

## **A Brief Introduction of Funding Mechanisms in China for ISCA-China Programme**

Based on open resource information, a brief introduction of potential funding sources and their application methods in China are presented as below for the consideration of ISCA-China consortium partners.

### **1. International Cooperation Fund of National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) <sup>1</sup>**

#### **Project Categories and Special Funds**

##### **(a) Joint Research Projects**

It funds joint research activities conducted by Chinese scientists (who undertake on-going NSFC research projects) with their foreign counterparts in the areas of mutual interests. The fund covers the costs for the exchange of personnel and information, and cooperation in scientific experiments. It is the priority funding category by NSFC in its international cooperation and exchanges.

##### **(b) Major International (Regional) Joint Research Projects**

It aims at strengthening the competitiveness of China in basic research and promoting Chinese basic research in some areas to the international forefront. It adheres to the principle of "equality, cooperation and mutual benefit" and strives for enhancing our innovative ability for basic research. The duration of funding is generally three to four years. Funding for this category covers research costs and expenses for exchanges.

- **General Information about Application for (a) and (b)**

Requirement for Application<sup>2</sup>

- (i) Applicants must be principle investigators of on-going NSFC research projects;
- (ii) Applicants for the Fund for International Cooperation and Exchange of State Key Laboratories must be permanent staff of the State key laboratories which have passed the examination or departmental open laboratories which have been rated "good" and above in the national unified evaluation.

MOU Projects and Non-MOU Projects

International cooperation and exchange projects can be divided into "MOU projects" and "non-MOU projects".

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nsf.gov.cn/english/04in/02.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nsf.gov.cn/english/04in/03.html>

- (i) MOU Projects  
These projects are included in and supported through the MOUs signed by NSFC and its overseas counterparts (see attached list of MOUs); Applicants from both sides should apply simultaneously to their respective funding organizations.  
Features:
  - \* The fee for exchange is secured;
  - \* The total cost is shared by both funding organizations.
- (ii) Non-MOU Projects
  - \* Chinese scientists apply from NSFC unilaterally;
  - \* NSFC provides funding to cover the expenses shared by Chinese scientists.

### **(c) International Academic Conferences Held in China**

NSFC provides funding for international and regional important academic conferences which are closely related to the priority funding areas of NSFC or to newly emerging scientific disciplines.

#### **Aim**

International academic conferences held in China facilitate Chinese scientists' wide participation in international cooperation and exchange and upgrade the research quality of NSFC funded research projects.

#### **Eligibility**

Applicants must be entities supported by NSFC and have the capability and resources to organize international conferences. Funding for this category mainly involves seed money at the initial period of preparation of the conference.

#### **Funding**

NSFC only will fund partly for the conference according to the level of the importance, the scale and the numbers of the international participants.

#### **Application**

Proposal should be submitted to NSFC by the end of November each year for the next year events.

### **(d) NSFC Research Fund for International Young Scientists**

#### **Aim**

The aim of the Fund is to encourage excellent young foreign scientists to conduct basic research in mainland China, so as to promote the research collaboration and academic exchanges among Chinese and foreign scientists.

#### **Eligibility**

Eligible applicants for the Fund shall meet the following requirements:

1. Holding a Ph.D. degree, under the age of 35 by January 1st of the year of application.

2. More than 3 years of basic research experience or post-doctoral experience in foreign universities or research institutes;
3. Abide by Chinese laws, and the relevant regulations on the management of the National Natural Science Fund when doing research in China;

### Duration

Duration of the Fund is 6 or 12 months. A Request for continuing funding for up to 12 months after the termination of the Fund is allowed on the basis of the requirements of the research work.

### Funding

The Fund provides research grants only. Funding period is either 6 months or 12 months, with 100 thousand RMB for 6 months or 200 thousand RMB for 12 months.

### Application

Institutional recommendation is adopted. The Chinese Academy of Sciences will select the applicants from the recipients of the CAS Fellowships for Young International Scientists and recommend a list to NSFC. And then NSFC will inform the eligible candidates to submit their applications via their host institutions in mainland China. In general, there are two-round applications each year. The deadline is March and August respectively.

## 2. Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) International Cooperation Fellowship and Programmes

### (1) CAS Visiting Professorships for Senior International Scientists<sup>3</sup>

The Visiting Professorships Program is for international scientists either currently or previously working in well-known universities, research institutes or multi-national corporations, **with academic standing as a professor, associate professor or equivalent**, who wish to develop an effective long-term collaborative relationship with the CAS. These scientists should have the same or similar research interests as their CAS collaborators.

### Aim

The aim of the Visiting Professorships Program is to enhance the science & technology innovation capacity of CAS institutes by inviting accomplished researchers from overseas to participate in research in CAS with the hope of

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<sup>3</sup> [http://english.bic.cas.cn/AF/Fe/200906/t20090615\\_6358.html](http://english.bic.cas.cn/AF/Fe/200906/t20090615_6358.html)

strengthening the cooperation and exchange between CAS institutes and international research institutions and universities.

### Eligibility

Candidates for the Professorships must meet the following criteria:

1. Citizenship of a nation that has formal diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.
2. Hold a PhD degree, with academic standing as a Professor, Associate Professor or equivalent.
3. Good communication skills in English or Chinese, able to communicate independently in their place of work.
4. Commitment to abide by the laws of the People's Republic of China and the relevant regulations of CAS and the host institute.

### Duration

The Visiting Professorships Program provides for visits of 2-12 months duration. A visitor that has successfully completed the said visit and wishes to seek extended support may apply for extension at most twice, each up to 12 months, through their host institute. The extension application should be submitted to CAS at least two months prior to the completion of each visit.

### Funding

The Funding covers the personal expenses of the visiting international scientists.

CAS will provide each recipient with a grant to cover the recipient's salary, daily living allowance, and health insurance, from 400,000 to 500,000 RMB (pre-tax) per year, the exact amount being determined according to the length of the visit and the academic level of the visitor.

A recipient who is currently a professor or equivalent, including any who have received a world-class award such as a Nobel prize or equivalent, will receive up to 500,000 RMB a year. A recipient of lower academic standing such as an associate professor or equivalent will receive up to 400,000 RMB a year.

CAS will also provide a round-trip (economy-class) international airfare between the airport located nearest to the visitor's home and that nearest to the host institute.

### Application

Applications for this program are to be submitted by CAS institutes. In general, CAS will release two-round call for applications each year, respectively in March and September. **There are two application routes for the Visiting Professorships Program. Applications may be submitted by a CAS host institute or by a designated international partner institution of the CAS.**

1. Applications from host institutions: a host institute may submit applications taking into account its needs and capacity and the level of its cooperation and communication with a given candidate.
2. Applications from foreign partner institutions: CAS will invite key international partner institutions to nominate potential visitors.

## **(2) CAS Einstein Professorship Program<sup>4</sup>**

The Einstein Professorships will be awarded each year to 20 distinguished international scientists actively working at the frontiers of science and technology, for conducting **one to two weeks lecture-tours** to China.

### **Eligibility**

Recipients of these prestigious Einstein Professorships should be recognized as international leaders in their particular fields, as measured by awards and prizes, invited lectures, national or international committee membership and/or leadership, and history of publications.

### **Funding**

The grant will cover:  
The cost of accommodation, and transportation in China  
A round-trip international airfare between the airport located nearest to the visitor's home and that nearest to the host institute  
An honorarium of USD 1,500 for presenting a lecture

### **Application**

Applications for this program are to be submitted by CAS institutes. All applications and supporting documents should be submitted to the Bureau of International Cooperation, CAS by the end of October each year.

## **(3) CAS Fellowships for Young International Scientists<sup>5</sup>**

### **Aim**

The aim of the Fellowships is to promote academic exchange and cooperation between CAS institutes and international research institutions and universities, and the development of talented scientists, by attracting young international scientists to conduct a period of cooperative research at CAS institutes.

### **Eligibility**

Candidates for the Fellowships must meet the following criteria:

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<sup>4</sup> [http://english.bic.cas.cn/AF/Fe/200906/t20090615\\_6342.html](http://english.bic.cas.cn/AF/Fe/200906/t20090615_6342.html)

<sup>5</sup> [http://english.bic.cas.cn/AF/Fe/200906/t20090615\\_6347.html](http://english.bic.cas.cn/AF/Fe/200906/t20090615_6347.html)

1. Citizenship of a nation that has formal diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.
2. Good communication skills in English or Chinese, able to communicate independently in their place of work.
3. Commitment to abide by the laws of the People's Republic of China and the relevant regulations of CAS and the host institute.
4. Research scientist applicants should hold a PhD degree, be under the age of 40, and have over five years of research experience and sound academic accomplishments.
5. Post-doctoral applicants should hold a PhD degree and be under the age of 35.

### Duration

The Fellowship provides for visits of 12 months duration. A visitor that has successfully completed the said visit and wishes to seek extended support may apply for extension at most twice, each up to 12 months, through their host institute. The extension application should be submitted to CAS, at least two months prior to the completion of each visit.

### Funding

The funding covers the personal expenses of the international visitors.

CAS will provide each recipient with a grant to cover the recipient's salary, daily living allowance, and health insurance, between 150,000 and 250,000 RMB (pre-tax) per year, the exact amount being determined according to the length of the visit and the academic level of the visitor.

Recipients at the research scientist level, under the age of 40, will receive up to 250,000 RMB per year. Post-doctoral recipients, under the age of 35, will receive up to 150,000 RMB per year.

CAS will also provide a round-trip (economy-class) international airfare between the airport located nearest to the visitor's home and that nearest to the host institute.

### Application

Applications for this program are to be submitted by CAS institutes. In general, CAS will release two-round call for applications each year, respectively in March and August. **There are two application routes for the Visiting Professorships Program. Applications may be submitted by a CAS host institute or by a designated international partner institution of the CAS.**

1. Applications from host institutions: a host institute may submit applications taking into account its needs and capacity and the level of its cooperation and communication with a given candidate.

2. Applications from foreign partner institutions: CAS will invite key international partner institutions to nominate potential visitors.

#### **(4) Award for International Scientific Cooperation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences<sup>6</sup>**

##### **Candidates**

1. Have made outstanding contributions to promoting the establishment of strategic partnerships between foreign scientific institutions, universities, enterprises, or international academic organizations with CAS.
2. Have made important achievements or brought about remarkable economic and social benefits due to their efforts, to enhance CAS's competency in addressing key issues in science, technology and management by introducing innovative ideas, technology or methodology.
3. Have played an important role in upgrading the level of research, innovation or management of CAS by training innovative talents or introducing high-grade scientists to CAS.
4. Have made remarkable contributions either to the construction, operation or management of major science facilities, or to the design, organization and implementation of major science projects.

##### **Recommendation**

1. Candidates for the Award for International Scientific Cooperation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences are to be recommended by the President, Vice Presidents of CAS, Institutions under CAS or Bureaus of the CAS head-office. Recommendations from institutions outside CAS, or from other personnel, and applications from applicants themselves will not be accepted.
2. Those who recommend Candidates are requested to fill in the Recommendation Form for the Award for International Scientific Cooperation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in accordance with relevant regulations, and submit supporting materials.
3. The deadline for submission of recommendation materials for the Award for
4. International Scientific Cooperation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences is 30th October each year.

#### **3. Programmes from Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (MOST)**

##### **(1) National Program on Key Basic Research Project (Programme 973);**

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<sup>6</sup> <http://english.bic.cas.cn/AF/CA/200906/P020090618401113529100.pdf>

The National Basic Research Program (also called 973 Program) is China's on-going national keystone basic research program. The program was initiated in 1997 by the Chinese government to develop basic research, innovations and technologies aligned with national priorities in economic development and social development. The program was managed by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology. Natural Science Foundation of China is also involved in coordinating the research with the program. Over the years the program has dedicated funding to areas such as agriculture, health, information, energy, environment, resources, population and materials. Project funding: The central government has in the past funded projects for a term of no more than five years. Recently, the funding model has changed to 2 + 3 years. Two years after the project has been implemented, it will be assessed by a special panel and allocate funding accordingly. It is an important measure of the country to achieve its objectives of economic, social and science and technology development by 2050.

#### **PRC-EU**

#### **Cooperation:**

<http://www.973.gov.cn/English/AreaCoop.aspx>

(More information: <http://www.973.gov.cn/English/Index.aspx>)

#### **(2) National High-tech R&D Program of China (Programme 863)**

The State High-Tech Development Plan (also called Program 863) The program initially focused on seven key technological fields: Biotechnology, Space, Information technology, Laser technology, Automation, Energy, New materials. Since 1986, two more fields have been brought under the umbrella of the program: Telecommunications (1992), Marine technology (1996). This programme encourages international cooperation. Special funds are earmarked to facilitate the integration of the 863 Program with the “Program on Major International Cooperation Projects”, and support and encourage the implementation of international cooperative projects within the framework of the 863 Program.

(More information:

[http://www.most.gov.cn/eng/programmes1/200610/t20061009\\_36225.htm](http://www.most.gov.cn/eng/programmes1/200610/t20061009_36225.htm))

#### **(3) Key International S&T Cooperation Projects**

The program supports high level cooperation and exchange projects to promote national science and technology innovation capabilities, to speed up the high-tech industrialization process, to meet national demands and solve urgent bottleneck technological problems, and to promote national economic and social sustainable development.

(More information:

[http://www.most.gov.cn/eng/cooperation/200610/t20061008\\_36195.htm](http://www.most.gov.cn/eng/cooperation/200610/t20061008_36195.htm))



## **4. International Programs of the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs of China**

### **(1) Friendship Award**

The Friendship Award is China's highest award to foreign experts who had made outstanding contributions to the development and international cooperation of economy, science and technology, culture, education, sports, and other important fields. It is conferred annually by the national leaders.

(More information, in Chinese:

<http://www.safea.gov.cn/content.shtml?id=12746037>)

### **(2) High-level Foreign Experts Program**

This newly initiated program by the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs of China will support and encourage high-level foreign experts to conduct long term collaboration with Chinese institutions and industries in scientific research, technology development, management, and other areas in urgent need. The program will provide up to 60% salary/pension for the foreign experts working in China. Two types of projects will be supported:

- The recipient will work in China for at least 6 months each year for at least three continuous years.
- The recipient should work in China for at least 6 months in three continuous years.

(More information, China's 1000-Talent Program:

<http://1000plan.safea.gov.cn/>)

## **5. Regional Funding Programmes in China**

Beijing S&T International Cooperation Programme

Shanghai S&T International Cooperation Programme

Guangdong S&T International Cooperation Programme

(More Information:

<http://www.access4.eu/China/777.php>)

## **6. Funding Programmes in HongKong**

Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC)

Research Grants Council (RGC)

The Croucher Foundation

The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF)

The Research Council (RC) of Food and Health Bureau (FHB)

(More Information:

<http://www.access4.eu/China/495.php>)