



Freie Universität
柏林自由大学



Berlin

Freie Universität Berlin – China Scholarship Council FUB-CSC PhD Program 2018

2018年度柏林自由大学—中国国家留学基金委公派博士项目

PhD Studies at Freie Universität Berlin – A Leading German Research University



图片来源: Wannenmacher, Himsel, FUB

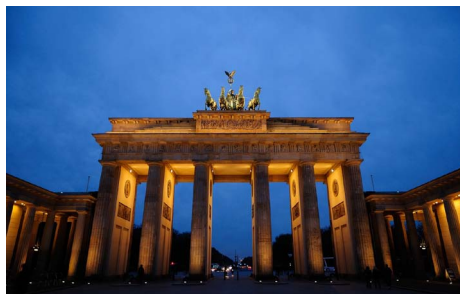
FUB-CSC PhD Program 2018

- PhD positions offered by Freie Universität Berlin
- Scholarships provided by China Scholarship Council

www.fu-berlin.de/china

I. INTRODUCTION TO FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN – PURSUING EXCELLENCE IN GERMANY

Founded in 1948, Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) is a leading research institution and one of Germany's eleven Universities of Excellence. Five Nobel Prize laureates teach or have taught at Freie Universität Berlin. Seventeen scientists of FUB were awarded Germany's most prestigious science award, the Leibniz Prize.



Brandenburg Gate in Berlin

For foreign scientists such as scholarships holders of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Freie Universität Berlin is the university of preference and among international students it is the most attractive university in Germany.

FUB is a full-spectrum university (without engineering) with 15 departments and central institutes offering more than 200 degree programs (BA, MA, PhD; 27 in English) across a wide range of subjects for approx. 30,000 students (20% international students), of whom 4500 are PhD students (33% international).

The location of Freie Universität Berlin on the Dahlem Research Campus in immediate proximity to outstanding research institutes like the Max-Planck Society provides world-class research opportunities.

II. COOPERATION PROGRAM WITH THE CHINA SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL (CSC) FOR PHD STUDIES

Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and the China Scholarship Council (CSC) signed an agreement for promoting high quality research opportunities for doctoral students from top Chinese universities. With more than 350 CSC scholarship holders since 2009, Freie Universität Berlin is the most important host university in Germany and is one of the major partner universities of the CSC worldwide. The FUB-CSC Program for CSC scholarship holders includes all fields of studies at Freie Universität Berlin.

The Beijing Office of the Freie Universität Berlin, founded in 2007, acts as a bridge connecting professors of FUB and Chinese CSC applicants in the framework of the FUB-CSC Program: Professors of FUB are interested in supervising Chinese PhD students; Chinese candidates who want to apply for a CSC scholarship are looking for a PhD supervisor.

Each year in September, Freie Universität Berlin offers an extensive number of open PhD positions in a variety of research areas for CSC candidates who want to conduct their research in Berlin with a CSC scholarship. Around 50 open PhD positions - each offering a well-defined research project - are listed in the FUB-CSC Program commencing in September, 2018.



图片来源: Bernd Wannenmacher

Two types of CSC scholarships:

- Full PhD studies: Scholarships for full PhD studies leading to a doctoral degree awarded by Freie Universität Berlin. Duration of the scholarship: 3 – 4 years.
- Sandwich PhD studies: Scholarships for candidates who are already doctoral students in China. Following the so-called 'Sandwich Model', Chinese PhD candidates can do PhD research both at the home university in China and at Freie Universität Berlin. The PhD title will ultimately be conferred by the Chinese university. Duration of the scholarship: 1-2 years.

Two application steps (Beijing Office and CSC):

- **Application Step 1: Application to the Beijing Office of FUB to receive the necessary invitation issued by the university in the framework of the FUB-CSC Program (not issued by the professor!)** The Beijing Office of FUB is in charge of advising about the program and open positions offered by the professors, as well as of processing the applications. **Each application is to be submitted to FUB's Beijing Office (not to the professor!):**

Application deadline for PhD: January 4, 2018. Following initial evaluation, each application will be forwarded to the professor by the Beijing Office. The professor contacts the applicants after receiving the complete application from the Beijing Office, at the latest at the beginning of February (PhD).

For outstanding PhD candidates who cannot find a suitable PhD offer in the posted list on the website: It is possible to find a supervisor at FUB on your own. Please contact us if there is an interested professor at FUB and send us his/her name. We can include him/her in the FUB-CSC Program to be able to provide you the program's benefit and achievements. **The invitation letter needs to be issued by the FUB-CSC Program, not the professor!**

● **Application Step 2: Application to the CSC for a PhD scholarship:**

After being interviewed and accepted by the professor (between end of January and mid of February), an **invitation letter** will be issued by Freie Universität Berlin/The Center for International Cooperation (not by the professor!) to the applicants of the FUB-CSC Program: PhD candidates receive the invitation letter end of February 2018 via the Beijing Office.

The FUB invitation letter is part of the application and has to be submitted in the second step of the application process by the applicants to the CSC online. This is to be organized by the applicants themselves:

For more information on the process and regulations, please check the CSC website: www.csn.edu.cn. The application period of the China Scholarship Council (CSC) for PhD is March 20 to April 5.

III. BENEFITS FOR CSC SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS OF THE FUB-CSC PROGRAM OFFERED BY FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

Apart from having the chance to perform doctoral studies at a top German research university, CSC scholarship holders receive a number of additional benefits offered by Freie Universität Berlin for FUB-CSC Program scholarship holders:

- Support with the visa application process
- Support with arranging accommodation in Berlin
- Support with registration as a PhD student at Freie Universität Berlin
- Preparatory two-days seminar in Beijing in June 2018, including Q+A sessions with alumni of Freie Universität Berlin and CSC representatives
- Orientation week at Freie Universität Berlin in September 2018
- A six-week German crash course offered in September 2018 at FUB
- Access to free German and English language courses throughout the entire research stay at FUB

NOTE: No tuition fees for PhD studies and postdoctoral research **and no agency fees** will be charged! There are only around 320 EUR to pay per semester by each student, as an enrollment and semester contribution fee, **including a Berlin public transportation ticket.**

IV. PHD STUDIES AT FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

Two ways of PhD studies in Germany:

● **Individual PhD studies:**

PhD students are under the direct supervision of one professor who is an expert in a given research area (**Apprentice Model**). The PhD student could be described as **research assistant** who works independently in a certain field of research. At present, the majority of German and international doctoral students at Freie Universität Berlin follow this model. Generally speaking, any professor of Freie Universität Berlin can supervise PhD candidates.

The FUB-CSC PhD Program is for individually supervised PhD students on the projects of professors in a wide range of subject areas.

- See PhD positions for individual PhD studies listed in **Appendix 1** (enclosed supplement sheet).
- For more detailed information and project descriptions of the PhD positions available, please visit the homepage of FUB's-Beijing Office: www.fu-berlin.de/china (Scholarships).
- Application and advice are managed by FUB's-Beijing Office.

● **Structured PhD Programs:**

At FUB, there are a variety of Graduate Schools (GS) and Research Training Groups (RTG) focusing on interdisciplinary research. PhD studies can be undertaken within structured training program.

- Some PhD programs are offered by Graduate Schools, jointly organized by Berlin universities (FU Berlin, TU Berlin, HU Berlin) i.e. Berlin Mathematical School.



图片来源: FUB- Beijing Office

Pre-Departure Seminar 2017 in Beijing

- Training Groups listed in **Appendix 2** (enclosed supplement sheet).
- For more detailed information visit the homepage: www.fu-berlin.de/china and check the respective websites of the Graduate School/RTG for more details.
- Questions will be answered directly by the program coordinators in Berlin.
- **Applications for Graduate Schools and RTG should be submitted directly to the structured programs in Berlin, not to the FUB's Beijing Office.**

NOTE: The doctoral degree/PhD degree awarded is the same for both types of doctoral studies!

Requirements for PhD studies applications (FUB-CSC PhD Program):

- Outstanding performance in a **Master's Degree**
- **Language skills:**
 - **Very good English skills** if English is the language of instruction. No prior knowledge of German required in the following disciplines: biology, biomedicine, chemistry, pharmacy, earth sciences, mathematics, computer science, physics, and veterinary medicine.
 - **Very good German skills** if German is the language of instruction for PhD studies, particularly in humanities and social sciences, e.g. subjects like philosophy, but usually depending on the professor's requirements.
- **Motivation letter** and a convincing **statement about the offered research project** related to your own academic background

Application procedure for individual PhD studies (FUB-CSC PhD Program):

The application and evaluation process for CSC candidates is coordinated by the Beijing Office of Freie Universität Berlin. All inquiries concerning the FUB-CSC Program and open positions should be sent in the first step **only to the Beijing Office** (not to the professor): beijing3@zedat.fu-berlin.de.

图片来源: FUB-Beijing Office



In order to become a PhD student at Freie Universität Berlin in the framework of the FUB-CSC PhD Program **two application steps are necessary**:

- **Step 1: Application for an open position, submitted to Beijing Office of Freie Universität Berlin (deadline: 4 January, 2018)**
 - **First, check the website of FUB's-Beijing Office** for the list of open, individually supervised PhD positions offered by FUB professors.
 - If there is a matching offer, apply to FUB-Beijing Office for the position.
Please note! Apply only for a research project if your academic background meets the description of the offer!
 - The application should be submitted only to the Beijing Office: beijing3@zedat.fu-berlin.de.
 - Application deadline for PhD studies: January 4, 2018.
 - The Beijing Office of FUB will check and evaluate the applications and forward them to the respective professor.
 - **All applications** will be forwarded to the potential professor/supervisor.
 - The professor will contact candidates who submit a complete application between end of January and mid of February.
 - Following an interview with the respective professor at FUB, the final decision is made by the professor based on academic qualifications.
 - We inform the applicants of the decisions at the latest mid of February.
Please note: Be patient and do not contact the professor before the decision is made. We appreciate that very much!
 - Freie Universität Berlin (Centre for International Cooperation) will issue the invitation letter to accepted PhD candidates. The invitation letter is needed for the application for CSC scholarship and will be issued and send per e-mail to the students by the FUB's-Beijing Office end of February, 2018.
 - All accepted PhD candidates will be listed on the official nomination list of the FUB-CSC Program, which will be forwarded to the CSC by the FUB's-Beijing Office.
 - If the professor accepts the PhD candidate, he/she contacts the PhD candidate to discuss the research proposal which is required for the second application step (CSC application at the end of March, 2018).

● **Step 2: Online application, submitted to the CSC (March 20 – April 5, 2018)**

- **This is a separate second application**, which is handled only by the CSC. If you have questions concerning the CSC scholarship, please contact the CSC directly: www.csc.edu.cn/Chuguo.
- Apply online to the CSC **within the Program Channel for the FUB-CSC Program (not the individual channel!)** Otherwise you cannot be a member of the program and profit by its benefits.
- The **invitation letter** issued by the Freie Universität is required for the scholarship application to the CSC in the framework of the FUB-CSC PhD Program. For the exact application period of CSC PhD scholarships (usually March 20 – April 5), please check the CSC homepage: www.csc.edu.cn/Chuguo.
- Confirmation of the **scholarship awardees** will be announced by the CSC at the latest at the end of May.
- Successful scholarship holders **start their research stay in Berlin** in September 2018.

Application documents required for applying to a PhD project offered by FUB; submitted per e-mail to the Beijing Office by January 4, 2018:

1. **Application form** for the FUB-CSC PhD Program: www.fu-berlin.de/china
2. **Curriculum vitae** (CV, Resume)
3. **Letter of Motivation**
4. **Abstract of your Master thesis** in English
5. **University degrees**, each with: degree certificate (学位证), graduation certificate (毕业证), academic record (成绩单). Note: Authorized (由学校出具) English translations of Chinese documents are sufficient for this application. Notarization (公证) of the translations will only be required at a later stage.
 - Candidates for full PhD studies: If the Master studies have not been finished by the time of application to Freie Universität Berlin, a statement of the home university certifying when the Master Diploma will be obtained is sufficient.
 - Sandwich candidates: an admission certificate to PhD-studies in China
6. Convincing **statement (or research proposal) focusing on the offered research topic** and related to your own academic background, (2-3 pages), and a time schedule for the research stay in Berlin.
7. **Two letters of recommendation** by university professors with letter head, seal of the institute and signature of the professor.
For full PhD studies: One of the letters has to be issued by the PhD supervisor of the Master's thesis in China.

For Sandwich candidates: One of the letters has to be issued by the PhD supervisor in China.

8. **Language certificates** for English OR German (depending on the requirement of the position you would like to apply for)

- **English**: IELTS certificate with an overall rating of 6.5 (no module below 5.5) or a TOEFL iBT certificate with a total score of at least 95 points (no test section below 20 points)
- **German**: TestDaF certificate with a total score of at least 16 points – no subtest below 4 – OR DSH-2 certificate



图片来源: Freie Universität Berlin

Application deadline (PhD)

- **January 4, 2018**
- Your application documents must be submitted by e-mail **only to the Beijing Office of FUB**. Contact: beijing3@zedat.fu-berlin.de
- Please submit only **PDF files**. Make sure that each file does not exceed **300 KB**. If necessary, please lower the resolution of the pictures or use compressed file formats like JPEG.
- Only complete applications submitted on time to the Beijing Office of Freie Universität Berlin will be considered!

V. CSC PhD scholarship prerequisites (<http://www.csc.edu.cn/chuguo>):

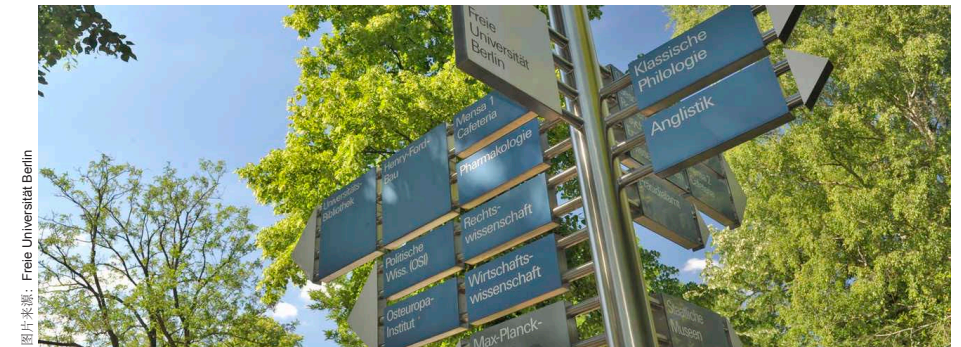
Some of the most important prerequisites concerning the CSC PhD Scholarship are:

1. The applicant should not be over 35 years old (born after March 20, 1982).
2. Applications from the following persons will be accepted:
 - Students, who do the master study at a foreign university or research institution with government scholarship or at their own expense and are officially registered and will graduate before september 2018
 - Master Graduates of the last academic year.
 - Students, who are in the first year of PhD study at a foreign university or research institution at their own expense.

3. The selected applicants do not include those who have already received a PhD degree.
 4. Applications from the following persons will not be accepted:
 - Students, who have received a full scholarship from foreign sponsor.
 - Students, who have received a government scholarship after Master Degree and it is still valid.
 - Students, who have applied for government scholarship, but the result is still in suspense.
 - Students, who have received the CSC Scholarship, but gave up without the approval of CSC within 5 years, or gave up with the approval of CSC within 2 years.
 - Students, who have received a CSC scholarship, returned to China and did not do their service obligations for at least 5 years.
 5. CSC does not accept personal applications directly. All the applicants should have the approval of their home universities or employers and should submit their CSC applications through colleges and universities, Chinese embassy or consulate or other accepting institutions. Please see the list of accepting institutions on the website of CSC: www.csc.edu.cn/article/718
 6. Before leaving China, the scholarship holders will be required to finish necessary procedures, such as sign the contract with CSC, pay the deposit etc.
 7. After studying abroad, students should return to China and finish their service obligations.
 8. The selected applicants should start their study abroad within a year; the scholarship is valid until March 31, 2019.
 9. The scholarship will be prior given to the students, who will study at well-known universities, research institutes, laboratories and other institutions in the countries and regions, which are developed in the field of education, science and technology.
- Note:** The given information are incomplete. Please read the complete requirements on the website of CSC! Should any of the above information vary from the requirements given by CSC please refer to the CSC information!

VI. FURTHER INFORMATION

- If you have any questions, please contact the Beijing Office of Freie Universität Berlin directly, preferably by e-mail. It is important and helpful to pass your name, university and major in the subject/head of the e-mail.
- **Please note: To avoid additional efforts and workload, do not contact the professor/research group leader.** He/she will contact you after receiving and reviewing your complete application via the FUB's-Beijing Office.
- Due to the number of applications for all open positions, it can take a few weeks before the professor gets in touch with you. Please be patient!



VII. CONTACT

Freie Universität Berlin – Beijing Office

DAAD – German Academic Exchange Service

Unit 1718 Landmark Tower 2

8 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District

Beijing 100004, P.R. China

Tel.: 010/6590-6656 or -6676 ext. 33

E-mail: beijing3@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Homepage: www.fu-berlin.de/china (FUB-Beijing Office)

www.fu-berlin.de (Freie Universität Berlin)





图片来源：Freie Universität Berlin

I got my PhD degree at Freie Universität Berlin in less than three years, in the framework of the Freie Universität Berlin - China Scholarship Council PhD Program. My research focuses on Hydrogeology, one direction in the department of Earth Sciences. I really enjoyed the three years research life there since my colleagues were very friendly and my supervisors were highly responsible. Berlin is also a fascinating city. These are wonderful memories in my life.

I could also experience research on a top-level, discuss innovative ideas with experts, and share my experiences with international friends. My research stay at Freie Universität Berlin helped me also to develop my academic career. After I came back to Beijing, I immediately found a job in a famous research institute.

MA Miaomiao, PhD, graduated from the Department of Earth Sciences at Freie Universität Berlin