be included already in the submission.

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## 8. Contact

### Contact information for Chinese applicants:

Dr. Bi Jinshun

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### Contact information for German applicants:

Ms. Anne Münchau

(formal aspects of application and administration)

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+86-10-82361314

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Dr. Ylva Schubert

(programmatic and procedural matters)

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[Email: ylva.schubert@sinogermanscience.org.cn](mailto:ylva.schubert@sinogermanscience.org.cn)

### If you need any technical support, please contact:

Mr. Nan Zhang

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[Email: zhangnan@sinogermanscience.org.cn](mailto:zhangnan@sinogermanscience.org.cn)

## II Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated in a peer-review process based on the following criteria:

- Academic merit of the project
- Feasibility of the exchange plan

- Qualification of the applicants and the team members, their track record and the premises of previous work
- Potential for future cooperation
- Involvement of early career scientists
- Anticipated achievements

### **III Obligations**

The submission of a written report annually of the usage of fund for the previous year is the prerequisite for eligibility for further funding (i.e. the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year) by the Sino-German Center. Within eight months after completion of the funding measure, the Sino-German Center expects a written project report and an accounting-of-funds report signed by both applicants by using the forms provided by the Sino-German Center.

Both applicants must notify the Sino-German Center in writing of any major changes in relation to the details of the mobility projects as outlined in the proposal. Both applicants would be given the freedom to make small changes in relation to the details of the mobility projects without prior consent from the Sino-German Center.