

2025 ASSA-CASS JOINT ACTION PROGRAM GUIDELINES

1. Research Grants

In 2025, four grants will be awarded to teams of social scientists from Australia and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). The grant is intended to provide Australian and CASS researchers the opportunity to collaborate in areas of shared interest. It is suited to early-career researchers who wish to pursue research opportunities with an international colleague, with the intention this may lead to larger research projects. To apply, researchers must submit a proposal to conduct research with an overseas partner having similar interests. The work undertaken on the project may involve online or in-person meetings. Proposals with an interdisciplinary character are encouraged. The grant can be expended throughout 2025 on the costs associated with the project which may include, but are not limited to, air travel, accommodation, data collection, and conference-related costs.

The following topics have been identified as priorities for the 2025 program:

1. Urban Development
2. Population and/or Migration
3. Environmental Protection
4. Regional Security and Cooperation
5. National Development Measures and Evaluation
6. New Developments in IT Communication and Commerce
7. The Social and Linguistic Study of Human Settlement in Asia

1.1. Applicant requirements

Each application must contain at least one researcher from Australia and one from CASS. As the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA) encourages the participation of early-career researchers, one applicant must be fewer than eight years beyond the completion of their PhD. The Academy recognises career interruptions can have a significant impact on the period between conferral of a researcher's PhD and the submission of an application. The Academy therefore allows extension of the eligibility periods for specified career interruptions.

The following significant and non-overlapping career interruptions will be eligible:

Reason for career interruption	Time which can be claimed (minimum period of one month)
International relocation	Time commensurate with the interruption, not exceeding three months per international relocation.
Child-care as primary carer (includes periods of parental leave as well as part-time work while caring for one or more children)	Up to two years per dependent child
Other caring responsibilities (including care of a dependent child due to illness or disability)	Time commensurate with the interruption.
Medical condition or disability	Time commensurate with the interruption.
Non-research employment (if not concurrent with research employment) or unemployment	Time commensurate with the interruption.

1.2. Application

For an application to be valid, applicants from both ASSA and CASS must communicate and agree to apply together ahead of submitting their applications. A letter of confirmation in support of an applicant is also required as part of a valid application. The letter should be from the applicant's current supervisor or university/institution and confirm that they support the applicant to undertake the specified project.

Signed application forms must be submitted separately to both ASSA and to the Bureau of International Cooperation of CASS. Applicants are advised to contact the Bureau of International Cooperation of CASS to obtain the relevant CASS application form and submission procedures. Assessment for applications is carried out by ASSA and CASS separately, with grants awarded to applications ranking highly in the assessment of both.

With approval from ASSA and CASS, each successful project application will be awarded \$7,000 AUD to be shared by the Australian scholars and ¥35,000 RMB to be shared by the CASS scholars.

1.3. Deadline

Applications are due to ASSA by **Monday 30 June 2025**. Applications will be decided by the end of July 2025, with participants being notified by ASSA and CASS as soon as is practicable.

1.4. Invoice

Successful applicants must invoice ASSA for the funding prior to the commencement of the project, and by no later than 29 August 2025.



1.5. Conclusion of grants

Successful applicants must submit a report of the research activities funded by the program and an acquittal of funding expenditure by no later than 30 November 2026.

The report should be approximately 2000 words in length. It must outline the objectives and details of international visits or meetings, project outcomes, and research findings to date, progress in the international collaboration undertaken more generally, directions for future research, and any other details of interest.

1.6. Contact

For more information, or to submit a completed application, please contact:

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