

# ISSI/ISSI-BJ Joint Call for Proposals 2022 for International Teams in Space and Earth Sciences

*This call is jointly released by ISSI (International Space Science Institute) in Bern and ISSI-Beijing (ISSI-BJ). ISSI & ISSI-BJ organise the same range of activities and share the same Science Committee. Applicants should indicate clearly whether they are applying for ISSI, ISSI-BJ, or both. To mitigate the impact of travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic we provide infrastructure for hybrid meetings, as well as online collaboration tools.*

## 1. Purpose

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ISSI and ISSI-BJ invite scientists to submit project proposals for their International Team activity. International Teams are small groups of scientists involved in space research, working together on data analysis, theory and models. This call is open to all scientists, regardless of nationality or institutional affiliation, who are actively involved in any of the following research fields:

1. Space Sciences: Magnetospheric and Space Plasma Physics, Solar-Terrestrial Sciences, Solar and Heliospheric Physics, Planetary Sciences, Astrobiology, Astrophysics, Cosmology, and Fundamental Physics in Space
2. Earth Sciences using space data. This includes understanding and modelling Earth system processes, as well as climate change projections.

*Applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ websites ([www.issibern.ch](http://www.issibern.ch), [www.issibj.ac.cn](http://www.issibj.ac.cn)) prior to submitting their proposal.*

## 2. Modus Operandi

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International Teams typically consist of 8-12 members from different institutions, for two (maximum three) one-week meetings at ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ. The first Team meeting should preferably be organized no more than 6 months after approval of the proposal, and the overall project duration not exceed a period of 2 years.

International Team members must firmly commit to jointly carrying out the project and attending Team meetings at ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ. Team leaders must secure this commitment at the time of proposal submission. Team leaders are also responsible for overseeing all Team activities throughout the lifetime of the project. They shall liaise with ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ for all aspects related to coordination and planning.

International Team activities should lead to peer-reviewed publications. All publications must include an appropriate acknowledgement of ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ for support received. Teams are required to maintain a website on the ISSI server (on an external server in the case of ISSI-BJ), which provides general information on the project and Team, as well as an up-to-date list of Team publications.

### 3. Composition of an Eligible International Team

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An International Team consists of 8–12 scientists, representing a minimum of 4 different countries, and among these at least one ESA member state. Funding is available for up to 24 person-weeks, e.g. 8 members for a maximum of 3 one-week meetings, or 12 members for 2 one-week meetings. Teams should aim to achieve a balanced gender representation, a good mix of seniority levels, and include the multi-disciplinary expertise required for the project.

### 4. Selection Criteria

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The overarching requirements for acceptance of International Team proposals will be (i) the scientific significance of the proposed research; (ii) the ability of Team members to lead the project to a successful conclusion within the indicated time frame; the diversity of Team members in terms of multi-disciplinary expertise, geographic distribution, career stage, and gender balance; and (iii) the added value of ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ.

When assessing proposals, the ISSI Science Committee will look for evidence of the following criteria being satisfied. All these criteria are weighted equally during proposal evaluation.

#### Science:

- Novelty - *Does the International Team address a new question, or propose to synthesise existing knowledge in a new way? Will it develop a new approach? Will the project result in an incremental improvement to existing work, or could it lead to a step change in the relevant field?*
- Timeliness - *Is there a good reason for doing this work now? (E.g. new data coming from a space mission, new developments in a rapidly evolving field.)*
- Scientific impact - *Is this an important question in the field? Will the outcome of the project solve long-standing questions and/or influence the future direction of the field in a multidisciplinary context?*
- Feasibility - *Can the tasks described in the work plan be completed in the time available, and with the proposed Team composition?*
- Scientific legacy - *Will the project develop and provide to the community, e.g., techniques, codes, and datasets with long-lasting impact?*
- Implementation plan - *Is a work plan included and is the contribution of each Team member outlined clearly in the proposal. Have all Team members committed to attending Team meetings?*

### Team:

- Competence – *Does the International Team combine sufficient multi-disciplinary and subject-specific expertise to carry out the proposed research effectively?*
- Range of expertise - *Does the International Team combine the right breadth of skills and knowledge to address the main science questions and implement the work plan? Do the Team members have a sufficiently broad knowledge and expertise to be able to have a productive discussion?*
- Geographic diversity - *Do the International Team members come from a minimum of 4 different countries, and include Team members from at least one ESA member state?*
- Community representation – *Is Team membership balanced, or is it at least representative of the relevant community, in terms of gender, minorities/underrepresented groups, career stage, etc. ...*

### Added value of ISSI/ISSI-BJ:

- Why ISSI/ISSI-BJ? - *What are the unique attributes of ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ that enable the International Team to achieve their science goals?*
- Science related to space data – *Are Team activities aligned with the ISSI remit of supporting (a) research that directly uses space data, and/or (b) theory with direct application to data? Projects involving both ground- and space-based data are also eligible for support.*
- Resources requested - *Are the demands on ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ realistic and compatible with the guidelines in this proposal call? Is there an overlap with currently active teams (see [www.issibern.ch/program/teams.html](http://www.issibern.ch/program/teams.html))?*

## 5. Contents of the Proposal

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The proposal should be submitted by the International Team leader(s) and include:

- A concise abstract summarizing all key aspects of the proposal
- Scientific rationale
- Added value of ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ for achieving the scientific objectives of the Team
- List of confirmed International Team members with (appended) a 2-page CV for the Team leader(s) and a 1-page CV for members. (Applicants should use [this template CV](#))
- Project workplan incl. number, duration and timing of the meetings planned
- List of the expected outputs e.g., scientific papers, reviews, books, software, etc.
- Financial support requested from ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ (see Section 6)
- Facilities required (only for special requests, see Section 6)
- In an appendix: Affiliations and e-mail addresses of all participants, plus a phone number for the Team leader

Excluding annexes and CVs, the proposal should not exceed a length of 5 sides of A4 paper (i.e. a total of 2.5 A4 pages). It should be submitted as a single pdf file (<10 MB).

## 6. ISSI/ISSI-BJ support

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### Financial support:

ISSI or ISSI-BJ will support living expenses through a per diem and accommodation for the 8-12 *core* members of the International Team, for the duration of Team meetings in Bern and/or Beijing.

Once the proposal is approved, *early-career scientists* (ECS, max. +2 years after the PhD) may be included in the International Team. As a guideline, ISSI support for ECS Team members is expected to constitute of order 20% of the person-weeks allocated to the International Team. ECS are nominated after approval of the proposal and receive financial support equivalent to that of core members, i.e. accommodation and a per diem.

Travel expenses will only be reimbursed to the Team leader. Team leaders can renounce their right to the travel refund in favour of another member of their Team.

### Meeting infrastructure and logistic support:

ISSI and ISSI-BJ provide: meeting rooms including professional audio and video systems for hybrid meetings using, e.g., Zoom/Skype; white boards; Wi-Fi internet access; printers and spare computers; electrical plug adaptors; and the ISSI/ISSI-BJ coffee machine. ISSI Teams can make use of the ISSI on-line collaboration tools (<https://tools.issibern.ch/>) throughout the duration of their project.

Team members with childcare needs, reduced mobility or other special needs can contact ISSI and ISSI-BJ to discuss which arrangements might be made during meetings.

### Core membership management:

Any change to the core membership should be avoided. In the exceptional case where replacing a core member is justified ISSI/ISSI-BJ needs a justification, supported by a CV of the new candidate.

Additional experts invited by the team leader are expected to contribute to the work of the team at no cost to ISSI/ISSI-BJ.

### International Team publications:

ISSI/ISSI-BJ, as a rule, does not fund page charges for journal papers submitted by International Teams. However, ISSI and ISSI-BJ require that papers published as a result of Team activities include an acknowledgement of ISSI's and/or ISSI-BJ's support.

## 7. Duties of the International Team Leader

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After selection, the successful International Team leader shall:

- Refine the schedule of team meetings in collaboration with ISSI or ISSI-BJ
- Establish the list of attendees ahead of each meeting so that appropriate hotel block bookings can be made, and facilities allocated at ISSI or ISSI-BJ

- Set up and maintain a website on the ISSI server, and add content describing the aims of the project, the membership of the International Team and its schedule of activities
- Acknowledge ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ's support in papers published in the framework of the project
- Provide to ISSI/ISSI-BJ, on an annual basis, the list of papers (which shall include an acknowledgement to ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ) published in the framework of the project. This list will be part of ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ's annual report and is used to provide metrics to the institutional partners and funding agencies
- Commit to contributing to ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ's outreach activities as related to the outcomes of the International Team's activities
- After completion of Team activities, compile a final report describing the achievements of the project (see Section 8)

## 8. Final Report

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ISSI/ISSI-BJ (and their institutional partners and funding agencies) consider the final report to be of major importance for assessing the quality and potential impact of International Team results. It constitutes a key element in the evaluation of the standard of ISSI and ISSI-BJ's performance and scientific output.

The report should be brief (one to two pages) and highlight the main scientific accomplishments. It should include a list of published articles with acknowledgement to ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ. The report should be addressed to non-specialists.

The final report should be sent to ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ no later than 3 months after completion of the International Team's activities, and should be uploaded to the International Team's website.

## 9. Schedule and Decision

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- **March 17, 2022: Proposal submission deadline**  
Proposals must be submitted via the on-line submission form  
<http://www.issibern.ch/submitproposal/>  
Please submit your proposal by midnight in your local time zone.
- **June 2022:** Announcement of the outcome of the proposal review process

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For further information and questions please contact:

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