



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

by

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye and The National Natural Science Foundation of China

The Call is open between March 25th and May 30th of 2025

1. Preamble

In the framework of the Protocol of Scientific and Technical Cooperation between The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), universities, public research centers/institutes and companies (only for Türkiye) are invited to submit joint proposals for “Research and Development (R&D)” projects. A R&D project should focus on producing new knowledge; making new scientific interpretations or solving technological problems based on scientific principles.

2. Objectives of the Call

The aim of the call is to allow partners to collaborate internationally, and gain access to new research environments, facilities, knowledge, and expertise, in order to enhance the quality of their research and enable them to translate research and innovation into economic and societal benefit.

3. Main Thematic Areas:

Research on the following topics will be supported under the Call:

- Cancer Immunotherapy and Clinical Translation Research; Big Data and Artificial Intelligence for Oncology;
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Ultrasonic Medicine; Big Data and Artificial Intelligence for Medical Images.
- Green and Sustainable Agriculture

2. Financial Issues

Project partners will be funded by the funding institutions of the respective partner countries (Türkiye and China). The projects will be supported with grants from the national budget in accordance with the respective national funding regulations.

TÜBİTAK-funded costs of each grant will be issued and managed by TÜBİTAK in accordance with the rules of TÜBİTAK 1071 Programme - Support Programme for Increasing Capacity to Benefit from International Research Funds and Participation in International R&D Cooperation.

As a rule, Turkish partners that are eligible for funding can receive up to 3.000.000 Turkish Liras (excl. overhead and Project Incentive Premium (PIP) approximately) per project.

Chinese partners that are eligible for funding can receive from 800.000 RMB to 1.000.000 RMB per project (direct cost). NSFC-funded costs of each grant will be issued and managed by NSFC according to its funding guidelines and procedures.

About 8 projects will be funded and the duration of the projects should be maximum three years (36 Months).

For Turkish partners, total duration of international visits should not exceed two months (60 days) per year for the each supported joint research project. In the case of bilateral travel, economic class air tickets and daily allowance shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of the per diem Law No. 6245 for the Turkish partners.

The costs of exchange of experts, scientists and other specialists will be covered on the following basis:

- The sending Party will meet all related costs connected with travel, lodging and allowances according to their own regulations.
- The sending Party shall be responsible for the emergency health insurance of its scientists.

The projects will be monitored through progress reports and the final report by both TÜBİTAK and NSFC for its content and progress.

3. Proposal Submission

The Joint Call will be open for applications between March 25th and May 30th of 2025 through online application systems of TÜBİTAK and of NSFC.

Turkish partners will make their joint online application via TUBITAK's UIDB-PBS online system, <http://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr> . For Turkish partners the system will be closed on May 30th 2025 at 23:59 (Turkish time) and they should finalize the e-signatures until June 6th 2025 at 23:59 (Turkish time).

Chinese partners will make their joint online application via NSFC system, <http://grants.nsf.gov.cn/egrantweb/>. For Chinese partners the system will be closed on May 30th of 2025 at 16:00 (Beijing Time).

- The partners should come to an agreement with each other using their own means of communication and jointly develop and complete their project proposal before submitting it to TÜBİTAK and NSFC. **TÜBİTAK and NSFC do not match the collaborating partners.**
- The proposals should be prepared in **English**.
- Additional proposal in Chinese is required for the Chinese partners.
- Project proposals must provide detailed information on the objectives and justification of the planned joint research work, the methodology to be followed, the composition of each research team and the intended time schedule.
- Turkish partners will make their joint online application via TUBITAK's online system: <http://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr>
- Turkish partners will use E-Signature for their applications. Detailed information can be achieved via https://tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/2025-01/uidb_e-imza_yardim_dokumani.pdf. There is no need to send any hard copy to TÜBİTAK.
- Chinese partners should submit their application via NSFC grants online system, <http://grants.nsf.gov.cn/egrantweb/>. The details for the submission can be found in the call for proposals to be launched on NSFC official website <https://www.nsf.gov.cn/publish/portal0/tab434/module1146/more.htm>.

4. The Evaluation Procedure

6.1. Eligibility Criteria

The proposals will be evaluated according to the national regulations of the funding institutions based on jointly agreed rules and criteria of evaluation. Only projects that fit to the call topics mentioned in Article 3 of this document can be funded.

For Turkish researchers, further information available at: [National Rules Document](#)

Chinese partners should follow the relevant rules and requirements of NSFC. The details for the eligibility of Chinese partners can be found in the call for proposals to be launched on NSFC official website <https://www.nsfc.gov.cn/publish/portal0/tab434/module1146/more.htm>.

6.2. Evaluation Criteria

The project proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- Scientific and Technological Excellence
- Methodology
- Project Management
- Importance of Bilateral Cooperation
- Impact

6.3. Evaluation Method

Project proposals must provide detailed information on the objectives and justification of the planned joint research work, the methodology to be followed, the composition of each research team and the intended timetable and the proposed budget. Project proposals shall be submitted for evaluation and approval simultaneously to TÜBİTAK and to NSFC. Each proposal shall comprise an Application Form prepared in English and further formal and financial information according to the required form, which should be submitted to the both funding agencies respectively.

Applications which are not submitted on both sides will not be accepted for evaluation. Hence, Turkish/ Chinese project leaders should make sure that their counterpart submits a matching Application.

Eligible proposals will be subject to the independent evaluation by the funding agencies. Each funding agency will first establish its respective ranking list of proposals according to the evaluation result. Then a common ranking list will be developed based on a joint panel meeting organized by NSFC and TÜBİTAK with panelists recommended by the two funding agencies. The

final decisions on max. 8 projects to be supported will be made by the TÜBİTAK and NSFC based on the common ranking list and within available budget.

5. Key Dates

ACTIONS	PERIODS
Application Announcement	March 25 th 2025
Deadline for Applications	May 30 th 2025 (at 23:59 Turkish time, TUBITAK) May 30 th 2025 (at 16:00 Beijing time, NSFC)
Deadline for E-Signatures for TÜBİTAK	June 6 th 2025 (at 23:59 Turkish time)
Announcement of the Eligible Proposals List	Late June, 2025
Independent Evaluation Period 1 (exchange the unfundable list from correspondence review)	Late August, 2025
Independent Evaluation Period 2 (exchange the proposal list for joint panel meeting)	Late September, 2025
Jointly deciding the final result (panel meeting)	Late October 2025
Announcement of the Results	November 2025

8. Contact Persons of TUBITAK and NSFC:

For Turkish Side:

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