NSFC and Funding Opportunities

Brussels

28-04-2015
National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)

Funding Opportunities for Chinese and European Researchers
National Natural Science Foundation of China
An Overview
Mission

- Support Basic Research
- Foster talented researchers
- Strengthen international cooperation
- Promote socioeconomic development
Budget 2001-2014
(22.2 billion Yuan in 2015)
Number of Proposals Received and Approved (2001-2014)
(170000, 2015)
Funding Structure

Research Talent Training Research Supporting

General program
Key program
Major program
Major research plan
International joint research

NSFDYS: National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars (<45)
YSF: Young Scientists Fund (<35 for male, <40 for female)
FCRG: Fund for Innovative Research Groups
RFIYS: The Research Fund for International Young Scientists

Instruments and Facilities
Joint Funds
International cooperation
Evaluation
(General Program)

Acceptance of re-examination request

Applicants → Host Institutions → NSFC → Preliminary Examination

~95-98%

100%

Rely on experts and adopt peer review system to support the best in a fair way.
International Cooperation
Funding Structure

Research  Talent Training  Research Supporting

General program
Key program
Major program
Major research plan
International joint research

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Instruments and Facilities
Joint Funds
Budget and Funded Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1583</td>
<td>0.66</td>
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<td>2004</td>
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<td>2005</td>
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<td>2006</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>1008</td>
<td>1.44</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>1181</td>
<td>6.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1181</td>
<td>7.00</td>
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</table>
Projects Categories

- Key International Joint Research Projects
- Research fund for international young scientists
- Sino-German Center for Research Promotion
- Joint research projects, workshops, exchange of personnel funded by NSFC and partner organizations under agreements or MoUs
Key International (Regional) Joint Research Program
(Unilaterally funded by NSFC)

- Deadline for submission of proposals: March 20
- Peer review and panel review by NSFC
- Decision making on funding: September
- Start of Project: January 1 next year
- Duration of Project: 5 years
- Funding: 3 million Yuan
Research Fund for International Young Scientists

Eligibility:
- Citizens of a country having diplomatic relations with China;
- Less than 40 years old on Jan. 1st in the year of application;
- Ph. D degree;
- Postdoctoral or at least 3-year professional experience in basic research in universities or institutions.

Funding:
- Research costs in China: 200K Yuan/1 year and 400K Yuan/2 years
- Accommodation and meals provided by host institutions in China.
Till the end of 2013, 434 applicants from 52 countries have been awarded and 74 awardees got extended funding.
Sino-German Center for Research Promotion

Founded in Oct. 2000
Jointly invested and managed by NSFC and DFG

Fund Sino-German cooperative activities, such as bilateral workshops, joint research projects, joint research groups, publication, exhibitions, instrumentation etc.
Institutional Joint Funding

74 Agreements or MoUs with Institutions in 36 Countries and Regions
Exchange of Personnel, Workshops and Joint Research Projects
NSFC’s European Partner Organizations

Austrian Science Foundation (FWF, Austria)
National Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS/NFWO, Belgium)
Danish National Research Foundations (DNRF, Denmark)
Academy of Finland (AF, Finland)
Agence Nationale de Recherche (ANR, France)
Center National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS, France)
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, Germany)
National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF, Greece)
Science Foundation Ireland (SFI, Ireland)
National Research Council (CNR, Italy)
Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO, NL)
Norwegian Research Council (NFR, Norway)
Council for Scientific and Technological Research (JNICT, Portugal)
Council for Scientific Research (CSIC, Spain)
Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF, Switzerland)
Royal Society (RS, UK)
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC, UK)
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC, UK)
Medical Research Council (MRC, UK)
Natural Environment Research Council (NERC, UK)
Foundation for National Science of Poland (FNP, Poland)
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Czech Science Foundation (GACR, Czech Republic)
Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR, Russia)
Slovenian Science Foundation (SSF, Slovenia)
Exchange of Researchers

Funding for Exchange Visits

Sending party: international travel.
Host: local subsistence including accommodation, domestic travel, etc.

Bilateral Workshops and Seminars

Funding for the Organization of the Workshop

Sending Party: International Travel
Host: Local expenses, such as accommodation, domestic travel, etc.
Joint Research Projects

Rapidly developing scheme in recent years to promote the substantial bilateral Cooperation with partner organizations

Main partners for joint research programs:

- NSF, NIH (USA)
- CIHR (Canada)
- NRF (Korea)
- JSPS, JST (Japan)
- DFG (Germany)
- ANR (France)
- RCUK (UK)
- NWO (Netherlands)
- AF (Finland)
- DNRF (Denmark)
- FWF (Austria)
- EU
- RGC (Hong Kong)
- CG (International organization)
Joint calls in 2014

NSFC-AF (Finland, 5G networks)
NSFC-ANR (France, ICT)
NSFC-DFG (Germany, stem cell)
NSFC-NWO (Netherlands, advanced materials)
NSFC-RCUK (UK, sustainable materials; stem cell; critical zone research; air pollution and human health; low-carbon cities, natural hazard, urbanization)
NSFC-RCUK-DFG-ANR-NWO (Understanding population change; green economy)
How do we do it?

Scoping workshop--- themes

Preparations ↔ Call text, forms, etc.

Launching call simultaneously

Collection of proposals and check of eligibility

Separate Peer Review and Joint Panel Meeting

Discussion and joint decision

3/4-year Joint Funding
Example

NSFC’s Collaboration with UK
NSFC’s Partner Organizations in UK

Exchange of Personnel

1. The Royal Society (RS) 1988
2. The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) 2007

Joint Research Projects & Workshops

Research Councils UK

1. Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) 2000
2. Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) 2000
3. Medical Research Council (MRC) 2005
4. Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC) 2005
5. Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) 2010
Mobility Grant

1. NSFC-RS Joint Project; NSFC-RSE Joint Program
2. Joint Workshop (RCUK; RSE)

Talent Grant

NSFC-RS Talent Program (Newton Advanced Fellowships)

Joint Research Projects

NSFC-RCUK Joint Research Programs
NSFC-RS Joint Project

16 rounds of joint calls; 196 projects funded in the past 17 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Projects Funded</th>
<th>Funding (10 thou. RMB)</th>
<th>Average Funding per Project</th>
<th>Funding rate(%)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>151.3</td>
<td>7.96</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>6.86</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>191</td>
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<td>160.38</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>291.3</td>
<td>8.83</td>
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NSFC-RS Talent Program

(Newton Advanced Fellowships)

Annual Open call
2014 call, 86 proposals and 16 granted.
Chinese candidates: Awardees of Distinguished Young Scholars or Excellent Young Scientists
### NSFC-RCUK Joint Research Program

11 rounds of joint calls for individual joint projects, about 50 million RMB input

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Applications</th>
<th>Projects funded</th>
<th>Funding in Total</th>
<th>Funding per project</th>
<th>Success rate</th>
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<td>EPSRC</td>
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<td>Nano-spintronics</td>
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<td>Smart Grid</td>
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<td>1200</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>32</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>Stem Cell (Pilot program)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>270</td>
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<td>90</td>
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<td>Stem Cell</td>
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<td>11</td>
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Trial of New Scheme

1. Critical Zone Studies

   Multilateral workshop in May; Call launched in Jan.

   Outline Bid $\rightarrow$ Full Bid

2. Air Pollution and Health

   Workshop in July, outline bid $\rightarrow$ full bid

3. Natural Hazards: workshop in Nov. 2014, call soon
Joint Programme on CZO

Main areas
Soil Science & Water Science (4 projects will be funded)

Two on soils and two on fresh water.
Each project include 3-4 sub projects.

Budget
NSFC: 60m RMB; 15m for each project
NERC: £3m

Duration
China: 4 years (2016-01-01 to 2019-01-31)
UK: 3 years (2016-01-01 to 2018-01-31)
NSFC’s Cooperation with EU

Administrative Arrangement b/w NSFC and the Directorate-General for Research of the European Commission (DG-Research) to implement Coordinated Calls signed on Mar. 26, 2010;

• First joint call in Biomaterial launched in July, 2012
• 28 proposals received
• Peer review (2 Chinese: 2 European)
• Dec.10-14 Panel review
• 3 finally funded: 3 million RMB per project from NSFC

• Perfect the scheme
• Look forward to further cooperation in more research areas

NSFC-ERC cooperation will be coming soon.
Thank you for your attention!