



Apply for NC Planning Grant – Seed funding for Sino-Nordic Research Collaboration

To support the development of strong and strategic research and innovation partnerships between Nordic and Chinese universities, the Nordic Centre is launching planning grants. The purpose is to give researchers from the Nordic Centre member institutions better opportunities to prepare for larger joint research projects and write proposals for major external research grants.

Projects should be within one of the Nordic Centre's four interdisciplinary thematic focus areas: *Sino-Nordic perspectives*, *Sustainable development*, *Digitalization and technology* or *Health and welfare* and follow the *NC reciprocal principles for cooperation*. Examples of relevant topics within these themes are listed in attachment 1

Application deadline: October 1, 2022

Amount and conditions:

The grant is a lump-sum of 10 000 EUR per project. The funds may be used for costs related to the project application development such as salary costs creating focused time to prepare the application, pilot study costs, travel, meetings, or other costs for preparing the project and build the partnership structure. The funds may not be used to cover overhead costs. Applicants that receive planning grants are expected to work with the application during 2023.

Due to uncertainties and restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic applications should not be entirely dependent on travel to and from China.

Eligibility criteria

- Projects must include participants from at least one (1) Nordic member institution and one (1) Chinese institution, preferably NC member/affiliated member¹.
- All applicants must hold a PhD.
- The main applicant (coordinator) must be employed at one of the Nordic member institutions of the Nordic Centre.

Selection criteria

Projects should be within at least one of the Nordic Centre's four interdisciplinary thematic focus areas: *Sino-Nordic perspectives*, *Sustainable development*, *Digitalization and technology* or *Health and welfare*. Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Scientific quality of the proposal
- The project's potential to attract major external funding, including suitable partnership structure for the intended funding source.
- Potential to develop strong and strategic research and innovation partnerships between Nordic and Chinese universities

¹ List of NC member institutions: <http://www.nordiccentre.net/members>

Application procedure:

The complete and signed application form + CVs should be compiled into one (1) document and submitted electronically in PDF format to the Nordic Centre by email: funding@nordiccentre.net

- 1. Complete application form**, signed by the main applicant and head of department, containing the following:
 - **Details of all applicants** (coordinator and co-applicants)
 - **Project description/Outline** briefly presenting the project's problem area, aims/objectives, theoretical framework and method. If you plan to use the grant in an earlier stage to prepare the project and partner structure you should provide an outline of what you intend to do, who you plan to involve and why.
 - **Plan/Budget** for use of grant.
 - **A motivation** of how the project will contribute to the development of strong and strategic research and innovation partnerships between Nordic and Chinese universities and why a Sino-Nordic collaboration is relevant for the thematic area/topic.
 - **Identified calls/funding agencies** that the full proposal will be submitted to.
- 2. Short CVs** (max 2 pages/person) including most important publications for all applicants (coordinator and co-applicants)

Evaluation:

Applications will be evaluated, based on the selection criteria, by a board of referees consisting of senior researchers from the Nordic countries and China. Balance between the thematic focus areas will be considered in the final selection.

Note: Confidential information should be excluded from the application. Submitted applications are considered official documents subject to the principle of public access to information. Referees from third country will have access to the application.

Final report and other conditions

Receivers of a planning grant commit to do the following:

- Contact the research support office at their home institution to receive information about internal regulations/processes.
- To allocate sufficient time to work with the application(s).
- To submit a proposal, for a research project lasting for several years or a research program, to at least one (1) major research funding agency.
- To submit a short report, using the NC final report template, to the Nordic Centre no later than February 15, 2024. The report should describe the work with the application, any major changes in the partner structure or project direction, which research agencies the proposal has been sent to and what the result was.

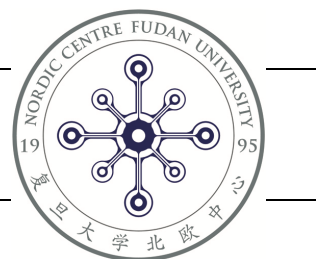
Important dates

Application opens: March 15, 2022

Application deadline: October 1, 2022

Announcement date: November 1, 2022

Final report deadline: February 15, 2024



Nordic Centre's reciprocal principles for cooperation

The following principles must be fulfilled in all cooperation's within the Nordic Centre:

- *Each project must fulfil the cumulative ethical academic principles that are established in the Nordic countries and in China.*
- *All cooperation must be carried out in accordance with the GDPR legislation, which restricts the dissemination and storage of personal data.*
- *All projects must be open and transparent to everyone.*

Nordic Centre's prioritized thematic areas

1. Sino-Nordic perspectives

- Sino-Nordic interaction: past, present, and future
- Rights, principles and strategies in a challenging world
- Comparative Sino-Nordic studies
- Heritage studies

2. Sustainable development:

- Implementation of Agenda 2030
- Global and sustainable cities
- Arctic dimensions
- Air pollution and environmental toxins
- Sustainability in education
- Biodiversity
- Climate change

3. Digitalization and technology:

- Digital infrastructure
- Intra-Nordic perspectives on digital cooperation
- Consequences of digitalization
- Post-corona cooperation
- Young digital lives in China and the Nordics

4. Health and welfare:

- Ageing, technology and care
- Active living
- Social security systems
- Public health
- Food culture, nutrition and security