

National Science Foundation

NSF conducts cooperative scientific activities with China under the 1979 umbrella Agreement and under two subsequent protocols, the “Basic Sciences Protocol,” and the “Earthquake Studies Protocol,” both originally signed in 1980.

In calendar years 2004-2005, NSF awarded \$11,905,784 to U.S. researchers engaged in collaborative activities involving China under the umbrella S&T Agreement, including \$9,416,129 relevant to the umbrella S&T Agreement and “Basic Sciences Protocol,” \$1,954,102 relevant to the umbrella S&T Agreement and “Earthquake Studies Protocol,” and \$535,553 relevant to Annex 3 of the “Earthquake Studies Protocol” in the fields of earthquake engineering and hazards mitigation.

NSF also conducts scientific activities with China through major international agreements such as the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP), in which China is an Associate Member. Additionally, since 2004, NSF sends up to 30 U.S. graduate students to China each year for summer research experiences through the East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes, a program operated in China under an agreement with the Ministry of Science and Technology of China (MOST).

NSF established an office in Beijing in the late summer of 2005. The current director of the Beijing Office is a senior NSF staff member with over 16 years’ experience managing NSF programs. Having a full-time NSF presence in Beijing will facilitate and strengthen collaboration between U.S. and Chinese scientists and engineers that will benefit research and education in basic sciences. As an integral part of NSF’s mission, the Beijing Office will analyze science and technology developments and policies in China for the U.S. research community and U.S. policymakers. Additionally, the Beijing Office staff liaises with Chinese science and technology agencies and institutions to promote U.S. interests in cooperative science and engineering research and policy formulation. The Office also assists with the administration of ongoing NSF programs in China, such as the East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes.