

Queensland-Chinese Academy of Sciences (Q-CAS) Collaborative Science Fund

Guidelines for Queensland Applicants

Introduction

The Queensland Government has released the *Science and Innovation Action Plan*, along with a *Science and Innovation Investment Framework*. The plan is a blueprint to:

- use applied science, technology and innovation to turn great ideas into great opportunities
- transform the state into a world leading centre of creativity, productivity and knowledge
- ensure that Queensland's world-class science and research capability and infrastructure is now translated into practice that will contribute to the lives of all Queenslanders.

The plan includes *accelerating international collaborations* as a key action and in this regard Queensland has a science and technology partnership with China through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chinese Ministry of Science Technology. The Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts (DSITIA) has a Statement of Intent with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China's peak research organisation.

The Statement of Intent aims to develop relationships between Queensland and China in areas of agreed priority including agricultural biotechnology and food research, including food safety; human health and medical research; and energy.

The Q-CAS Collaborative Science Fund (the fund) was established under the *Statement of Intent 2013-2016*.

What does the Q-CAS Collaborative Science Fund aim to achieve?

The fund will assist Queensland and Chinese researchers to jointly undertake practical and applied science and research projects in the following priority areas:

- agricultural biotechnology and food research, including food safety
- human health: immunology or neuroscience
- energy

The objectives of the fund are to:

- create and strengthen collaborative relationships between Queensland and CAS researchers to facilitate the sharing and development of complementary expertise
- enable Queensland and Chinese researchers to undertake projects that address current and significant scientific challenges
- deliver real and tangible economic, social and/or environmental outcomes for Queensland and China through the creation of innovative products, technologies or processes that have a practical application
- capitalise on the complementary comparative advantages of Queensland and China and build a critical mass of internationally recognised science and research.

How much can I apply for?

It is anticipated that **two** Queensland recipients will be awarded grants of A\$125,000 (excluding GST) by the Queensland Government over a maximum of two years.

In addition, the CAS lead participant in the successful applications will receive A\$125,000 from CAS.

When can I apply?

The closing date for application is 27 February 2015 for projects starting between 1 July and 31 December 2015.

Eligibility criteria

The proposed project must create and/or enhance a research alliance between Queensland and China research organisations. In doing so, the project application must meet the eligibility criteria below:

- focus on one of the three identified priority areas
- have a lead applicant organisation that will be Queensland-based for the duration of the project, has an Australian Business Number and is registered for GST
- have a lead participant that will be a CAS-affiliated institute for the duration of the project
- involve a research organisation in Queensland (including higher education institutions, cooperative research centres, research institutes and relevant government agencies) and a research organisation funded by CAS
- have a cash contribution from the Queensland-based applicant of at least A\$75,000
- have a cash contribution from the eligible CAS-affiliated applicant (and any partner/s) of at least A\$75,000 to match the Queensland applicant (and any partner/s) contribution. (Total project value will be a minimum of A\$400,000 comprising A\$125,000 each from DSITIA and CAS and A\$75,000 each from the Queensland applicant and CAS lead participant.)

The application is ineligible if:

- the project is not a distinct activity/set of activities with specified start and end points, and aims and outcomes that are achievable within these specified points
- the lead Queensland-based applicant (and/or any Queensland partner/s) receives Queensland Government support for their core activities and it cannot be demonstrated that the proposed project is an addition to those core activities
- the activities carried out by partner organisation(s) are contract research activities, and do not involve genuine collaboration with the applicant organisation.

What can the funds be used for?

Funding may be used for the following eligible project costs:

- salary costs for project staff
- project consumables
- travel directly related to the project activities outlined in the submitted application.

Items not eligible for funding include:

- the direct cost of physical infrastructure including any buildings, land transportation, telecommunications and IT networks
- operational overheads
- travel for professional development or conference attendance
- costs associated with the on-going programs of work and/or core business of the applicant or partner organisation(s).

Queensland Government funding either must be expended wholly in Queensland, or if partly expended in the partnering jurisdiction, must directly support the Queensland research proponent (for example to cover costs to access specialised research equipment not available in Queensland).

Only eligible expenditure incurred on or after the project commencement date can be claimed by successful applicants.

Payment of grants will be made based on agreed periodic project milestones. A final milestone payment will be made upon the provision of documentary evidence that all project requirements have been satisfied, including evidence that total project expenditure has been incurred and project contributions made by all relevant parties.

How will applications be assessed?

Your application will undergo an initial assessment by a range of Queensland Government and independent science and research experts to determine an order of merit based on the following assessment criteria:

Level of novelty and scientific merit of the project (30% weighting)

- The science and research is addressing a current and significant challenge for both Queensland and China.
- Preliminary research has been undertaken (by the applicant, project partners or others) that supports the advancement of the project.

Quality of the collaboration and capability of the project team (30% weighting)

- Science and research partners with complementary areas of expertise will work together on a specific project.
- The project will build upon the competitive comparative advantages of Queensland and China.

- The participants have the research, scientific and management skills and experience, with the access to infrastructure and funding required, to successfully deliver the project.

Outcomes and impact of the project (40% weighting)

- The project will develop innovative products, technologies or processes that have a practical application within an area of identified priority.
- The project will deliver real and tangible economic, social, and/or environmental benefits for Queensland and China.

The final stage of the assessment process will be a review by a committee representing the Queensland Government and the science and innovation community. This committee will determine the applications to be recommended for funding, taking into account the order of merit and the following additional factors:

- balancing investment to support a diversity of capability across scientific disciplines, geographic regions and research groups
- value for money.

The Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts will approve successful applications.

Funding agreements

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a legally binding [financial incentive agreement](#) with the Queensland Government.

Ensure you have read and accept the terms and conditions of the financial incentive agreement, prior to submitting an application for funding, as they will not be negotiable at the time a funding offer is made.

Privacy

The Queensland Government collects and collates information from the application form to evaluate applications for the program. Only authorised departmental officers, approved grant assessors and the Science and innovation Advisory Council will have access to this information.

Applicants should note that broad details of successful proposals, agreed outcomes, progress and the level of funding awarded may be published by the Queensland

Government. Some information may be used to promote funded projects in the future.

Your personal information will not be disclosed to any other third party without your consent, unless required by law or for the purposes of the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

Support in preparing your application

Further information on CAS institutions can be found at: english.cas.cn/CASI/.

Further information

For more information please contact:



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Chinese partners can obtain further information from:



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