



Freie Universität
柏林自由大学



Berlin

Freie Universität Berlin – China Scholarship Council PhD and Postdoc Program 2016

2016年度柏林自由大学—中国国家留学基金委
公派博士生及博士后项目

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



图片来源: Vannemacher, Himsel, FUB

FU Berlin – CSC

PhD - Program 2016

FU Berlin – CSC

Postdoc - Program 2016

- PhD and Postdoc Positions / Projects 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. Sixteen scientists of FUB were awarded Germany's most prestigious science award, the Leibniz Prize.



Brandenburger Tor in Berlin

For foreign scientists such as fellows 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 160 degree programs (BA, MA, PhD) across a wide range of subjects for more than 33,000 students (17% International Students), 5200 of which are PhD students.

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

II. COOPERATION PROGRAMS WITH THE CHINA SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL (CSC) FOR PHD STUDIES AND POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH

Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and the China Scholarship Council (CSC) signed agreements (2008/PhD and 2013/Postdoc) for promoting high quality research opportunities for doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers from major Chinese universities. With more than 200 CSC scholarship holders, Freie Universität Berlin is the most important host university in Germany and is one of the major partner universities of the CSC worldwide. The program includes all fields of studies at Freie Universität Berlin (no engineering programs at FUB).

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 or in offering Postdoc research positions; Chinese candidates who want to apply for a CSC scholarship are looking for a PhD supervisor or a Postdoc research group.

Each year in September, Freie Universität Berlin offers an extensive number of open PhD and Postdoc positions in a variety of research areas for CSC applicants who want to conduct their research in Berlin with a CSC scholarship. Around 50 descriptions of PhD and Postdoc projects are listed in the FUB-CSC Program 2016 for starting PhD and Postdoc research at the FUB in September 2016.

Please note!

For PhD Studies: The China Scholarship Council offers two different 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 be ultimately conferred by the Chinese university. Duration of the scholarship: 1-2 years.

For Postdoctoral Research:

- Starting in summer 2016, each postdoctoral researcher will be funded by the CSC at first for 12 months. If both parties – Chinese Postdoc and German Research Group leader – agree, there is a possibility to apply to the CSC for the extension of a second year research stay which is funded by the German side.

The FUB-CSC Program is arranged in two steps and involves two application processes:

1) Application to the Beijing Office of FUB for receiving an invitation letter:

The FUB-Beijing Office is in charge for counselling, concerning the program and the open positions offered by the professors as well as for accepting the applications.

Each application is to be submitted to the FUB-Beijing Office (not to the professor!):

- Application deadline for Postdoc: October 30, 2015
- Application deadline for PhD: January 4, 2016

After an evaluation each application will be forwarded to the professor by the Beijing Office. The Professor contacts the applicants after having received the application, at latest at the beginning of December (Postdoc) or February (PhD).

2) Application to the CSC for scholarship / funding:

After being contacted, interviewed and accepted by the professor, the **invitation letter** will be issued by Freie Universität Berlin/The Center for International Cooperation (not by the professor!) in the framework of the FUB-CSC Program and send to the applicants: Postdoctoral candidates receive the invitation letter mid of December, 2015 and PhD candidates end of February, 2016.

The invitation letter of FUB is necessary for the second application process to the CSC, which has to be organized independently by the applicants:

Please check the website of the CSC for understanding the process and the regulations: www.csc.edu.cn. The application period of the China Scholarship Council (CSC) starts for Postdoctoral scholarship applicants in the beginning of January and for PhD applicants at the end of March.

III. BENEFITS FOR CSC SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS OFFERED BY FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

Apart from having the chance to perform doctoral studies and postdoctoral research at a top German research university, CSC scholarship holders are provided a number of additional benefits, only offered by Freie Universität Berlin for the 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
- Two-days Pre-Departure Seminar in Beijing in June 2016, including Q+A sessions with Alumni of Freie Universität Berlin and CSC representative
- Orientation week at Freie Universität Berlin in September 2016
- A six-weeks German crash course offered in September 2016 at FUB
- Access to free German and English language courses throughout the entire research stay at FUB



图片来源: FUB-Beijing Office

Pre-Departure Seminar 2015 in Beijing

NOTE: No tuition fees for PhD studies and postdoctoral research **and no agency fees** will be charged!

IV. PHD STUDIES AT FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

a) There are two Types of PhD study opportunities

- **Individual PhD studies** 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 vast majority of German and international doctoral students at Freie Universität Berlin follow this model.

Basically, every professor of Freie Universität Berlin can supervise PhD candidates.

The FUB-CSC PhD Program is arranged for that kind of individually supervised PhD students and offers certain PhD projects in a wide range of subject areas.

- See PhD positions for individual PhD Studies listed on "**Appendix 1**" (enclosed supplement sheet).
- For more detailed information and project description about the offered PhD position please visit the homepage of FUB-Beijing Office: www.fu-berlin.de/china (Fundings / FUB-CSC Program).
- Application process and counselling are arranged by the FUB-Beijing Office.

■ Structured PhD Programs

There is a variety of Graduate Schools (GS) or Research Training Groups (RTG) focusing on interdisciplinary research. PhD education is offered in a certain 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"
- See PhD Programs offered by Graduate Schools and Research Training Groups listed on "**Appendix 2**" (enclosed supplement sheet).
- For more detailed information visit the homepage: www.fu-berlin.de/china and check the 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.**

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

b) Requirements for application of individual PhD studies (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 but usually depending on the professor's requirements.

- **Motivation letter** and a convincing **statement about the research topic** related to your own academic background and focusing on the respective PhD offer.

c) Application procedure (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 process only to the Beijing Office (not to the professor). Contact: beijing3@zedat.fu-berlin.de.

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

- 1) Application for the offered position, submitted to Beijing Office of Freie Universität Berlin
 - First **check the website of FUB-Beijing Office** for the list of open, individually supervised PhD positions offered by FUB professors in a variety of disciplines.
 - If there is a matching offer, **apply to FUB-Beijing Office** for the certain 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 FUB-Beijing Office. Contact: beijing3@zedat.fu-berlin.de.



图片来源: Freie Universität Berlin

• Application deadline for PhD Studies: January 4, 2016

- FUB-Beijing Office will check and **evaluate the applications** and forward them to the respective professor.

The professor will contact the candidates who submitted a complete application.

- After **interviewed by the professor** who offered the position, the final decision about the acceptance is made by the professor according to the academic qualification.
 - We inform the applicants at latest **mid of February about the decisions. Please note: be patient and don't contact the professor before the decision is made. We appreciate that very much!**
 - In case the professor accepts the PhD candidate, he/she contacts the PhD candidate to **discuss the research proposal** which is required for the second process, the CSC application at the end of March 2016.
 - Freie Universität Berlin (Centre for International Cooperation) will issue the **invitation letter** for the accepted PhD candidates. The invitation letter is needed for the application of a CSC scholarship and will be passed to the students by the FUB-Beijing Office end of February, 2016.
 - All accepted PhD candidates will be listed on the official **nomination list** of the FUB-CSC Program which will be handed to the CSC by the FUB-Beijing Office.
- 2) Application submitted to CSC (usually it is March 20 - April 5):
 - This is a **separate second application** which is handled only by the CSC. In case you have questions concerning the CSC scholarship, please contact the CSC directly.
 - Apply under the **framework of the FUB-CSC Program!** (otherwise, you are not a member of the program and cannot profit by its benefits)
 - The **invitation letter** issued by the Freie Universität Berlin 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-scholarships (usually it is March 20 - April 5), please refer to the CSC homepage: www.csc.edu.cn/Chuguo/Default.aspx?cid=13
 - Confirmation of the **scholarship awardees** of the CSC will be announced at latest end of May.
 - Successful scholarship holders **start their research stay in Berlin** in September 2016.

d) Application documents to be submitted to the FUB-Beijing Office:

1. **Application Form** for the FUB-CSC PhD Program: www.fu-berlin.de/china
2. **Curriculum vitae** (C.V.)
3. **Motivation Letter**
4. **Abstract of your Master thesis** in English
5. Convincing **statement (or research proposal) about the research topic** offered by the professor and related to your own academic background, focusing on the respective PhD offer (2-3 pages), and a time schedule for the research stay in Berlin
6. **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 two letters has to be issued by the 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
7. **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 certifying when the Master Diploma will be obtained is sufficient.
Please note: Send us the abstract of your Master thesis in English.
 - Sandwich candidates: an admission certificate to PhD-studies in China
8. **Language certificates** for English OR German (depending on the requirement of the open position you want 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.

e) Application deadline for PhD studies (submitted to the FUB-Beijing Office)

- **January 4, 2016**

- Please hand in only **PDF files**. Make sure that each file does **not exceed the size of 300 KB**. If necessary, please lower the resolution of the pictures or use compressed file formats like JPEG.
- Your application documents have to be submitted **by e-mail only** to the FUB-Beijing Office. Contact: beijing3@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Only complete applications submitted on time to the Beijing Office of Freie Universität Berlin will be considered!

V. POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH AT FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

Freie Universität Berlin offers a list of open postdoctoral research positions only available for **Chinese PhD, graduated from a Chinese university** or research institution.

a) Postdoctoral positions are offered by professors and research group leaders of Freie Universität Berlin

- Check the list of offered postdoctoral positions on the website of the FUB-Beijing Office: www.fu-berlin.de/china (Fundings/FUB-CSC Program)
 See Postdoctoral positions listed on “**Appendix 3**” (enclosed supplement sheet).
- For more detailed information with description about each postdoctoral research project, please visit the homepage of FUB-Beijing Office: www.fu-berlin.de/china.
- Apply only to the FUB-Beijing Office, not to the professor or research group leader.

b) General Requirements (Postdoc):

- The call is open to experienced researchers (preferably from 985 universities, partner universities of FUB and research institutions i.e. CAS institute) who match the offered postdoc position.
- Candidates with a PhD degree
- The language of instruction will be German or English, depending on the research area. Excellent language skills are required and can be verified by certificates or a personal statement by the research group leader after an interview.
- Applicants have to submit a statement or research proposal based on the research fields of the offered postdoc projects (list of offered postdoc positions are on the website of the FUB-Beijing Office: www.fu-berlin.de/china).



图片来源: Freie Universität Berlin

c) Application procedure (Postdoc)

- Apply directly to FUB-Beijing Office.
- FUB-Beijing Office will evaluate all candidates' applications and forward all information to the professor/research group leader.
- Mid of December, the FUB-Beijing Office will provide all selected candidates with an invitation letter and register the accepted candidates on the nomination list of the FUB-CSC Program which will be handed to the CSC.
- After having received an invitation letter from the Freie Universität Berlin/Center for International Cooperation (NOT the professor!), candidates apply independently to the CSC for funding (forms are available online at <http://apply.csc.edu.cn>) by January 5, 2016.
- Apply to the CSC under the framework of the FUB-CSC Program.
- The CSC will evaluate the candidates and provide Freie Universität Berlin with a final list of scholarship recipients. The results will be published at latest at the end of May.

d) Required Application Documents for FUB-CSC Postdoctoral Program

- **Application Form** for the FUB-CSC Postdoctoral Research Program (download as Word or PDF file: www.fu-berlin.de/china)
- **Curriculum Vitae** (C.V.)
- **University degrees** (MA, PhD if graduated)
- **Abstract** of the **PhD thesis** in English
- **Project statement** focusing on the offered postdoc research position, related to your own research background (2-3 pages)
- **Research proposal** (desirable)
- **List of publications** (please mark the language of each publication)
- **Two letters of recommendation** (including institute's letter head, seal, signature)
- **Transcripts of Records** (ToR) of the Master and PhD program (in English and authorized)
- **Language certificates** (IELTS 6.5 OR TOEFL 95 ibt) are preferred but the language skills can also be confirmed by the research group leader of FUB after conducting an interview.

e) Application deadline for Postdoctoral Research positions

- **October 30, 2015** (submitted ONLY to the FUB-Beijing Office)
- Please hand in **PDF files**. Make sure that each file does **not exceed the size of 300 KB**. If necessary, please lower the resolution of the pictures or use compressed file formats like JPEG.
- Your application documents have to be submitted **by e-mail only** to the FUB-Beijing Office. Contact: beijing3@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Only complete applications submitted on time to the Beijing Office of Freie Universität Berlin will be considered!

VI. FURTHER INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS?

If you have questions, please contact the Beijing Office of Freie Universität Berlin directly, preferably by e-mail.

Please note: To avoid additional efforts and workload, please don't contact the professor/supervisor. He/She will contact you after having received your serious and complete application via the FUB-Beijing Office.

Due to the amount of applications for all the open positions it can last 3 to 5 weeks before the professor gets in touch with you. Please be patient!

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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 FU 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 FU Berlin in 2013