

China—Singapore Joint Call for Proposals on “Climate Resilience & Adaptation” (2025)

Summary:

Call Open:	5 th June 2025
Deadline for submission:	5 PM (BJT), on 30 th July 2025 – China-based co-applicants, 11:59 PM (SGT), on 30 th July 2025 – SG-based co-applicants
Selection results announcement:	First Half of December 2025
Start of projects:	April 2026
Funding per project:	(China-side) Direct Cost: 750,000 RMB (Singapore-side) Up to 250,000 (inclusive of 30% Indirect Costs) Singapore dollars
Duration of each project:	Up to 36 months
Number of projects to be awarded	Up to 6
Eligibility:	China side: Principal Investigators (PIs) in CAS Research Institutes and Universities Singapore side: Singapore-based Principal Investigators (PIs) with primary appointment of 75% or more in a local publicly funded research institution
Submission:	To CAS via ARP: http://172.31.0.170/arp To A*STAR via iGrants: igrrants-app.a-star.edu.sg
CAS Contact Details:	Ms. Fangfang Zhao e-mail: ffzhao@cashq.ac.cn
A*STAR Contact Details:	Ms. Sophrianne Yang email: oga_bilats@hq.a-star.edu.sg

1. Introduction

China and Singapore have a strong and longstanding partnership in bilateral research collaborations. This new joint grant call by Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Agency for Science, Technology and Research of Singapore (A*STAR) aims to promote and strengthen bilateral collaborations and exchanges between researchers from China and Singapore in joint research projects of mutual interest.

On China side, this funding measure is carried out International Partnership Program of Chinese Academy of Sciences.

On Singapore side, this funding measure is carried out under the Research, Innovation and Enterprise 2025 (RIE2025) plan.

2. Research Fields for the collaboration program “Fighting Climate Changes”

- Climate Resilience & Adaptation*

The threshold of 1.5°C increase compared to the pre-industrial age has been breached for a full 12 months for the first time, suggesting high risk of purely focusing on the ideologic “sustainability”. It is the time to actively start researching on technologies which help safeguard us in more extreme weather condition when it comes.

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20231130-climate-crisis-the-15c-global-warming-threshold-explained>

What would it mean to human being and modern society if the global temperature is 2+ degree higher? What changes would happen to healthcare (chronic diseases, infectious diseases, mental health), lifestyle, energy, food, etc.

Subtopics:

- Urban climate resilience (materials, design, modeling & simulation);
- Food resilience (supply chain and nutrition);
- Public health resilience (heat-induced illness, mental health);
- Disaster preparedness and risk mitigation (early warning systems, resilient critical infrastructure).

**While the subtopics above are recommended for the proposed research, the team may explore other subtopics related to Climate Resilience & Adaptation, if significant impact is anticipated.*

3. Researcher Eligibility

Two identical copies of a proposal must be submitted to both CAS and A*STAR. Detailed information on project proposal and submission guidelines can be found in the sections below.

Please note that proposals received by the A*STAR and not submitted to CAS (and vice versa) will automatically be considered ineligible.

When submitting your application through both CAS and A*STAR online submission systems, you will also need to enter some details online. Therefore, applicants are advised to start submitting their applications at least one week before the deadline of this Joint Call for Proposals. Applications that are submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

3.1 Eligible Researchers for CAS Support:

- Any independent researcher personally affiliated with (and actively conducting research at) a CAS research institution or university, regardless of nationality, is eligible to apply.

3.2 Eligible Researchers for A*STAR Support:

- Singapore-based Principal Investigators (PIs) are eligible to apply if their primary appointment is 75% or more in a local publicly funded research institution.
- Applications must be endorsed by the applicants' Host Institution/s, prior to submission.
- Applicants must deliver their project in accordance to the A*STAR Grants Terms & Conditions (T&Cs) and Guidelines.

4. Characteristics of Proposals under this Call

4.1 Proposal for CAS

A joint proposal must be written in English and must comply with instructions in the Joint Application Form. Identical copies of the proposal must be submitted to A*STAR and CAS respectively. In addition, China-based PIs must also submit the same proposal in Chinese to CAS.

4.2 Proposal for A*STAR

Proposals must provide all the information requested, including all necessary attachments and endorsement by the relevant Host Institutions, more details can be found in the application form.

5. Amount of Funding

5.1. Amount of Funding by CAS:

- CAS will support each China-based team up to 750,000 RMB as direct expenses for 36 months.
- The budget for a project may differ each year, depending on the content of activities.
- The amounts will be adjusted each year due to the budgetary limitations for this program.

5.2. Amount of Funding by A*STAR:

A*STAR will support up to SGD\$250,000 per project, inclusive of Indirect costs (capped at 30%) for Singapore Public Sector Research Performers.

Participants are to allocate a portion of their total direct expenses to exchange activities of researchers who can play an important role in the joint research and who are expected to be internationally active in the future, e.g., by promoting their international mobility and circulation, such as dispatching them to the partner country or holding workshops, or by providing international research opportunities such as presenting at international conference.

6. Eligible Costs

6.1. Eligible Costs for China-based Applicants:

- Equipment costs (equipment and consumables)
- Travel costs
 - o In principle, travel costs are incurred in accordance with the guidelines of the awarded research institution. Travel expenses are applicable to travel directly related to the execution of the research, dissemination activities, etc.
- Personnel costs (PI and Co-PI personnel costs and buyout policy may apply)
- Miscellaneous
- In addition to the above, research expenses may include, for example:
 - o Expenses for organizing and hosting events for research result dissemination
 - o Outsourcing costs (excluding subcontracting)
 - o Equipment leasing costs, transportation costs, for equipment used for the research project
 - o personnel expenses for administrative staff that coordinate the travel of outgoing researchers, and their personnel-related procedures can be recorded as direct expenses.

(Points of Caution)

Participants are to allocate around 40% of the total direct expenses to exchange activities of researchers including graduate and undergraduate students who can play an important role in the joint research and who are expected to be internationally active in the future, *e.g.*, by promoting their international mobility and circulation, such as dispatching them to the partner country or holding workshops, or by providing international research opportunities such as presenting at international conference.

6.2. Eligible Costs for Singapore-based Applicants

Please refer to the A*STAR Grants T&Cs and Guidelines for the fundable items.

A list of non-fundable direct cost items is provided in the table below.

Type of Expenses	Description
Salaries of Lead PI / Investigators / Visiting Professors & researchers/ Collaborators/ general administrative support staff	Not allowable unless specifically provided for in the grant and approved by Grantor.
Teaching buy outs	Not allowable for the hiring of substitutes to perform the Investigators' teaching duties.
Stipend top-up for existing post-graduate scholarship holders	Not allowable.

Undergraduate stipend and tuition support	Not allowable.
Costs related to general administration and management	Not allowable unless specifically provided for in the grant and approved by Grantor. This includes common office equipment, such as furniture and fittings, office software, photocopiers, scanners and office supplies
Costs of office or laboratory space	Not allowable unless specifically provided for in the grant and approved by Grantor. This includes renovation / outfitting costs, rent or depreciation of buildings and equipment, and related expenditures such as water, electricity, waste disposal and building/facilities maintenance charges
Personal productivity tools & communication expenses	Not allowable, unless the use of mobile phones and other form of smart devices were indicated in the methodology for the Research,
Audit fees (Internal and external audit) and Legal fees	Not allowable.
Entertainment	Not allowable.
Refreshment	Not allowable, unless this is related to a hosted conference or workshop, specifically approved by the Grantor for the Research.
Fines and Penalties	Not allowable.
Patent Application	Not allowable. This includes patent application filing, maintenance and other related cost.
Professional Membership Fees	Not allowable.
Staff retreat and team-building activities	Not allowable.

This list is not exhaustive and applies only to the expenditure of the grant funds. Other costs may be ineligible where we decide that they do not directly support the achievement of the planned outcomes for the project or that they are contrary to the objective of the program.

You must ensure you have adequate funds to meet the costs of any ineligible expenditure associated with the project.

7. Submission

The Principal Investigator from China must submit the collaborative proposal to CAS and the Principal Investigator from Singapore must submit the joint proposal to A*STAR. **Identical copies of the proposal must be submitted to CAS and A*STAR, respectively.**

7.1. Submission Procedure for CAS:

Application documents by the China-based researcher should be submitted through the online platform (<http://172.31.0.170/arp>).

7.2. Submission Procedure for A*STAR:

Applicants from the Singapore-based researcher must submit the joint proposal to A*STAR through the iGrants platform (igrants-app.a-star.edu.sg).

8. Timeline

- **Call open:** 5th June 2025
- **Deadline of submission:**
 - o 5 PM (BJT), on 30th July 2025 – China-based co-applicants.
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- **Selection results announcement:** First Half-December 2025
- **Expected start of granted projects:** April 2026

9. Assessment and Selection

9.1. Evaluation Procedure

Independent Committees consisting of experts selected by CAS and A*STAR respectively will evaluate all proposals. Based on the results of the evaluation, CAS and A*STAR will make a common decision regarding funding of selected proposals.

9.2 Criteria for Evaluating Proposals

The following general evaluation criteria will apply to each proposed proposal:

- **Capability of PIs**
 - o Research leaders should be able to lead and take responsibility for the entire team strongly. A sufficient collaborative system should be planned that can contribute greatly to the achievement of the research objectives as leaders.
- **Expected scientific results**
 - o The expected achievements from the proposed research should be eminent, creative and at an internationally recognized standard.
- **Expected economic and social impact**
 - o The expected outcomes from the proposed research should attempt to produce

a significant impact on the development of future science and technology or to create innovative technological seeds that can contribute to the creation of new industries in the future.

- Synergy effects of international collaboration
 - o The expected achievements from the proposed research should be produced through essential collaborative research rather than a combination of individual research projects.
 - o The exchange plan is clearly planned, and organic ties are expected to be fostered.
- Consistency with the research field of this grant call and feasibility of implementation (given proposed plan, participants, budget, facilities, means of cooperation, etc.)
 - o The proposed methodology should be feasible, with well-defined research and exchange milestones from both sides and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) (from the Singapore side).
 - o Research objectives must be matched to the research field of this grant call. Plans, and deliverables must be clearly described, and technical challenges must be properly addressed.
 - o Teams highlight the novelty of their approaches or methodology based on providing the clues necessary to demonstrate the feasibility of the research concept.

10. Contract between Researchers in China and Singapore

It is required that a Research Collaboration Agreement (RCA) be signed for any joint research collaboration among institutions with which collaborating researchers are affiliated. The contract for cooperative research shall include conclusions of discussions among the institutions which are entitled to intellectual property arising as a result of research collaboration, and the institutions concerned on issues regarding treatment of research information brought by researchers involved for the implementation of research collaboration, of research achievements as a result of research collaboration and of intellectual properties among the concerned institutions. Reference to this joint guideline ("10. Contract between Researchers in China and Singapore") should be made within the contract drawn up by the institutions in China and Singapore.

10.1 The China-based PIs

Before the conclusion of the contract, the China-based principal investigator must submit the checklist in specified form to CAS and then undergo a check by CAS. When concluded, CAS needs to be promptly notified of the contract. If there is any difficulty concluding the contract, please consult CAS in advance.

10.2 The Singapore-based PIs

The RCA should be submitted to A*STAR by the respective researchers within three months starting from the date in the Letter of Award. Permission from A*STAR must be sought at least one month in advance if further time extension is required for the completion of the RCA. A*STAR reserve the right to terminate further fund disbursements if this condition is not met.

The awarded projects will be subjected to the Terms and Conditions set by A*STAR.

Management of the projects will be in accordance with the A*STAR Guidelines for Managing A*STAR Grants. Arrangements relating to intellectual property rights (including copyright and patent rights) and commercialisation of such intellectual property shall be in accordance to the A*STAR Grants T&Cs Clause 14.

11. Reporting

11.1 The China-based PIs

China-based PIs shall submit to CAS annual research plans for the year ahead and reports on the progress in the past year, and the institution with which the PI is affiliated shall submit an annual financial report. Any key changes to the project team or activities, particularly if they affect the ability to complete the project should be made known to CAS immediately.

At the end of the period of support and after completion of the joint research activities, the China-based PI shall promptly submit to CAS a final report which shall include a financial report and a description of the research activities and outcomes. The report shall include a general summary of the activities of both the Chinese and the Singapore research teams. If papers describing results of the research activities are presented to academic journals, societies etc., a list of those papers and other related information should be attached to the final report. Detailed instructions for preparation of the final report will be provided to the China-based PI during the final year of the project. Completed projects will be duly evaluated and excellent outcomes may be made public.

11.2 The Singapore-based PIs

Any key changes to the project team or activities, particularly if they affect the ability to complete the project should be made known to A*STAR immediately. The Institutions shall submit the reports and statements set out in Clause 10 of the A*STAR Grants T&Cs, in accordance with the format required by A*STAR. Notwithstanding Clauses 10.2 to 10.8 of the A*STAR Grants T&Cs, A*STAR may vary the reporting requirements of the Institutions in the Letter of Award. This includes but is not limited to requiring the Institutions to provide reports and statements within different deadlines or at more regular intervals. The provisions of Clause 10 of the A*STAR Grants T&Cs shall apply (together with any necessary adjustments) to such reporting requirements.

Time is of the essence with respect to the obligations set out in Clause 10 of the A*STAR Grants T&Cs. In the event that an Institution fails to fulfil any requirement set out in Clause 10 of the A*STAR Grants T&Cs within the stipulated timeline or to demonstrate satisfactory progress in the Research, A*STAR may discontinue further disbursements of the Funding.

12. Contact information

China-based applicants: inquiries to CAS regarding this Call for Proposals should be sent to ffzhao@cashq.ac.cn

Singapore-based applicants: inquiries to A*STAR regarding this Call for Proposals should be sent to oga_bilats@hq.a-star.edu.sg