**Sino Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation Programme**

**2013-2016/2017**

**Application Form For Exchange Grants**

**Exchange Grants**

***Important:*** *This instrument is co-funded by the China Scholarship Council2 (CSC). Chinese prospective visiting scholars should submit their applications to the CSC, and the Swiss partners should submit their applications to the SSSTC programme office.*

Budget: CHF 120’000 for the call2016/2017. If an overwhelming number of applications is received, the Leading House may increase the budget to reach a reasonable award rate.

The Exchange Grants are meant to be an instrument for encouraging follow-up activities after Stepping Stone Symposia, Follow-Up Workshops or other initial joint activities. These grants shall enable mid-term (6-24 months) personnel exchanges that may pave the way for future more ambitious or more engaging joint research projects. These grants shall provide a mechanism for Swiss researchers to stay in contact with Chinese colleagues and start pilot research activities.

Reciprocity is one of the funding pillars for the SSSTC programme. It is expected that the Chinese partners will bear the local costs of Swiss researchers’ research stays in China.

**Priority Areas**

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

**Application Deadline**

February 26, 2017

*For other application in China, please contact CSC office.*

**Duration2**

6-24 months.

**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) are eligible to apply.

**Grant Information**

The SSSTC Exchange Grant is intended to subsidize the living costs (CHF 2500 per month) for Chinese visiting fellows (PhD students (a completed Master degree is a prerequisite)/post-doctoral researchers) coming to Switzerland for research purposes.

If the visiting fellows (academic guests) receive employee status in the Swiss institutes, the SSSTC will pay for social costs (AHV, etc.) up to CHF 250 per month for up to 12 months. Please specify your budget request in the application form. The visiting fellows (or their Chinese home institutes) are responsible for their own health insurance and travel costs.

For Swiss visiting fellows (PhD students or post-doctoral researchers) carrying out research stays in Chinese partners’ laboratories, roundtrip economy tickets for flights to China up to CHF 2000 per trip may be granted.

The SSSTC will supply a living cost supplement for each Chinese visiting fellow/postdoc of CHF 2500 per month for the first three months. From the fourth month on, the CSC will provide a scholarship in accordance to the regulations of the Chinese government (CHF 1900 per month for PhD students and CHF 2000 per month for postdoctoral researchers). The SSSTC will top up the scholarship so that the selected candidates will continue to receive the same level of support, i.e., at CHF 2500 per month from month 4 to month 12. After the first 12 months, the selected candidates will be financially supported solely by the CSC.

**Financial Arrangement and Reporting**

A Grant Agreement shall be signed between the SSSTC/ETH Zurich and the Swiss applicant once his/her project has been approved. Although it is expected that the Chinese partners may be responsible for parts of the reports, it is the Swiss applicant’s responsibility to ensure that an annual (for multi-year projects) and/or a final report are filed. 90% of the funding will be transferred after the conclusion of the Grant Agreement between the Leading House and the Swiss applicant and about one month before the start of the project. The final 10% will be transferred after the final report (includes both financial and scientific parts) has been accepted by the programme office.

Report forms may be downloaded from the SSSTC 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 fellows for the proposed research;
5. Clear elaboration of complementarity of the expertise of the partner groups.

**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**

Please send your application (both electronically and per post) to

ETH Zürich

ETH Global

Rahel Byland, Ph.D.

Programme Manager, SSSTC

c/o Lucia Arpagaus

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website: [www.global.ethz.ch](http://www.global.ethz.ch/)

1: The Leading House reserves the right to reallocate the budgets based on the demand.

2: The SSSTC and the China Scholarship Council (CSC) will evaluate proposals separately. They will then jointly decide on projects to co-fund. For projects declined by the CSC but approved by the SSSTC, the maximum project length is 12 months, supported solely by the SSSTC.

**Instructions**

This application form is meant to be completed by the Swiss main applicant. It is the responsibility of the Swiss main applicant to make certain that the contents in this application are as accurate as possible. Incomplete form or answer puts the proposal in competitive disadvantage during evaluation.

Please make sure that the prospective Chinese scholars also submit their applications to the China Scholarship Council. Failure in doing so could result in disqualification of the application.

**Part 1: General information**

**1. Basic data**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Title:** |  |
| **Keywords:** |  |
| **Priority research area:** |  |
| **Intended start Date:** |  |
| **Duration (months):** |  |

I hereby confirm that all the information given in this application and the attachments is correct to the best of my knowledge.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Place, Date | Visiting scholar |
| Place, Date | Swiss Main Applicant |
| Place, Date | Chinese Main Applicant (supervisor of visiting scholar) |

**2. Personal data**

**2.1 Visiting scholar**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Family name: |  |
| First name(s): |  |
| Title: |  |
| Academic degree: |  |
| Date of birth: |  |
| Gender: |  |
| Nationality: |  |
| Employer: |  |
| Address: |  |
| Postcode, city: |  |
| Country: |  |
| E-mail: |  |
| Phone number: |  |
| Fax number: |  |

**2.2 Swiss Main Applicant**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Family name: |  |
| First name(s): |  |
| Title: |  |
| Academic degree: |  |
| Date of birth: |  |
| Gender: |  |
| Nationality: |  |
| Employer: |  |
| Address: |  |
| Postcode, city: |  |
| Country: |  |
| E-mail: |  |
| Phone number: |  |
| Fax number: |  |

**2.3 Chinese Main Applicant (supervisor of visiting scholar)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Family name: |  |
| First name(s): |  |
| Title: |  |
| Academic degree: |  |
| Date of birth: |  |
| Gender: |  |
| Nationality: |  |
| Institute name/place of work: |  |
| Address: |  |
| Postcode, city: |  |
| Country: |  |
| E-mail: |  |
| Phone number: |  |
| Fax number: |  |

**3. Requested funding**

* Duration\* of the project: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ months.
* If traveling assistance is requested for Swiss PhD Students or postdocs to visit the Chinese laboratories, please specify the names of the visiting fellow and the duration and purpose of the visits in Part 2 of the application form.
* The visitor shall receive the status of an (please check one)

1. Academic guest
2. Employee

The funding granted by the SSSTC will be calculated by the programme office according to the section under “Grant Information” and will appear in the Grant Agreement once the project has been awarded.

\*: This is usually the same as the duration of the stay of the exchanged scholar. If not, please specify and explain.

**4 Past Joint Projects and Attendance of Joint Symposia and Workshops**

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

**5 Pending Applications**

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

**6 Suggested Reviewers**

Please suggest at least three possible Swiss reviewers for this proposal (and specify anybody who should not be asked to review this proposal, if any): Please provide their names and current contact information.

**7 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 his/her home country (Switzerland and China).

**Part 2 - Research plan** (5-10 page, excluding CVs)

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.

1. **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**

1. How was your contact to this partner made initially? Is this your first collaboration with this partner?
2. Please describe the complementarity between the collaborating groups (1 paragraph).
3. Please describe the qualification of the visiting fellow and how he or she was selected.
4. **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.

1. **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.

1. **Intellectual Property**

Please state is there could be patent coming out of this collaboration. Please confirm that you have contacted your technology transfer office and that provision has been made for intellectual property that could come out of this project.

**ATTACHMENTS**

In addition, please provide:

1. Brief curriculum vitae of the Swiss applicants, the Chinese partners, and either the CV of or a reference letter for the visiting fellow.
2. Letter of support from the hosting institute.