

2023 Academia Sinica

Funding Opportunity Announcement Seed Grant for Grand Challenge Program

The Academia Sinica **Grand Challenge Program** is established to encourage its researchers to pursue **innovative** solutions for **critical problems** in science and humanities that have broad and lasting **impact**. To catalyze and cultivate ideas still in the early stage of development, shorter term **Seed Grants** are provided to fund exploratory projects for 1-2 years. Successful applicants are expected to deliver key results within that one year or two that would substantiate the ideas proposed and allow them to undertake a more extensive investigation.

Interested Investigators are requested to submit a concise proposal that would clearly describe i) the **specific problem to be solved**, ii) the **innovative ideas and approaches to be taken**, iii) the **impact of the work** if the goals are realized, and iv) the overall **plans to test the ideas**, its feasibility, scientific or technical challenges, potential risks and key deliverables, along with any alternative plans to de-risk. The applications will be critically reviewed based on these criteria, based on which the applicants are advised to prepare the proposal accordingly.

1. Application Process

1.1 Eligibility

1. The Project PI must be an Academia Sinica Research Fellow of any rank.
2. PI can invite non-Academia Sinica scientists to participate in the project and serve as co-PI, if necessary.
3. Additional collaborators enlisted, if any, should be justified and each is required to provide a Supporting Letter delineating their expertise and specific roles in the project.

1.2 Deadlines and Important Reminders

1. Application deadline is 17:00, **February 6, 2023**; Proposals from Division of Life Sciences and Division of Mathematics and Physical Sciences should be written in English.
2. In preparing the proposals, applicants should keep in mind the following review criteria: i) **the significance of the problem to be addressed**, ii) **the degree of innovation**, iii) **the extent of anticipated impact**, and iv) **the feasibility of your plans**. Furthermore, the investigators involved should have relevant expertise and the project be deemed sufficiently competitive. Although this Seed Grant will emphasize the first three criteria and take more risks in unproven methodologies and hypothesis, a major strategic flaw will not convince the reviewers. Applicants are advised to read the attached Review Criteria ([Appendix](#), also available online) in the first instance.
3. Applicants may be invited to make oral presentations and answer questions during the review process.

2. Funding Period and other Requirements

- 2.1 Applicants can request for either one- or two-years' funding.
- 2.2 Grant **Acceptance** and **Requirements** prior to Project Execution

1. Project PI and co-PI(s) of a successful application must sign and abide by the terms as stipulated in the Project Execution Agreement, and complete the Conflict of Interest declaration process, prior to commencing the project.
2. Approval from the relevant AS committees must be obtained before commencing any project involving biological and/or genetically engineered materials, animal experiments or human subjects.
3. In accordance with the AS Research Ethics regulations, all personnel who directly perform any AS-funded research activity should receive at least one hour of research ethics training every three years. Such training must be completed within six months of joining the research project, or within the duration of the project for a project lasting less than six months;
4. Project PI found to have violated research ethics will be subject to actions recommended by the AS Ethics Committee.

2.3 Report and Evaluation

1. For 2-year's project, a brief progress summary report must be submitted within a month after completion of the first year. Additional oral presentation by PI to discuss progress and problems may then be arranged.
2. A final written report to the AS Department of Academic Affairs and Instrument Services is due upon completion of each project.

3. Application Materials to be submitted

1. Please upload your proposal before the submission deadline: **17:00, February 6, 2023.**
2. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
3. Grant Office contact information:

Email: grandchallenge@gate.sinica.edu.tw
c/o Ms. EG Chen (Tel: 2787-2612)
Department of Academic Affairs and Instrument Service

壹、計畫申請作業

一、申請人資格

- (一) 研究計畫之(總)主持人需為本院專任助研究員(含)以上。
- (二) 計畫主持人可邀請非本院專家學者參與研究團隊，擔任該計畫共同主持人。
- (三) 若因執行計畫另需邀請協同參與或合作研究人員，計畫主持人可於申請書說明其必要性，並檢附該協同參與或合作研究人員同意提供協助與支持該計畫或合作意願之說明信函(supporting letter)。

二、計畫申請時程與其他注意事項：

- (一) 申請時程為即日起至 112 年 2 月 6 日 17 時止，數理組及生命組之計畫書應以英文撰寫。
 - (二) 撰寫計畫書時，應著眼於欲解決的關鍵議題之重要性、所提出的思維與方法之創新突破性，及研究成果對該領域的影響力。敬請參酌 **附件** 之英文版的評審基準說明。
 - (三) 審查過程如需申請團隊口頭報告或說明之會議安排等事宜將另行通知。
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貳、計畫補助年限與執行前需求

- 一、計畫補助年限為一或二年期。

二、核定後執行前須知

- (一) 經核定通過之總主持人及共同計畫主持人須簽署相關計畫執行同意書，並於計畫執行前完成利益揭露程序；
- (二) 核定通過之研究計畫，涉及生物材料及基因重組相關實驗、動物實驗及以人為研究對象者，應檢附經相關委員會核准之同意函，方可開始執行該計畫；
- (三) 依據「中央研究院學術研究倫理教育課程實施要點」，執行以本院預算支應之研究計畫者，參與計畫人員每 3 年應接受至少 1 小時之學術倫理教育課程訓練，至遲應於開始參與研究計畫之日起 6 個月內完成；研究計畫執行期限少於 6 個月者，應於計畫執行期限內完成；
- (四) 計畫主持人如涉有違反學術倫理之情事者，依「中央研究院各級倫理委員會設置及作業要點」處理。

三、執行進度與成果報告

- (一) 二年期計畫應於執行滿第一年後的一個月內提交精簡進度摘要報告，並視需求得以安排口頭報告討論進度及待解決之問題。

(二) 計畫執行期滿，須向學術處提交完整執行成果報告。

參、申請資料

- 一、申請計畫請於 112 年 2 月 6 日 17:00 時前，登錄中央研究院學術服務管理系統 <https://asms.sinica.edu.tw/>上傳相關資料。
 - 二、逾期或資料不齊者恕不受理。
 - 三、學術及儀器事務處 計畫辦公室與承辦人聯絡方式：
grandchallenge@gate.sinica.edu.tw，
陳羿君 EG Chen，電話：2787-2612
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