

Frequently Asked Questions

2026-27 Grant Round

National Foundation for Australia-China Relations

Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply?

Eligibility requirements are outlined in Section 4 of the [Grant Opportunity Guidelines](#).

Applicants must:

- be an eligible entity type
- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be located in Australia or mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and/or Taiwan and
- meet all mandatory eligibility criteria.

Applications that do not meet eligibility requirements cannot be considered.

Can my organisation submit more than one application?

Yes. Organisations may submit multiple applications for different projects.

Does my project need a connection to China?

Projects must either:

- engage with mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and/or Taiwan or
- engage Chinese-Australian communities in Australia. Chinese-Australian community focused projects do not need to engage internationally.

Does my project need to take place in Australia?

No. Activities may take place in Australia, mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and/or Taiwan, or a combination of these locations.

What is the maximum duration of the grant?

The grant activity can occur for a maximum of four years between the Activity Start Date and the Agreement End Date stated in the grant agreement. We anticipate that some activities and therefore grants will be of shorter duration.

I have a project idea. Can I discuss the proposal with the Foundation before I submit the application?

Once the grant round is open, the Foundation is unable to discuss project proposals to ensure the process remains competitive and fair to all applicants.

Funding

How much funding can I apply for?

Most grants are expected to be between **\$100,000 and \$400,000**, depending on scope and complexity. Applications outside this range may still be considered.

Will I receive the full amount I apply for?

Not necessarily. The Foundation may approve a different amount based on value for money, eligible expenditure, and the final agreed scope.

Can grant funding be used to pay staff?

Yes, where staff are directly involved in delivering the grant activity. Ongoing organisational overheads or unrelated staff costs are not eligible.

Do I need co-funding from another source?

No. Co-funding is not mandatory. However, applications must demonstrate financial sustainability and co-funding or sponsorship are looked upon favourably for this reason. Any cash or in-kind contributions should be clearly explained.

Can I include activities that start before funding is confirmed?

No. Costs incurred or activities started before a signed grant agreement are not eligible for funding and cannot be reimbursed.

Can funding be used for scientific research?

The Foundation does not fund scientific research however we may fund research collaborations between Australia and China, including knowledge exchange. We would not ordinarily fund long-term PhD scholarships.

Can funding be used for showcases of art or performance from China in Australia?

The Foundation's funding is primarily for showcasing Australian excellence, including artistic or performance tours of China by Australians, or collaboration between Australian and Chinese arts organisations. We would not ordinarily fund tours of Australia of artworks or performances from China without a reciprocal component or significant collaboration.

Assessment

How does the two-stage application process work?

- **Stage One:** All applicants submit a 500-word Expression of Interest (EOI).
- **Stage Two:** Shortlisted applicants are invited to submit a full application addressing the detailed assessment criteria and providing supporting documentation.

Submitted Stage Two applications will then be assessed.

How are applications assessed?

This is a competitive grants process. Applications are assessed against the published assessment criteria and compared with other proposals. Each stage has different requirements and weightings.

Who assesses applications and makes final decisions?

Applications are assessed by an Assessment Committee in consultation with the Advisory Board and key stakeholders. Final funding decisions are made by the Program Delegate. Decisions are final and there is no appeal process.

Timing

What are the key application dates?

- **EOI deadline:** 12:00 pm AEST, Tuesday 26 May 2026
- **Stage Two (invited applicants) deadline:** 12:00 pm AEST, Friday 10 July 2026

Late applications will not be accepted.

When can grant activities start?

Grant activities should commence after funding is confirmed and contracting has concluded. The earliest expected start date is **March 2027**.

When will I be notified of the outcome?

- EOI applicants will be notified in the **week of 15 June 2026**.
- Stage Two applicants will be notified following assessment and execution of grant agreements (approximately 18 weeks after Stage Two closes).

Can I request feedback if my EOI was not successful?

Due to the high volume of applications received, we're unable to provide individual feedback on unsuccessful EOI submissions.

Common mistakes

At the Expression of Interest stage:

- Overlooking **key eligibility requirements**
- Not addressing **assessment criteria**
- Broad or unfocused, e.g., attempting to cover too many ideas without a clear core proposal
- Not providing a clear link between your proposal and the Foundation's priority objectives and intended outcomes.

At the full application stage:

- **Propose unrealistic activities, budgets, or timeframes**
(the scope is not achievable within the funding or grant period)
- **Provide insufficient detail for the level of funding requested**
(particularly in relation to delivery, risk management, governance, or evaluation)
- **Do not clearly demonstrate value for money**
(costs are not well explained or do not clearly link to outcomes)
- **Do not sufficiently evidence delivery capability or risk management**
(including organisational experience, partner roles, or management of political, financial or reputational risk)

Supporting Documents for Stage Two: Full grant applications round

Can I rely on attachments instead of answering questions in the form?

No. All core questions must be answered in the application form. Attachments should only provide supporting information where requested.

My project has a significant visual element: how can I provide a supporting video?

The Foundation can only view videos hosted on web-based applications such as YouTube and Vimeo (not file shared such as Dropbox). Copy and paste the link into application form.
NOTE: Video privacy settings should be “unlisted”.

Is there a referee report template? Who can provide referees reports?

Due to the diverse nature of applicants there is no prescribed template. Referees should be familiar with the proposal. Referees cannot be Foundation employees, employees of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, or Foundation Advisory Board members.