



NSFC - FRQS Research Program on Cancer

Program category: International collaborations

DEADLINES

Submission of the Letter of registration (Québec researchers only):

February 1st, 2016 4:30 p.m. (Montréal time)

Submission of the Full Application:

April 6th, 2016 4:30 p.m. (Montréal time) or 4:00 p.m. (Beijing time)

Contacts :
<p>NSFC:</p> <p>Deputy Division Director Xiuping Liu +86 10 62325377 liuxp@nsfc.gov.cn</p>
<p>FRQS:</p> <p>Program Manager Manon Pelletier 514 873-2114 extension 1243 manon.pelletier@frq.gouv.qc.ca</p>

The purpose of this call for proposals is to support innovative international research projects focusing on cancer, involving researchers from China and Québec. It will encourage major scientific breakthroughs in the short and medium terms by combining and potentiating the strengths, expertise and sources of structural leverage of both countries, as well as fostering knowledge translation.

This call for proposals is led jointly by:

- National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
- Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS)

NSFC and FRQS will act jointly as the call secretariat for proposals.

The conditions and requirements specific to each research funding agency (referred in blue in this document) are available in the Toolbox of this page and on the agencies' websites.



PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Priority themes	<p>For this program, the following themes have been prioritized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immuno-oncology • Tumor microenvironment • Novel therapeutics and personalized medicine
Objectives	<p>The aim of this program is to generate knowledge in order to better understand and treat cancer diseases.</p> <p>Projects should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be related to fundamental and/or translational research • Bring together researchers from a variety of disciplines, areas of expertise and research settings, and with an array of approaches • Cover fields where the interests and strengths of the researchers are already proven <p>The project will have to be structured in such a way to lead to a new added value that the researchers, funded by each of the two research funding agencies, could not achieve on their own.</p>

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Conditions	<p>Structure of the research team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (2) co-principal investigators (one from China and one from Québec) that will represent the project and will be responsible of the management of the application as well as of the project's internal scientific management with regards to their respective agency and members of the team • 4 co-investigators or more (a minimum of 2 co-investigators from China and 2 co-investigators from Québec) • Up to 8 collaborators • Research teams applying to this call for proposals must consist of researchers working in eligible institutions under the conditions and requirements of the relevant research funding agency (see below for more details) <p>NSFC and FRQS strongly recommend including young researchers among the co-investigators.</p> <p>All researchers must adequately demonstrate that they are actively collaborating or will actively collaborate to the proposed project and specify the amount of time they will allocate to the project.</p> <p>The co-principal investigator must demonstrate that he/she will devote a sufficient amount of research time to the project to ensure its success.</p> <p>Research team multidisciplinary will be considered an asset.</p>
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In Québec:

This call is open to:

- Principal Investigator or co-investigator(s) with the status of independent investigators or independent clinical investigators, as defined in annex 1c of the FRQ [Common General Rules](#), and working in a university or an institution in the health and social services network
- Postdoctoral trainees cannot apply to this program as co-principal investigators or co-investigators

In addition, the principal investigator and the co-investigators must:

- Be affiliated with a Québec university
- Be Canadian citizens or permanent residents (as defined in section 2.1 of the FRQ [Common General Rules](#) and domiciled in Québec
- Collaborators may be from outside Québec. However, no funds will be transferred outside the province

Basic training in ethics:

Basic training in research ethics is mandatory for all FRQS awardees when their research project involves human subjects.

The term "research project involving human subjects" applies when the research project involves:

- Living human subjects
- Cadavers, human remains, tissues, biological fluids, gametes, embryos or fetuses, cells or genetic materials
- Personal information on file. Personal information is defined as information that enables a person to be identified

Awardees must successfully complete levels 1 and 3 of the [Online Tutorial in Research Ethics](#) set out by the *Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux* (MSSS).

Following the awarding of the grant by the FRQS, PIs and co-investigators must complete the training and provide to FRQS the proof of their successful completion of the program before receiving the first payment of their grant.

In China:

This call is open to:

- Principle Investigator or co-investigator(s) with the status of independent investigators or independent clinical investigators, and working in a university or an institution which has been registered at NSFC
- Postdoctoral trainees cannot apply to this program as co-principal investigators or co-investigators

In addition, the principal investigator must:

- Have a senior academic title



- Be a grantee of current or former NSFC research project
 - Not exceed the limit of number of NSFC projects in a certain year. Please refer to NSFC website regarding the eligibility requirements.
- WSC: [NSFC eligibility requirements](#)

Multiple applications Researchers may only submit one application to this program as a co-principal investigator or co-investigator.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS –LETTER OF REGISTRATION (FOR QUÉBEC RESEARCHERS ONLY)

Transmission of the documents:

All the documents described below should be sent by email to [Manon Pelletier](#), program manager at FRQS. The documents should be attached into one (1) PDF document.

Québec Co-Principal investigator

NOTE: The letter of registration must be submitted by the Québec co-principal investigator to the FRQS only

- Application form
- **Canadian Common CV , Funding CV version** for the FRQS (updated), for the Québec principal co-investigator
- Detailed contributions (attachment required through the **FRQS Electronic Portfolio** on the **Canadian Common CV** page) , consult the [Guidelines for the CV attachment](#) available in the toolbox
- Names and affiliations of the Chinese principal co-investigator and of co-investigators from Québec and China

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS – COMPLETE APPLICATION

Transmission of the documents:

In Québec:

All documents described below should be saved on a memory stick and sent by courier to Manon Pelletier at FRQS (see complete address in the contact information section at the end of this document). CVs of all researchers (including the detailed contributions) should be attached into one (1) PDF document, one after the other. Biographical sketches of researchers from China should also be included. The courier receipt will be considered as proof of the date of sending.

In China:

A matching Call for Proposals will be released on the NSFC website. Chinese co-principal investigators should log onto the NSFC ISIS system and fill out and submit an application form online, as well as send a printed copy of the application form and all the documents required by courier to the address listed in the Chinese CFP. The courier receipt will be considered as proof of the date of sending.



NOTE: one single application form must be submitted to both agencies

Co-Principal Investigators	<p>Please follow the instructions above to send the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form • CVs of the two co-principal investigators (in the format prescribed by the research funding agencies) • Detailed contributions (attachment required through the FRQS Electronic Portfolio on the Canadian Common CV page) , consult the Guidelines for the CV attachment available in the toolbox (for the Québec researchers only)
Co-Investigators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVs of all co-investigators (in the format prescribed by the research funding agencies) • Detailed contributions (attachment required through the FRQS Electronic Portfolio on the Canadian Common CV page) , consult the Guidelines for the CV attachment available in the toolbox (for the Québec researchers only)

TERM OF THE GRANT

Term	<p>Up to three years, not renewable</p> <p>A maximum of four (4) projects will be funded.</p>
Effective date	July 1st, 2016

AMOUNT OF THE GRANT

Amount	<p>FRQS will provide CAD\$1.5 M total to the program (up to \$375,000 per project for three (3) years).</p> <p>NSFC will provide RMB 12M total (RMB 3M per project for three (3) years).</p>
Source	<p>Awardees from Québec will be funded by FRQS.</p> <p>Awardees from China will be funded by NSFC.</p>
Indirect research costs	<p>For Québec researchers:</p> <p>The grants awarded under this program are eligible to receive an additional amount to cover indirect costs of research of the institutions. The details on indirect costs of research reimbursement will be available at the time of the granting.</p> <p>For Chinese researchers:</p> <p>The grants awarded under this program are eligible to receive an additional amount to</p>



cover indirect costs of research of the institutions. The amount of indirect costs is calculated automatically based on the direct costs.

Funding and management rules

Grants will be administered in accordance with the research funding agencies' respective general rules. Applicants are subject to the general rules of the research funding agency that will provide funding.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Eligible expenses, such as salaries, research material, equipment, other project-related expenditures, as well as travel expenses, are subject to the rules and regulations of the research funding agency that will provide funding.

In addition to the list of eligible and non-eligible expenses detailed in section 8 of the FRQ Common General Rules, and in the section of the NSFC funding rules, the following expenses are eligible:

- Remuneration of students (master and Ph.D.) and postdoctoral fellows
- Research material (including purchasing and housing for animals) and all other expenses required to carry out the research project, conditional upon adequate justification in the proposal budget
- Expenses to acquire or rent equipment including maintenance contracts for common services and shared facilities, conditional upon adequate justification in the proposal budget
- Fees and reimbursements of travel expenses for research human subjects (if applicable)
- Costs related to knowledge translation and transfer to users (notably, other researchers, the general public, practitioners, policy-makers and industry) based on the need for the research program
- Translation costs
- Coordination-related costs: project administration (office supplies, reproduction of documents) and reasonable and clearly justified travel expenses for attending joint meetings

For Québec only:

- Salaries for research affiliates/assistants, research professionals, technicians, computer specialists, health professionals other than physicians, and other personnel who will enhance the collaborative research productivity of the team
- Participation to conferences (up to 3% per annual grant, as of the second year of the grant)

For China only:

- NSFC will not fund salaries of the researchers who already have their salaries paid by the home institutes
- Participation to conferences is allowed as of the first year of the grant



EVALUATION

Letter of registration	The letter of registration serves to:
For Québec researchers only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the eligibility of the applicants, particularly for the co-principal investigators, upon the criteria of each agency (if applicable) • Evaluate the relevance of the application based on program objectives • Constitute a peer review committee of members with relevant expertise <p>The admissibility of the Québec investigators will be established by the FRQS. A list of all the Chinese investigators will be provided by email to the NSFC who will confirm their eligibility.</p> <p>Only applicants whose letters of registration are accepted will be asked by the FRQS, by e-mail, to submit a complete application.</p>
Complete application	The complete applications will be evaluated by a peer review committee composed of international experts from clinical and scientific institutions chosen by the FRQS and the NSFC according to the rules in effect for the constitution of review committees.
Evaluation criteria	<p>Research project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originality and innovative aspects of the project • Compliance with the priority themes • Clarity of the objectives and scientific excellence of the project <p>Research team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific quality and track records of the researchers • Complementarity of the researchers' expertise and multidisciplinary • Added value of the collaboration involving researchers from China and Québec <p>Feasibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realism, significance and rigour in defining the structure of the project and the expected results, as well as in determining milestones • Realism of the schedule and relevance of the follow-up indicators • Scientific and technical feasibility of the project, choice of methods <p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of the project in terms of knowledge and skills acquisition • Impacts of the project on the development of new concepts and models, instruments, approaches and methods • Proposed strategy for knowledge translation (towards the scientific community)



and the general public)

Budget

- Adequate budget justification in the proposal

RESEARCH OUTCOMES AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Submission of reports

In accepting the grant, the applicants agree to submit:

- Annual scientific and financial progress reports following the rules and by the deadlines determined by their respective funding agency
- Final financial report to their respective agency
- Joint final scientific report required at the end of the term of the grant to both funding agencies

**Use and dissemination of the results
by partners**

Applicants authorize the two research funding agencies to use final report and published research outputs (scientific publications, conferences, symposia, conventions or e-publication) for reproduction, translation, execution or public extension purposes through whatever means or for any other non-commercial purposes, provided there is no infringement of copyright law.

APPLICANT'S AGREEMENT

In Québec:

In submitting an application, the applicant must:

- Comply with the obligations outlined in the [Common General Rules](#), the [Policy regarding open access to published research outputs](#) of the FRQS as well as conditions and requirements outlined in this program description
- Transmit additional files linked to the grant, if requested by the FRQS
- Comply with the ethics and integrity standards outlined in the FRQS document [Standards en éthique de la recherche et d'intégrité scientifique](#) and in the [Policy for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) of the Fonds de recherche du Québec.
- Authorize the FRQS to retain and use the personal and scientific information included in the application documents, in keeping with the terms outlined in the document [Accès aux documents et protection des renseignements personnels](#) and provided that the people who are granted access to the information respect its confidentiality

In China:

In submitting an application, the applicant must:

- Comply with the obligations outlined in NSFC's annual Guide to Programs
- Comply with the requirements outlined in the Regulations on the Management of



International (Regional) Cooperation Programs of NSFC

- Authorize the NSFC to retain and use the personal and scientific information included in the application documents provided that the people who are granted access to the information respect its confidentiality

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Sharing of intellectual property rights and user rights must comply with the rules of the two research funding agencies.

CONTACT INFORMATION

<p>In Québec:</p>	<p>Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé NSFC – FRQS Research program on Cancer a / s Manon Pelletier 500 Sherbrooke Ouest – bureau 800 Montréal, QC, Canada H3A 3C6 manon.pelletier@frq.gouv.qc.ca</p>
<p>In China:</p>	<p>National Natural Science Foundation of China Xiuping Liu Deputy Division Director Division of American and Australasian Affairs, Bureau of International Cooperation 83 Shuangqing Road, Haidian District Beijing 100085, China liuxp@nsfc.gov.cn</p>

PARTNERS

<p>China</p>	<p>National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)</p>
<p>Québec</p>	<p>Fonds de Recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS)</p>