



“Sheng 1”: Polish-Chinese Funding Initiative

Call for proposals 2018

1. Introduction

In order to strengthen international academic co-operation, wishing to fund high quality scientific research within their own countries, and conscious that some of the best research can be delivered by working with the best researchers internationally, the National Science Centre (NCN) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) are launching the first call for proposals within the joint funding initiative “Sheng”.

The partner agencies will conduct parallel peer review and selection processes. Funding will be distributed according to the funding rules of each individual agency.

Funding within this initiative will be available for collaborative research projects involving researchers from both partner countries. Projects must have well-defined joint working programmes, demonstrating clearly the added value of international collaboration. It is expected that each partner contributes substantially to the common project; this includes taking organisational responsibilities. The division of responsibilities should also be reflected in the amount of funds requested by each partner.

Only proposals involving [basic research](#)¹ (knowledge-oriented research) may be submitted.

2. Disciplines covered

Researchers are invited to submit proposals in all fields of the Natural, Life, Management, Engineering sciences, Economics and Psychology.

For Polish applicants: for comparison of NCN and NSFC panels, please refer to the [comparison of NCN and NSFC panels](#). Please note that this comparison serves for auxiliary

¹Basic research is defined as experimental or theoretical endeavours undertaken to gain new knowledge of the foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct commercial use.

purposes only. Please note that subject classification in the NCN and NSFC shall be coherent.

Applicants who are uncertain of whether their proposal would be eligible should contact the relevant agency for clarification.

3. Eligibility

- All research projects must comprise researchers from the two participating countries and must focus on **substantive research and feature an integrated work programme**. Scientific infrastructure or networking activities can only be funded within projects with a substantive research focus (not as stand-alone projects).
- **All budget items must conform to the national rules** relevant for each applicant. Applicants must note that NCN and NSFC retain the right to reject proposals which fail to comply with the procedures set out in the respective guidelines. If a proposal is deemed ineligible by one national agency, the complete project will be rejected by both agencies.
- If a proposal **has been submitted to any other call** or funding line of NCN, NSFC or any other funding agency, this must be clearly stated in the proposal. Please also check the respective national agency's rules regarding submission of a project to more than one scheme.
- For **Polish applicants**: grants that are considered state aid will not be awarded.
- A Principal Investigator (PI) may submit only one proposal under the same call.
- Joint proposals must be **written in English** using the joint project description template and the template of the CV and the publication list (except for sections/documents specified explicitly in the call documentation)². The Chinese applicant has to prepare an additional Chinese version of the proposal to be submitted to NSFC, with the English version of the proposal attached.
- Joint Polish-Chinese research projects should be **36 months** in duration.

² As for language requirements, please also check the respective national agency's rules regarding submission to the OSF and the NSFC electronic submission system concerning the Sheng call.

- Research projects on the Polish side must start within the period between 1 June 2019 and 31 October 2019. On the Chinese side, the projects start on 1 July 2019.

4. Applicants

Each joint research project must consist of one Polish and one Chinese research team. Each team must be led by one PI and hosted by an eligible Host Institution in Poland and in China.

The Polish PI must hold at least a PhD degree when submitting a proposal.

Eligible Host Institutions in Poland: academic or research organisations, research consortia, research networks and organisational units within institutions of higher education that do not constitute their basic organisational units, research centres of the Polish Academy of Sciences, academic research centres shared by higher education institutions, scientific libraries, other legal entities established in the territory of the Republic of Poland.

For the eligibility criteria to be fulfilled by the Chinese PI and the Chinese host institution, please refer to NSFC rules: <http://www.nsf.gov.cn/nsfc/cen/xmzn/2018xmzn/ysbb.html>

5. Budget and eligible costs

General requirements

- All costs must be eligible according to the national eligibility requirements.
- At NCN, only costs for the Polish share of projects are eligible according to the [regulations of NCN](#).
- At NSFC, only costs for the Chinese share of the projects are eligible according to the [regulations of NSFC](#).
- The EUR budgets of the Polish and Chinese teams, together with the justification of all costs requested, shall be included in the Joint Project Description (for this purpose Polish applicants shall fill out sections: V.1 and V.3 of the JPD and the Chinese applicants: V.2 and V.4).

Country specific requirements

Poland

- Additionally, Polish applicants must provide the PLN budget in section F (Kosztorys projektu badawczego) in the ZSUN/OSF submission system. The latter shall contain the expenses to be incurred by the Polish team.
- No information relating to the Chinese team share shall be provided in the ZSUN/OSF system.
- Expenses and the EUR costs of the project implemented by the Polish applicants provided in the Joint Project Description must equal the budget provided in the breakdown of project's costs in the ZSUN/OSF (section F). Severe discrepancies between the EUR budgets in JPD and PLN budgets in ZSUN/OSF will lead to the proposal's rejection.
- The EUR costs in the JPD must be calculated based on the EUR exchange rate as in Annex no. 2 to Resolution No. 52/2018 of the Council of the NCN of 7th June 2018, Types of Costs in research projects funded by the National Science Centre in the SHENG call (namely: 1 EUR= 4,2634 PLN).
- The PLN costs in the ZSUN/OSF must be rounded down to total values and EUR costs in the JPD rounded down to two decimal places.
- The budget of the Polish part of the project must be at least **250,000 PLN; there is no maximum limit for the Polish part of the project.**
- Please note that since the Polish part of the project budget cannot be negotiated at any point after the submission of the proposal, an excessive budget may lead to the proposal's rejection.
- For more information for Polish Applicants please see "[Information for Applicants](#)".

China

- Chinese applicants must provide the budget in RMB together with a detailed justification in the Chinese version of proposal via the NSFC system.
- The budget of the Chinese part of the project must not exceed 1,500,000 RMB.

For more details on Chinese cost eligibility please refer to:
<http://www.nsf.gov.cn/publish/portal0/tab434/module1146/more.htm>

6. Submission of proposals

The joint proposals (consisting of the joint project descriptions and the CVs together with publication lists) must be submitted **online** to **both agencies' respective submission systems**, together with all necessary documents conforming to the formal requirements of the respective funding organisation set out in the call documentation. Submitted joint proposals must be identical; a project will be rejected if the joint proposals submitted to the two agencies differ.

For Polish applicants:

- Polish applicants are requested to submit complete joint proposals online to the ZSUN/OSF submission system which can be found at <https://osf.opi.org.pl>.
- A complete joint proposal consists of the joint project description in English and the CVs of the Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators in English together with publication lists (prepared in accordance with the templates provided in the call documentation), as well as information required in the proposal and the attachments to the application (set out in [Annex no. 3](#) to the Resolution No. 52/2018 of the Council of the NCN of 7th June 2018). Data included in the OSF system should be consistent with data included in the joint proposal (prepared in accordance with the templates provided in the call documentation).
- For more information please consult:
<https://ncn.gov.pl/ogloszenia/konkursy/sheng1?language=en>
- **The deadline for online submission to the ZSUN/OSF system is 17 September 2018, 0:00 midnight (CEST).**

For Chinese applicants:

- Chinese applicants are requested to submit complete joint proposals online to the NSFC submission system which can be found at <http://isisn.nsf.gov.cn/egrantweb/>.
- Chinese applicants are kindly requested to conform to all the requirements listed in the Chinese call for proposals that is published on the NSFC website.
- Chinese applicants are requested to prepare Chinese version of the proposal and submit it to NSFC submission system. Data included in the Chinese version of the

proposal must be consistent with data included in the joint proposal (prepared in accordance with the templates provided in the call documentation).

- The Chinese applicant is also required to submit a hard copy of the Chinese and English versions of the proposal and a copy of the collaboration agreement between the Chinese PI and the Polish PI.
- **The deadline for online submission to the NSFC submission system is 17 September 2018, 4:00 PM (CST).**

Proposals received after the deadline will not be eligible.

7. Evaluation procedure

- 1) All proposals will be reviewed by both organisations separately. Support will be granted to those proposals where both NCN and NSFC recommend funding.
- 2) The applicants' and projects' eligibility will be checked by both NCN and NSFC for the Polish and Chinese sides, respectively. The merit-based evaluation is open only to proposals approved as eligible by both agencies.
- 3) As a general rule, each proposal will be assessed by at least two external reviewers at NCN and at least five external reviewers at NSFC.
- 4) At NCN, at the second review stage of the merit-based evaluation, each proposal will be evaluated by expert panels. The panels will consist of recognised researchers from the relevant disciplines who are familiar with the NCN decision-making procedures.
- 5) For the details of the NCN evaluation procedure, please refer to: https://ncn.gov.pl/sites/default/files/pliki/SHENG1_resolution_no_52_2018.pdf
- 6) For the details of the NSFC evaluation procedure, please refer to NSFC rules.

8. Criteria

All project proposals will be assessed against three sets of criteria: 1) academic merits of the research project, 2) qualification of the research team members 3) feasibility of the project.

1) Academic merits of the research project

- Innovative nature of the project
- Impact of the research project on advances in the academic discipline and international cooperation
- Scientific level of the objectives and work programme
- Integrated approach of the project
- Project management, including risk management
- Added value of bilateral cooperation

2) Qualification of the Research Team members

- Research portfolio of the research team members
- Relevant preliminary work
- Previous international cooperation

3) Feasibility of the project (budget, research facilities and infrastructure)

- Feasibility of the project
- Appropriateness of project's budget

9. Notification of results

Applicants will be informed of the results of the review and, where applicable, of the following administrative steps according to the national regulations, respectively. The selection of the projects will be completed by the end of March 2019.

10. Tentative Timeline

15 June 2018	Launch of the call for proposals
17 September 2018	Submission deadline
End of October 2018	Results of eligibility check
November 2018 – end of February 2019	Peer-review

March 2019	Announcement of the results
1 June 2019 – 31 October 2019	Start of joint research projects on the Polish side
1 July 2019	Start of joint research projects on the Chinese side

11. Call documents

- 1) *Call Text* (this document)
- 2) *Joint Project Description Template*
- 3) *CV and publication list template*
- 4) *Evaluation Sheets for Reviewers (NCN Evaluation Sheet and NSFC Evaluation Sheet Template)*

For Polish applicants only: all relevant documents can be found on the [NCN website](#).

For Chinese applicants only: all relevant documents can be found on the [NSFC website](#).

12. Contact

<p>POLAND, NCN:</p> <p>Natural Sciences: Dr Marta Buchalska e-mail: marta.buchalska@ncn.gov.pl tel. : + 48 12 341 9158</p> <p>Life Sciences: Dr Jerzy Frączek e-mail: jerzy.fraczek@ncn.gov.pl tel. : +48 12 341 9165</p> <p>Social Sciences: Dr Katarzyna Jarecka - Stępień e-mail: katarzyna.jarecka-stepien@ncn.gov.pl tel.: +48 12 341 9160</p> <p>General inquiries:</p> <p>Dr Magdalena Godowska e-mail: magdalena.godowska@ncn.gov.pl tel.: +48 12 341 9016</p> <p>Dr Aneta Pazik email: aneta.pazik@ncn.gov.pl tel.: +48 12 341 9017</p>	<p>CHINA, NSFC:</p> <p>Dr. LI Wencong Email: liwc@nsfc.gov.cn Tel: 86 10 62327014</p>
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Information about the principles of processing personal data

National Science Centre with its registered office in Krakow at ul. Królewska 57, 30-081 Kraków („the Centre”) as the controller of your personal data hereby informs that:

- a) the Centre’s designated Data Protection Officer can be contacted via electronic mail at iod@ncn.gov.pl, by phone at +48 12 341 9113 or directly at the registered office of the data controller;
- b) the Centre processes personal data based on Article 6(1)(c) of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) in conjunction with Article 20 of the Act of 30 April 2010 on the National Science Centre (consolidated text Journal of Laws of 2018, item 947);
- c) personal data will be processed for the purpose of evaluation of the proposal for funding of a research project and, if funding is granted for its completion, for the purpose of supervision, financial and accounting operations, audits performed in the course of and after the completion of the project, evaluation of implementation and settlement of the funding agreement. In addition, personal data will be processed for the purpose of evaluating the Centre’s own tasks, reporting, dissemination of the information on the Centre’s calls for proposals throughout the scientific community, implementation of other activities regulated by the generally applicable laws and for archiving purposes;
- d) personal data will be processed for the period necessary to achieve the purposes indicated in point c) and to investigate possible related claims, for the period required by generally applicable laws and for the period of storage as defined by the Centre’s records management procedures and the Uniform File Classification System;
- e) provision of personal data is a statutory requirement and without their disclosure the purposes described in point c) cannot be achieved;
- f) the recipients of your personal data may only be entities authorised to collect personal data based on the generally applicable provisions of law;
- g) personal data may be transferred for processing to third party companies or individuals commissioned to provide services. Such third parties process data based on personal data transfer contracts and are also obliged to keep the data being processed confidential;
- h) the data subject has the right to access their personal data, correct their personal data and restrict the processing of their personal data;
- i) the data subject has the right to lodge a complaint with the President of the Office of Personal Data Protection if they consider that the processing of their personal data does not comply with the General Data Protection Regulation.