



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

**Open PhD Position at Freie Universität Berlin,  
offered only to Chinese CSC scholarship candidates 2026**

**Department/Institute:** [ Sociology, JFK Institute ]

**Subject area:** [ Housing research ]

**Name of Supervisor:** [ Prof. Dr. Sebastian Kohl ]

**Number of open PhD positions:** [ 1 ]

**Type of the PhD Study:** [ Full-time ]

**Project title:** [ New housing inequalities in urban China in international comparison ]

### **PhD Project description:**

Housing has become an important vector of economic inequality which structures life chances. This project aims at uncovering some of the housing-specific inequalities – such as housing segregation, housing value, quality and living space inequalities – and their potential spill-over into non-housing spheres (education, well-being, labor markets, etc.). The project tries to go beyond the conventional Chinese and other housing survey data and uses real-estate ad and transaction data, image or social media data as well as computational quantitative methods to understand the dynamics of housing inequality in Chinese cities in comparative perspective. The project invites candidates from the quantitative social sciences, including sociology, economics, political science or geography.

### **Language requirements:**

- IELTS: 6,5 or TOEFL: 95 ibt

### **Academic requirements:**

MA degree in the quantitative or computational social sciences (sociology, geography, economics)

**Information of the professor or research group leader (website, awards etc.):**

**Sebastian Kohl** is currently Professor of Sociology at Berlin's Free University (JFK Institute). Previously, he worked as a senior researcher at Cologne's Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies. He was a Kennedy fellow at the Center for European Studies at Harvard and worked at the Sociology Department and IBF in Uppsala. His current research focus is on the political economy of housing and the insurance sector, both in historical-comparative perspective. His research appeared in journals such as Housing Studies, Urban Studies, Journal of Finance, AER Insights, Review of International Political Economy, European Sociological Review or Socio-Economic Review. His book *Homeownership, Renting, and Society* appeared with Routledge in 2017.

Website: <https://www.sebastiankohl.com/>

Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=MgrPMeMAAAAJ&hl=en>

***Please note:***

In a first step, the complete application should be uploaded to the online portal (<https://fuberlin.moveon4.de/form/60acfece5d328710e40bdbd5/eng>) for evaluation by December 15th, 2025.