

Info Session of Grant Application for International Faculty

Office of International Affairs (OIA)

April, 2026



上海科技大学
ShanghaiTech University

A brief intro of OIA

[About the office](#)



上海科技大学
ShanghaiTech University

The office of International Affairs (OIA) coordinates ShanghaiTech's global engagements at the university level

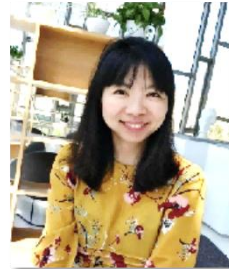
Our main focuses:

- Global exchanges and cooperation projects
- Overseas university visits and hosting visitors at our university
- International business travel
- International conferences (liaising with supervising municipal offices)
- **Global S&T cooperation and grant application**
- English media and press
- Supporting entrepreneurship practices and technology transfer



NIE Yan, PhD

Overseeing the office



XIAO Yin

- Global exchanges and cooperation projects
- Institutional agreements



SONG Yao

English media and press



QIAN Lele

- Global S&T cooperation and grant application
- Int'l conferences
- Int'l visiting students



TANG Qi

- Int'l business travel
- OIA archive management

Program Providers



National level

- **MoST** (Ministry of Science and Technology)
- **NSFC** (Natural Science Foundation of China)
- **MoHRSS** (Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security)
- **MoE** (Ministry of Education)

Municipal level

- **STCSM** (Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality)

Program Providers



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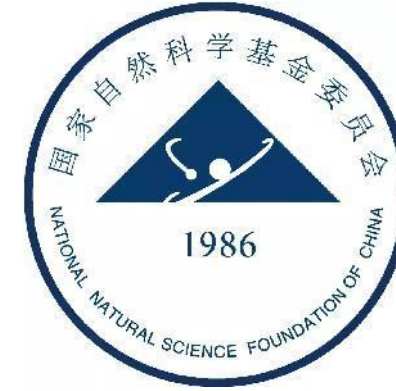


中华人民共和国科学技术部
Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST)

MoST (Ministry of Science and Technology)

<https://en.most.gov.cn/index.html>

MoST formulates and facilitates the implementation of strategies and policies for innovation-driven development, and plans and policies for Science and Technology development and the attraction of foreign talent. It coordinates the development of the national innovation system and the reform of the national Science and Technology management system, and works with relevant government departments to improve incentive mechanisms for technological innovation.



NSFC (Natural Science Foundation of China)

https://www.nsf.gov.cn/english/site_1/index.html

NSFC is managed by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) but keeps its due independence in operation and tasked with the administration of the National Natural Science Fund from the Central Government. It has comprehensively introduced and implemented a rigorous and objective merit-review system to fulfill its mission of supporting basic research, fostering talented researchers, developing international cooperation and promoting socioeconomic development.

Program Providers



上海科技大学
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中华人民共和国人力资源和社会保障部

Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China

MoHRSS (Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security)

<https://www.mohrss.gov.cn/>

MoHRSS is a ministry under the State Council which is responsible for national labor policy standards, regulations, and managing the national social security system. It is thus responsible for labor force management, labor relations, social insurance management and legal construction of labor.



MoE (Ministry of Education)

<http://en.moe.gov.cn/>

MoE is a cabinet-level department under the State Council responsible for basic education, vocational education, higher education, and other educational affairs across the country. It also acts as a funder for most of the national public universities and colleges, accrediting tertiary institutions, curriculum, and school teachers.

Program Providers



上海科技大学
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STCSM (Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality)

<https://stcsm.sh.gov.cn/english/>

STCSM is one of the municipal government departments in charge of scientific and technological affairs and innovation development. It is mainly responsible for the compilation and implementation of science and technology development plans, formulation, implementation and evaluation of various policies and measures to support the development of science and technology innovation, promotion of scientific and technological research as well as improvement of technology transfer in various fields in Shanghai.

Work Division: Grant/Award Applications



OIA

NSFC

1. Int'l (Regional) Cooperation and Exchange
2. Research Fund for Int'l Scientists
3. International Collaboration Fund for Creative Research Teams

MoST

Key Research Plan
(2 sub-programs)

MoHRSS

Foreign Experts

STCSM

1. Foreign Experts*
2. Shanghai Sci-tech Co-research Program
(new)

OR

MoST

Other programs

MoE

General Program for Humanities & Social Sciences*

NSFC

Other programs

STCSM

Other programs

HR

Other talent awards**

* Please contact **Ms. LIU Yue** at Office of Research for more information.

** Except the Magnolia (白玉兰) Awards for expats given by Shanghai Municipal Foreign Affairs Office, which is managed by OIA.

- OIA: Office of International Affairs
- OR: Office of Research
- HR: Office of Human Resources

* The STCSM Foreign Experts Program format is **expected to change in 2026**; further updates will follow.



Specific Programs Managed by OIA

Programs below are open to applicants with foreign nationalities and employed by Institutions in Chinese mainland.

MoST/科技部	NSFC/国自然	MoHRSS/人社部	STCSM/市科委
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Research Plan 重点研发计划 2 sub-programs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Intergovernmental Cooperation 政府间国际科技创新合作 Strategic S&T Innovation 战略性科技创新合作 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Int'l (Regional) Cooperation and Exchange Programs 国际(地区)合作研究与交流 Research Fund for Int'l Scientists 外国学者研究基金 Int'l Collaboration Fund for Creative Research Teams 合作创新研究团队 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign Experts 国家外专 (Individual Type 个人类/ SupportingType 支撑类) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign Experts 市外专* Shanghai Sci-tech Co-research Program 上海伙伴科研计划 (new)

* The STCSM Foreign Experts Program format is **expected to change in 2026**; further updates will follow.

Applicable Disciplines



All Disciplines

- MoHRSS - Foreign Experts Program
- STCSM - Foreign Experts Program

Natural Sciences & Engineering

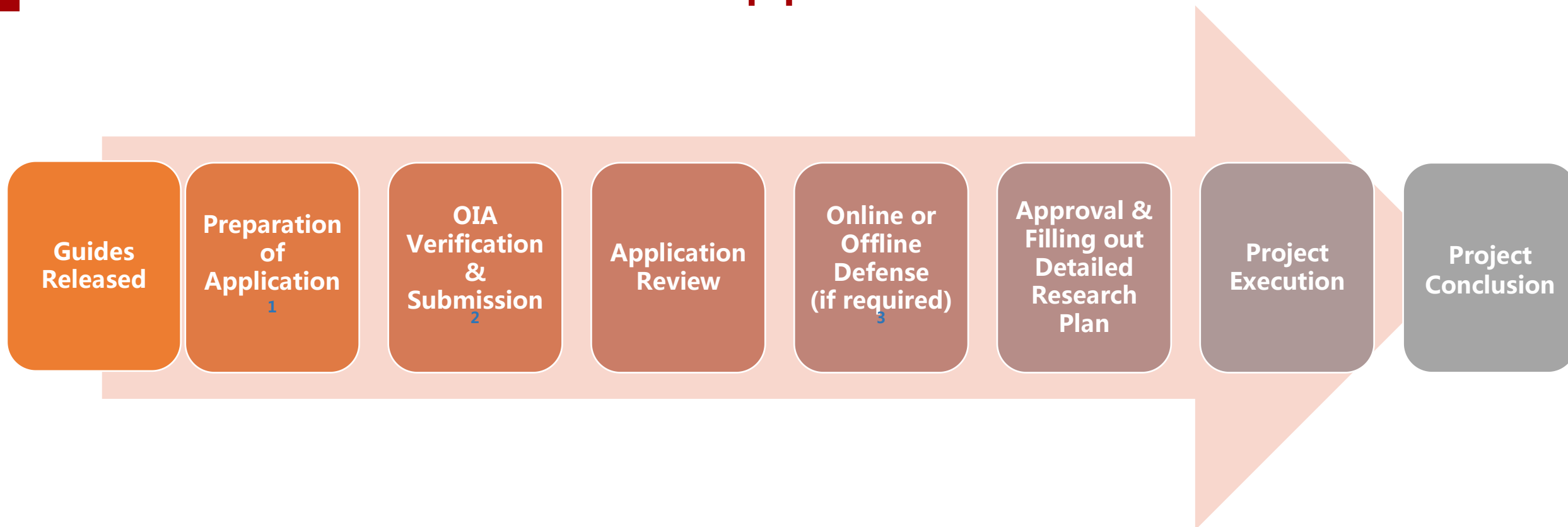
- MoST - Key Research Plan
- NSFC
- STCSM - Shanghai Sci-tech Co-research Program

Humanities & Social Sciences

- MoE - General Program for Humanities & Social Sciences

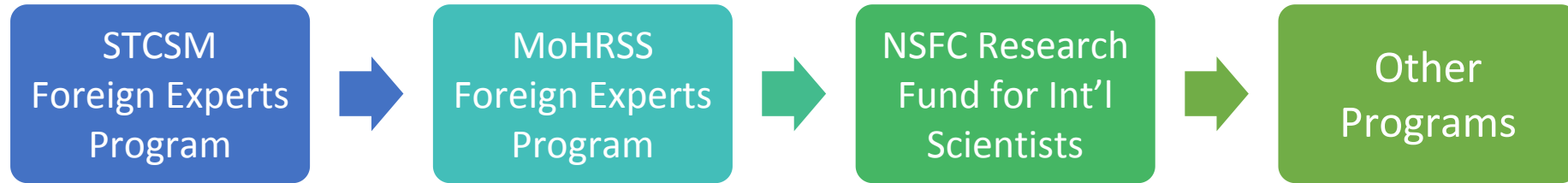


General Procedure of Application



1. Research managers & OIA will assist with the preparation of application materials.
2. Research managers check the application materials first and then send to OIA for verification.
3. Most defenses are virtual (*please inform us as soon as you receive interview notice so we can help organize pre-defense/rehearsal, if necessary*).

Program Overview



	Easy			Hard
Language	Chinese only	Chinese only	English (with Chinese abstract)	mostly Chinese
Quantity of Application Materials	Medium	Low	Medium	High
Est. Time of Preparation	1-2 weeks	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks or more

Int'l (Regional) Cooperation and Exchange Programs

- Applications for this program are relatively difficult to get approved; one can consider applying for *General Programs* (managed by Mr. WEI Chengzhe at Office of Research, weichzh@shanghaitech.edu.cn)
- Language: **Chinese/English**
- website:
https://www.nsf.gov.cn/english/site_1/funding/E1/2024/06-12/364.html (in English)

Research Fund for International Scientists (RFIS)

- Language: **Chinese/English**
- Website:
https://www.nsf.gov.cn/english/site_1/international/D5/index.html (in English)

International Collaboration Fund for Creative Research Teams (ICFCRT)

- Language: **Chinese/English**
- Website:
https://www.nsf.gov.cn/english/site_1/international/D6/2026/01-20/501.html (in English)

NSFC Programs



Category		Duration (year)	Fund cap (RMB/project)	Age limit/ qualification of experience	Approval rate (approx.)	Guide release for 2026 programs	Application DDL for 2026 programs
Int'l (Regional) Cooperation and Exchange Programs		2 ~ 3	≤ 2M	n/a	low	Year-round rolling, depending on the guides with different countries	Year-round rolling, depending on the guides with different countries
Research Fund for International Scholars (RFIS)	Young Scholars (RFIS-I)	2	0.2M	Doctoral degree obtained within the past 6 years	ShanghaiTech: 14% (2020) 16% (2021) 23% (2022) 33% (2023) 17% (2024) 13% (2025)	Jan. 20, 2026	Mar. 20, 2026
	Excellent Young Scholars (RFIS-II)		0.8M	Doctoral degree completed within the past 15 years, Senior academic title			
	Senior Scholars (RFIS-III)		1.6M	Senior academic title			
International Collaboration Fund for Creative Research Teams (ICFCRT)		3	6M (4.8M for projects of Math and Management Sciences)	Foreign citizenship and a senior academic title	very low	Jan. 20, 2026	Mar. 20, 2026

MoST Programs



Key Research Plan (2 sub-programs)

- ShanghaiTech gained approval for 2 projects **for the first time** in 2024.
- Language: **Chinese only**
- Website: <https://service.most.gov.cn/xmtj/> (in Chinese)

Category		Duration (year)	Fund cap (RMB/project)	Age limit/ qualification of experience	Approval rate (approx.)	Guide release time for 2025 programs	Application DDL for 2025 programs
Key Research Plan	I. Intergovernmental Cooperation	2 ~ 4	2 ~ 3M	depending on the guides	low	Nov. 4, 2024	Dec. 26, 2024
	II. Strategic S&T Innovation	≤3				Nov. 4, 2024 (HMT*)	Dec. 26, 2024 (HMT*)
						Aug. 26, 2025 (JRDD#)	Oct. 13, 2025 (JRDD#)

* **HMT**: The collaborative projects involving **H**ong Kong, **M**acao, and **T**aiwan are carried out by the relevant institutions of Chinese mainland in partnership with their counterparts in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan, based on established cooperation agreements.

JRD: **J**oint **R**&**D** and **D**emonstration projects

Foreign Expert Program*

Website: <https://www.12333.gov.cn> (in Chinese)

Individual Type (since 2024)

- Language: **Chinese only**

Supporting Type (before 2024)

- 1) Major Scientific Research
 - 2) Research Fund for Int'l Scholars
- Language: **Chinese only**

*** One cannot apply for the STCSM Foreign Expert Program if he/she is working on an on-going project of the MoHRSS Foreign Expert Program.**

MoHRSS Programs



Category		Duration (year)	Fund Cap (RMB/project)	Age limit/ qualification of experience	Approval rate (approx.)	Guide release for 2026 programs	Application DDL for 2026 programs
Foreign Experts -Individual Type	Category S	2	0.5M	Senior experts who hold full professor positions	ShanghaiTech: 50% (2023) 38% (2024) 15% (2025)	Apr. 3, 2026	Apr. 30, 2026
	Category H		0.4M	Senior academic title			
	Category Y		0.2M	No more than 45 years old			
Foreign Experts -Supporting Type	Major Scientific Research	2	0.3M	n/a	ShanghaiTech: 12.5% (2023)	n/a	n/a
	Research Fund for International Scholars	2	0.2M		n/a		

STCSM Programs



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Foreign Experts Program*

- Language: **Chinese only**

* **Special Notice** from STCSM:

- The STCSM Foreign Experts Program format is **expected to change in 2026**; further updates will follow.

Shanghai Sci-tech Co-research Program

A initiative that funds scientists with foreign nationalities to collaborate with Shanghai-based host organizations on joint research projects.

- Language: **Chinese / English**

- Website:

<https://stcsm.sh.gov.cn/zwgk/kyjhxm/xmsb/20260120/d560848ca6ab405b8961d3693939a14c.html> (in English)

STCSM Programs



Category		Duration (Year)	Fund Cap (RMB/project)	Age limit / qualification of experience	Approval rate (approx.)	Guide release for 2026 programs	Application DDL for 2026 programs
Foreign Experts*	Senior Experts	1 ~ 2	≤0.2M	n/a	54% (2021)	n/a	n/a
	Young Talents		≤0.15M	≤40 years old	48% (2022) 27% (2023)		
Shanghai Sci-tech Co-research Program (new)		/	2	0.4M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a Ph.D. in natural sciences or engineering from a world-class university or internationally renowned research institution • Be under the age of 45 • Hold a formal teaching or research position at an overseas university, research institution, or corporate R&D department, etc. • Not be employed full-time within China or serve as a legal representative or principal executive of a Chinese enterprise 	100% (2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepts applications year-round and approves projects in batches • For year 2026, the application submission begins at 9:00 AM on 28th Jan, 2026 and ends at 4:30 PM on 31st Dec, 2026

* The STCSM Foreign Experts Program format is **expected to change in 2026**; further updates will follow.

Contact Information



Office of International Affairs

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Research managers at Schools/Institutes/Centers

- SPST: PENG Yu, pengyu1@shanghaitech.edu.cn
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- For **Budget** Review:
LI Yun, Office of Finance
(liyun1@shanghaitech.edu.cn)
- For **Animal Ethics** review:
XUE Ying, SLST
(xueying1@shanghaitech.edu.cn)
- For **Scientific Research Ethics** review:
HE Ruixuan, Office of Research
(herx@shanghaitech.edu.cn)

Key Requirements for a Successful Project Proposal (from Reviewers' Perspective)



1. Clear Title

A strong title should accurately summarize the research focus, enabling reviewers to quickly grasp the study's direction and core question. Avoid obscure, ambiguous, or overly broad wording.

2. Concise Abstract

Within a limited word count, the abstract must clearly state the research purpose, methodology, key results, and conclusions. It should highlight both the significance and innovation of the study while remaining succinct.

3. Well-Justified Rationale

This application should elaborate on the research background, current state of the field (domestically and internationally), and the necessity of the proposed study. By reviewing and analyzing prior work, identify existing gaps or limitations to logically introduce your research approach.

References: Cite authoritative and up-to-date sources, preferably high-quality literature from the last 5–10 years, to demonstrate your awareness of recent developments.

4. Solid Research Foundation

Applicants should demonstrate their own and their team's relevant research experience, achievements, and available experimental resources. Published papers, scientific awards, and accessible equipment can all serve as evidence of preparedness.

5. Well-Defined Research Question

Emphasize the importance and impact of the research question—whether in advancing the discipline or in its potential to address real-world problems.

Key Requirements for a Successful Project Proposal (from Reviewers' Perspective)



6. Innovative Methodology

Adopting novel research methods or technical approaches can enhance the proposal's appeal. However, it is essential to ensure these methods are scientifically sound and practically feasible. A clear explanation of the principles, procedures, and expected outcomes should be provided.

7. Well-Structured Research Plan

The proposal must include a detailed and logical research plan, covering the timeline, experimental steps, and anticipated deliverables.

Timeline: Specify start and end dates for each phase along with clear objectives.

Procedures: Outline operational steps in a clear, actionable manner.

Deliverables: Define measurable outputs, such as target publications, patents, or prototypes.

8. Clear and Focused Writing

The proposal should be logically organized with smooth transitions between sections—from problem statement and literature review to methodology and expected outcomes. Key points and innovations must stand out, avoiding unnecessary details so that reviewers can quickly grasp the core message.

9. Strong Innovation

Innovation is a central competitive element of a proposal. This may involve new research ideas, methods, technologies, or applications—for example, proposing an original hypothesis or making a significant improvement on existing work. All innovative aspects should be described specifically and clearly.

10. Realistic Feasibility

The research design must not only be innovative but also practicable. Consider whether the required human resources, equipment, funding, and time are adequately available and justified.

Thank you!



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For more information, please contact
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