

SSSTC Program Call for Proposal

SSSTC refers to **Sino-Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation**. It is a governmental framework program between China and Switzerland. It aims to encourage and strengthen individual contacts by building a multi-level research cooperation between institutions, research groups as well as individuals. Life Science, Environmental Science, Material Science and Medicine are set to be the 4 priority areas of the program. Funding instruments include Joint Research Project (JRP), Institutional Partnership (IP), Faculty Exchange (FE) and Student Exchange (SE). Supported by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology as well as the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the SSSTC program has been carried out successfully in China and in Switzerland.

For the upcoming deadline of **September 15, 2009**, the SSSTC funding could be applied to support the following two types of cooperation:

1) Faculty or Student Exchange

The Faculty and Student Exchange Grants are designed to facilitate the first contact between scholars of both countries. It is expected that through exchange of students and faculties, there will be more understanding and mutual interest to engage in more substantial collaborative projects.

In Switzerland, a Swiss faculty can apply SSSTC funding to invite Chinese faculties or students to spend some times within his laboratory and to discuss detailed plans of collaboration. Please refer to the following links for details:

<http://www.global.ethz.ch/stc/china/instruments/fe>

<http://www.global.ethz.ch/stc/china/instruments/se>

The length of the stay should not exceed 12 months for an exchange student, and within 3 months for an exchange faculty. Please note that this funding instrument can be used by faculties /students of **all disciplines**, including those in social sciences.

The funding principle is that the invited Chinese scholar covers his own travel expenses, while the hosting party in Switzerland uses the SSSTC Exchange Grant to cover the living expenses of his host, as well as related laboratory consumables. If a Swiss scientist is invited to spend some time in China, he can apply SSSTC Exchange Grant to cover his travel expenses. It is expected that his Chinese host will cover the related living cost of Swiss visitors in China, through other sources of funding provided by the Chinese government or universities. Please refer to the detailed Swiss financial guideline below:

<http://www.global.ethz.ch/stc/china/program/finance>

2) Institutional Partnership

The Institutional Partnership (IP) such as defined in the current SSSTC Program refers to a detailed collaboration plan between two research institutes, namely planned student and/or faculty exchanges within a period of time, scheduled workshops or participation of international conferences. It is designed for two research institutes to get to better know each other. The advantage of using this funding instrument is that the interested parties need to make only ONE application of funding for SEVERAL exchanges and workshops for a period of up to 3 years. Note that this funding instrument is not for doing a detailed joint research project (JRP). The application of funding for JRP has currently been closed, with 25 projects jointly selected and funded by Swiss and Chinese related agencies. More detail about the Institutional Partnership Grant can be found in the following link:

<http://www.global.ethz.ch/stc/china/instruments/ip>

In Switzerland, Swiss institutes are responsible for applying for funding to cover the living costs of Chinese Exchange Scientists in Switzerland. Similar financial guidelines as for individual exchange student/faculty apply. Note that the overall budget for supporting such type of collaboration plan from the SSSTC program is limited to around 50'000 CHF.

In China, as there is no equivalent funding set at MOST nor at CAS to cover such Institutional Partnership, Chinese partners are expected to look for funding through various channels by themselves in order to provide living allowances to their visitors and to cover the cost of workshops hosted in China.

Contact

China

Dr. Lan Zuo Gillet 左 岚
Executive Vice Director, Consul 常务副主任, 领事
swissnex Shanghai
Annex of the Consulate General of Switzerland
ssstc@swissnexshanghai.org
22F, Building A, Far East International Plaza
319 XianXia Road, Shanghai 200051, China
Tel: 008621 6235 1889
www.swissnexshanghai.org

Switzerland

Dr. Maio Chen-Su
China Coordinator
International Institutional Affairs
ETH Zurich
maio.chen-su@sl.ethz.ch
HG F 11
Rämstrasse 101, 8092 Zurich
Tel: + 41 44 6328101
www.ethz.ch