



Call for Proposals

Between the **NATIONAL NATURAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION OF CHINA (NSFC)**
and the **Portuguese FUNDAÇÃO PARA A CIÊNCIA E A TECNOLOGIA (FCT)**

1. General Information

In the framework of the **WORK PLAN FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL NATURAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION OF CHINA (NSFC) AND THE PORTUGUESE FUNDAÇÃO PARA A CIÊNCIA E A TECNOLOGIA (FCT)**, signed in July 2015, both institutions launch a call for proposals for joint research projects.

Each research project proposal must involve cooperation between at least two research groups, one of which must be a Chinese partner and another one must be a Portuguese partner, under a joint research plan.

Applications should be submitted until **29th February 2016, by 16:00 (Lisbon time)**.

2. Eligibility

2.1. Through FCT

Applicants may apply, individually or in association, from the following entities research teams:

- a) Institutions of higher education, their institutes and R&D centres;
- b) Associated Laboratories;
- c) State Laboratories;
- d) Private non-profit institutions whose main object are activities of Science and Technology;
- e) Companies that are part of projects led by R&D institutions of public or private non-profit;
- f) Other public and private institutions, non-profit, which carry out or participate in scientific research activities.

2.2. Through NSFC

Chinese applicants will follow NSFC regulations for eligibility, available at <http://www.nsf.gov.cn/publish/portal0/tab87/info51378.htm>.

3. Research area

FCT and NSFC decided that for each call for proposals launched jointly, a different scientific field would be promoted. For first call, it was established that the proposals should be in the scientific field of **Marine Sciences**.



Proposals which will be accepted in this call:

- ☒ Deep sea and oceans systems
- ☒ Estuarine, littoral and coastal systems
- ☒ Marine biotechnology, fisheries and aquaculture
- ☒ Energy and marine technologies

4. Submission of applications

4.1. Applicants must fill in the **Application Form** which should be submitted in English. It should be presented as a unique research project with the required documents requested.

4.2. Applications submitted to FCT should follow the national rules for the funding of scientific and technological research projects (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/projectos/regulamento>) as regards: beneficiaries, general conditions for admission and acceptance of projects, eligible and ineligible costs, evaluation and selection criteria.

4.3. Documents requested by FCT

Applications should be submitted with a **Declaration of Commitment** duly completed, signed by the Principal Investigator and, in legal terms, by the Portuguese beneficiary institutions.

4.4. Submission of applications

4.4.1. The proposal, drawn up jointly, must be submitted to the FCT by the Portuguese Principal Investigator and to NSFC by the Chinese Principal Researcher.

4.4.2. Portuguese applicants should download the **Application Form** and send it, in pdf format, to FCT, olga.dias@fct.pt, and the Chinese applicants should apply to NSFC online submission system: <http://isisn.nsf.gov.cn/>.

4.4.3. Applications which are not submitted to both institutions shall not be considered.

4.4.4. Proposals submitted by any other means will not be accepted.

Submissions after the deadline will not be considered.

5. Evaluation

5.1. Proposals will be evaluated through a competitive process that will consider the scientific merit and the relevance of the proposal, using *peer review* system, conducted by FCT and NSFC independently and respectively.

5.2. From FCT side, the evaluation will be performed by an international evaluation panel.



5.3. After evaluation, a Joint Committee Meeting between FCT and NSFC will decide which proposals will be funded.

5.4. Applications will be excluded from the call for proposals if they do not follow national rules.

6. Funding

6.1. FCT, through the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education, is responsible for the funding of institutions and Portuguese researchers involved in joint teams, and NSFC will take over the funding of researchers from China.

6.2. FCT will provide the overall amount of €300,000 for Portuguese teams. Three proposals are expected to be funded. The maximum budget for Portuguese research institutions for each project will be €100,000 for a period of three years. NSFC will provide matching funding for co-funding of up to three projects, with three years duration.

6.3. The duration for funding of joint bilateral projects is limited to thirty-six months, non extendable.

6.4. Portuguese Principal Investigators whose projects are selected for funding should sign the Terms of Acceptance in accordance with the General Regulation in force in FCT. Portuguese institutions should follow the national rules, namely the Regulations Governing Access to Scientific Research Project Finance and Technological Development-2010.

6.5. National applicants approved for funding will be invited to formally submit in the FCT site the respective project and budget.

7. Reporting Final Results

The final results will be announced through written communication to the Portuguese Principal Investigators, on the FCT website (www.fct.pt) and on the NSFC website (<http://www.nsf.gov.cn>).

8. Contract of selected projects

Portuguese Principal Investigators of selected proposals should sign an Acceptance Agreement as well as, in legal terms, the Principal Contractors and the Participating Institutions.

9. Grant Cancellation

FCT or NSFC may cancel financial support if a fact of sufficient gravity occurs, that forces the cancellation of funding, without prejudice to other applicable provisions, as set out in their national regulations.

10. Complaints and information

Candidates who do not complain the terms of this call until the second day prior to the deadline set for the submission of proposals lose the right to do so.



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MINISTÉRIO DA CIÊNCIA, TECNOLOGIA E ENSINO SUPERIOR

11. Proposed Timetable

28 th December 2015	Call for Proposals
29 th February 2016	Deadline for Submission of proposals
March - April 2016	Independent evaluation
July 2016	Joint Committee Meeting
January 2017	Start of joint research activities

12. Contacts

For specific information related to the application submission, please contact

- ✉ Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)
Olga Dias (olga.dias@fct.pt)

- ✉ National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
(<http://www.nsf.gov.cn>)