



Universiteit Utrecht

2009

China Scholarship Council – Utrecht University PhD Programme

- CALL FOR APPLICATIONS -

1. Information

Following the agreement between the China Scholarship Council (CSC) and Utrecht University (UU), a maximum of 20 excellent Chinese PhD students per year can come to Utrecht as from 2007 to pursue a PhD on a CSC scholarship. In general a PhD at Utrecht University takes 4 years. Qualified students from Mainland China in all disciplines conducting research at Utrecht University Partners (UUP)* are considered eligible candidates. Applications from PhD students who are not registered at one of the Utrecht University Partners are also welcome, but will not have a priority. Applications in the 15 Utrecht University Research Focus Areas, see www.uu.nl under 'research', have a priority. This is the call for applications with information on the programme procedure and attached the application form.

The selection of the Chinese PhD candidates is a multi-stage process, which means that first the Executive Board of Utrecht University will approve the candidates on academic grounds, after which the candidates that have been issued with a letter of acceptance by the UU Executive Board must send their applications (including this letter of acceptance) to CSC. If CSC approves the candidates as well (thus awarding them a four-year scholarship), the students can enter the CSC-UU PhD programme.

The 2009 application deadline is Friday 28 November 2008

Complete applications must be submitted on this date to the Executive Board of UU by the Utrecht University supervisor of the Chinese PhD student.

CSC has set the deadline for submitting applications on **Friday 20 March 2009**. Candidates that receive a letter of acceptance from the Executive Board of UU in January 2009 must submit complete applications in hard copy to CSC. *We advise the students and UU supervisors to prepare the CSC application before or right after submitting their application to UU.*

Considering the deadlines for submitting applications we strongly advise all interested students to contact possible UU supervisors and, if necessary, arrange to take an IELTS or TOEFL (English proficiency) test as soon as possible.

***Utrecht University Partners in Mainland China**

Beijing University
Fudan University
Nanjing University
Tsinghua University
Wuhan University
Xiamen University
Zhejiang University

NB: According to CSC regulations students from the Utrecht University Partners in Hong Kong are not eligible to apply.

2. Schematic procedure

1	Applicants from Mainland China presently doing their PhD (or a combined Masters and PhD programme) at a university or research institute in China are eligible to submit applications. The application form is attached to this document. Only Chinese citizens studying or working in Mainland China are eligible to submit applications. For details on the CSC requirements kindly see the CSC website: http://en.csc.edu.cn/ .
2	Applicants must have a relevant Masters degree and preferably already started there PhD in China. Students who have been participating in a combined Master's and PhD programme (and therefore do not have a Masters degree) for at least one year are also eligible for the Programme.
3	<p>First of all the PhD student must identify a UU Professor willing to be his/her supervisor for the PhD in Utrecht. To do so see the website www.uu.nl/english, click 'Faculties' and select the faculty of your studies. Then click 'research' and look for institutes or staff working in your field of expertise. For the faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences kindly contact Ms Els van Kampen at e.vankampen@uu.nl, for Medicine you can contact Mr. Willem Peeters at w.m.peeters@umcutrecht.nl and for the faculty of Law, Economics and Governance you are requested to contact research@law.uu.nl. If you can not find a suitable supervisor you can contact the department or institute secretariat via email or telephone as mentioned on their website.</p> <p>If the student finds such a UU supervisor the student should fill in the application form and send it to the UU supervisor for approval. If the UU supervisor approves of the application the PhD student must send the UU supervisor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A copy of his or her Master's degree or proof of participation in a combined Masters-PhD programme; - Electronic copy of signed letter of recommendation and approval of the suggested research in Utrecht by the students home university (in China) Faculty Dean or supervisor; - Copy of IELTS or TOEFL score (proof of English skills), the test taken not more than three years previously*. <p><i>* IELTS: 6.5 (average) with a minimum of 6.0 for the writing section. TOEFL: 237 for the computer test; or 580 for the written test; or 93 for the internet test.</i></p>
4	The following step is the research proposal. The UU PhD supervisor and Chinese PhD student must jointly write the PhD research proposal (the research to be done in Utrecht when granted the scholarship) which is part of the application.
5	<p>When the applicant and UU supervisor agree on the application the UU supervisor should arrange:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A nomination letter by the UU supervisor him/herself for the application which should describe the benefits of the PhD programme for both the PhD student('s research group) and the UU research group. The letter should also include a strengths and weaknesses analysis of the application (and how the latter will be handled); - An electronic copy (scanned) of the signed standard format approval letter of the UU Faculty Dean. To obtain the format of this letter you can contact Mrs. Joke de Wolf of the Academic Affairs Office secretariat: J.L.M.dewolf@uu.nl.

6	<p>Applicants have to be nominated by the Utrecht University supervisor: not the PhD student but the UU supervisor will submit the complete application via email.</p> <p>Complete applications must be submitted electronically by <u>Friday 28 November 2008</u> the latest to the UU Executive Board, c/o Mrs. Fatima Shahrabi, Academic Affairs Office, e-mail: f.shahrabi@uu.nl.</p> <p><i>Incomplete applications will not be considered.</i></p>
7	<p>Based on the advise of the UU Region Committee Asia the Executive Board of Utrecht University will select the most qualified candidates. After the selection the applicants and their UU supervisor will receive a letter of rejection (via email only) or approval (via email and hard copy) in the second half of January 2009.</p>
8	<p>The PhD students that are selected by UU will submit their application to CSC no later than <u>20 March 2009</u>. <i>NB: without the abovementioned approval letter from the Executive Board of UU CSC will not consider the application.</i></p>
9	<p>In May/June 2009 CSC will select and notify the candidates to be awarded the scholarships to do research at Utrecht University within the CSC-UU PhD programme 2009.</p>
10	<p>Candidates will not be accepted by Utrecht University unless they have been nominated by the Executive Board of UU and selected by CSC (through the award of a four-year scholarship).</p>
11	<p>Selected students will not be able to start their research at Utrecht University before 1 September 2009 and will most likely start their PhD in Utrecht in the fourth quarter of 2009.</p>
12	<p>For information or questions about the programme you can contact Mrs. Fatima Shahrabi, Academic Affairs Office, Utrecht University: T +31-(0)30-253 5484, at f.shahrabi@uu.nl or see the CSC website: http://www.csc.edu.cn or UU website: www.uu.nl/phd.</p>

3. Regulations

1. The application including the research proposal must be approved (in writing) by the UU Faculty Dean. If the Dean endorses the applicant's proposal and the (financial) implications, he or she will sign the standard 'letter of approval by the Utrecht University Faculty Dean' including these (financial) implications. The format of this standard letter can be obtained via email from the UU Academic Affairs Office secretariat: J.L.M.dewolf@uu.nl.

2. The application must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation by the UU supervisor (see above under 5) and a letter of recommendation by the Chinese home university Faculty Dean or supervisor of the PhD student.

3. The application must be accompanied by an English proficiency test (IELTS or TOEFL), the results of the test taken not more than three years previously:

- the results of an IELTS test with a minimum average score of 6.5 and a minimum of 6.0 on the writing section. For dates on which the IELTS tests are administered in China, see <http://ielts.etest.net.cn/en/TCDates>.
- The results of a TOEFL test with a minimum score of 237 for the computer test, 580 for the written test, or 93 for the internet test. For dates on which the TOEFL tests are administered in China, see <http://toefl.etest.net.cn/>.

4. Applications must be submitted electronically to the Utrecht University Executive Board, care of Mrs. F. Shahrabi, Academic Affairs Office: f.shahrabi@uu.nl
5. Applications without the abovementioned items will not be considered.
6. The UU Region Committee Asia advises the Utrecht University Executive Board on the selection of qualified candidates based on the following criteria:
 - Content of application (research plan , quality of references, feasibility and work plan);
 - Quality of applicant (education, publications and activities);
 - Significance of the applicant's research for Utrecht University's research Programmes.
6. The UU Region Committee Asia is free to disregard proposals that are underdeveloped or that do not comply with the CSC-UU PhD programme 2009 guidelines.
7. Based on the advice of the UU Region Committee Asia the Utrecht University Executive Board will select the most qualified candidates.
8. The applicants that have been selected by UU will apply to CSC for the CSC-UU PhD programme.

3a. What can the student expect from CSC?

CSC will award a grant to each selected candidate covering the cost of a return airfare to the Netherlands by the most economical route, a visa application fee and a living allowance (including overseas student-health cover) of up to four years. This allowance of € 800 will be paid directly by the Education Section of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the candidate on a monthly basis. After 20 March 2009, CSC will select the candidates and inform them and UU through an award letter stating the funding and duration.

On average, monthly living expenses in the Netherlands are between €800 and €1000. Information on the costs of living and other useful details about the Netherlands is available on the website of the Netherlands Education Support Office China: <http://www.nesochina.org/> and on the website of UU Student Services: the English UU website www.uu.nl under studying click 'Studying and living in Utrecht' and click 'Utrecht University International Office'.

3b. What can the student expect from UU?

The UU faculty will give the PhD student a tuition fee waiver for the entire PhD and it will not charge a bench fee. This means that the faculty will fund and provide the supervision and infrastructure required for the research of the Chinese PhD student. Since housing is quite expensive in the Netherlands UU will arrange especially for the CSC-UU PhD students low cost accommodation in or near Utrecht.

The UU Doctoral Degree Regulations apply to the entire PhD programme. The Regulations are published on: www.uu.nl/phd then click 'Doctoral Degree Regulations Utrecht University'. When the Chinese PhD student successfully completes the PhD programme, he/she will receive the doctoral degree from Utrecht University.



Universiteit Utrecht

2009

Application form CSC-UU PhD Programme

Please read the instructions before you fill out this form!

Basic information

1. Applicant

-Title(s), initial(s), first name, surname:

-Male/female:

-Work address:

-Telephone:

-Mobile telephone:

-Fax:

-E-mail:

-Website:

-Private address:

-Telephone:

-Mobile telephone:

-Fax:

-E-mail:

-Website:

2. Details of UU supervisor (and mentor)

Note! A separate letter of recommendation by the UU supervisor is required.

Supervisor:

-Title(s), initial(s), first name, surname: Prof.

-Address for correspondence:

-Telephone:

-Fax:

-E-mail:

Mentor (if different from supervisor):

-Title(s), initial(s), first name, surname:

-Address for correspondence:

-Telephone:

-Fax:

-E-mail:

3. Details of home university

Note! Separate letter of recommendation by the supervisor or dean of the home university is required.

-Name of home university:

-address:

-Telephone:

-Mobile telephone:

-Fax:

-E-mail:

-Website:

Home university supervisor:

-Title(s), initial(s), first name, surname: Prof.

-Address for correspondence:

-Telephone:

-Fax:

-E-mail:

4. Research field

5. Title of research plan for CSC-UU PhD Programme

6. Short Summary of research plan (max 50 words!)

7. Motivation for CSC-UU PhD application (max. 100 words!)

Describe your motivation for participation in this programme.

Curriculum Vitae

8. Personal details

Applicant

-Title(s), initial(s), first name:

-Surname:

-Nationality:

-Date of birth:

-Country and place of birth:

9. Bachelor's degree

University/College of Higher Education:

Faculty/discipline:

City and country:

Date:

Grade average:

10. Master's degree

Add a copy of your Master's degree to your application

University:

Faculty/discipline:

City and country:

Date:

Grade average:

Title Master's thesis (if applicable):

Grade for thesis:

11. Current work experience (if applicable)

Give your current function, period, fulltime or part time.

12. Previous relevant work experience (if applicable)

Give per appointment: function, period, fulltime or part time.

13. International activities (if applicable)

List activities such as study visits abroad, international cooperation, etc.

14. Other academic activities (if applicable)

Include, for example, membership of boards, posts on committees or involvement in (the organisation of) conferences.

15. Research scholarships and prizes (if applicable)

This is the place to list any scholarships or prizes you have won.

16. Gaps (if applicable)

If your CV contains large gaps (in time) that you would like to explain, please do so here. Any period of prolonged leave, for example in connection with pregnancy or parental responsibilities, can also be mentioned here.

Publications

17. List of publications (if applicable)

Please mention manuscripts which have been submitted or accepted for publication or which have already been published. Give the author(s), date, title of the publication, journal or series, volume, pages, and (if applicable) publisher and place.

Research

18. Brief description of research plan (max. 1000 words)

Max. 1000 words (excluding literature references), including 19a,b,c.

19a. Introduction and research question(s)

- What do you want to investigate and why?

19b. Method/Approach

- How do you propose to carry out the research project?

19c. Relevance for science, technology or society

- What will be the relevance?

20. Time schedule

- specify the duration of your research at Utrecht University

Statement

21. Statement

I hereby declare that the present form has been completed truthfully

Place:

Date:

Signature of applicant:

Checklist

Applications have to be sent in electronically by **Friday 28 November 2008** to the Utrecht University Executive Board, care of Mrs. F. Shahrabi, Academic Affairs Office: f.shahrabi@uu.nl. Please check the list below before you submit your application:

- 1) All documents are submitted by the UU supervisor in English and electronically;
- 2) Completed CSC-UU PhD programme 2009 application form;
- 3) Copy of relevant Masters degree or proof of participation in a combined Masters-PhD programme;
- 4) Electronic copy of signed letter of recommendation and approval of the suggested research in Utrecht by the students home university (in China) Faculty Dean or supervisor;
- 5) Electronic copy of signed nomination letter by Utrecht University supervisor;
- 6) Electronic copy of signed standard format letter of approval by Utrecht University Faculty Dean;
- 7) Time schedule of the planned research at UU;
- 8) Copy of IELTS or TOEFL score (proof of English skills).