

# UNESCO/THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA - THE GREAT WALL CO-SPONSORED FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME 2026-2027

## Application Guidelines

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## 1. Introduction

With a view to promoting the human resource development and capacity building of developing countries and to enhancing international exchanges in the field of education, culture, communication, science and technology and the friendship among peoples of the world, the Government of the People's Republic of China and UNESCO will co-sponsor a total number of seventy-five (75) fellowships in various fields of study at undergraduate and postgraduate levels during the academic year 2026-2027. Among these fellowships, **twenty-seven (27)** vacancies will be open for new recruitment to candidates from 135 developing Member States in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Europe and Arab region.

Tenable at a selected number of Chinese universities, these fellowships are intended for students and researchers who plan to pursue degree study at the postgraduate level, or undertake individual research with periodic guidance from the assigned supervisors in China. A candidate may apply for either a one-year **Visiting Scholar Programme** (as General or Senior scholar), or a **Master's or Doctoral degree programme** with the duration of study ranging from 2 to 5 years. Subject to the availability of study programmes at the selected universities, the study programmes will be taught in English or Chinese. Candidates applying for the Chinese-taught programmes should have acquired a certain level of Chinese proficiency before undertaking research or studying in their fields of interest.

Fellowship recipients will be enrolled full-time in the academic programmes to which they are admitted in the Chinese universities within the framework of the Programme. **Extension or**

**repeated award of fellowships is not permitted under the same UNESCO fellowships programme.**

Given the high priority that UNESCO places on Gender Equality, Africa and SIDS, female candidates and candidates from Africa and SIDS, especially those from the least developed countries are strongly encouraged to apply.

## 2. Programme Timeline for the 2026-2027 Session

Month/Year	Procedures
28 November 2025	Launch of Call for Candidates
23 January 2026	Deadline for candidates to submit applications to National Commissions
10 February 2026	Deadline for submission of nominated candidates by National Commissions to UNESCO
11 February – 2 March 2026	Application screening by UNESCO
March – June 2026	Application evaluation and selection by Chinese authorities
Late June - early July 2026	Award of fellowships
Late August – Early September 2026	Start of fellowship
15 July 2027	End of academic year 2026-2027

## 3. Eligibility Requirements

Candidates for this fellowships programme must be the nationals from the 135 invited Member States listed in Annex I, fulfilling the following requirements:

- Meeting the eligibility requirements in age, educational qualifications and language as follows:

Type of Study Programme	Age	Required Educational Qualifications	Language requirements
General Visiting Scholar Programme	Under the age of 45	Holding at least a senior secondary education diploma	Proficient in English; for those who apply for Chinese-taught programmes must have acquired HSK Level 3.
Senior Visiting Scholar Programme	Under the age of 50	Holding a master's degree, or an associate professor position (or above)	
Master's Programme	Under the age of 35	Holding a bachelor's degree	Proficient in English; for those who apply for Chinese-taught programmes must have acquired HSK Level 4.
Doctoral Programme	Under the age of 40	Holding a master's degree	

- Be in good health, both mentally and physically.
- Meeting the specific admission requirements of the applied Chinese universities, in terms of academic ability, language proficiency and other relevant criteria.

## 4. Institutions and Fields of Study Available

Please visit the official webpage of China Scholarship Council (CSC) for the available fields of studies in selected Chinese universities:

<https://campuschina.org/universities/index.html>

## 5. Submission of Applications by Candidates

Interested applicants should contact the National Commissions for UNESCO of their home countries to enquire about the submission and preselection procedures at the national level, and submit their applications to the National Commissions **no later than 23 January 2026**, in order to allow sufficient time for the pre-selection process at the national level. Only candidates officially endorsed by the National Commission for UNESCO of an Invited Member States will be considered by UNESCO.

Candidates must submit their online applications (**Type A Application, Agency No.: 00001**) on the Chinese Government Scholarship Information System (<https://campuschina.org/>) with the following supporting documents properly uploaded:

- (i) ***Application Form for Chinese Government Scholarship in English***, completed and submitted in the system (the form can be downloaded and printed after completing the online application).
- (ii) ***A scanned copy of Passport information page***: A clear scanned copy of the candidate's ordinary passport with validity later than 1 September 2027<sup>1</sup> must be submitted.
- (iii) ***Notarized photocopies of highest diploma***: Prospective diploma winners must submit official proof of student status issued by their current educational institution.

Documents in languages other than Chinese or English must be attached with notarized Chinese or English translation.

- (iv) ***Academic transcripts***: Transcripts in languages other than Chinese or English must be attached with notarized Chinese or English translation.
- (v) ***Language qualification certificates***: Candidates should provide relevant language proficiency certificates in accordance with the universities' requirements. Candidates who apply for English-taught programmes should submit a certificate of international English proficiency tests such as IELTS or TOEFL. In the cases where a candidate cannot provide an international English certificate, it is mandatory for him/her to submit a UNESCO Certificate of Language Knowledge (Annex IV), duly signed and stamped by a certified language institution or language tutor to prove the candidate has sufficient language knowledge to attend the courses of study.

Those who apply for Chinese-taught programmes must submit valid HSK score reports in line with the language requirements of their applied study programme.

- (vi) ***Pre-admission documents from a designated Chinese university***: All candidates must provide a pre-admission document issued by the universities

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<sup>1</sup> If the validation period of the currently held passport is less than 12 months (calculated from the expected start date of study), candidates should renew the passport and use the new passport to complete the application. Upon the approval of UNESCO, Candidates who fails to obtain a passport in time may submit valid documentation that carries the information of full name, gender, nationality and date of birth.

they are applying to. Pre-admission documents may include pre-admission notice issued by the international students' admission department, or an invitation letter from the university or a professor, among others.

- (vii) **A Study Plan or Research Proposal in Chinese or English** for the study or research to be undertaken in China (a minimum of 500 words for candidates applying for one-year visiting scholar programmes, and 800 words for candidates applying for postgraduate degree programmes).
- (viii) **Recommendation Letters:** Candidates for postgraduate degree programmes and senior visiting scholar programmes must submit two letters of recommendation in Chinese or English from professors or associate professors familiar with the work/study of the candidates.
- (ix) **A photocopy of Foreign Physical Examination Form (Annex III)** completed in English. The physical examination must cover all the items listed in the Foreign Physical Examination Form. Records that are incomplete or lack the signature of the attending physician, the official stamp of the hospital, or a sealed photograph of the applicants will be considered invalid. Please select the appropriate time to take physical examination, as the result is valid for 6 months.  
  
Applicants should keep the original copy of the completed form.
- (x) **Non-criminal record report:** Applicants should submit a valid certificate of Non-Criminal Record issued within 6 months of the application submission deadline by a local public security authority.

Applicants shall also submit the following documents, if applicable:

- (xi) **Example of Art:** Applicants applying for art- or design-related fields of study may submit their own works in "Example of Art/Other Supporting Documents" in the system. Such materials could be submitted directly to the applied universities in other ways.
- (xii) Applicants under the age of 18 should submit the valid documents of their legal guardians in China.

Candidates hold the responsibility to ensure the uploaded supporting documents are clear, authentic, and valid. It is highly recommended to use professional devices to scan documents. Any consequence due to unclear, or unidentifiable uploaded documents will be borne by the candidates.

## 6. Submission of Endorsed Candidatures by Invited Member States to UNESCO

Letters of nomination, along with the copies of Application Form for Chinese Government Scholarship and all the application documents should be submitted **by e-mail** to [thegreatwall@unesco.org](mailto:thegreatwall@unesco.org) **by 10 February 2026** at the latest.

Each invited Member States can submit two (2) candidatures at the maximum, and one of them should be woman.

The endorsed candidates must ensure their online applications are properly submitted on the Chinese Government Scholarship Information System before the required deadline.

**Candidates who do not fulfil the above-mentioned requirements or fail to submit complete application before the deadline will lose their eligibility in the selection.**

## 7. Selection of Fellowship Recipients

The selection of fellowship recipients will be made by the concerned Chinese universities, and approved by the Chinese authorities and UNESCO, taking into consideration gender equality and diversity. The National Commissions for UNESCO of the selected fellows will be duly informed by UNESCO.

Candidates who do not receive the result of their application by 15 August 2026 should consider that their applications have been rejected.

## 8. Facilities Offered by the Government of the People's Republic of China

- (i) *Tuition waiver* for the academic programme that they are enrolled in within the framework of the fellowships programme ;
- (ii) *Monthly living allowance to cover meals and other living expense*, in accordance with the following rates:
  - General visiting scholar, or Master's degree students: CNY 3 000 (three thousand Chinese yuan);
  - Senior visiting scholar, or Doctoral degree students: CNY 3 500 (three thousand five hundred Chinese yuan);
- (iii) *On-campus accommodation or accommodation subsidy*<sup>2</sup>; and
- (iv) *Comprehensive Medical Insurance and Protection Scheme for International Students*<sup>3</sup> in China.

## 9. Facilities Offered by UNESCO

- (i) *International travel* to and from China at the beginning and at the end of the fellowship;
- (ii) *Monthly pocket allowance* of US\$ 80 (eighty US dollars); and
- (iii) *A termination allowance* to cover excess luggage charges at time of return to home country.

**Note:** No allowance will be granted by UNESCO or the Government of China for financing or lodging any spouse or dependent of the fellows.

## 10. VISA

All fellows must obtain their visa from the Chinese Embassy or Consulate in their country before their departure to China.

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<sup>2</sup> In cases where the recipients are required to live on campus, they will be provided with university dormitory (usually twin-room dormitory). Where the recipients are not required to live on campus, they will receive accommodation subsidy.

<sup>3</sup> Recipients need to cover the medical expenses below the health insurance rebate threshold.

UNESCO and the Government of the People's Republic of China provide no allowance to defray passport and visa expenses. Selected beneficiaries will have to secure their own visas themselves.

**NOTE:** National authorities have the responsibility to ensure that all candidates are duly informed of all these terms and conditions before they submit their applications.