



UK-China Joint Research and Innovation Partnership Fund PhD Placement Programme

2017 Call Guidelines (for UK applicants)

Call opens: 2 June 2017

Call closes: 20 September 2017

1. Background

The UK-China Joint Research and Innovation Partnership Fund (known in the UK as the Newton Fund, hereinafter referred to as “the Fund”) was established at the UK-China Summit in 2013. The Fund provides an important framework towards promoting increased research and innovation collaboration between the UK and China supporting long-term, sustainable partnerships and the economic growth of both countries.

Building up a talented pool of well trained, internationally active PhD students is an essential step towards establishing world-class research systems. Improving mobility at the PhD level is also an important factor in facilitating cross-border research collaboration, as connections made at this level can be sustained over longer periods of time and also benefit members of other research teams. It also offers PhD researchers support in terms of their intellectual development, career progression, access to existing and emerging world class facilities, and access to comparative research, environments and populations.

The UK’s Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and China’s Ministry of Education jointly established a 4-year (2015/16 to 2018/19) PhD Candidates Partnership Programme (hereinafter referred to as “the Programme”) under the Fund. The British Council is responsible for the design and daily operation of the Programme on the UK side. The China Scholarship Council (CSC), entrusted by the Ministry of Education, is responsible for the design and daily operation of the Programme on the Chinese side.

2. Programme Overview

The programme will sponsor PhD students at higher education institutions in China or the UK to spend a period of study between three and 12 months in each other’s country, and also sponsor UK PhD supervisors to spend a period of up to four weeks in China (this is only for UK supervisors). Placements must start between January and December 2018.

3. Outcomes

The programme aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- development of individual capacity through international training and development opportunities

- cultivation of highly trained researchers in the UK and China with international experience who are able to contribute to research and innovation, thereby generating economic and social benefits for both countries
- participation of British and Chinese PhD students in international intellectual networks, building cultural understanding and fostering long-term sustainable research collaborations
- development of international joint training pathways
- raising awareness of the UK's and China's research strengths.

4. Priority Sectors

Tackling global challenges – such as extreme weather conditions, urbanisation, access to affordable health care, food and energy security and meeting the social and economic needs of a growing population – requires an integrated research and innovation approach, bringing together communities from different disciplines, sectors and countries in high-quality collaborations. The Fund aims to build UK-China research and innovation collaborations centred on these shared research and innovation challenges, which have direct relevance to both the UK's and China's social welfare and economic development.

Funding is provided by the UK on the basis that it will be used to fund programmes that will contribute to the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment. The most decisive criteria in determining ODA eligibility is establishing the “economic development and welfare of developing countries” as the main objective.¹ For more on our approach to ODA, please see <http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/about/what-is-oda/>

BEIS and the Ministry of Education have agreed to support PhD placements in the following fields:

- health and life sciences (e.g. HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, neglected tropical diseases, child mortality, maternal health)
- environmental technologies (e.g. climate change, green technology, sustainable development, ecosystem services, resource scarcity)
- food and water security
- energy
- urbanisation
- education and creative economy for economic development and social welfare.

5. Eligibility

On the UK side, applications will be considered from all UK institutions with a strong research record in the agreed fields. Host universities in China must be eligible to admit international students.²

² For a list of Chinese universities eligible to admit international students, please visit <http://www.csc.edu.cn/Laihua/universityen.aspx>



Applicants must hold either UK passport OR passports from countries that have diplomatic relations with China. Chinese students studying for their PhDs at UK universities are not eligible.

6. Application

To apply, UK PhD applicants must:

- Step 1: Complete the online registration form of the China Scholarship Council at laihua.csc.edu.cn³ and print it.
- Step 2: Complete the application form on the British Council's online application system ([online application here](#)).

Please note, a scanned copy of the printed online registration form of the China Scholarship Council (including a passport photo and signature) should be uploaded to the British Council's online application system.

Please see attached for a Word version of the British Council's online application form. This is for your reference only and **cannot** be submitted. All applications must be submitted through the online systems.

Each application must include both a PhD student and his/her supervisor. Applications without the involvement of a PhD student or supervisor will not be considered.

Applications must include endorsements from both the sending and receiving supervisors, with the latter's official confirmation that they will host the PhD student, duration of stay and level of fees they will charge.

Where there is a decision between a UK and Chinese supervisor to host each other's applicant students, there is no guarantee that both students' applications will be successful. In cases where only one student's application is successful, the partnering supervisor on the other side must host the applying student and their supervisor.

Named individuals must be provided in the application form. Once the application is approved, no change of the named applicants is permitted.

The online application system will close at **12:00 pm GMT on 20 September 2017**.

Any enquiries about the UK-China Joint Research and Innovation Partnership Fund can be sent to newtonfundchina@britishcouncil.org.cn.

³ Once you have registered, please choose the programme 'Chinese Government Scholarship' and enter the agency number 8264 to start your application.

7. Funding Arrangement

PhD students

- In accordance with the rules and regulations agreed with CSC, each PhD student can visit the partner institution once for a period of between three and 12 months.
- Relevant costs incurred by UK PhD students will be covered by the UK Newton Fund, including visa fees, international airfares (economy class), tuition fees, accommodation and stipend. Costs beyond the above arrangements will be borne by the students themselves. Please see below financial ceilings for items which can be covered.

Mobility grants for PhD supervisors

- Mobility grants are intended to support UK PhD supervisors in visiting the host university during their students' placement for a total period of up to four weeks.
- UK supervisors must agree their plans with their partner institution and indicate this on the application form.
- Visa fees, international airfares (economy class), accommodation and stipend for UK PhD supervisors will be met by the Newton Fund. Costs beyond the above arrangements will be borne by the PhD supervisors themselves or their institution.

The following expenditures will be covered by the Newton Fund

PhD students:

- For placements in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou:

Expenditure	Standard
Visa ⁴ fees and return airfare (economy class)	Up to £1,200
Medical insurance ⁵	£100
Accommodation ⁶ in China	£200/month
Stipend in China	£450/month
Tuition fee in China	According to host universities' standard

- For placement in other cities in China:

Expenditure	Standard
Visa fees and return airfare (economy class)	Up to £1,200
Medical insurance	£100
Accommodation in China	£150/month
Stipend in China	£350/month
Tuition fee in China	According to host universities' standard

PhD supervisors

⁴ For visa application info, please see [here](#)

⁵ For more information of medical insurance in China, please see [here](#)

⁶ For more information about accommodation policy in China, please see [here](#)

Expenditure	Standard
Visa fees and return airfare (economy class)	Up to £1,200
Medical care insurance	£100
Accommodation in China	£60/day
Stipend in China	£40/day

After the announcement of the final assessment results, the British Council will sign a Grant Agreement with the sending institutions and allocate the grants. The sending institutions will make their own arrangements for covering the above expenditures for PhD students and supervisors. Please see below information on Contractual Requirements.

8. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on the following principles:

- all questions on the application form are satisfactorily answered
- the proposed research area relates to at least one of the priority sectors
- the proposed research area is ODA eligible, i.e. the “main objective is establishing economic development and social welfare of developing countries”
- the planned activities demonstrate potential to deliver the planned outcomes in the most effective way
- participation in the programme will contribute towards developing sustainable institutional partnerships between the UK and China

Applicants should ensure their application meets all of the above criteria.

9. Evaluation Process

All the applications will be assessed by the British Council and CSC by **30 November 2017**. The final results will be announced by the British Council and CSC by **15 December 2017**.

Key Dates:

Dates	Activities
2 June 2017	Applications open
20 September 2017	Applications close
30 November 2017	Assessments end
15 December 2017	Results announced

10. Contract and Financial Agreement

A grant agreement for the placement of UK PhD students will be signed by the British Council and the UK sending institution. The sending institution will be responsible for:

- Providing financial accounts detailing how UK government funds have been spent on the PhD student and the supporting supervisor over the reporting period. These

accounts should be submitted by the end of March during the placement period and within 30 days of completing the placement.

- Alerting the British Council to any substantial changes that may impact on the successful delivery of the planned outcomes as indicated in the application.

Diversity

The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity in all our activities. This includes avoidance of bias due to gender, disability, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or religious belief.

Data protection

- The British Council will use the information that you are providing for the purposes of processing your application, making any awards, monitoring and review of any award.
- We shall share any necessary data on your application with the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and with our funding partners in your country in order to assist with management of the application process; any decisions on grants will be made in collaboration with them.
- Organisation details, where collected, are used for monitoring and evaluation and statistical purposes. Gender information, where collected, is used solely in preparing statistical reports.
- The British Council collects country of origin for reporting and statistical purposes and to contact you within your own country.
- Under UK Data Protection law you have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on you, and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information. If you want more information about this please contact your local British Council office or the Data Protection Team at infogovernance@britishcouncil.org or see our website: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection>.

Contractual requirements

- The contracting authority is the British Council which includes any subsidiary companies and other organisations that control or are controlled by the British Council from time to time (see: www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status).
- The successful applicants will be expected to undertake activities in the China.
- The British Council's contractual approach in respect of the grant (Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement) ("Grant Agreement") is set out here: (add link to Grant Agreement). By submitting a response to this call for applications, you are agreeing to be bound by the terms of these guidelines and the Grant Agreement without further negotiation or amendment.



- In the event that you have any concerns or queries in relation to the Grant Agreement, you should submit a clarification request to newtonfundchina@britishcouncil.org.cn in accordance with the provisions of this call for applications by the application deadline. The British Council reserves the right not to make any changes to the Grant Agreement.
- The British Council is under no obligation to consider any clarifications / amendments to the Grant Agreement requested following the application deadline.

11. Reporting and Monitoring

Each UK PhD student and his/her supervisor will submit joint reports, detailing the placement progress and financial accounts, to the British Council. These joint reports must be submitted within 30 days of completing the placement.

12. Contact Points

For the British Council, please contact:
newtonfundchina@britishcouncil.org.cn

For the China Scholarship Council, please contact:
Ms WANG Jing
wangjing@csc.edu.cn
Division of International Student Affairs