

SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (WTZ)
AUSTRIA / CHINA
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS 2025-2027

CLOSING DATE: China 26 December 2024 / Austria 3 January 2025 – 12 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:

Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and Sustainable Mobility

Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Medicine, Infectious Diseases, and Digital Solutions for Health

Biochemistry, Organic and Inorganic Chemistry

Target group

AUSTRIA:

Researchers at higher education institution (minimum requirement PhD degree) and researchers at non-university research institutions in areas of basic research (minimum requirement Master degree)

PhD/Doctoral students as team members only (Bachelor and Master graduates are not eligible for funding)

Project applications submitted by early-stage researchers¹ as well as project applications with **involvement of PhD/doctoral students and/or female researchers will be prioritized²**.

Please note: Only new project partnerships can be funded under this programme. Follow-up applications of already funded partnerships are not eligible.

A maximum of two projects can be submitted per Principal Investigator.

CHINA:

Applicants have to be eligible according to the local requirements.

Please note: Only new project partnerships can be funded under this programme. Follow-up applications of already funded partnerships are not eligible.

A maximum of two projects can be submitted per Principal Investigator.

¹ *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).*

² *These project applications will receive additional points during the evaluation process and hence a better overall score.*

Funding

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

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

Project duration: October 2025 until September 2027.

Please note: Research stays in both countries are obligatory.

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

In accordance with the Austrian University law, UG 2002 §26 (5) the funding will be transferred to an account managed by the institution. The reimbursement of all project-related expenses will be handled by the Austrian Principal Investigator.

AUSTRIA:

Funding amount: min EUR 5.000, max EUR 17.000, per project over two years

Eligible costs:

- **Travel expenses:**
up to max EUR 2,000.- Travel costs (economy class) will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices.³
- **Accommodation expenses:**
EUR 120.- per working day for up to 12 days OR
EUR 1.440.- per month for long-term stays **between 12 days and 3 months** maximum
- **Project related material costs: max. EUR 3000.-** as part of the granted maximum budget based on submitted invoices.⁴

CHINA:

Costs will be covered according to the local requirements.

³ Journeys of up to seven hours must be by bus or train. A subsidy for private car usage is only possible in exceptions and in accordance with the OeAD.

⁴ 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.

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 Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD) and in China to the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). Only applications submitted in time in both countries are eligible for funding.

AUSTRIA: Electronic application only [[weblink](#)]

Content:

- Brief academic CV of Principal Investigator incl. academic status (early-stage researchers) and language skills
- Abstract
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years on the Austrian side
- Project description including methodology (3 to 5 A4 pages)
- Brief description of the partner institutions (incl. reason of choice of cooperation partner)
- Brief description of the project tasks of ALL project members (Austrian and partner incl. their academic status phd students/researcher and their competence in Austria) and project timeline (template)
- Further cooperation perspective
- Brief description: monitoring, exit strategy, added value for home institution and Austria
- Detailed budget plan (template)

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 15 to December 26, 2024, before 16:00 (Beijing time)**.

Evaluation criteria in Austria:

Scientific quality of the proposed research project incl.

- Feasibility of the joint research plan
- Adequacy of the scientific method
- Qualification of researchers **(max. 25 points)**
- Perspective for **further joint cooperation activities** **(max. 10 points)**

- **Added value for the institution and Austria, monitoring, exit strategy** (max 5 points)

Project applications will receive up to 10 points additionally,

- Either if **submitted by early-stage researchers² (+10 points)**
- Or if **involving doctoral students (+5 points) and/or female researchers (+5 points)**
(max. 10 points)

Maximum score: 50 points

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** end of September 2024.

Reporting and publications

In Austria 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 persons⁵

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 **26 December 2024 (16:00 Beijing time) in China / 3 January (12:00 noon) in Austria** to be eligible for funding.

⁵ 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.

Further information

In Austria	In China
<p>OeAD - Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation</p> <p>Ms Konstanze Pirker Ebendorferstraße 7 A-1010 Vienna Tel. +43 (0)1/ 53408-471 Email: wtz@oead.at Website: www.oead.at/wtz</p>	<p>International S&T Cooperation Center, MOST</p> <p>Ms YANG Ye 54 Sanlihe Road Beijing 100045 PR China Tel.: +86 010-68598010 Email: zfj@nrsc.gov.cn</p>