



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

China Scholarship Council (CSC) - Trinity College Dublin Joint Scholarship Programme

Guidance Document for Schools

November 2025

Please contact global.scholarships@tcd.ie with questions or queries.

Overview

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin and the China Scholarship Council (CSC) affiliated with the Ministry of Education in China signed an agreement in 2016 to provide up to 10 annual scholarships for Chinese students to pursue a PhD at Trinity. The programme is known as the “CSC-Trinity College Dublin Joint Scholarship Programme”.

In December 2019, Trinity and CSC agreed to renew and extend the programme. An addendum was signed by both parties in 2022 agreeing to further extend the programme to 2026.

In the academic year 2026/27 up to 13 scholarships will be provided – three per each Faculty and a possible additional four allocated to the E3 business plan.

Award

Each scholarship will include a full tuition fee-waiver for a four-year PhD programme at Trinity, plus living costs, airfare and health insurance provided by the CSC (bench fees, conference travel costs and other research expenses are not included).

The primary focus of this programme is for selected Chinese students to undertake a PhD at Trinity.

Eligibility

Student applicants should review the CSC website for the latest updates on eligibility criteria and application process: www.csc.edu.cn/

1. Applicants must be citizens and permanent residents of the People’s Republic of China at the time of application (excluding Macau, Hong Kong, and Taiwan). Chinese students studying overseas may be eligible for application subject to the CSC policy at the time.
2. Applicants must be under 35 years of age at the time of application.
3. At the time of application, applicants must meet one of the following conditions:
 - Be a current Master's student, final-year Master's student, or final-year undergraduate student at a Chinese university;
 - Be a working professional in China holding a Bachelor’s degree or higher, with employer consent for application;
 - Be a final year Master’s student at an overseas university (graduating after March 2025 or expected to graduate in 2026);
 - Be a self-funded first-year doctoral student at Trinity College Dublin.
4. Applicants must not have already obtained a doctoral degree.
5. Applicants must hold an unconditional offer letter from Trinity College Dublin. They must therefore fulfil the relevant academic entry requirement set by Trinity, including a high level of English language proficiency. Conditional offer letters may be accepted in certain circumstances, but these offers may not be conditional on English language scores.
6. Applicants should satisfy the full selection criteria set out by the CSC. This policy is subject to change and is at the discretion of the CSC.

Application Process

Step 1 - Student applicants apply for a PhD in Trinity with support from academic supervisor / principal investigator

Student applicants should liaise directly with their potential academic supervisor / principal investigator for support with admission. The academic supervisor / principal investigator should guide the students through the Trinity PhD application process.

Please note that conditional offers are accepted by CSC if they are based on academic requirements. Conditional offers based on insufficient English language competency are not allowed by CSC. Candidates must fulfil [Trinity's English language requirements](#).

We also advise that any academic supervisor interested in supporting an application should meet with the student online to ensure their English language competency is sufficient for the requirements of their proposed research.

Academic supervisors should work with applicants and AR to ensure that the applicant has a full offer of admission before the application deadline of **20 February 2026**. **Please note due to the timelines issued by the CSC, there can be no flexibility on this date.**

The academic supervisor can apply for the scholarship (see Step 2 below) while waiting for the full offer to be issued, however the full offer must be secured no later than 20 February 2026 and the supervisor must confirm the offer status global.scholarships@tcd.ie by the deadline.

Step 2 - Academic supervisor / PI applies to Trinity for the CSC - TCD Joint Scholarship

Once student applicants are in possession of an unconditional offer, Academic Supervisors can then apply online to Trinity (via the form linked below) for shortlisting for the CSC - TCD Joint Scholarship.

The deadline for application is 20 February 2026. **Please note due to the timelines issued by the CSC, there can be no flexibility on this date.**

Application Form: [China Scholarship Council \(CSC\) - Trinity College Dublin Joint Scholarship Programme 26/27 – Fill in form](#)

Step 3 – Student applicants inform home institution or Embassy

Once an application has been submitted to Trinity by the academic supervisor, student applicants should contact their home institution's international office (or local Embassy in the event they are not in China) to advise of their intention to apply for the CSC Scholarship, seek recommendation and follow any additional application procedures.

Step 4 – Shortlisted applicants apply directly to the CSC for the CSC - TCD Joint Scholarship

The results of the Trinity shortlisting process will be issued in March 2026. Academic supervisors will be notified of the results by Trinity Global in late March.

Shortlisted students then apply directly to the CSC for the scholarship. Full details and specific dates of application should be available on the CSC website: <http://apply.csc.edu.cn>. The CSC will evaluate the candidates according to CSC requirements and priorities. Trinity Global will inform the supervisors of the outcome of the process in June.

Selection Process

1. Trinity Global will facilitate the application and selection process for the CSC-TCD Joint Scholarship Programme. The selection panel will be comprised of the Faculty Deans. The panel will review all applications and agree a shortlist of candidates to put forward to the CSC for review and assessment before 20 March 2026.
2. Once the candidates have been selected, Trinity Global will arrange for Academic Registry to issue special offer letters to applicants, to include the following wording:
This offer is contingent on your securing suitable funding from the China Scholarship Council through the CSC - Trinity College Dublin Joint Scholarship programme to cover your accommodation and living expenses. If you are successful in your application for this funding, I can confirm that your tuition fees will be covered by Trinity College.
3. Once shortlisted by Trinity, student applicants must also apply to the CSC for the scholarship online: <http://apply.csc.edu.cn>. Students should check application deadlines on the CSC website as these can vary from year to year.
4. The CSC will evaluate the candidates according to CSC requirements and priorities. Once the awardees are selected, the CSC will inform the successful applicants and provide Trinity with a final list of recipients (usually in June). Trinity Global will inform the academic supervisors of the outcome.

Tips for a successful application

- Any academic supervisor should not submit more than two applications each year.
- An application may have more than one academic supervisor. When this is the case, the supervisor who submits the application will be considered the primary supervisor and point of contact.
- Supervisors should encourage the student to put effort into their CSC application, which is a crucial part of the CSC evaluation.
- Applications should link the proposed research to the research strategy of the hosting School.
- Priority is given to innovative research.
- The CSC will consider the following when awarding scholarships:
 - Comprehensive competence of the applicants, including their previous study record, research experiences and academic capacity, as well as prospects and plan for their career in future.
 - Scientific research quality and international recognition of the proposed research subject in the host institution.
 - Research quality and dynamic of the host supervisor in recent years.
 - Significance, design and feasibility of the proposed research plan abroad.
 - Recommendations from the home institution.

Application form questions

1. Student first name
2. Student surname
3. Has the student applied for a PhD at Trinity?
4. Trinity application number
5. Faculty
6. School
7. Programme of study
8. Trinity offer status
9. Research title
10. Student's bachelor's degree title
11. Student's bachelor's degree awarding institution
12. Student's bachelor's degree GPA
13. Student's master's degree title
14. Student's master's degree awarding institution
15. Student's master's degree GPA
16. Any other relevant information that may support the student's application (such as other degrees, awards, scholarships, achievements)
17. Primary academic supervisor / principal investigator name
18. Primary academic supervisor / principal investigator email address
19. Additional academic supervisor / principal investigator
20. Have you previously supervised a CSC sponsored student?
21. How many and what year or stage of study are they at currently?
22. Does your research project have sufficient funding to support this student and their research noting that the award does not include bench fees, lab fees or travel costs for conferences?
23. Please upload the following documents:
 - Evidence of TCD offer
 - Student applicant's research proposal
 - Brief bio of academic supervisor(s)
 - Statement linking the proposed research to the research strategy of the hosting School.