

Implementation Guidelines for the Talented Young Scientist Program (TYSP)

I. Background, purpose and management framework

The Talented Young Scientist Program (hereinafter referred to as “TYSP”), launched by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), subsidizes outstanding young scientists, scholars and researchers from developing countries to carry out research and science and technology policy work in China’s research institutes, universities and enterprises.

TYSP aims to promote the exchange of scientific and technological personnel between China and developing countries, help developing countries to cultivate leading scientists, and establish long-term cooperative relations between Chinese and foreign research institutes, universities and enterprises.

The management framework of TYSP consists of the competent authority, executive agency, organizing and recommending department and host institute. The competent authority is Department of International Cooperation, MOST. The executive agency: China Science and Technology Exchange Center The host institute is a legal entity such as a research institute, a university or an enterprise that has been lawfully set up in China. The organizing and recommending departments refer to the ministries and commissions of the State Council with which the host institutes are affiliated, relevant departments and bureaus in charge of international science and technology cooperation, the department of science and technology (commissions, offices and bureaus) of the provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government, and municipalities with independent planning status where the host institutes are located.

II. Qualifications for host institutes

1. Legal entities established within the territory of China according to law, such as research institutes, universities or enterprises with corresponding channels and capabilities for foreign cooperation and corresponding conditions and capabilities for research;
2. A willingness to receive foreign experts and provide necessary working conditions;
3. An ability to issue letters of invitation to foreign experts to work in China and assist foreign experts in handling Entry Visa, Foreign Expert Certificate, Residence Permit for Foreigners, insurance and other formalities;
4. An ability to pay advances for foreign experts after their entry to China and prior to the fund allocation by the executive agency.
5. An ability to provide receipts or official invoices for public institutions;
6. Able to designate the unit’s responsible department and specific person-in-charge of TYSP, who shall be responsible for all application matters within the unit, management affairs and QA in the later stage.

III. Criteria for applicants

1. Countries: Countries in Asia and Africa, Eurasia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and Caribbean region;
2. Under 45 years old (including 45 years old, subject to the application time);

3. With over five years of research experience or with a doctoral degree
4. A regular work in the native country;
5. Fluency in English or Chinese mandarin and a good communication skill;
6. Healthy both physically and mentally, and capable of research work;
7. Committed to work full-time in China during the period of being subsidized;
8. Committed to abide by the Chinese laws while in China.

IV. Post requirements

1. Non-confidential position
2. Non-degree education
3. Research or policy study positions with definite responsibilities
4. Foreign experts should work with Chinese researchers.

V. Financial support

1. Period of sponsorship: six or twelve months;
2. Sponsorship criteria: RMB 12,500 per month before tax. The executive agency allocates the financial support for 6 months or 12 months (i.e. RMB 75,000 or 150,000) to the host institute receiving the foreign expert at one time, which in turn issues the sponsorship to foreign experts on a monthly basis (The specific method shall directly be negotiated by the host institute and the foreign expert);
3. Allocation time: The executive agency allocates sponsorship to the host institute within 30 working days after the entry information materials are submitted by the host institute;
4. Sponsorship description: The sponsorship is only used for housing subsidy, living allowances and insurance during the stay in China (Among them, insurance is compulsory, including medical insurance and life insurance at least), and other expenditures such as air tickets are paid by the foreign expert himself;
5. Tax description: The specific tax and fees shall be paid by the host institute in accordance with the provisions of the unit and the tax department.

[Note]: The State Administration of Taxation has explained the tax exemption issue for foreign teachers and researchers in the *Notification on Implementing the Teachers and Researchers Provisions in Tax Convention* (the State Administration of Taxation Notification No. 42 in 2011). The host institute may, on the basis of this document, inquire the local tax authority about the tax exemption policy, and the specific taxation shall be subject to the opinions given by the local tax authority.

6. Description for sponsorship issuance on leave and vacation: (1) On leave: If the foreign expert really needs to ask for a leave owing to special circumstances, the host institute may approve depending on the situation. During the period of leave, which is not included in the period of working in China, the sponsorship is suspended. (2) Paid leave: The host institute may approve a paid leave as it deems appropriate, and the paid leave shall not exceed one month in principle.

VI. Application procedures

1. The competent authority issues solicitation guidelines for TYSP;
2. The responsible person of the host institute logs on the website of TYSP and applies for a parent account, which will come into effect after being reviewed by the organizing and recommending department. (The responsible person of the host institute shall be a staff member in the relevant departments such as the foreign affairs department or personnel department, responsible for all the application, later-period management and QA of the unit.) When the sole parent account of the host institute comes into effect, the person in charge may open several sub-accounts for internal use of the host institute.
3. After the review, the host institute can apply for the receiving position in the system, and after initial review by the organizing and recommending department, it is submitted to the executive agency for approval. The positions are made available on the website by the executive agency.
4. Foreign experts log on to the TYSP Information System to fill in personal information and apply for the position;
5. The host institute selects a foreign expert with the maximum matching degree to the receiving position from the foreign experts applying for the position, and verify his identity information and issue a letter of consent to him for his work in China;
6. Foreign experts contact a foreign recommending department (competent authorities, international organizations, embassies and consulates, etc.) by themselves to obtain a letter of recommendation. There are two ways to get the letter of recommendation. Please refer to the system prompt for the specific operation.
 - 6.1 Foreign experts contact the foreign recommending department to apply for a letter of recommendation by themselves, and finally the host institute uploads the scanning copy of the letter of recommendation through the system.
 - 6.2 Foreign experts contact the foreign recommending department to apply for a letter of recommendation by themselves, and the recommending department uploads the scanned copy of the letter of recommendation through the system.
7. The executive agency organizes an expert review to select an excellent foreign expert;
8. The executive agency informs the organizing and recommending department, host institute, foreign recommending department and foreign expert of the acceptance through the system notification.
9. The host institute, with the acceptance notification, handles the “foreign expert’s work permit in China” in the Bureau of Foreign Experts Affairs in the locality of the host institute, and sends the original work permit, letter of invitation and the visa notification letter of the authorized unit to the foreign expert himself. The Chinese embassy or consulate in the foreign expert’s country shall handle the procedures for the Work Permit Visa (Z) for the foreign expert working in China.
10. The host institute shall submit to the executive agency the entry information materials of the foreign expert as soon as possible after his entry to China, including copy of the visa page, entry record, certificate of the foreign expert issued by the host institute (affixed with the official seal), copy of insurance and contract of TYSP (in triplicate);
11. The executive agency shall review the entry information materials of the foreign expert, sign the contract and mail the contract to the host institute. The executive agency shall allocate funds to the host institute within 30 working days after receiving the entry information materials.

12. Upon receipt of funds, the host institute shall provide receipts or official invoices for institutions to the executive agency.

13. The foreign expert holding the Work Permit Visa (Z) shall apply for the *Foreign Expert Certificate* in the Bureau of Foreign Experts Affairs as soon as possible after entering China. Immediately after entry to China, the foreign expert shall apply for the residence permit for the foreigner with the Work Permit Visa (Z) and *Foreign Expert Certificate* in the exit and entry administration office of the local public security.

14. The host institute shall submit a summary and final settlement to the executive agency with 10 working days after the completion of the program. If there is any balance, the application for rebate shall be submitted and the remaining funds shall be returned to the executive agency within 10 working days after the approval.

15. After the foreign expert has finished his work in China, the executive agency shall issue a certificate to him through the host institute.

16. After the applicant receives the letter of consent, in the event of breach of contract by either party, then the said party shall not apply for this program within two years.

VII. Application and review time

It can be applied all the year around. The review is held once quarterly, in January, April, July and October, respectively.

VIII. Other information

The application website for TYSP: <https://tysp.cstec.org.cn>.

Mail address: Room 204, Asia-Africa and CIS Office, China Science and Technology Exchange Center, No. 54, Sanlihe Road, Xicheng District, Beijing

Mailbox for consultation: tysp@cstec.org.cn