

New Zealand-China Tripartite Partnership Fund

Guidance and Call For Proposals

Support funding is available for new and existing tripartite relationships between New Zealand and Chinese universities in 2024.

There are two documents:

- 1. This Guidance document that outlines the purpose of the fund, invites proposals that fit the brief, and outlines the process for how proposals will be selected for funding. The fund is competitive.*
- 2. The Proposal document, which is to be used to prepare and submit your funding application.*

Background

In 2005, the Chinese Ministry of Education initiated a partnership programme, also known as the 'Two Brothers' arrangement, between prestigious eastern universities and universities in developing western inland areas.

The New Zealand and Chinese Ministries of Education subsequently agreed to formally support and promote tripartite relationships between New Zealand and China, in which a New Zealand university is joined as the 'third brother' to an existing 'two brothers' arrangement. Both governments have further agreed to commit funding to support this bilateral initiative.

Under the terms of the Addendum to the Arrangement on Cooperation in Education and Training Between the Ministry of Education of New Zealand and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China recently renewed in November 2022, the following subject areas are eligible for Tripartite Fund support: arts, humanities, social sciences, sciences and applied sciences.

Purpose of the Fund

The purpose of the fund is to encourage the development of strategic research relationships between New Zealand and China. It seeks to help initiate new tripartite partnerships and facilitate the development of existing partnerships.

Funding is available for costs associated with facilitation or development of the research partnership, which is the main objective of the fund. Funds have been applied to support meetings, mobility, forums, conferences and small-scale operational costs.

The Tripartite Partnership Fund administered by Education New Zealand aims to support



New Zealand institutions to develop and grow strong global connections, research links and partnerships for New Zealand, linking to Global Citizens, the third goal of the [New Zealand International Education Strategy \(NZIES\) 2022-2030](#).

Eligibility Criteria – Who can apply for the funding?

For a proposal to be considered for assessment it must meet the eligibility criteria set out below. Proposals that we consider do not meet these criteria will be declined for funding on eligibility grounds.

The fund is contestable and open to New Zealand universities with existing or new emerging tripartite partnerships. Each university may have more than one such partnership. Proposals must be signed by the applicant and Dean of School or University Research Office.

Applicants must:

- Be a New Zealand university employee who is undertaking bone fide academic research or is leading an academic research team¹
- Have identified and received commitment from two Chinese partner universities
- Confirmed a research project topic and research plan with partners

Evidence of Tripartite Partnership	
Emerging Tripartite Partnership	Established Tripartite Partnership
Letters of intent to collaborate from all partners (or applicable documentation)	Evidence of a current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), plans for renewing MoU, or alternative evidence of the established partnership

Terms of the fund - What Funding is available?

The Fund provides up to NZ\$100,000 including GST per year. Funding will be limited to a maximum of NZ\$20,000-30,000 including GST per proposal. We seek to fund a balance of existing and emerging partnerships.

The assessment panel are looking for innovative ideas and viable solutions to encourage facilitation of partnerships. Some examples of activities and deliverables funded in previous Tripartite Partnership proposals include:

- Travel or mobility
- Forum or conference related costs
- Increase secure communication platforms or invest in digital technology services
- Translation costs

¹ PhD and Masters students/candidates are not eligible to apply, however they may form part of the research team working on the Tripartite Project.

**THINK
NEW[®]**



- Journal Access
- Communication and website platforms
- Professional capability in publishing

The proposal deadline for the Financial Year 2024/2025 round is Friday 01 March 2024. 50% of approved funding will be disbursed on signing of the Funding Agreement, with the remaining 50% to be reimbursed following completion of the proposed activity and associated reporting due within one month (of completion).



Assessment Criteria

A review panel from Education New Zealand (ENZ), the Ministry of Education (MOE), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) will evaluate proposals on a two-step basis comprising:

- ✓ Eligibility screen as set by New Zealand Government policy
- ✓ Alignment of proposed activities with the assessment criteria in the following table.

In assessing the alignment, the proposals will be scored by a panel of assessors from ENZ, MOE, MBIE, MFAT using the following scale:

Scoring	
1	Poor - lacking sufficient explanation or does not respond to assessment criteria
2	
3	Satisfactory
4	
5	Excellent - clear evidence and detailed explanation of alignment to the assessment criteria

Assessors will consider to what extent a proposal provides confidence that the assessment criteria have been met. The scores will be weighted as set out below, to provide a total score out of 20. Proposals will be ranked high to low for funding purposes.

	Assessment Criteria	Weighting
Alignment to Fund Objectives	<p>1. Funding Request Does the proposal clearly set out how the funding will be allocated to the stated activities?</p> <p>Consider the degree to which funding will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute to the establishment, or further development of the new tripartite relationship; and • facilitate interaction between New Zealand and Chinese researchers, faculties and universities • contribute to strengthening the broader relationship between the NZ and China university partners 	40%



Impact	<p>2. Intended Outcomes Does the proposal demonstrate how it will advance the objectives of both the tripartite relationship and the overall tripartite programme?</p> <p>30%</p> <p>Include the benefits that will result from the proposed activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how the research focus support advancement of the joint research objectives of the tripartite relationship; and • the longer term benefits that are likely to result from the proposed activities, including the nature and scale of future opportunities associated with the development of the relationship; and • the extent to which the partnership will develop or enhance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ longer term skills, capability, networks, relationships ○ research opportunities that are likely to emerge and be sustained • alignment with New Zealand government priorities • opening up new or deeper opportunities between New Zealand and China • the potential education and research outcomes through knowledge and information exchange, professional development, and opportunities for student and staff mobility between New Zealand and China.
	<p>3. Ability to Deliver Does the proposal provide confidence that the activities will be able to be delivered as stated?</p> <p>30%</p> <p>Consider the degree to which all due diligence of the proposed activity or new partnership has been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the likelihood of success of proposed activities? • Is the timing realistic? • Is the budget realistic? • Is there a detailed plan of activities and deliverables? • Is it innovative and different? <p>3.1 Identify risks Does the proposal provide confidence that any risks associated with the project will be identified and managed?</p> <p>This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mitigation plan for risks associated with research project, topics or partner institutions (intellectual property, ethical, and safety issues, etc.) • does the proposal have a contingency plan?
Total	100%



Reporting Guidelines

Projects must commence on 30 May 2024, and be completed by 30 April 2025. Within one month of completion of the approved activity, Education New Zealand requires a report to be submitted by the applicant detailing how funding achieved the intended objectives as outlined in the proposal. A detailed breakdown of approved expenditure, with appropriate supporting documentation (receipts, etc.), will be required before approved funding can be reimbursed. Interim progress reports following the same format as the final report will be required for proposed activities spanning more than six months.

Proposal timeline and key dates

The proposal process and timeline is as follows:

Applicants submit funding proposal	01 March 2024
Proposal is checked against eligibility criteria then Assessment Panel reviews with assessment criteria	March - April
Funding decisions announced	05 April 2024
Funding Agreement begins and projects start	30 May 2024
Interim report due	6 months after Funding Agreement signed
Projects deliverables completed	30 April 2025
Report and final invoice due	30 May 2025

Submitting funding proposals

Completed proposals and supporting documents are due to Education New Zealand by 01 March 2024. The proposal should be emailed as a PDF to the following email address: china@enz.govt.nz.

Resources

NZSIS's Protective Security Requirements (PSR) team worked with Science New Zealand and Universities New Zealand to produce [Trusted Research: Guidance for Institutions and Researchers](#). All applicants are required to declare they have read the document.

Learn more about the types of research projects funded in the 2023-24 Tripartite Partnership Funding round and outcomes from previous Fund activities [here](#).

Read about a Tripartite Partnership research project with Lincoln University and the benefits to New Zealand [here](#).

Enquiries

**THINK
NEW[®]**



Enquiries can be emailed to china@enz.govt.nz.