

Q&A – Frequently asked questions:

1. Can applicants choose in which year they will go to the People's Republic of China?

The candidates choose on their own about the year of the application. This program provides for Serbian researchers 50 positions, and what matters is that the chosen candidate should enter PRC within the 6 months period from the moment of receiving the confirmation on approval.

2. For some researchers, it may be difficult to decide right away whether to stay for 6 months or 1 year. Is there any flexibility to decide or modify the length of stay after arriving in China?

The period of staying in PRC must be previously defined due to PRC partner plan of capacities. In principle, the execution period cannot be changed after the project approval.

3. Can applicants receive more details about the financial support during their stay in the People's Republic of China? (Does it approximately cover the cost of living, including accommodation, food, and local transportation?)

Provided monthly allowances are 20000 CNY (approximately 2500 euros) per person that cover cost of accommodation, food, local transportation, international travel expenses, insurance, etc. Additional funding (such as housing rental) from Chinese partner institutions is not included here. That sum is enough for mentioned costs.

4. Are the costs of the round-trip airfare to and from the People's Republic of China covered?

Costs of the round-trip airfare to and from the People's Republic of China is included in the monthly allowance, unless partner institutions are willing to cover part of the international travel costs.

5. What services are covered by health insurance during the stay in the People's Republic of China?

Health insurance is purchased by individual candidates. Candidates can choose different health insurances to get their preferred services. Since health insurance can provide important health protection and significantly reduce their financial risk of falling ill while in China, it is highly recommended to purchase health insurance or personal accident insurance.

6. Is there any assistance during the first month of the stay in China, such as a contact person to help with everyday life questions (e.g., assistance with finding accommodation if it is not provided)?

The contact person will be provided after the arrival to PRC. The Chinese partner institutions are willing to provide necessary assistance (including assistance with finding accommodation) to enable the foreign scientists to adapt to working and living in China as soon as possible.

7. Can applicants receive more information about the institution where they will carry out their activities and the contact details of a person they could reach out to before leaving for China?

More information regarding the institution and contact person will be provided after the arrival to PRC. The candidates can also obtain more info by searching the websites of partner institutions.

8. Will the researchers be assigned a mentor, and what are the mentor's responsibilities?

Please contact your partner institutions on this matter. The Chinese partner institutions are responsible for the formulation of the research and work plan of foreign scientists, but whether to fix the team and fix the mentor is decided by the institutions. The institutions are going to facilitate to the candidate in the fields regarding the cultural gap, language barrier and other issues.

9. Is there support for optional Chinese language learning during the stay in the People's Republic of China?

The Chinese language learning is not provided. If candidate wants to learn the language, it can do it on their own. The institution can support the candidate if that is the subject of mutual arrangement.

10. What are the possibilities for researchers to participate in events organized by other researchers from other institutions during their stay? (e.g., attending conferences and seminars, and are the costs for these activities covered?)

That is the subject of the mutual agreement of the research institution and the candidate.

11. Can researchers bring family members with them, and if so, is there any visa or residency support, as well as assistance with finding daycare for children, if needed?

The answer is positive. The candidates are supposed to inform previously the institution in PRC as well the consular sector at the PRC Embassy.

Questions asked by Info day's participants

1. How detail should be motivational letter?

The motivational letter should not be too detailed. The aim of the motivational letter is to single out the candidate taking into account that the public call is competitive.

2. Is it better to single out one or more institutions in the application form?

To single out more institutions broad possibilities, but ultimately there can be only one partner institution.

3. Is it possible to apply for the areas that are not given in the public call.

That is possible but the priority will be given to the applications that refer to the priority areas.

4. Will the next year the public call be announced again?

The public call will be announced in align with the Ministry of Science and Technology PRC. The information will be timely post at the NITRA website.

5. Is it possible to resend new, updated application form, taking into account that the deadline of the public call is prolonged?.

The answer is yes.

6. Is it possible to finish research, that is a part of already started PhD thesis, through this program?

It is not possible.

7. What is expected outcome of the chosen candidate after the return from PRC?

It is expected that the candidate contribute to his research work at home institution in Serbia upon the acquired knowledge, and help their home institution to establish and carry out solid and targeted practical cooperation with Chinese partners.