REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - TERMS OF REFERENCE (REVISED)
China Opportunity Fund at the University of Alberta

The China Opportunity Fund supports projects under the Joint Research Labs program with the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People’s Republic of China (MOST) and the Sino-Canadian Energy and Environment Research Initiative (SCENEREI) with Tsinghua University, as well as other research projects with China of strategic value to the University of Alberta.

Grant Size and Term: Grants of up to $50,000 sourced from Government of Alberta funds are available for a two-year period. All expenses must be processed and funds must be spent before July 31, 2018; no extensions will be granted.

Application Deadline: Friday, April 8, 2016 at 4:30 pm (MST).

Grant Objectives

✓ To stimulate basic and applied research that is applicable in industry in Alberta.
✓ To build and strengthen collaborations with partners in China, especially Tsinghua University, and State Key Labs / National Labs under MOST.
✓ To create a pathway to gain leveraged funding from industry partners or other sources.

Application Eligibility

✓ Only full-time, continuing faculty members from the University of Alberta are eligible to apply.
✓ Commitment of collaborator in China must be demonstrated by a letter of support from the institution or lab noting the source of the matching funding on the Chinese side for the project. See below paragraph Guidelines Regarding Matching Funds (Chinese side) for further details.
✓ For all China Opportunity Fund dollars requested, applicant must demonstrate committed matching funds at least one-to-one on the Canadian side. See below paragraph Guidelines Regarding Matching Funds (Canadian side) for further details.
✓ Eligible fields are energy and environment particularly climate change, nanotechnology, information and communication technology, and life sciences.
✓ Projects with MOST State Key Labs/National Labs and those under the Sino-Canadian Energy and Environment Research and Education Initiative (SCENEREI) are especially encouraged.

Guidelines Regarding Matching Funds (Canadian side):

✓ Any funds provided through the China Opportunity Fund (i.e. Government of Alberta funds) must be matched by commitments either by the Faculty, Department, or individual researcher.
✓ The source of the matching funding cannot be other Alberta Government grants.
✓ Existing funds from a General Research Fund, a federal granting agency, e.g. NSERC, or industry are eligible to match a China Opportunity Fund grant, on the following conditions:

1) The grant number (RES) needs to be provided in the China Opportunity Fund proposal and sufficient funds to match the China Opportunity Fund request must be available in the project;

2) The end date of the project which is to be used as a match must be at least equal to, or exceed, the period of proposed activities under the China Opportunity Fund;

3) The proposed program of activities under the China Opportunity Fund must align with the activities of the project that is being used as a match for funding;

4) As financial reporting to the Government of Alberta is required on the funding being used for a match, if it is permissible as part of the terms of the project, a separate project will need to be established for the matched funding. If not, i.e. with an NSERC grant, a program (with its own speed code) will need to be set up in order to track the expenditures that are being reported on for the matched funding; and

5) The program and speed code would need to be set up and this information provided to the Office of the Vice-President (Research) before the China Opportunity Funds are released.

✓ Matching funds must come from only one source, not multiple accounts.

Guidelines Regarding Matching Funds (Chinese side):

✓ Matching funds on the Chinese side must be comparable to the amount requested from the China Opportunity Fund and demonstrated in the application through a letter of support from the relevant institution or lab.

✓ The matching funds on the Chinese side can be from an existing or new grant from the MOST State Key Lab / National Lab or another source, which should be indicated in the letter of support.

General Funding Guidelines

✓ Funds may be used for research project support, including research assistance, computer time, minor equipment purchases, printing, copying and supplies. Travel between China and Canada by faculty or students from either UAlberta or the collaborating institution is eligible.

✓ Eligible expenditures are subject to university regulations and procedures.

✓ Requests for major equipment are not eligible.

✓ Funds will not be used as an income supplement for faculty members going on leave (study leave, assisted leave, or leave without pay).

✓ Funds are intended for use as proposed by the applicant during the term of the award; any unspent funds will be returned to the China Opportunity Fund upon closure of the grant account as noted in the award notice.

✓ Repeated requests from one or more researchers for projects that are substantially the same will be given low priority.
What to Submit: A single PDF file that includes the attached China Opportunity Fund Application Form converted to PDF format, together with the letter of support.

How to Submit: Email the single file to Danielle Scott, Assistant Director, International Relations, University of Alberta International at danielle.scott@ualberta.ca by the application deadline of Friday, April 8, 2016.

Proposal Requirements
- Completed application form with a financial budget, including a full budget justification.
- Evidence of matching funding on the Canadian side - must be equal to or greater than the amount requested from the China Opportunity Fund.
- Letter of support from collaborator in China (written in English) including demonstration of matching funding they are committing to the project and an indication of the source of those funds.

Reporting Requirements
Researchers receiving funding through the China Opportunity Fund are expected to provide a detailed annual report for a total of two reports.

Contacts
Please direct any questions or concerns regarding the China Opportunity Fund to:

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