

Quarterly  
Newsletter  
Issue 1  
2020



euraxess  
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

This newsletter is for you!  
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## EURAXESS China

Dear Colleagues,

This quarter turned out to be more memorable than anticipated. Many China-based European researchers that left for a Chinese New Year's Vacation in January have yet to return due to the unexpected fierceness of what is now called the COVID-19 Coronavirus outbreak. Our hearts and minds are with those affected by this pandemic.

In times like these, it is truly revealed how important researcher mobility and international research collaboration are. Everywhere people are relying on scientists to tackle this challenge; medical science is of course on the front lines, but any field of research from social science to engineering plays a part. Furthermore, it is clear that global challenges need global solutions, and international scientific collaboration is the only way for us to have a chance.

This quarter also brought to EURAXESS our new colleague Ms Anna Facchinetti, who has joined the team as the second Country Representative in China, on the side of Halldór Berg who has been with the project since 2015. We all warmly welcome her to the community!

Best regards,

Your EURAXESS China team

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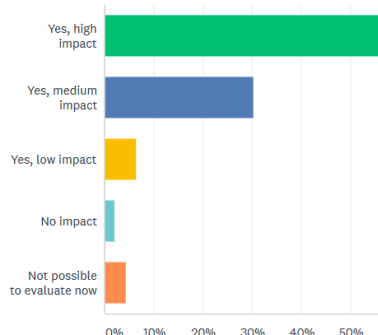
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# Impact of COVID-19 on European researchers in China

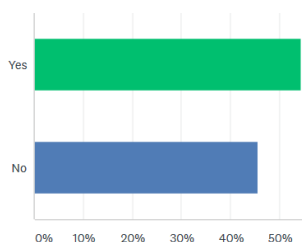
The outbreak of COVID-19 in China quickly affected the situation of researchers based here. In this section, we provide a snapshot of a survey we carried out on the impact, as well as some interviews with EURAXESS members affected by the measures taken to curb the spread of the virus.

See below some snapshots from our survey on the impact of COVID-19 on China-based researchers. Go to [our website](#) to see more.

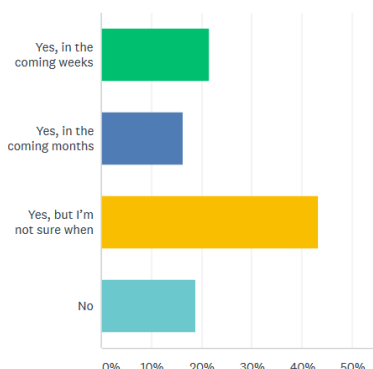
Is the novel coronavirus outbreak, and the resulting prevention-and-control measures, having any current impact on your work and research activities?



Did you leave the city where you're normally based in China because of the outbreak of the coronavirus?



If you left, are you planning on returning?



**Ivan Cardillo**, Professor of Law at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law in Wuhan



**Mikkel Mouritzen**, PhD Fellow at the Sino-Danish Center and Roskilde University

“ The university is very concerned about the health and security of its students, professors and staff members. A comprehensive and strategic plan has been set up in order to monitor the health conditions of everyone on campus, and to guarantee access to food and basic services.

[See more at our website.](#)

” A lot of Mikkel's research on mobility has already moved online. Instead of meeting people in person to interview them, a lot of it has moved to video conferencing software such as Skype, WeChat, or Zoom; whatever that is most convenient for his interviewee.

[See more at our website.](#)

## Are you thinking about returning to China?

Since March 26 the Chinese government decided to forbid almost all foreign citizens from entering China, including those that have a working permit and permanent residence permit. This does not affect those that have not left and are still in the country. It is undetermined how long this situation will last.

It is possible to apply for an exception at your local Chinese Embassy, including for those that are coming for necessary scientific or technological activities, although it is unclear who that applies to. See the original announcement at the [website](#) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. Everybody that have the option to enter needs to go through 14 days self-funded quarantine.

Please note that the situation can change quickly and there can be differences in implementation between regions.



# How to kill time in quarantine?

## The COVID-19 survival guide



*Washing your hands regularly is one of the best ways to minimise the probability of carrying the virus. Use soap and warm water and make sure to spend at least 20 seconds scrubbing your hands and nails. How long is that? If you don't have a timer you can hum the birthday song about twice and you should be set.*



*Another important factor is to keep all physical contact to a minimum. It's hard to ditch deeply ingrained cultural displays of affection – but people all over the world are finding creative ways around that. Bumping elbows comes recommended!*



*The final measure is also the most difficult – the practice of social distancing. Isolating yourself is an extremely effective tool to slow down the spread of the outbreak. We need everybody to be onboard!*

### The essentials

Like everybody else, EURAXESS China encourages readers to wash their hands and keep physical contact to a minimum – and if you aren't already in some kind of a quarantine, remember to practice responsible social distancing. But what can we do to minimise the repercussions of the isolation, or even to get the most out of it?



#### 1. **Connect with people!**

Paradoxically, this could be the time to connect with people. Maybe you are lucky enough to be able to stay with the family. If not, simply hit people up on social media and Skype. Everybody else is also bored.

#### 2. **Keep a routine!**

Keep working – a lot of researchers' tasks can be done from home. A good way to keep focus is to define different spaces around your home to do work. Eat regularly, keep your sleep schedule and stay exercising – there are a lot of ways to [work out at home](#).

#### 3. **Don't watch too much news!**

While it is good to keep up with what is happening and researchers are renowned news-junkies, watching the news 24/7 is not good for your mental health, nor is it particularly informational. Pick a news-source and time slot some time during the day and limit your news intake to that. If it is important, it will be mentioned.

#### 4. **Get on with that project you have always wanted to work on!**

Maybe now is the time to really move forward with that project you always wanted to work on. Maybe you should start the first draft of that book you keep thinking about. Or maybe there is finally time to get the Chinese back on track and drill through that HSK 6 vocabulary.

#### 5. **Or just chill, you know, that is also sometimes okay! 😊**

This is a guilt-free time to binge on some of those guilty-pleasures you normally don't allow yourself to get lost in. We are happy to let you know that the 5<sup>th</sup> season of Supergirl is out.



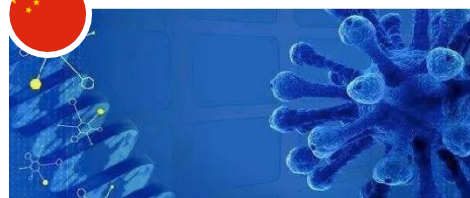
# Open European and Chinese calls for COVID-19

## Selection of funding opportunities from our WeChat channel



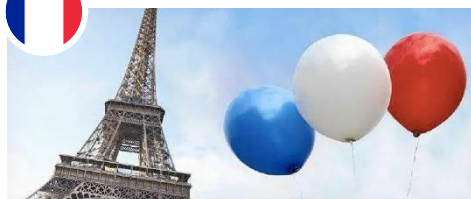
欧盟投入 4500 万欧元征集方案，应对新冠肺炎！

CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON THE CORONAVIRUS



“新冠肺炎疫情等公共卫生事件的应对、治理及影响”专项项目指南

NSFC issued on 24/02 a second call for proposals against the coronavirus



法国国家科研署 – 新冠肺炎科研攻关项目申报通知

AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE – FLASH CALL COVID-19



瑞士国家科学基金会 – 新冠肺炎科研攻关项目申报通知

SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION - SPECIAL CALL ON CORONAVIRUSES



挪威研究理事会 – 新冠肺炎科研攻关项目申报通知



比利时 – 鲁汶大学招聘研究员

Research Position on Artificial Intelligence for Robotic Re- and De-manufacturing of Electric Car Batteries



奥地利 – 新冠肺炎科研攻关项目申报通知



丹麦 – 新冠肺炎科研攻关项目申报通知



爱尔兰 – 新冠肺炎科研攻关项目申报通知



For more funding opportunities and regular updates scan the QR Code to join the EURAXESS China WeChat Channel





# How to obtain funding in Europe as a Chinese PhD student

## European Commission-funded Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks

### What are the Innovative Training Networks?

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Innovative Training Networks (ITN) aim to drive scientific excellence and innovation. They support competitively selected **joint research training and/or doctoral programmes**, implemented by partnerships of universities, research institutions, research infrastructures, businesses, SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond.

The Innovation Training Network extend the traditional academic research training setting, incorporate elements of Open Science, and equip researchers with the right combination of research-related and transferable competences. They provide enhanced career perspectives in **both the academic and non-academic sectors** through international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility combined with an innovation-oriented mind-set.

There are three **types of networks**:

- European Training Networks
- European Industrial Doctorates
- European Joint Doctorates

**European Training Networks** help researchers gain experience of different working environments while developing transferable skills. They involve at least three partners from inside and outside academia.

**European Industrial Doctorates** help PhD candidates step outside academia and develop skills in industry and business. This type of network is provided by at least one academic partner and partners from the business world. Individuals are enrolled in a doctoral programme and jointly supervised by the academic and non-academic partners.

**European Joint Doctorates** promote international collaboration that cuts across different business and research sectors. They are run by a minimum of three academic organisations forming a network to supervise joint, double or multiple degrees.

### What is the purpose of the initiative?

The MSCA Innovative Training Networks are meant to fulfil three main purposes:

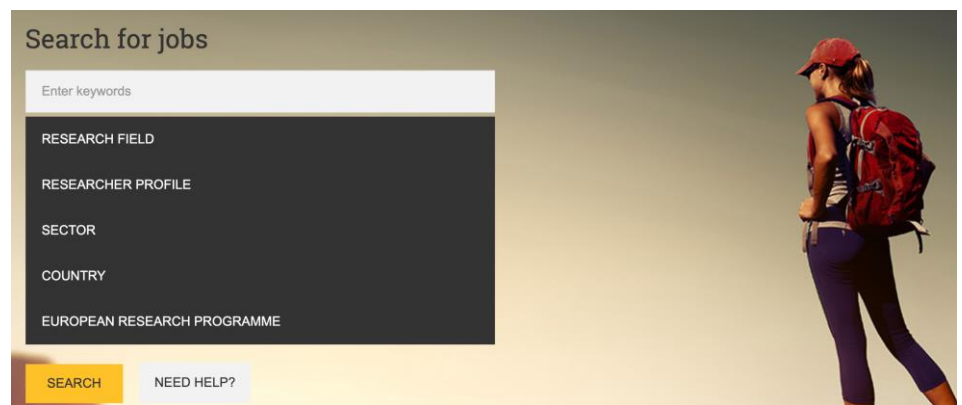
- **Train** and enable a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial and innovative early-stage researchers to face current and future challenges, and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefits

- Provide a structural boost by **extending the traditional academic research training setting**, incorporating elements of Open Science and equipping researchers with the right combination of research-related and transferable competences
- **Provide enhanced career perspectives** in both academic and non-academic sectors through international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility combined with an innovation-oriented mind-set.

### Who can apply and how?

**Early-stage researchers (ESR)** can apply. This means researchers in the first four years (full-time equivalent) of their research careers who have not been awarded a doctoral degree. Full-time equivalent research experience is measured from the date when the researcher obtained the degree entitling him or her to embark on a doctorate – either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited – even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged. Part-time research experience is counted pro-rata.

The positions are especially created by the ITN and are advertised on the **EURAXESS jobs portal** here: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/search>. Remember it is not possible for individual researchers to apply directly to the EU. Applications must be submitted to the respective network.



In the jobs portal you can use the **research tools to refine your search**. In the menu shown in the figure above you can select your research field, the sector in which you would like to be recruited, as well as your preferred destination country.

Remember that the positions offered by ITNs are open only to researchers who fall in the category of ESR and are part of the H2020/Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

Among the partners that form the Innovative Training Networks, international and intergovernmental organisations and large companies are generally not included, therefore applicants should be careful when selecting their preferred sector, to avoid making the research results excessively limited or null.

When a position of interest is found, the researcher can find more information on ITN and its partners, the hosting unit, application and selection process on the specific webpage published by the ITN on the portal.

Just follow the instructions to submit the application!

#### Useful links:

Top FAQ related to ITN applications: see [here](#)

Guide for applicants: see [here](#)

# ITN fellows: The experience of two Chinese researchers in Europe

## Min Wan

*She joined the research group of the UCD School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering in Dublin in June 2017, as part of the **Innovative Training Network CELTA project**. Her PhD work focuses on developing Terahertz imaging technology, and involves modelling, characterisation and data processing using optical engineering principles.*



*How did you learn about the Innovation Training Networks and the possibility of applying for funding?*

During my Master's degree, I attended a three-month visiting programme with the optical research group work led by Prof. John Sheridan at the University College Dublin, which was funded by Beijing University of Technology as a short-term exchange programme. At that time, I was considering pursuing a PhD degree abroad and that's how I learnt about the ITN programme. There are many different funding opportunities, so it is likely for the applicants to succeed!

*How was the application procedure? How did you choose to apply for the CELTA project?*

The CELTA project aims to produce the next generation of researchers who will enable Europe to take a leading role in the multidisciplinary area of utilising terahertz technology for applications. The focus of my Master's dissertation was on terahertz imaging, so it matched CELTA's project and I thought I could be a good candidate for the position. Once the application opened, I just had to follow the steps and submit all the requested documents online.

*How do you evaluate your experience? Would you recommend applying for ITN positions? What would you change about this experience and how do you think it will help your future career?*

Being involved in CELTA project has been a very valuable experience. I have been working with a group of 15 ESRs belonging to 14 different universities around Europe. It is a pleasure working with them and making new friends. The ESRs are developing new technologies, such as communication applications, spectroscopy and materials characterisation, as well as sensing applications. Meanwhile, we attend international travelling summer school (ITSS) and



numerous conferences every year. Thanks to the CELTA project, I really enhanced my technical skills, opened my academic vision and improved my communication skills. I highly recommend it to anyone wanting to pursue an academic career!

*How do you feel about working and living in Europe?*

Jobwise, I think working with Prof. John Sheridan has been a great opportunity, I feel I have had a good supervision in my research activities. Prof. Sheridan fully supports and encourages me, helping me gain confidence to overcome problems. Therefore, I have been very satisfied with my work from the very first day. Living in Ireland is also enjoyable. Dublin is very quiet and clean; people are truly friendly. I think it is a good living environment to carry out scientific research.

*Did you know about EURAXESS before being contacted for this interview?*

I did not know about the EURAXESS initiative, and I hope its network will represent an opportunity to get to know more researchers.

## Lin Yang

*He is part of the **BitMap project**: brain injury and trauma monitoring using advanced photonics based in Berlin. His research focuses on the quantification of cerebral oxygenation based on time-resolved diffuse optical spectroscopy. After pursuing his PhD, he hopes to start a medical device company.*



*How did you learn about Innovation Training Networks and the possibility of applying for funding?*

I learnt about the MSCA long time ago - it is pretty famous in my environment. While searching for opportunities, I ended up on the EURAXESS website and realised I found a very useful platform for selecting MSCA funding I was interested in. I learnt all on my own and with a little luck.

*How was the application procedure? How did you choose to apply for the BitMap project?*

In 2016, I was looking for the MSCA-ITN projects through the search engine on EURAXESS portal. Using the main topics of my Master's thesis as keywords in the search tool, I discovered several relevant projects open for application. One of these was published by the BitMap network, and the research topic was simply ideal and consistent with my competences and skills. Therefore, I followed the application procedures provided by the host and successfully applied on their official website.



*How do you evaluate your experience? Would you recommend applying for ITN positions? What would you change about this experience and how do you think it will help your future career?*

The experience is unique. I believe every ESRs should have this opportunity and spend a research period in one of the ITNs. Personally, I would definitely recommend it to the young students in the early stage of their careers and willing to continue their research in a challenging environment. I had the luck to work alongside with many excellent senior researchers in my field and established a lot of connections, that I am sure will prove useful also in the future. I have also become familiar with the up-to-date situation in my research area, and understood the way researchers work in Europe. This experience makes my profile more international and shows my dedication to work. It will no doubt facilitate my future academic career.

*How do you feel about working and living in Europe?*

I am based in Berlin, which is one of the biggest cities in the EU. My home town in China is a province's capital – Xi'An – which has around 900 million people; therefore, I feel my life is not too different here compared to how it was back home. I have the choice of having dinner in various restaurants, participate in big events, enjoy concerts... in both cities.

Probably Berlin's style is more classical and international at the same time, while public transports are less crowded compared to Xi'An. On the other hand, I feel online shopping and logistics are more convenient in China.

From my working experience in Europe, I feel what you learn and how you solve the problems during the working process are considered the most important elements, while in China more attention is given to the outcomes of your work – such as publications and patents – which are absolutely important to a research project.

It is hard to say which way is better. More outcomes could represent an advantage for a young researcher's career, while the skills and methodologies she/he learns are more useful for the long-term development, even for those who are not planning an academic career.

Overall, I enjoy life in Berlin. I am impressed by Europe's multicultural environment. I feel people pay special attention to the work-life balance, privacy, environment protection, among other things, compared to the rest of the world.

*Did you know about EURAXESS before being contacted for this interview?*

As mentioned earlier, I learnt about EURAXESS when I started my search for a MSCA ITN position in 2016.

# In case you missed...



Overview of the main EURAXESS China news in the last quarter...

...from the EURAXESS Portal

## Are you a researcher working outside Europe?

Take the survey and help the European Commission:

- Improve working conditions
- Expand mobility opportunities
- Improve career prospects in your field

MORE4

SURVEY

The European Commission has launched the fourth international study to improve the knowledge of mobility patterns, working conditions and career paths of researchers. It has commissioned PPMI (Lithuania), in partnership with IDEA Consult (Belgium) and WIFO (Austria), to carry out this study which is known as MORE4 (<http://www.more-4.eu>).

The MORE4 study involves two large surveys. The first one focuses on researchers currently working in a higher education institute in the EU. The second survey takes a global perspective and focuses on **EU and non-EU researchers currently working outside the EU**.

If you are a researcher working in a non-European country, we invite you to complete the survey, which can be accessed through the button below:

SURVEY

Together, these two surveys will provide a comprehensive picture of researcher mobility and satisfaction worldwide.

*Your input is very valuable to us. Please note that only aggregate data collected through this survey will be used for the purposes of this study. Any personal data and individual answers will be treated as strictly confidential and processed anonymously. For more details please see the [Specific privacy statement](#).*

MORE3

The MORE-4 Study is the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Commission's DG RTD's study on the mobility patterns and career paths of EU researchers.

To see the results of MORE3 and MORE2 visit the [online indicator tool](#).

## Other notable news from this quarter



### GUIDE FOR EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS ON FUNDING AND GRANTS IN CHINA PUBLISHED

EURAXESS China is glad to inform you that a new Guide was produced under the EU-funded project "Improving EU Access to National and Regional Financial Incentives for Innovation in China" ([www.chinainnovationfunding.eu](http://www.chinainnovationfunding.eu)). The Guide was presented on January 14th during the Final Event...



### Funding Workshop and Researchers' New Years Reception

EURAXESS China participated in the final workshop of the EU funded initiative Improving EU Access to National and Regional Financial Incentives for Innovation in China that took place in the Galileo Room of the Delegation of the European Union to China 14 January 2020. The final workshop introduced in detail the last 3 studies produced by the initiative: Guide for European researchers on China's funding and grants [LINK] Guide for European tech...



### 2019 EU-CHINA R&I STAKEHOLDERS TOUR FINAL EVENT

The final event of the 2019 EU-China R...



### Coronavirus: EU mobilises €10 million for research

应对新型冠状病毒，欧盟启动1000万欧元用于科研攻关 The European Commission is boosting urgently needed research into coronavirus with €10 million from its research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020. 欧盟委员会将从其研究和创新项目“地平线2020”中拨出1000万欧元，以快速推动抗新型冠状病毒的研究。 It has launched an emergency request for expressions of interest for research projects that will advance our understanding of the novel coronavirus epidemic, contribute to more efficient clinical management of...

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### About us

EURAXESS China is a networking tool for European researchers active in China and for Chinese and international researchers wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a career in Europe. EURAXESS China provides information about research in Europe, European research policy, opportunities for research funding, for EU-China and international collaboration and for trans-national mobility. **Membership is free.**

Visit us at [china.euraxess.org](http://china.euraxess.org) and [Join](#) the EURAXESS China community.

EURAXESS Worldwide has dedicated teams in the following countries and regions ready to assist you: ASEAN (focus on Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam), Australia and New Zealand, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC, focus on Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and Colombia), China, India, Japan, Korea, and North America (USA and Canada).

