



PhD Program between the Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and the China Scholarship Council (CSC)

Open PhD position at FUB for CSC scholarship candidates 2016

Please note: the PhD position is only offered to Chinese PhD candidates for application in the framework of the FUB-CSC PhD Program.

<u>Department/Institute:</u>	Institute for the Scientific Study of Religion
<u>Subject area:</u>	Religion (collection of beliefs, cultural systems, and world views that relate humanity to an order of existence)
<u>Name of Supervisor:</u>	Prof. Dr. Almut-Barbara RENGER (Ms.)
<u>Number of open PhD positions:</u>	2
<u>Type of the PhD Study:</u>	Full time
<u>Project title:</u>	Cultural Transformations of Buddhism

PhD Project description:

The project focusses on processes of adaption, transformation and innovation of different forms of contemporary Buddhism in Western and Asian societies. During the past several decades in Europe as well as in China a continuously increasing interest in Buddhism can be observed which is reflected in the spread of Buddhism at all levels of society as well as in different media (e.g. philosophical texts, poetry, novels, films, theatre, music). It has been observed that standardized, consistently perpetuated images and preconceived ideas determine the representation of this pluralistic religion. In addition, representations of Buddhism in their variety are shaped by respective individual, societal, and political needs. By transforming Buddhist aspects and adapting them to different cultural contexts, new forms of appearance come into being. It seems that they function to fulfill desires like empathic interaction, tranquility, relaxation, happiness, or 'enlightenment'. This often coincides with a certain exoticism, e.g. in so called wellness-movements, that may constitute an important aspect particularly of Western (but also of Asian) perceptions of alleged Buddhist traditions.

Language requirements:

English: IELTS 6,5 or TOEFL 95 ibt. (German proficiency desired)
OR
German: Test DaF 16 or DSH 2

Academic requirements:

Religious Studies, Literary Studies, German Studies, History, Cultural Studies, Anthropology, Myth and Folklore Studies, Social Sciences

A Master's degree is sufficient for a full time doctorate.

Information of the professor or research group leader:

[http://www.geschkult.fu-](http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/e/relwiss/lehrende/Arbeitsbereich_Prof_Dr_Renger/renger/)

[berlin.de/e/relwiss/lehrende/Arbeitsbereich_Prof_Dr_Renger/renger/](http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/e/relwiss/lehrende/Arbeitsbereich_Prof_Dr_Renger/renger/)

http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/en/e/relwiss/lehrende/lehrstuhl_renger/renger/index.html

<https://buddhismusberlin.wordpress.com>

Please note:

In a first step the complete application should submit to the Beijing Office for evaluation by January 4th, 2016. Please don't contact the professor before. He/She will get in contact with you after having received the complete application in January.