

To: Duke University Campus Faculty

From: Larry Carin, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Research
James Dobbins, Ph.D., Associate Vice Provost for Duke Kunshan and China Initiatives
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Subject: Collaborative Environmental Research between Duke Campus Faculty and Chinese Collaborators

Overview

This seed program is targeted to enhance research collaborations between Duke Campus faculty and faculty at Chinese universities. It is anticipated that most funded seed projects will address research connected to the environment, including science, engineering and policy research related to the environment. However, research projects without an explicit connection to the environment are also of interest if there is strong potential for joint Duke-China research. Proposals may include focused projects with a single investigator from Duke and a single investigator from a Chinese university. However, larger multi-investigator collaborative projects with investigators from Duke and Chinese universities are also of interest. The overarching goals are to encourage new research collaborations between Duke and leading Chinese universities, and to help strengthen existing collaborative Duke-China research so they are likely to attract support from external sponsors.

Eligibility requirements:

- The collaborative team must include at least one faculty member with a primary appointment in a Duke Campus department and one faculty member from a Chinese university or research institute.
- Research teams must propose either a new collaborative project or a new direction for an existing collaborative project.
- As a seed research project, the research area must be of potential interest to external funding agencies. The proposal must identify one or more potential external sponsors and include a plan for submitting a proposal for external funding within 12 months of the end of the covered project period.
- It is desirable (but not required) that the research make use of the Duke Kunshan University facilities.
- A written commitment from a corresponding official at a Chinese partner university must be provided to indicate that matching funds will be available to cover the Chinese portion of the joint seed project. This could include research work carried out in China and/or expenses incurred by a Chinese partner during faculty or student exchange.

Award information and dates

Successful proposals that involve a single Duke Campus faculty member will be awarded up to \$50,000 to undertake the proposed work over the 12-month project period. The funding provided by Duke can only be used by the Duke portion of the team (but may be used in China); the Chinese collaborator should get commensurate support from his or her home institution.

Proposals involving multiple Duke investigators can correspondingly increase the level of requested funding.

Important Program dates:

Proposal due date: 12 February 2016

Notice of award: 18 March 2016

Project start date: 1 April 2016

Project end date: 31 March 2017

Proposal reviews

A panel of Duke and Chinese faculty will review all applications and assign a score out of 100 points based on the quality and scientific impact of the application (75 points) and its chances for obtaining external funding (25 points). The review panel will make recommendations for funding to the sponsors (listed at the top), who will then make the final decision based on those recommendations.

Application instructions

Complete applications will include the following:

- **Project Summary (one page):** Required sections: Collaborator information (names and contact information), Project rationale, Objectives/Aims, Expected outcomes, Budget amount requested, Name of potential external sponsor/target agency.
- **Project Description (limited to three pages):** Required sections: Background, Research plan and methods, Timeline and responsibilities of collaborators, Scientific impact, Contribution to external sponsor/target agency mission and objectives.
- **PI Biosketches (limited to five pages each)**
- **Memo of financial understanding (limited to two pages):** Letter from partnering Chinese institution pledging matching funds to cover the Chinese portion of the joint project.
- **Budget Justification (one page):** Provide a categorical description of the proposed project costs.

Please note:

- All documents should have one-inch margins with font size of at least 11 points
- Applications should be submitted as a single PDF file

Please submit completed applications to kelly.lindblom@duke.edu by 5 pm on February 12, 2016

Questions? Please contact Kelly Lindblom, Ph.D., OVPR Assistant Director of Research Initiatives at 681-2629 or kelly.lindblom@duke.edu

<http://research.duke.edu/funding/OVPR-RFPs>