

**SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (WTZ)
AUSTRIA / CHINA
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS 2022-2024**

CLOSING DATE: 23 December 2021, 12:00 noon

The programme for Scientific & Technological Cooperation (WTZ) is carried out in the frame of international agreements with selected partner countries with the aim to stimulate international research.

Thematic areas

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

Target group

AUSTRIA:

- **Researchers** at universities, universities of applied sciences and non-university research institutions in areas of basic research
- **PhD/Doctoral students**¹

Minimum requirement for the Austrian Principal Investigator: PhD/doctoral degree

Project applications submitted by early-stage researchers² as well as project applications with **involvement of PhD/doctoral students and/or female researchers will be prioritized**³.

Please note: Only new project partnerships can be funded under this programme⁴.

CHINA:

Applicants have to be eligible according to the local requirements.

¹ Bachelor and Master graduates are not eligible for funding.

² Researchers with an experience of up to 10 years after their PhD/Doctoral degree; recognized career breaks will be taken into account (e.g. due to family or health reasons or occupation outside the academic sector).

³ These project applications will receive additional points during the evaluation process and hence a better overall score.

⁴ (Follow-up-) Applications of bilateral partnerships whose Principal Investigators already received funding from this programme to carry out a joint project are not eligible.

Funding

Funding will be provided for the **mobility of researchers to carry out bilateral research projects**.

In Austria up to EUR 2,000.- per project of the granted funding may be applied for **project-related material costs**.

The basic funding of the cooperation project must be provided on both sides.

Project duration: Summer/Autumn 2022 until Summer/Autumn 2024

Funding mode: The sending side covers the travel expenses as well as the accommodation costs of its researchers.

Please note: Research stays in both countries are obligatory.

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

AUSTRIA:

Funding amount: max. EUR 15,000.- per project

Eligible costs:

- **Travel expenses:** Travel costs (economy class) will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices.⁵
- **Accommodation expenses:**
 - Researchers: **EUR 100.- per working day for up to 14 days OR**
EUR 1,400.- per month for long-term stays **between 14 days and 3 months** maximum
 - PhD/Doctoral students: **EUR 100.- per working day for up to 12 days OR**
EUR 1,250.- per month for long-term stays **between 12 days and 3 months** maximum.
- **Project related material costs:** max. EUR 2000.- as part of the granted maximum budget based on submitted invoices.⁶

CHINA:

Costs will be covered according to the local requirements.

Application process and content

It is up to the applicants to find suitable partners in the respective country.

Applications must be submitted both in Austria to OeAD and in China to the China Science and Technology Exchange Center (CSTEC).

Only applications submitted in time in both countries are eligible for funding.

⁵ For trips up to seven hours bus and train shall be used. Travelling by private car will be reimbursement with the value of an economy class train ticket (proof of ticket price required).

⁶ Only project-specific material costs will be reimbursed, 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.

AUSTRIA: Electronic application only [[web-link](#)].

Content: (in PDF format)

- Brief academic CV of 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 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/> - **Chinese only!**). All proposals from the Chinese partners should be submitted to MOST online (<http://service.most.gov.cn>) from **November 11 to December 23, 2021 before 16:00 (Beijing time)**.

Evaluation criteria:

AUSTRIA:

- **Scientific quality** of the proposed research project incl.
 - Feasibility of the joint research plan
 - Adequacy of the scientific method
 - Qualification of the scientists/research teams involved **(max. 25 points)**

- Perspective for **further joint cooperation activities** **(max. 15 points)**

- Project applications will receive up to 10 points additionally,
 - Either if **submitted by early-stage researchers**² (+10 points)
 - Or if **involving doctoral students/early-stage researchers**² (+5 points) and/or **female researchers** (+5 points) **(max. 10 points)**

Maximum score: 50 points

CHINA:

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

Funding decision

Based on national evaluations in Austria and in China a joint shortlist will be prepared. The **funding decision** will be taken by the Austrian-Chinese Joint Commission on Scientific and Technological Cooperation and **announced presumably by May/June 2022**.

Reporting and publications

Scientific and financial reporting on the project is obligatory:

- **Brief project progress report after one year** via the OeAD online tool as a precondition for further funding!
- **Final scientific and financial report** no more than 3 months after the end of the project incl.:
 - Output of the projects compared with the objectives and aims of the application
 - Short, concise summary comprehensible to lay persons⁷

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 before **23 December 2021, 12:00 noon** to be eligible for funding.

Further information

In Austria	In China:
OeAD - Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation Ms Konstanze Pirker Ebendorferstraße 7 A-1010 Vienna Tel. +43 (0)1/ 53408-471 Email: wtz@oead.at Website: www.oead.at/wtz	CSTEC (China Science and Technology Exchange Center) Ms Lin Xiyan 54 Sanlihe Road Beijing 100045 PR China Tel.: +86 010-68598010 Email: zfj@cstec.org.cn Website: http://www.cstec.org.cn/en/

⁷ This short report will be distributed to researchers within OeAD's WTZ-funding programme in similar disciplines to increase networking in the sector of international cooperation.