

# Research Collaboration – China-Sweden: Network grant

- [Terms and conditions](#)
- [Requested information in the application](#)
- [Instructions for applying](#)
- [Grant funding decision](#)
- [Contact](#)

**The aim of the grant is to support the development of long-term research collaboration between Swedish and Chinese researchers.**

**The Sino-Swedish Joint Research Programme was initiated in order to promote collaboration between researchers from Sweden and China as well as supporting research of the highest scientific quality. The programme has a long term perspective where calls for network grants will be followed by calls for project grants in the up-coming years. The grants are financed by the Swedish Research Council in Sweden and the National Natural Science foundation of China (NSFC) in China on the principle of reciprocity and parity. The Swedish Research Council and NSFC takes terms in administrating this programme according to the Lead Agency principle and the 2016 call for network grants is administered by the National Natural Science foundation of China (NSFC) in China.**

**Please observe that this means that the Swedish researcher does not submit an application to the Swedish Research Council. The application should be made together with the Chinese collaborator and submitted to NSFC. Swedish applicants whose applications are suggested for funding by NSFC will be contacted by the Swedish Research Council for further information and processing.**

**The Swedish Research Council supports basic research of highest quality in all scientific disciplines and promotes research cooperation and exchanges of experiences.**

## **Terms and conditions**

The Swedish project leader and administrating organization must fulfill all the Swedish Research Councils requirements and state these in the application to NSFC, cf. below.

## **Call objectives and line of research**

The Sino-Swedish research collaboration is enabled by a bilateral agreement between the Swedish and Chinese governments. Under this agreement the Swedish Research Council and NSFC in China jointly funds grants for collaborative research. The Swedish Research Council and NSFC will take terms in administrating this programme and the 2016 call for network grants is administered by the National Natural Science foundation of Chinese (NSFC).

The Swedish Research Council funds the Swedish part of granted applications while NSFC funds the Chinese part of the collaborations.

The main objective of the grant is support new or existing Sino-Swedish researcher networks that in the longer perspective may develop into long-term collaborations. The collaboration shall be based on the principle of mutual benefit, equality and commonly set objectives. The call for network grants is open for applications concerning research within these two areas:

- **Biotechnology**  
High quality biotechnological research that aims to develop new technologies or products for research, industry, agriculture and clinic
- **New energy**  
High quality basic research for efficient and environmentally adapted renewable production, efficient utilization of electricity or fuel.

### Who may apply?

The application must include a collaboration between a Swedish researcher and researchers and/or research groups active at a university or research institute in China. The Swedish researcher must be linked to a Swedish university or Higher Education Institute (HEI) and will serve as project leader and scientific supervisor in the research part funded by the Swedish Research Council. The Swedish project leader must hold a Swedish doctoral degree or an equivalent foreign degree. The doctoral degree must have been awarded before the deadline of this call. The date of issue will be considered to be the point in time when all the requirements of the degree were fulfilled (for example mandatory courses, the oral public defense of the doctoral thesis and the approved doctoral thesis). The Chinese project leader must conform to the NSFC regulations (see <http://www.nsf.gov.cn/>).

The Swedish project leader shall be involved in the planning of the collaboration and the elaboration of the application.

### Participating researchers

The application may include other participating researchers, who hold a doctoral degree or equivalent, and who will play a key role in the proposed collaboration and in the implementation of the research activities.

### Grant period

The project grant is awarded for a period of 2 years, starting from January 2017. The grant disbursements will start in January 2017 at the earliest.

### Costs and grant funding

The grant covers the Swedish and Chinese budgets separately. The part of the grant covering the Swedish budget costs will be financed by the Swedish Research Council and the part of the grant covering the Chinese budget costs will be financed by the NSFC.

The maximum amount for the Swedish part is 350,000 SEK per year, including indirect costs (costs incurred by the Swedish administrating organisation). The maximum amount for the Chinese part is 125,000 RMB per year. Applying for a higher amount will result in the rejection of the application.

The grant may be used to cover costs incurred in connection with international networking and research cooperation activities, such as:

- Research visits within the research collaboration framework.
- Joint seminars or workshops aimed to exchange knowledge and establish a common research agenda.
- Joint publications and other forms of joint information dissemination.
- Preparation/planning of research applications to other research funding bodies.

The Swedish part may also include minor project-related costs (such as minor equipment and consumables) up to a maximum amount of 75,000 SEK per year, including indirect costs. The grant funding may not be used for scholarships or salaries. It may however be used to cover additional subsistence expenses incurred by the Chinese project leader (or by his/her co-workers) during visits to the Swedish project leader.

**Please note that the network grant may only be used to cover indirect costs at Swedish universities or HEIs.** For questions as to what qualifies as a direct or indirect cost, please contact your (the Swedish project leader's) HEI.

For all grants funded by the Swedish Research Council, a final financial report must be presented within the prescribed deadlines. If you have been awarded funding before, we will check that all financial reports for previously awarded grants have been submitted. Should a financial report be missing, the current application will be rejected. For questions as to whether all financial statements have been submitted, please turn to the administrating organisation.

### **Joint budget plan**

Accommodation and meals for Swedish researchers visiting China, and international travel costs of Chinese researchers visiting Sweden, are to be financed by the Chinese part of the grant, and vice versa.

Eligible costs for the Chinese part are:

1. Travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses.
2. Costs for the organisation of project-related joint workshops and seminars.

### **Number of grants and applications**

A researcher may only participate as the Swedish project leader in one application in this Sino-Swedish Joint Research programme call. A Swedish researcher with a network grant already funded from the Sino-Swedish Joint Research Programme call may not send in a new application until the previous funds expire. There are no restrictions for applying for the network grant if you are the project leader of other ongoing grants from the Swedish Research Council.

### **Grant administration**

The Swedish and Chinese project leaders will receive funding from their respective national funding agencies. The Swedish part of the grant is administered by a Swedish HEI or another public organisation in Sweden which

fulfils the Swedish Research Council's [requirements for administrating organisations](#), and which commits to the terms and conditions in relation to the Swedish part of the research collaboration. In case the Swedish project leader's organisation is not already an approved administrating organisation, it should apply for this status by [opening an organisation account](#) with the Swedish Research Council in the Prisma system.

## Employment status and terms of employment

The Swedish project leader shall be employed by the administrating organisation when the grant period begins, unless the Swedish Research Council, the administrating organisation or another employer agree otherwise. The employment with the administration organisation must at least equal 20 percent of a full-time employment.

## Requested information in the application

Please see these documents for information

[Mandatory information in the proposal to NSFC](#)

[National annex Sweden](#)

## Instructions for applying

The Chinese project leader must submit the joint application to NSFC according to [NSFC instructions](#) no later than **19th of September (Monday) at 16:00 (Beijing Time)**. The Swedish project leader shall be involved in the planning of the collaboration and the elaboration of the application.

The Swedish Research Council will undertake an eligibility check by so that all the requirements for the Swedish applicant is fulfilled before the evaluation process proceeds.

**Please note that the Swedish principle of public access to official records applies to research applications handled by the Swedish Research Council.**

## Grant funding decision

By the end of November 2016, the grant funding decisions will be published on the [Swedish Research Council's](#) and [NSFC's](#) websites. The Swedish project leaders of the granted applications will be contacted by the Swedish Research Council and asked to send in an application in the Swedish Research Councils application system Prisma for proceeding with funding disbursement. This application must also be signed by the official representative of the Swedish administrating organization, confirming the terms and conditions in relation to the Swedish part of the research collaboration. More detailed information for this procedure will be given to these applicants in due time.

The grant disbursements from the respective national agencies will start in January 2017 at the earliest.

## Contact

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