

**Measures on the Management of the Research Fund  
for International Young Scientists**

(Approved by the NSFC Council on December 8, 2014)

**Chapter 1. General Rules**

Article 1. These Measures are formulated in accordance with the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)' s Regulations (the Regulations) in order to standardize and strengthen the management of the Research Fund for International Young Scientists (the Fund).

Article 2. The Fund supports foreign young scientists to conduct basic research in mainland China with the aim to promote sustainable academic collaboration and exchanges among Chinese scholars and foreign young scientists.

Article 3. NSFC shall perform the following duties regarding the management of the Fund:

1. Develop and release the annual Call for Proposals (CFP)
2. Receive proposals
3. Organize reviews
4. Approve grants
5. Administer and supervise the implementation of the funded projects

Article 4. The use and management of budget of the Fund shall abide by relevant NSFC rules and regulations on the budget management.

**Chapter 2. Application and Reception**

Article 5. NSFC shall formulate the annual CFP for the Fund in accordance with its strategies, international (regional) cooperation policies and funding performance evaluation reports, while broadly heeding advice from external experts. The annual CFP shall be released 30 days before the starting reception day of the application.

Article 6. Foreign scientists of host institutions registered at NSFC are eligible to apply the Fund if they meet the following qualifications:

1. Less than 40 years old by January 1 of the year of application.
2. Have a Ph.D. degree.
3. Have experience of conducting basic research or postdoctoral research.
4. Guarantee full-time work at the host institutions during the project implementation period.
5. Abide by Chinese laws and relevant rules and regulations of the NSFC while doing research in China.

Article 7. The host institution should sign an agreement with the applicant. The agreement should include the following items:

- 1) The title of the research project and the expected outcomes.
- 2) The host institution should provide subsistence cost that covers the funding period, and provide the applicant with necessary working conditions.
- 3) The attribution of the intellectual property.

The host institution should designate a contact person to be responsible for providing consultation to the institution's applicants and assist project management such as the use of project funding.

Article 8. Application to the Fund is subject to relevant rules on the number of applications limited to an applicant in NSFC's annual Guide to Programs.

Article 9. The applicant to the Fund should be the actual principal investigator of the project. There should be only one principal investigator for each application and no participants are allowed for the application.

The duration of the Fund is either one year or two years.

Article 10. The applicant should apply through his/her host institution in accordance with requirements in the annual CFP. The applicant should fill out the application form in English and be responsible for the authenticity of the submitted application documents.

The host institution should check and review the application documents to make sure they are authentic and complete and submit all its application documents together to NSFC.

The applicant may list no more than three reviewers that he/she does not deem suitable to review his/her application.

Article 11. NSFC shall complete the preliminary examination on the application documents within 45 days after the submission deadline. NSFC shall publish the applications which meet the requirements in these Measures with the information of the names of the applicants, the host institutions and the titles of research projects. In case of any of the following circumstances, NSFC will not accept the application and will notify the applicant the reasons of the rejection through his/her host institution. The reasons may include:

1. The applicant fails to meet qualifications listed in the Measures.
2. The application documents fail to meet requirements of the CFP.
3. The application is submitted after the submission deadline.
4. The applicant is in the NSFC punishment period which prohibits the applicant to apply NSFC projects.
5. The host institution is in the NSFC punishment period which prohibits it from being a host institution.

### **Chapter 3. Review and Approval**

Article 12. NSFC shall organize peer reviewers to perform review on the accepted projects. The review may be in the form of mail review or panel review.

Article 13. Reviewers shall independently review the applications on the following aspects and provide their comments:

1. The applicant' s education background and the ability of conducting basic research.
2. The applicant' s career record and achievements in conducting basic research.

3. The originality, scientific value and expected outcome of the proposed research.

4. The feasibility of the proposed research plan and rationality of the budget.

Article 14. For mail review, NSFC shall randomly choose three or more reviewers from NSFC's reviewer database according to the application contents and relevant review requirements. Reviewers shall provide their comments timely according to the requirements.

NSFC shall give consideration to the list of unsuitable reviewers provided by the applicants while choosing reviewers for the application.

For each proposal, there should be three or more valid comments.

Article 15. For panel review, NSFC shall organize reviewers for a panel meeting. There should be nine or more panelists to be present at the panel.

NSFC shall provide the panelists with the annual funding plan and the application documents, etc.

The applications shall be voted with secret ballots among the panelists. Applications recommended to be funded shall have more than half of the ballots.

Article 16. NSFC shall decide the applications to be funded based on the stipulation of these Measures and the vote of the panelists.

Article 17. For an application to be funded, NSFC shall produce an award letter which contains the reviewers' comments and the funding amount and inform the applicant and the host institution in written form, and publish the basic information of the applicant, the name of the host institution, and the amount of the fund to be granted; in case it determines not to grant a fund, it shall timely inform the applicant and the host institution in written form, and explain the reasons.

NSFC shall edit the comments of the reviewers and provide them to the applicant and the host institution.

Article 18. If an applicant is not satisfied with the decision of refusing to accept his application or refusing to fund his/her project, he/she may submit a request for reexamination to NSFC in written form within 15 days upon receipt of the notification. The different opinions on the academic

judgment of reviewers as held by an applicant may not be deemed as the reasons for requesting the reexamination.

NSFC shall examine and investigate the request of reexamination in accordance with relevant rules and regulations.

Article 19. The review of the Fund is subject to NSFC' s relevant rules and regulations on avoidance and confidentiality.

#### **Chapter 4. Implementation and Management**

Article 20. For the projects to be funded, NSFC shall publish the project titles and names of host institutions for a period of 5 days, upon the expiration of which, the host institutions and the applicants are deemed to have received the funding decision.

The host institution should organize its grantees to fill out the Project Scheme (in two copies) in light with the requirement of the award letter and submit them to NSFC after check and examination within 20 days as of receiving the award letter.

NSFC shall check and examine the Project Scheme within 30 days upon receiving them and return one copy of the approved Project Scheme to the host institution. The project implementation, fund allocation, project examination and conclusion report shall be based on the approved Project Scheme.

The grantee should adjust application contents in accordance with the award letter and no other contents shall be changed.

Failing to submit the Project Scheme without explanation within the required period is deemed to give up the funding.

Article 21. The grantee shall implement the research work in light of the Project Scheme and make original records on the implementation of the funded project.

Article 22. NSFC shall perform random spot check on the implementation of the Fund.

Article 23. The grantee and host institution should not be changed during the funding period.

In case of any of the following circumstances occurs to the grantee, the host institution should timely submit an application to terminate the project for NSFC' s approval. NSFC may also directly make a decision concerning terminating the implementation of the funded project:

1. The grantee is no longer hosted by the host institution.
2. The grantee cannot continue the research work.
3. The grantee plagiarizes the scientific research achievements of someone else or resorts to fraud in scientific research.

Article 24. Where it is necessary to make major adjustments to the research contents or research plans during the implementation of a funded project, the grantee shall timely submit an application, and apply to NSFC for approval upon examination of the host institution.

Article 25. Where due to objective causes a project cannot be completed on time, the grantee may apply to extend the implementation period for once, which cannot be longer than half a year.

The grantee should submit the application 60 days before the expiration of the approved funding period upon examination of the host institution.

Article 26. The grantee may apply for a renewal of the Fund for once according to the needs of research. The grantee should submit the application 60 days before the expiration of the approved funding period.

The renewal of the Fund can be one year or two years in implementation period.

Article 27. The application requirements, review procedures, funding decision and project implementation and management of the renewal of the Fund shall be subjected to Articles 6 to 25.

Article 28. In case of circumstances in Article 23, Article 24 and Article 25 in these Measures, where a decision of approval, disapproval or termination is made, NSFC shall notify the host institution and the grantee timely.

Article 29. The grantee should submit a conclusion report and the final accounts of grant through the host institution within 60 days as of the expiration of the funded project. In case of a funded project that obtains research achievements, a research achievement report should be submitted

at the same time. The grantee should be responsible for the authenticity of these conclusion documents.

The host institution should check and examine the conclusion documents for authenticity and completeness and submit them to NSFC together.

For those fail to submit conclusion reports and final accounts of the grant on time, NSFC shall instruct them to submit the documents within 10 days and handle them as appropriate.

Article 30. NSFC shall examine the conclusion documents within 90 days as of receiving the documents. For those that meet the conclusion qualification, NSFC shall approve the conclusion of the project and notify the host institution and the grantee in written form.

In case of any of the following circumstances, it shall be instructed to make amends and be handled as appropriate:

1. The submitted conclusion documents are incomplete or fail to follow necessary procedures.
2. The submitted final accounts of the grant fail to follow necessary procedures or fail to meet the filling-out requirements.
3. Other circumstances that are not up to NSFC' s requirement.

Article 31. NSFC shall publish the approved conclusion reports, research achievement reports and abstract of the funded projects.

Article 32. Published research achievements of the Fund should acknowledge the NSFC funding as required by relevant NSFC rules and regulations on the management of its research achievements.

Article 33. Attribution, usage and transfer of intellectual properties from the research of the Fund shall be subjected to relevant laws and regulations in China.

## Chapter 5. Supplementary Rules

Article 34. These Measures shall enter into force as of January 1, 2015. The *Pilot Implementation Plan of the Research Fund for International Young Scientists* published in 2009 shall be repealed on the same date.