

AUSTRIA / CHINA

SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (WTZ Programme) CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS in 2021-2023

CLOSING DATE: 27th November 2020 (12:00 noon)

The programme for Scientific & Technological Cooperation is carried out in the frame of the bilateral "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Scientific and Technological Cooperation" (concluded in Beijing on 24 April 1984) and funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST).

Aims of the Programme

- To stimulate international research cooperation by promoting the mobility of researchers to carry out joint research projects in specified thematic areas;
- To provide an opportunity for researchers to cooperate in an international setting to develop their international network and experience, especially for early-stage¹, mid-career² as well as female researchers.

Areas of Cooperation

Joint research applications may be submitted in the following thematic areas:

- Quantum Information Science
- Information and Communication Technology
- Intelligent Production
- Medicine and Health Research (including TCM)
- Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technology
- Food, Agriculture and Biotechnologies
- Environment, Smart Cities and Sustainable Urbanisation

Depending on the evaluation results, up to seven Covid-19 related projects will be supported!

Who may apply?

AUSTRIA: Researchers at universities, universities of applied sciences and non-university research institutions in the areas of basic research are eligible for application. Minimum requirement for Austrian Principal Investigators is a PhD/Dr. degree. Doctoral students can participate as project team members (**Please note:** Bachelor and Master graduates are no longer eligible)

Project applications submitted by early-stage¹ or mid-career researchers² as well as project applications with involvement of PhD/doctoral students, early-stage¹ and/or female researchers will receive additional points during the evaluation process and hence a better overall score.

¹ Researchers with an experience up to 5 years after their PhD/Doctoral degree; recognized career breaks will be taken into account (e.g. due to family reasons, health reasons or occupation outside the academic sector).

² Researchers with an experience of 5 to 15 years after their PhD/Doctoral degree; recognized career breaks will be taken into account (e.g. due to family reasons, health reasons or occupation outside the academic sector).

The focus of the programme lies on new international partnerships. (Follow-up-) Applications of bilateral partnerships whose Principal Investigators already received funding from this programme to carry out a joint project are not eligible.

CHINA: Applicants have to be eligible according to the local requirements.

How do I apply?

It is up to the applicants to find suitable partners in the respective country. **Applications must be submitted both in Austria to the OeAD GmbH and in China to the China Science and Technology Exchange Center (CSTEC).** Applications which have not been received in time in both countries are not eligible for funding. The call process is highly competitive therefore application does not guarantee funding.

AUSTRIA: The entire application for the research project must be submitted in English online at [[web-link](#)]. The application must include the following documents (in PDF format):

- Brief academic CV for each **Austrian** project member
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years on the **Austrian** side
- Project description including methodology (about 3 to 5 A4 pages)
- Brief description of the **Austrian and Chinese** partner institutions
- Brief description of the project tasks of **ALL** project members (Austrian and Chinese)
- Further cooperation perspective

CHINA: The Chinese project coordinator must submit his or her application in China according to the local requirements. Further details can be found in the Chinese call published on the website of MOST (https://service.most.gov.cn/kjih_tztq_all/20200930/3578.html - Chinese only!). All proposals from the Chinese partners should be submitted to MOST online (<http://service.most.gov.cn>) from October 12 to November 27, 2020 before 16:00 (Beijing time).

Applications submitted in one country only will not be considered!

Which activities may I apply for?

The purpose of this call is to support the mobility of researchers between the participating countries to carry out joint research projects. In this regard, funding will be provided for visits and the exchange of scientists conducting joint research within the above-mentioned thematic areas of cooperation.

Research stays in both countries are obligatory.

The sending side will cover the travel expenses as well as the accommodation costs of its own researchers. In Austria up to EUR 2,000.- per project of the granted funding may be applied for project-related material costs.

Funding Modalities

Collaborative research projects will be supported for a period of max. two years starting from summer/autumn 2021.

Funding will be provided for activities within the scope of these guidelines only.

AUSTRIA:

Maximum funding: **EUR 15,000.-** per project

Eligible Costs:

- Travel expenses: Travel costs (economy class) will be reimbursed for Austrian researchers travelling to China based on submitted invoices.³
- Accommodation expenses:
 - **EUR 100.- per working day** for Austrian **researchers** travelling to China **for up to 14 days**
OR **EUR 1,400.- per month** for long-term visits **between 14 days and 3 months** maximum.
 - **EUR 100.- per working day** for Austrian **doctoral students** travelling to China **for up to 12 days** OR **EUR 1,250.- per month** for long-term visits **between 12 days and 3 months** maximum.
- Project related material costs: **max. EUR 2000.-** per project as part of the granted maximum budget based on submitted invoices. Only project-specific material costs may be requested, that are essential to carry out the research project and that go beyond the resources made available from the research institution's infrastructure. Infrastructure or basic equipment of research institutions cannot be funded.

CHINA: Costs will be covered according to the local requirements.

How are applications evaluated?

In Austria eligible project applications will be evaluated by recognized experts in the various fields of research represented by the applications received.

Evaluation criteria:

- Scientific quality of the intended research project incl.
 - Feasibility of the joint research plan
 - Adequacy of the scientific method
 - Competence and expertise of the scientists/research teams involved (max. 25 points)
- Plausibility of the described further cooperation perspective (max. 15 points)
- Project applications submitted by early-stage or mid-career researchers (10 points) OR project applications with the involvement of doctoral students, early-stage (5 points) or female researchers (5 points) will receive up to 10 points additionally. (max. 10 points)

Maximum score: 50 points

In China applications will be evaluated according to the local requirements.

Based on the results of national evaluations carried out in parallel in Austria and in China a joint shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted through consultations between the OeAD GmbH and the CSTE. The project selection will be carried out by the Austrian-Chinese Joint Commission on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. The results of the project selection meeting will be announced presumably by April 2021.

³ For travels up to seven hours bus and train shall be used. Travel by private car will be reimbursement with the value of a second class train ticket (proof of ticket price required).

Reporting and Publications

Scientific and financial reporting on the project is obligatory.

- A brief project progress report has to be submitted after one year via the OeAD GmbH online tool. Its approval is the precondition for further funding.
- A final scientific and financial report has to be submitted no more than 3 months after the end of the project.
- The report has to mention outputs of the projects compared with the objectives and aims of the application.
- The final report must include a short, concise summary comprehensible to lay persons. The final report will be made available to researchers within this programme in similar disciplines.

Joint publications by researchers have to mention the support from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology.

Intellectual property

The project partners must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.

Closing date for applications

Applications must be submitted by **27 November 2020**. Applications received after this date are not eligible for funding.

Please note that the OeAD GmbH and the CSTEC cannot be held responsible for applications that were not received. Principal Investigators have to ensure that their research partners submit their applications in time.

Further information

In Austria	In China
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