



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 Student Applicants

November 2023

For questions, please contact Sinéad Corcoran, Trinity Global Scholarships, Bursaries and Supports Manager - corcorsi@tcd.ie

PhD Programme

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 joint scholarships for Chinese students to pursue a PhD at Trinity. The programme is known as the “CSC-Trinity College Dublin Joint Scholarship Programme”.

Eligibility

Please make sure to review the CSC website for the latest updates 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 enrolled in a full-time Master’s degree at a university in China. Bachelor’s degree students who are in their last year wishing to pursue master-doctor combined programme can also apply if they have an unconditional offer letter/letter of invitation combining master and doctoral study.
3. For overseas Chinese students applying for full PhD study, only those who are in the last year of their master studies, recent graduates (less than one year), and those who are in the first year of their PhD studies are eligible to apply for joint scholarship program. Overseas Chinese students are required to be nominated by the Education Section of the Chinese Embassy in Ireland after they have completed their Trinity application.
4. Those who work as an employee at a higher education institution, scientific research institution, or an administrative organisation or enterprise in China, and have earned a masters-level degree are eligible.
5. Successful students must return to China upon completion of their studies or research.
6. Applicants must hold an unconditional offer letter (for full PhD candidates) or invitation letter (for joint PhD candidates) 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.
7. Applicants should satisfy the selection criteria set out by the CSC. This policy is subject to change and is at the discretion of the CSC.

Application process

1. **Student applicants apply for admission to a PhD in Trinity:**

Explore Trinity’s research areas and determine your subject area of interest.

- Trinity Research: www.tcd.ie/research
- Find out more about Trinity’s Research Themes: www.tcd.ie/research/themes
- Find out more about Trinity’s Faculties and Schools: www.tcd.ie/structure

The next step is to identify a potential supervisor. The Trinity website is comprehensive and features all relevant information about our research activities, as well as full research profiles of our staff.

- Search for Expertise: www.tcd.ie/research/people

- Schools' webpages: www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/research/az.php

Contact your potential academic supervisor with a brief research proposal or idea – remember that this is a competitive process, so your email should demonstrate your interest in the research area and any relevant experience that you have to date. It is recommended that you identify a small number of staff with interests that relate to your own. If the academic staff member is willing to support your application for a PhD position, he/she will direct you to the School's online application page.

2. Academic Supervisor / PI applies to Trinity for the CSC-TCD Joint Scholarship

Once the applicant is in possession of an unconditional offer the PI can apply for the CSC scholarship in Trinity on behalf of the student.

Please note that conditional offers are accepted by CSC if they are based on academic requirements; conditional offers based on English are not allowed by CSC. Students must fulfil Trinity's English language requirement of 6.5 IELTS overall or equivalent the application deadline.

Applications should be sent by the Academic Supervisor to Sinéad Corcoran, Trinity Global Scholarships Bursaries and Supports Manager at corcorsi@tcd.ie. Applications should include the following documentation:

- Cover
- Project proposal (**max 2 pages**)
- Brief biography of the supervisor (**max 1 page**)
- A statement linking the proposed research to a [Sustainable Development Goal](#) and explaining clearly how the research will inform this goal OR link to the research strategy of the School in which the student will be registered.

Candidates who have been shortlisted by Trinity will then be issued a letter that can be submitted for the CSC part of the application. Successfully shortlisted candidates will be notified by their supervisor in mid-March.

At this point, candidates should also 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 and follow any application procedures.

3. Shortlisted candidates apply directly to the CSC for the CSC-TCD Joint Scholarship

Between mid-March and early April candidates must apply for the scholarship online to the CSC <http://apply.csc.edu.cn>. Students should check actual dates on the CSC website as these can vary from year to year.

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).

Tips for a successful application

- Students should be aware that the CSC application is a crucial part of the CSC evaluation, so plenty of time and focus should be given to the application.
- Priority is given to innovative research.

- CSC considers 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.

Visiting PhD Students/Scholars:

Individuals who intend to apply for the Chinese Scholarship Council as a visiting scholar are encouraged to:

- Visit the webpage of the school in which you wish to conduct your research and identify an area of research in which you are interested.
- Contact a potential Academic Supervisor outlining your research proposal – remember that this is a competitive process, so your email should demonstrate your interest in the research area and any relevant experience that you have to date.
- If the academic staff member is willing to support your visiting scholar position (6-24 months) they will provide you with a letter of support for your application to the CSC.

Please note that you must be registered as a PhD student or staff in a Chinese university and completing a relevant research project to be considered by the CSC for visiting scholar funding.