

Bilateral research collaboration with Asia 2017-2020

Call for Innovation Partnership Grants with China, Japan, South Korea and the ASEAN region

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **Is the call open to all scientific disciplines?**

Yes, the call is open to all scientific disciplines, including social sciences and humanities.

- **I am a doctoral student/postdoc/research assistant, am I eligible to apply for this type of grant?**

Unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply as the Swiss main applicant. A senior scientist or the professor of your research group has to apply as the Swiss main applicant. You are eligible to apply as Swiss co-applicant.

- **My research group has already applied to the same instrument in the past years but was not awarded a grant. Are we allowed to apply again?**

As long as the Swiss main applicant meets the eligible requirements of the new call, you are allowed to apply.

- **My research group has already applied to the same instrument in the past years and was awarded a grant. Are we allowed to apply again?**

As long as the Swiss main applicant meets the eligible requirements of the new call, you are allowed to apply.

- **Who bears the main responsibility for the project?**

The Swiss main applicant bears the responsibility for the project including its technical, administrative and financial coordination as well as timely delivery of scientific and financial reports. The Swiss main applicant is legally bound to the Leading House Asia via a contract signed by both parties.

- **How much financial contribution does the research partner in Asia and in Switzerland have to provide?**

A financial contribution of each partner is expected and must be made explicit in cash and in-kind. A balanced share of the financial contribution is expected. There are not strict regulations by the Leading House in regard of the amount of financial contribution. However, it is part of the review criteria.

- **Our research group would like to collaborate with the European branch of an Asian company, are they eligible to act as co-applicants?**

No, the 'non-academic research agent', i.e. the company your research group would like to collaborate with has to be Asian located in Asia.

- **Our research group would like to collaborate with an Asian subsidiary of a Swiss company, are they eligible to act as co-applicants?**

No, the 'non-academic research agent', i.e. the company your research group would like to collaborate with has to be Asian located in Asia. The Asian subsidiary of a Swiss company is not eligible.

- **Can the grant be used to pay salaries?**

No, the innovation partnership grants cannot be used to pay a salary, nor is it meant to be a scholarship. Innovation partnership grants can be used to pay project-related costs (e.g. flight and accommodation for field research, if justified within the proposal). The outsourcing of project-tasks (e.g. data collection and processing) can only be covered in exceptional cases.

- **How are applications evaluated?**

The Leading House Asia awards grants according to the principle of competition and ensures equal opportunity for all applicants. A first formal eligibility check is done by the Leading House Asia, then all the eligible applications are sent to an external review panel. The external review panel meets to review all applications and makes a final decision.

- **Our research project has been awarded. When do we receive the grant?**

Upon signature of the contract by both parties (Swiss main applicant and Leading House Asia), 80% of the grant sum will be transferred in a first instalment. The remaining 20% will be transferred in a second instalment upon reception and approval of the scientific and financial report by the Leading House Asia.

- **We have encountered unforeseeable issues (e.g. travel bans abroad due to a pandemic) when doing our research. Are we allowed to request a no-cost extension?**

The Swiss main applicant is allowed to request a no-cost extension. Please send your request to Ms. Elise Nardin elise.nardin@sl.ethz.ch

- **What kind of report is requested?**

All grantees have to send a scientific and a financial report to the Leading House Asia, maximum one month after completion of the research project. All reporting forms are available for download on our [website](#).