

Bilateral research collaboration with Asia 2021-2024

Call for Research Partnership Grants 2021

Background

ETH Zurich is the Leading House for the Bilateral Science and Technology Cooperation Programme of Switzerland with China (incl. Hong Kong and Taiwan), Japan, South Korea and the ASEAN member states. Mandated by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), ETH Zurich is in charge of promoting and fostering scientific cooperation with higher education institutions in Asia for the funding period 2021–2024.

Goals and objectives

The **Research Partnership Grants** support research projects with collaborating institutions in **China (incl. Hong Kong and Taiwan), Japan, South Korea, ASEAN member states**¹, which must be based on an **existing partnership**.

The goal of this instrument is to allow researchers to conduct feasibility studies or pilot projects in order to apply for grants from other funding agencies. A Research Partnership Grant builds on existing collaborations between researchers and scientists affiliated to a Swiss institution and researchers affiliated to an Asian institution.

Research Partnership Grants can fund the preparation of a joint project proposal for submission to other funding agencies (e.g. national funding agencies or EU funding schemes)² or research projects to develop long-term partnerships between two institutions or research groups. Activities to intensify joint teaching or curriculum development are also eligible for this grant.

Research Partnership Grants do not cover salaries of doctoral students or the exchange of early-career researchers, which are covered by the mobility instruments offered by the Leading House Asia.

Eligibility

The call is open to all scientific disciplines and fields of research, including social sciences and humanities.

Professors, senior scientists and postdoctoral researchers of Swiss federal and cantonal universities, universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education, as well as public research institutes, are eligible to apply. The Switzerland-based scientist is the main applicant.

The Asian-based collaborator must be a scientist affiliated with a university or a public research institute from one of the partner countries. The collaborating partner must hold a faculty or senior scientist position or a doctoral degree (Ph.D. or equivalent) with several years of research experience.

Asian-based researchers interested in acting as co-applicants have to contact their Switzerland-based peers.

¹ ASEAN member states: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam.

² Indicate in the proposal the call and agency the research team plans to submit the proposal to.

Partnership

The mutual commitment of the scientists in both countries will be considered as an indicator for the strength of the partnership. This includes commitment of funds and in-kind resources by all involved partners. The KFPE Guide for Transboundary Research Partnerships³ shall be used as a guideline for the project process.

Funding and Budgeting

The maximum grant sum is **25,000 CHF**. The grant will be disbursed in two instalments: 80% after signing the grant contract and 20% after approval of the final report.

A detailed budget must be submitted with the project proposal. Budgeted expenses must be justified and related to the proposed research activities. A financial contribution of each partner is expected and must be made explicit in cash and in-kind.

Application

The main applicant (Principal Investigator) has to be employed at a Swiss federal or cantonal university, university of applied sciences, university of teacher education, or a public research institutes. Applications have to be submitted to the Leading House Asia at ETH Zurich. The submission of the application takes place in two compulsory steps:

1. Submission of your application details via the electronic application form online.
2. Upload of your application documents with the requested appendices in one single pdf document via the electronic application form online.

Applications that do not follow the compulsory two steps, and/nor respect the one single pdf document guideline will be automatically dismissed.

Timeline

Deadline for submission:	30 September 2021
Evaluation and funding decision:	October–November 2021
Notification:	December 2021
Earliest project start date:	February 2022
Project duration:	Up to 12 months

Evaluation and selection

Applications will be assessed by an evaluation panel. The evaluation is based on the following criteria:

- Scientific and technological merit of the anticipated outcomes
- Potential for long-term collaboration and follow-up activities
- Originality and feasibility of the proposed activity
- Expertise and complementarities of the partner laboratories/institutes and the applicants
- Contributions by all involved partners, including funding and in-kind contributions
- Promotion of early-career and female researchers

³ https://naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/11_principles_7_questions/9505-a-guide-for-transboundary-research-partnerships-2nd-edition---2014-

Reporting

The Switzerland-based main applicant (Principle Investigator) is responsible for managing the funds and reporting. He or she must submit a final scientific and financial report one month after the end of the Research Partnership Grant project.

Contact

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