

Sino Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation Programme 2022

Guidelines and Research Proposal Form for Swiss Hosts

Important: *This instrument is co-funded by the China Scholarship Council (CSC). Chinese prospective visiting scholars must submit their applications to the CSC, and the Swiss partners/hosts must submit their applications to ETH Zurich as the Swiss Leading House for Bilateral Science and Technology Cooperation with Asia.*

Objectives

The Mobility Grants are an instrument for encouraging follow-up activities between Chinese and Swiss partners after symposia, joint workshops or other initial joint activities. These grants shall enable mid-term personnel exchanges that are a first step to future more ambitious or more engaging joint research projects. The grants shall provide a mechanism for Swiss researchers to stay in contact with Chinese colleagues and start research activities.

The Mobility Grants offer the possibility to host early-career Chinese scholars in Switzerland.

Scientific Priority Areas and Prerequisites

The call is open to all scientific disciplines. However, it is a prerequisite that initial contacts exist between the Chinese and Swiss partners, set up during a symposium, workshop or alike, in order to ensure commitment in hosting the academic guest from the partner country.

Eligibility

Senior researchers holding permanent positions in an eligible Swiss institution (Swiss federal institutes of technology, cantonal universities, federal and cantonal research institutes, universities of applied sciences, and other research institutes eligible for receiving federal funding) must apply as main applicants. They have the possibility to host an early-career Chinese scholar in their group in Switzerland. For a list of eligible institutions, please refer to the Leading House Asia [website](#).

Grant Information

Hosting Early-Career Chinese scholars in Switzerland

In a joint programme with the China Scholarship Council (CSC), ETH Zurich as the Leading House Asia supports research stays of early-career Chinese scholars (doctoral students (a completed Master degree is a prerequisite) or postdoctoral researchers) in Switzerland. It is the responsibility of the Switzerland-based host to locate a Chinese scholar herself/himself. The Leading House Asia ETH Zurich does not provide lists of potential candidates.

Funding:

The CSC will provide a scholarship in accordance to the regulations of the Chinese government (CHF 2100 per month for doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers including health insurance, and a return international airfare to Switzerland). The Swiss side will top up the scholarship to CHF 2500 per month (for both doctoral and postdoctoral students). If the visiting scholars (academic guests) receive employee status in the Swiss institute, the Swiss side will pay for social costs (AHV, etc.) up to CHF 250 per month in addition. Please specify your budget request in the application form. The visiting scholars (or their Chinese home institutes) are responsible for their own health insurance and travel costs.

Duration:

Research stays of 6 to 24 months.

Application procedure and deadline:

The Switzerland-based main applicant (Switzerland-based host researcher) must apply to ETH Zurich as the Leading House Asia. For more details, please refer to the last section of the present document.

Application deadline at LH Asia: **31 March 2022**.

At the same time, the Chinese visiting scholar must submit her/his application to the CSC by 31 March 2022.

(For application details, please contact the CSC office in China or see:

<https://www.csc.edu.cn/> **a co-application is mandatory**)

Grant Agreement and Reporting

The Switzerland-based main applicant will have to sign a Grant Agreement with the Leading House Asia ETH Zurich once her/his project has been approved.

The funding will be transferred after the conclusion of the Grant Agreement between the LH Asia and the Switzerland-based main applicant. Therefore, an internal project account has to be opened at the institution of the Switzerland-based main applicant.

The Switzerland-based main applicant will be responsible for submitting a scientific and a financial report at the end of the project, according to the report form provided by the LH Asia. The scientific report shall be written together with the fellow.

Reporting forms can be downloaded from the LH Asia [website](#).

Selection Criteria

(Not necessarily listed in the order of priority)

1. Scientific merit, significance, feasibility, and potential impact of the proposed research;
2. Clear elaboration or research plan for the visitor;
3. Clear demonstration of bilateral support and previous contact;
4. Qualification of the visiting scholars for the proposed research;
5. Clear elaboration of complementarity of the expertise of the partner groups.

Evaluation

All projects will be evaluated on the Swiss side by peer review. The China Scholarship Council will conduct a separate review of projects involving stays of Chinese scholars in Switzerland. Only projects evaluated positively on both sides will be supported.

Intellectual Property

Applicants must consult both the host as well as the guest institution concerning their internal regulations on intellectual property. For market oriented/industrial projects, it is important that a consensus document has been signed by all parties or is in preparation.

Submission

The Switzerland-based main applicant (Switzerland-based host researcher) must apply to ETH Zurich as the Leading House. The submission of the application takes place in two **compulsory** steps.

1. Submission of your application details via the application form online “Online application form for Swiss host” on the call website.
2. Upload of your research proposal with the requested appendices in **one single pdf document** via the application form “Online application form for Swiss host.”

Contact

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Instructions

The Swiss main applicant has to complete the present application form. It is the responsibility of the Swiss main applicant to make certain that the contents in the present application are as accurate. An incomplete form or incomplete answers put the proposal in competitive disadvantage during evaluation.

Please make sure that when hosting a Chinese scholar in Switzerland, the prospective scholar also submits her/his application to the China Scholarship Council. Failure in doing so will result in disqualification of the application.

PART 1 - RESEARCH COLLABORATION

0. Project Title

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0.1 Applicant Name and Institution

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1. Past Joint Projects and Attendance of Joint Symposia and Workshops

Please list your past collaboration and joint publications, if any.

2. Pending Applications

Please indicate if you have submitted any similar joint research proposals to other funding agencies.

3. Research requiring authorizations or notifications

Indicate whether the proposed research includes:

	YES	NO
Humans, human tissue samples or individual medical data		
Vertebrates, decapods or cephalopods		
Pathogens or genetically modified organisms		
Human embryonic stem cells		

Please note that research on humans, human embryonic stem cells, vertebrates, decapods, cephalopods, pathogens and genetically modified organisms needs authorization and/or notification in Switzerland and China. In case of difference in Swiss and Chinese standards, both partners should make reasonable effort to

understand the differences and decide if the standards are acceptable in her/his home country (Switzerland and China).

PART 2 - RESEARCH PLAN (5-10 pages)

1. Abstract (1-2 paragraphs, no more than 0.5 page)

Briefly describe the objectives, the research plan, and expected results of the proposed activities. Explain why the visit to this particular institute/institution is important. Please use non-technical language.

2. Background (maximally 0.5 page)

Briefly describe the current state of the art in the proposed area of research. Explain the significance of the proposed activities and describe how they will contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the proposed field of research.

3. Description of the objectives, planned activities, and justification for visit (1-2 pages)

Please state the objectives of the collaboration and describe the experiments to be performed by the visitor (and the team, if interaction between the host lab and the visitor is envisioned) during the proposed exchange. Describe the relationship between the student's current project and the research environment, strengths and expertise of the host institute/institution.

4. Partnership

- a) How did you initially establish the contact to your Chinese partner? Is this your first collaboration with this partner?
- b) Please describe the complementarity between the collaborating groups (1 paragraph).
- c) Please describe the qualifications of the visiting scholar and the reasons behind their selection.

5. List of milestones

Outline major milestones of the proposed activities on a time-scale of months.

Milestones	Associated activities	Expected date (measured in months from the project start date)

Insert additional rows into the table if necessary.

6. Ethical, safety and regulatory issues

Does the proposed work raise ethical, safety or regulatory issues? If yes, how will you deal with it? Please explain in detail.

7. Intellectual Property

Please state if there could be patents resulting from this collaboration. Please confirm that you have contacted your technology transfer office and made provisions for intellectual property protection.

Date, place

Name and signature of Swiss host

Date, place

Name and signature of Chinese scholar

Data, place

Name and signature of Chinese supervisor