

2015
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euraxess
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

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EURAXESS LINKS CHINA

Dear colleagues,

In the last newsletter of 2015, you can find a lot of information about the European Research Council, Europe's top funding institution:

The [EU Insight](#) focuses on the ERC's funding activities and analysis of its key facts, patterns and trends. In our "[Meet the Researcher](#)" interview, Prof Vincent Gaffney, an ERC Advanced Grantee in Archaeology based in the UK, talks about his research uncovering Europe's "lost lands", and gives useful tips about the ERC application process.

We would like to invite you to the public lecture "**European Research Council: Opening New Frontiers in Academic Research Between Europe and China**" held by **Dr Manuel Pérez García** which will take place in the EU Delegation on 12 January, 6pm. More details in [Events](#) section.

Our [News](#) and [Grants and Fellowships](#) sections contain our latest round-up of the most important developments and opportunities. Our [Press Review](#) summarizes the key developments in Chinese research, innovation and international collaboration.

We want to draw your attention to the **Call for Papers for the 3rd edition of the New European Conference on Contemporary China (NERCC)**, for all PhD students, recent PhDs or post-docs from Europe (or affiliated to European universities). [Read details in Events section.](#)

Next year will bring changes to EURAXESS Links and the way we communicate with our community in China. A brand new EURAXESS portal is on its way, and as a matter of fact this Newsletter's format will also be discontinued, in order to make EURAXESS more user-friendly for all of you in Europe and in China (and beyond). We'll inform you in time about the upcoming changes.

We look forward to supporting you in 2016.

Season's Greetings,

EURAXESS Links China



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1 EU Insight – ERC’s “excellence only” principle leads to grant concentration in EU’s top institutions

In a recent report published by the European Research Council (ERC) on “ERC funding activities 2007-2013”, key facts, patterns and trends on the council’s funding activities are laid down in detail. The report not only shows the grants’ high competitiveness, but – once again – demonstrates that the ERC’s “excellence only” principle leads to a concentration of grants in Europe’s top research institutes and universities.

The report

The report combines in-house data on ERC funding activities and data from external sources, and covers seven areas of interest: ERC proposal selection and funding, research areas, grant characteristics (such as project duration and costs), demographic profiles of applicants, and analyses of host data, i.e. host institutions of applicants, host countries, and host regions and sub-regional level.

**European Research Council**

(ERC) grants support individual researchers of any nationality and age who wish to pursue their frontier research. The ERC encourages in particular proposals that cross disciplinary boundaries, pioneering ideas that address new and emerging fields and applications that introduce unconventional, innovative approaches.

More information on the funding schemes can be found [here](#).

Over the course of FP7, the 18 completed calls for proposals under the five ERC grant schemes received nearly 45,000 applications. With a budget of 7.7 billion euros, corresponding to approximately 15% of the total FP7 budget, 4,556 proposals were funded. While the overall success rate was 10.5%, the rate varied considerably amongst the different ERC grant schemes, e.g. Starting Grant (9%), Advanced Grant (13.8%), and Synergy Grant (2.1%).

Concentration of grants in Europe's top research institutes and universities

Between 2007 and 2013, the ERC received close to 42,000 eligible applications for the Starting (StG), Consolidator (CoG), and Advanced (AdG) grant funding schemes from researchers belonging to 113 different nationalities in total.¹ The researchers who received ERC grants under these schemes as Principal Investigators are of 63 different nationalities in total, including those of all 28 EU Member States, and at the time of application, they declared a total of 40 countries of residence, including 27 EU Member States. Without counting countries of nationality with none or very few grantees, the highest success rates are attained by applicants of non-EU nationalities, namely of Swiss (18.2%), Israeli (17.5%) and US (16.7%) nationalities.

As of mid-2014, ERC grant recipients are hosted by about 600 research organisations located in a smaller group of 30 countries (i.e., 'host countries'), consisting of 25 EU Member States (all but Lithuania, Malta and Romania) and 5 Associated Countries (Iceland, Israel, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey). However, there has also been a noticeable concentration of funding at a small group of Host Institutions. Over 40% of the grants have been awarded to researchers based at the top 31 Host Institutions. The report comes to the conclusion, that given the aims of the ERC, which include channelling resources to the most promising researchers, this distribution can be seen as a strong sign that the ERC is achieving its aims. It should be no surprise that many of Europe's top researchers are already at some of Europe's top research institutions.

Further information:

"ERC funding activities 2007-2013 – Key facts, patterns and trends", 2015, https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/publication/files/ERC_funding_activities_2007_2013.pdf

"Top institutions dominate in fierce ERC grant battle", University World News, 13 November 2015, Global Edition Issue 390, <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20151113155204222>

¹ Please note that in the following paragraphs, the data only relates to these three schemes.



2 Meet the Researcher: Prof Vincent Gaffney, ERC Advanced Grantee



Professor Vincent Gaffney is 50th Anniversary Chair in Landscape Archaeology at the Department of Archaeological Sciences at the University of Bradford.

He has worked in many areas of Europe, Africa and America and current research includes mapping the inundated landscapes of the Southern North Sea, agent-based modelling of the battle of Manzikert (1071) in Anatolia and the “Stonehenge Hidden Landscapes” Project where he leads the UK team creating 3D and virtual imaging. He has received a number of national and international awards; his book “Europe’s Lost World” was awarded the “Best Publication” prize at the British Archaeological Awards in 2010.

Please introduce yourself and your research.

I am the Anniversary Chair in Landscape Archaeology at the University of Bradford. I am a landscape archaeologist - my discipline looks at the entirety of an area where people live. I look at every scale from the highest resolution of sites to complete countries. I look at how people live within landscape, and I work in many parts of the world, across Europe, Northern and Southern Africa, or Americas.

How does this relate to the ERC Advanced Grant you were awarded?

My work with the ERC will be related to my research in the North Sea. Here I am applying new technologies to explore the land which existed on the inundated coastal plains of Northern Europe. This prehistoric "lost country", now hidden below the North Sea, is called Doggerland and is the last frontier of archaeological and geographical exploration, because until up to recently, we had no way of finding out anything about them. But with new methods and DNA analysis, we are now starting to unfold the map. In fact, we are making that map.

Why does your research matter?

The reason number one is the scientific knowledge and curiosity. Aside from this, it is key to understand how people reacted to catastrophic climate change in the past, and how past climate change acted in geographical terms. We look at inundation rates which provide data on how plants, animals and people reacted to changes in their environment.

What is the link of your research to Asia?

Global climate change happened at the end of the last ice age (20,000 years ago). There was a world-wide sea level rise of 120 metres that inundated huge areas of coastal plains around the world. In Southeast Asia, the affected area is known as Sundaland. Associated with the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra, the lost area is equivalent to slightly less than the size of India. We can't ignore such a huge area. In critical areas of development, people lived, gathered and hunted and, perhaps, initiated agricultural practises. The area of Southeast Asia is one of the heartlands of human civilisation which we have not yet fully explored.

Is the research on Sundaland going to be part of your ERC grant work?



The ERC is providing me with the capacity to develop the techniques and train people who can work in other areas of the world. The issues are global and the methodologies can be applied globally. So, we can move from Northern Europe elsewhere or work with others researching in the region. Other people can use the technologies we'll develop.

Do you regularly visit China?

Sadly, this is only my second trip but I hope we will build the relationship and we will develop strong collaborations here. One of the co-PIs for the ERC project, Dr Eugene Ch'ng, is based within the University of Nottingham Ningbo China. Dr Ch'ng is an Associate Professor in Computer Science at the UNNC.



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**Supporting top researchers
from anywhere in the world**

Vincent Gaffney has been recently awarded the ERC Advanced Grant with which he aims to uncover the history of Britain's prehistoric tribes at the bottom of the North Sea.

The scientist and his team, which stretches all the way to China, plan to search for evidence of Stone Age human activity on Britain's prehistoric "lost country" called Doggerland, a piece of land that connected England and southern Scandinavia, which was engulfed by rising sea levels 8000 years ago.



Any tips and advice for future applicants to the ERC?

The most important in any application is clarity. If people can't understand what you are trying to tell them, it will not be funded, no matter how important it is. Clarity and simplicity is key. It is also important to know how to demonstrate the relevance of your research. Whilst we will always defend pure knowledge and pure research, it is a fact that we live in a society to whom we have to ultimately defend our position. Being able to talk to people, disseminate the work we are doing, is critically important. We can't stand above that.

Is science communication crucial to attract attention and funding to a particular field?

Funding is, in some sense, fashion. Research fields become fashionable and then move out of the spotlight. But the truth is, if people haven't heard about your work, if there is nothing that demonstrates how you and your work matter, it will always be difficult to persuade them to give you grants. You have to be prepared to disseminate. And you will find out it is worth talking to people – they like it and you will enjoy it.



How to write your ERC application and get the grant: Tips according to ERC Advanced Grantee, Prof Vincent Gaffney

- Sell yourself
- Remember the Funding ID section in the CV is important
- Make sure you address the full requirements of the track record, and consider what makes you stand out
- The evaluators will review the PI on the basis of their experience and information the PI provides in the application form! Clarify specific points to strengthen your application, give additional relevant details
- If you refer to journal impact factors, state which one you are using
- Add a link to your personal website and your institution's website. Keep your personal website up to date.
- Consider what excites you about the research and convey this in your application
- Think about your audience and remember to explain country-specific terminology
- Explain how the research will open new horizons and opportunities
- Provide a clear, concise work-plan which gives details of the intermediate goals
- Explain what each team member is doing (and their background and recruitment profile)
- Highlight any intermediate stages where you may need to adjust your project planning
- Clearly explain how you will manage and disseminate your project
- Justify the resources you need for your research proposal and ensure the resources are appropriate. Have you included all the staff costs? Have you clearly shown the links between the costs and the research/methodology?
- One of the most important things when applying for grants is looking why you fail. I submitted the ERC Advanced Grant three times, only for the third time I succeeded!
- Remember that even if you do receive the correct grade, you might still not be funded because there is not enough money.
- Make your project feasible and not just ambitious! We can all dream... but the EU doesn't fund dreams.
- Recognise the value of public impact. Don't be an internet snob; engage with TV, documentaries, interviews. Get your research out there, show it off - you will enjoy it.





- In your application, you can use good, relevant illustrations - such that panel members will be able to interpret (the illustrations must do the job you want them to do).
- Keep track of clarity, structure – big can be messy. Do not shove everything in – no one will be impressed.
- Remember that all grants are repetitive. Don't be embarrassed to repeat the bits you deem important.
- Pass on your final draft to an independent person for them to do the clarity check. If they won't understand it, nobody will
- And if you are successful and get the grant? Then the problems start! Delivery is harder than writing applications, and interdisciplinary work is harder than multidisciplinary. If you are operating at this level, managing a bunch of egoists – and if you have a good team they will be egoists – is a nightmare. You will spend time managing the team. I just got the grant - I'll tell you if it worked for me in 5 years!

3 EURAXESS Links Activities



EURAXESS 2015 Satisfaction Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete our brief satisfaction survey. The survey has 7 questions and will take 3-5 minutes of your time.

We highly value your opinion and look forward to your feedback on how best to improve our services!

Access the survey [here](#). THANK YOU!!!

EURAXESS Links: Last Network Newsletter Nr. 12

Many changes await EURAXESS Links as the initiative moves into the New Year, all aimed at improving the experience of internationally mobile researchers. Particularly exciting is the upcoming launch of the EURAXESS portal, which, when launched, will feature an entirely revamped site updated with a new look and set of functionalities. Besides this, EURAXESS Links will also offer a selection of new services to better facilitate the flow of communication on news and activities.

Read about where we've been, where we're at, and where we are going.

Please read the latest Network Newsletter 12 [here](#).



4 News & Developments

4.1 EU & Multilateral Cooperation

Historic climate deal in Paris: EU leads global efforts

The European Union has played a key role in brokering on 12 December a historic agreement in Paris, where 195 countries adopted a new universal, legally binding global climate deal.

The ambitious and balanced agreement, the first major multilateral deal of the 21st century, sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.

The deal is the culmination of years of efforts by the international community to bring about a universal multilateral agreement on climate change. Following limited participation in the Kyoto Protocol and the lack of agreement in Copenhagen in 2009, the EU has been building a broad coalition of developed and developing countries in favour of high ambition that shaped the successful outcome of the Paris conference. The Paris Agreement sends a clear signal to investors, businesses, and policy-makers that the global transition to clean energy is here to stay and resources have to shift away from polluting fossil fuels.

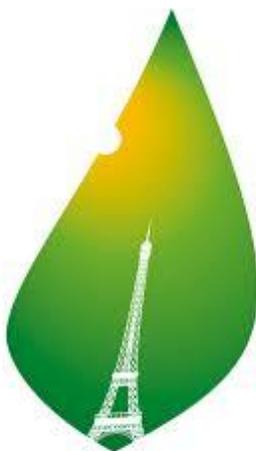
European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said: "Today the world is united in the fight against climate change. Today the world gets a lifeline, a last chance to hand over to future generations a world that is more stable, a healthier planet, fairer societies and more prosperous economies. This robust agreement will steer the world towards a global clean energy transition. This deal is also a success for the European Union. We have long been the global leader in climate action, and the Paris Agreement now reflects our ambition worldwide. I would like to thank the EU's chief negotiator Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete and his team for working day and night to make this agreement happen and for keeping the European Union the central player throughout the negotiations. I am proud of all of you."

EU Climate Action and Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete said: "This agreement is a major win for Europe. But more importantly, it is a major win for the global community. Europe has led the efforts in Paris to get an ambitious and legally binding global climate deal. We have forged alliances and others have joined. Our key objectives – on the long-term goal, the 5-yearly review cycles and transparency – are in the new agreement. The agreement also reconfirms global commitment to continued support to those in need of assistance. We succeeded. Now, what has been promised must be delivered. Europe will continue to lead the global low-carbon transition we have agreed."

The Paris climate deal

The Paris climate change agreement is a bridge between today's policies and climate-neutrality before the end of the century. In Paris, governments agreed on ambition, commitment, and solidarity.

Ambition: Governments agreed a long-term goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to aim to limit the increase to 1.5°C, since this would significantly reduce risks and



COP21·CMP11
PARIS 2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE



the impacts of climate change. The agreement calls for global emissions to peak as soon as possible, recognising that this will take longer for developing countries and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with the best available science. Before and during the Paris conference, countries submitted comprehensive national climate action plans to reduce their emissions. The sum total of the 185 intended nationally determined contributions prepared in advance of the Paris conference are not yet enough to keep the world below 2°C by the end of the century. However, the agreement traces the way to achieving this target.

Commitment: To achieve this common ambition, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science. They also accepted to report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets, to ensure transparency and oversight. A global stocktake will take place every five years. A robust transparency and accountability system will track progress towards the long-term goal.

Solidarity: The EU and other developed countries will continue to support climate action to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate change impacts in developing countries. Other countries are encouraged to provide or continue to provide such support voluntarily. Continued and enhanced international support for adaptation will be provided to developing countries. Developed countries intend to continue their existing collective goal to mobilise USD 100 billion per year until 2025 when a new collective goal will be set.

Full article: [European Commission](#)

EU research and innovation supports delivery on COP21 commitments

The European Commission announced a new Research, Innovation and Competitiveness Strategy of the Energy Union at the 2015 Paris Climate Conference.

The Commission would like the 2015 Paris Climate Conference ([COP21](#)) to make the transition to decarbonisation irreversible and kick-start a low-carbon innovation race. The EU should take the lead in this race through research and innovation (R&I). This is what the Commission is proposing through the Research, Innovation and Competitiveness Strategy of the Energy Union, announced today by Maroš Šefčovič, Commission Vice-President for the Energy Union, and Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, at the COP 21 [flagship event](#) on "Research and innovation: Our energy for a low-carbon future".

Commissioner Moedas said: "Limiting the warming of the world's climate to below 2°C from pre-industrial level may be the defining social and scientific endeavour of this century. Our view is that investment in energy research and innovation is still far too low. It is now time for swift and coordinated action. To make low and inconsistent public and private investment in European energy research and innovation is a thing of the past."





R&I will be critical for achieving global climate goals. The EU is expected to invest at least 35% of its €77 billion research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, into climate-related activities. This is a substantial increase on previous EU programmes, especially as regards investment into clean energy research and innovation.

The research, innovation and competitiveness strategy is a crucial part of the [Energy Union](#), the EU's key energy policy initiative. It will be launched in 2016, and aims to ensure public support for innovative low-carbon technology as well as support the creation of the right policy environment to stimulate innovation and competition. It will also include an "open science – open innovation" initiative on pathways for decarbonisation by 2050, since the low-carbon transition does not only concern the energy sector, but rather society as a whole.

Full Article: [European Commission](#)

Commission's European Research Council awards 291 young researchers with €429 million in grants

The European Research Council (ERC) has announced on 4th December the award of its Starting Grants to 291 early-career researchers. On the occasion, Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: "We need to keep our most talented researchers in Europe while attracting the new and diverse perspectives of top researchers from elsewhere in the world. These grants ensure many of the world's most exciting ideas are developed right here: giving researchers and scientists the freedom and security to pursue their careers and ambitions on our continent." The funding, worth €429 million in total and up to €1.5 million per grant, will enable them to set up their own research teams and pursue ground-breaking ideas in all disciplines, covering topics like climate change, rare diseases and digital media. See [ERC press release](#) for more details

Source: [European Commission](#)



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Tunisia joins Horizon 2020, the EU's Research and Innovation Programme

Researchers and innovators from Tunisia will now be able to participate in Horizon 2020, the EU's framework programme for research and innovation, under the same conditions as their counterparts from EU Member States and other 13 associated countries. The agreement associating Tunisia to Horizon 2020 is being signed today by Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, and Chiheb Bouden, Tunisian Minister for High Education and Scientific Research.

Commissioner Moedas said: "I am pleased to welcome Tunisia into Horizon 2020, the biggest programme for research and innovation of the world. This agreement is a historical one. It shows that through research and innovation, the EU is supporting the young Tunisian democracy and helping to invest in





knowledge as a foundation of future development. Tunisia's accession also shows how a research policy open to the world can bring novel ideas and enrich our common research efforts."

The Association Agreement allows for enhanced cooperation in research and innovation between the EU and Tunisia, vital for successful and modern economies. It also represents another step towards reaching the EU goal of opening research and innovation to the world.

Tunisian research institutes, universities and individual researchers will now have access to all opportunities offered by Horizon 2020 that funds diverse scientific areas, from blue sky research to demonstration projects. Tunisian SMEs and businesses will also be able to benefit from increased support to develop new ideas and bring products and services to the market. **Source:** [European Commission](#)

Commission invests €33 million for quicker market access of 15 new innovative projects

The European Commission is awarding €32.7 million to [15 innovative projects](#) involving 67 partners in 15 countries to help speed up their access to the market. Under the second round of the [Fast Track to Innovation \(FTI\) scheme](#), run under the EU's research and innovation programme Horizon 2020, each of these projects will receive up to €3 million.

The projects include designing a scooping device for fighting forest fires by air, bringing the recovery and reuse of plastic waste from photovoltaic panels to an industrial scale, developing a novel diagnostic to make a better use of antibiotics, making a mobile 3D-scanner for forensic data and building an exoskeleton to rehabilitate patients with spinal cord or brain injury.

Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: "Under Horizon 2020 we aim to give top innovative businesses a head start in the race to market. These latest results bring the total investment to nearly €70 million in fast-access EU funding. This instrument is delivering on its promise to promote innovation activities at the close-to market stage."

The FTI scheme was [launched in January 2015](#). This second round of the scheme attracted a total of 229 project proposals involving 922 participants by its cut-off date of 1 September 2015. This brings the total of proposals received since the launch of the programme to 498, of which 31 received more than €68 million in funding. Almost half the project participants in this stage are SMEs.

Source: [European Commission](#)

Commission proposes a research-friendly copyright for open science and innovation in Europe

European researchers and innovators should have the explicit right to process on a large scale the content to which they have legal access. That is why the [European Commission proposed today](#) a mandatory exception for research in the EU copyright legislation.



This exception should overcome the current fragmented copyright regime across the EU, the lack of clarity around copyright and ownership of derived works, and the inadequacy of licensing solutions. These obstacles have so far hampered the use of technologies commonly known as Text and Data Mining (TDM) in the EU. As a result, researchers – especially those from public interest research organisations – have felt discouraged to use such techniques to analyse vast amounts of digital content.

Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: "Scientific research is collaborative and knows no borders, so the currently fragmented copyright regime in Europe is simply unacceptable. We also need to ensure that Europe does not fall behind other regions of the world, where text and data mining is already made easy. I have strongly supported a copyright exception for our researchers and innovators because they should be given the best conditions to do their jobs. The exception proposed today will be pivotal in spurring innovation and growth in Europe."

The harmonisation of the copyright exception for scientific research purposes was identified earlier this year as a key for the functioning of the [Digital Single Market](#). The planned exception will help the scientific community and innovative companies that have established collaboration with them – in particular in the case of public-private partnerships – make the best use of digital content they have already lawfully acquired or obtained access to. It will help bring coherence among the EU's 28 Member States and remove key barriers to Open Science and Open Innovation.

The legislative package, including the exception for research, is planned to be released in spring 2016.

Source: [European Commission](#)

Investment Plan for Europe: over £100 million for new Birmingham super hospital

The European Investment Bank (EIB), Europe's long-term lending institution, has agreed to provide £108 million to support construction of the new Midland Metropolitan Hospital in Birmingham. This construction project is the first hospital to be supported by the new European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the heart of the [Investment Plan for Europe](#).

Once open in three years' time the brand new hospital will provide state of the art acute healthcare for 530,000 people living in Sandwell and West Birmingham. It will include one of the largest accident and emergency departments in Europe, expected to treat more than 140,000 patients a year.

Source: [European Commission](#)



4.2 EU Member States*, China & Bilateral Cooperation

China: Nature Index 2015 China

The 2015 Nature Index supplement dedicated to China reveals that the country's output of high-quality science continues to grow — a trend that shows no signs of slowing. With data from three sequential years (2012–2014), the Nature Index has become a powerful tool to explore emerging trends in research. In *Nature Index 2015 China* the data highlight the contribution of particular Chinese cities to the country's scientific ascension. Access the supplement [here](#).

The UK: BBSRC and CAAS MoU

On Wednesday 25 November, the Chinese Vice-Minister of Agriculture and President of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), Professor Jiayang Li, visited London to sign a MoU between CASS and BBSRC to promote an increased level of collaboration between scientists of the two countries. The MoU was signed with BBSRC's Deputy Chief Executive, Steve Visscher and looks to ensure the cooperation will bring substantial benefits to the sustainable development of science and technology in both countries.

Professor Li also visited the [John Innes Centre](#) to sign an agreement on cutting-edge research that will address the global challenge of food security, and [Rothamsted](#) to sign an agreement outlining plans to establish the UK-China joint Centre for the Sustainable Intensification of Agriculture. ([RCUK UK China Update](#))

* Including countries associated with Horizon 2020.



LOOKING FOR FUNDING?

To find out more about **EU funding opportunities** for your research or innovation project please visit the [European Commission's Participant Portal](#) where all calls are published.

International researchers are also invited to join the [database of independent experts](#) for European research and innovation. Distinguished specialists are strongly encouraged to join the database of independent experts, through which they can participate in the evaluation of project proposals and monitoring of actions, submitted under Horizon 2020.

5 Grants & Fellowships

5.1 EU: Call announcements for international researchers

EU: Horizon 2020: New Work Programmes 2016-2017 released

Click [here](#) and access all open calls on the [Horizon 2020 Participant Portal](#).

See the list of **targeted topics for China** [here](#).

First Call launched for EU-China Research and Innovation Co-Funding Mechanism

The first call for proposals under the EU-China Research and Innovation Co-funding Mechanism was published on 16 December 2015 by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) paving the way for deepened cooperation between European and Chinese research and innovation stakeholders within the frame of Horizon 2020. [For details of the call in Chinese, please click on this webpage.](#) Please do not hesitate to widely announce this important information to your national research and innovation communities in Europe and in China.



How to participate in Horizon 2020?

All Calls and Topics are open to Chinese participation. Chinese researchers, enterprises, research institutions and universities are to team up with European partners to participate in projects under Horizon 2020 and make best use of Europe's excellent opportunities in research and innovation. The co-funding mechanism provides matching funds for China-based participants in successful Horizon 2020 projects.

In addition to the General Openness of all Calls, some Horizon 2020 WP 2016/2017 topics specifically encourage Chinese participation:

1. Joint plant breeding programme to decrease dependency of the EU and China on protein imports
2. Increase overall transparency of processed agro-food products



3. Alternative production system to address anti-microbial usage, animal welfare and the impact on health
4. Soil water resources management in the EU and China and its impact on agro-ecosystem functions
5. Resource-efficient urban agriculture for multiple benefits - Contribution to the EU-China Urbanisation Partnership
6. Demonstrating innovative nature-based solutions for climate and water resilience in cities
7. Nature-based solutions for inclusive urban regeneration (including regeneration of deprived districts and neglected or abandoned areas)
8. Multi-stakeholder dialogue platform to promote innovation with nature to address societal challenges
9. Cultural and socio-economic aspects of urban issues in China (Research and Innovation Action)
10. EU-China innovation platform on sustainable urbanisation (Coordination and Support Action)
11. CCS in industry, including Bio-CCS
12. Protection of all road users in crashes
13. Behavioural aspects for safer transport
14. Stimulating European research and development for the implementation of future road transport technologies
15. Supporting international cooperation activities on water
16. 5G PPP Research and Validation of critical technologies and systems
17. 5G PPP Convergent Technologies
18. Collaboration on Future Internet
19. Grant to the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases

EMBO Courses and Workshops

EMBO offers the largest number of life science events in Europe. EMBO Courses & Workshops funds approximately 80 events attracting more than 8,000 participants every year.

Funding is available to organize conferences, EMBO | EMBL Symposia, workshops, EMBO | FEBS Lecture Courses, Global Exchange Lecture Courses and practical courses, as well as for keynote lectures. [Travel grants](#) support the attendance of participants from countries with less-developed scientific infrastructures. EMBO assists the organizer with the design of a poster, set-up of a website and registration system, and with promotion of the event.



Next deadline : **1 March 2016**

[European Respiratory Society \(ERS\) Long-Term Research Fellowships](#)

Long-Term Research Fellowships (LTRF) enable investigators and clinicians in the early stages of their career to carry out basic, translational or clinical research projects. Through this experience, young scientists learn and apply advanced research procedures and techniques not available at their home institute.

Fellowships are between 6 months (minimum) and 12 months (maximum).

WHO? Candidates holding a university degree in any field related to respiratory medicine (MD, MSc, PhD, MD-PhD).

Deadline: **31 January 2016**.

[ERS Short Term Fellowships](#)

The ERS allow young scientists and clinicians to visit a host institution in Europe. Short term stays of 1-3 months are supported.

Next deadline: **1 April 2016**.

[ERC consolidator grant](#)

WHAT? ERC Consolidator Grants are designed to support **researchers at the stage at which they are consolidating their own independent research team or programme**.

WHO? This action is open to **researchers of any nationality** who intend to conduct their research activity in any Member State or Associated Country.

The ERC's frontier research grants operate on a 'bottom-up' basis without predetermined priorities. The call 'ERC-2015-CoG' consists of one call with a single deadline applying to each of the three main research domains:

- **Physical Sciences & Engineering;**
- **Life Sciences;**
- **Social Sciences & Humanities.**

The deadline for all domains of this call is **2 February 2016**. More details are available [here](#).

ERC Consolidator Grants in brief:

- For researchers of **any nationality** with **7-12 years of experience** since completion of PhD (or equivalent degree) and scientific track record showing great promise





- An excellent research proposal
- **Research must be conducted in a public or private research organisation** located in one of the EU [Member States](#) or [Associated Countries](#) (including Switzerland)
- Funding per grant: **up to € 2 million** (in some circumstances up to € 2 million)
- Duration: **up to 5 years**
- Sole evaluation criterion: scientific excellence of researcher and research proposal
- Calls for proposals: published once a year

Note: participation of team members from other countries:

ERC grants support projects carried out by an individual researcher who can employ **researchers of any nationality as team members**. It is also possible to have one or more team members located in a non-European country.

Vacancies for team members of an ERC project can be published by the Principal Investigator on the [EURAXESS Jobs portal](#).

MSCA Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

Please find attached information on the European Commission-funded MSCA Research and Innovation Staff Exchange Programme (RISE)

The call **will open on 8 December 2015**.

This action is meant for organisations such as universities, research centres or companies – that propose a short term exchange to their staff. Proposals should include at least three partners, which can be universities, research institutions, or non-academic organisations. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are encouraged to participate.

Partner organisations should be from three different countries. At least two of these should be from the EU or associated countries. Partners from ASEAN are eligible to join.

Partners get together and propose a joint project. Proposals should highlight networking opportunities, sharing of knowledge and the skills development of staff members.

Research staff of any nationality and any career level (postgraduates to experienced researchers) can undertake a secondment. Staff members working in managerial, technical or administrative roles can also be seconded.

The deadline will be **28 April 2016**. Details will be published on the [H2020 Research Participant Portal](#) on 8 December 2015.

Erasmus+: New Work Programme and Guidelines for 2016

The 2016 Erasmus+ Call for Proposals, Programme Guide, and Annual Work Programme have been published.





European Young Researcher Awards (EYRA)

The deadline for the 2016 call, dedicated to post-doctoral fellows, is **February 1st, 2016**. More information [here](#).

Europe: ERASMUS Life Long Learning: International Certified Strategist

The 2016 ICFS will be held in Stockholm. Apply on www.certifiedfuturestrategist.com.

Erasmus+ Joint Master Degree in AquaCulture, Environment and Society (ACES)

Up to 25 fully funded scholarships will be available (on a competitive basis) for the next academic year of the ACES programme, 2016-2018

5.4 EU Member States*: Call announcements for international researchers

CERN fellowship programmes

The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) is offering:

- [Fellowship and Graduate Engineering Training \(GET\)](#) targeting **researchers in physical sciences and engineering graduates**. Open to nationals of CERN Member States. There are two levels of fellowship within the programme: **the Senior Fellowship Programme**, addressed to people with a PhD or at least four years of experience; and **the Junior Fellowship Programme**, for holders of at least a Technical Engineer degree (or equivalent) and at most a M.Sc. degree (or equivalent) with not more than 4 years of experience. Deadline to submit applications: **1 March 2016**
- [Non-Member State Postdoc Fellowship Programme](#): Postdoc opportunity for young scientists in **Theoretical Physics** from Non-Member States. Deadline in October.
- [Doctoral student programme](#) to spend 6 to 36 months doing thesis research at CERN in **Applied physics, IT, mathematics, electrical, electronic, mechanical or civil engineering, instrumentation for accelerators and particle physics experiments, materials science, radiation protection, safety and environmental protection, science communication, surveying, ultra-high vacuum**. Open to [CERN member states nationals](#), Romanian, Serbian and researchers, including Chinese, residing in a member state for the last 5 years. Deadline for application: **26 April 2016**.



CERN is proud to be involved in **COFUND** a European Commission Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action

* Including countries associated with Horizon 2020.



- [Post Career Break Fellowship](#): full-time or part-time Fellowships to science and engineering graduates wishing to re-start their careers. Deadline : **1 March 2016**.
- [Studentships in Summer 2016 \(Non Member State Nationals\)](#) for undergraduate and junior post-graduate students of physics, computing and engineering to work in experimental teams, attend a series of lectures, visit the CERN facilities and attend discussion sessions and workshops. Attendance requires a presence of 8 weeks on site. Deadline : **27 January 2016**.

EUI Special Doctoral Fellowships

The European University Institute (EUI) Special Doctoral Fellowships has been setup to allow candidates from non-member countries to apply to its PhD programmes in Economics, History and Civilization, Law, and Political and Social Sciences.

Fellowships cover full funding of the PhD courses and monthly stipend for the whole programme (4 years).

WHO? Candidates must have successfully completed a Master's or equivalent degree (before 31 August 2016) in an academic discipline relevant to the doctoral programme of the department and the research proposal. Applicants are required to submit an English international language certificate to demonstrate their level. Find more information [online](#). Deadline: **31 January 2016**.

EU Member States and Associated Countries

National EURAXESS Portals

The latest information on open calls for national grants and fellowships in the 40 member countries of the EURAXESS network can be accessed on the respective **national EURAXESS portals**:

[Albania](#), [Austria](#), [Belgium](#), [Bosnia-Herzegovina](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Croatia](#), [Cyprus](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Denmark](#), [Estonia](#), [Faroe Islands](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [Macedonia](#), [Germany](#), [Greece](#), [Hungary](#), [Iceland](#), [Ireland](#), [Israel](#), [Italy](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Malta](#), [Moldova](#), [Montenegro](#), [Netherlands](#), [Norway](#), [Poland](#), [Portugal](#), [Romania](#), [Serbia](#), [Slovakia](#), [Slovenia](#), [Spain](#), [Sweden](#), [Switzerland](#), [Turkey](#), [UK](#).

AUSTRIA: [Marietta Blau outgoing PhD Grant](#)

The Marietta Blau Grant offers financial support for carrying out the abroad part (6-12 months) of a doctoral programme at Austrian universities: the grant enables scientific research worldwide in the following fields:

Besides providing information on funding opportunities for incoming international and European researchers, staff at the **EURAXESS Service Centres** offer **individual assistance** on all aspects of researcher mobility.



- Natural Sciences
- Technical Sciences
- Human Medicine, Health Sciences
- Agricultural Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Humanities

Monthly grants of 1200 Euros are given under this programme. The next application deadlines are **1 February and 1 September 2016**.

AUSTRIA: [Ernst Mach Incoming Grant](#)

The Austrian government awards Ernst Mach Grants to **postgraduates, PhDs, postdocs and lecturers from all over the world** to conduct studies in Austria for one to 9 months in the following fields:

- Natural Sciences;
- Technical Sciences
- Medicine
- Agriculture
- Social Sciences
- Humanities
- Arts

Applicants must not have studied/pursued research/pursued academic work in Austria in the last six months before taking up the grant. Maximum age: 35 years.

Deadline to apply for the academic year 2016-2017 is **1 March 2016**.

AUSTRIA: [Richard Plaschka Incoming Fellowship](#)

Grant for visiting **university lecturers (Postgraduates, PhD holders, researchers) in humanities** (History, Archaeology, Linguistics and Literature, Arts) who are primarily occupied with Austria-related topics.

Recipients of Plaschka grants can work in Austria as visiting researchers **for 4 to 18 months** at university departments and institutes and carry out specialist studies in libraries, archives or at research institutions.

The next application deadlines are **1 March and 15 September 2016**.

AUSTRIA: [Franz Werfel Incoming Grant](#)

Four to eighteen months grants for **young university teachers of German language and Austrian literature** to carry out specialist studies in universities departments, libraries, archives or at research institutions.

The next application deadlines are **1 March and 15 September 2016**.



The Erwin Schrödinger programme is co-funded by the European Union.

AUSTRIA: [Erwin Schrödinger Outgoing Fellowship](#) including a return phase

Post-doctoral fellowships for the promotion of scientific work at **leading foreign research institutions** that facilitate access to new scientific areas, methods, procedures and techniques so as to contribute – following return to Austria – to the further development of science in Austria.

WHO? Young and especially highly qualified scientists of any discipline

Length: 10 to 24 months without return phase; 16 to 36 months including return phase of 6 to 12 months.

Applications accepted continuously, **no application deadlines**.

AUSTRIA: [Lise Meitner Programme for Scientists from Abroad](#)

WHO? Highly qualified scientists of any discipline who could contribute to the scientific development of an Austrian research institution by working at it. Requirements: completed doctoral studies, international scientific publications, no age limit, invitation from an Austrian research institution.

Applications must be submitted together with an Austrian co-applicant. The call is constantly open.

BELGIUM (Wallonie-Bruxelles): Incoming and outgoing doctoral and postdoctoral Scholarship for Excellence [IN.WBI](#) & [WBI.World](#)

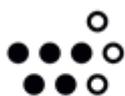
The programme is open to foreigners wishing to enrol in a **doctorate or post-doctorate programme in a University of Wallonia-Brussels** in the following fields:

- Transport and logistics;
- Mechanical engineering;
- Life sciences;
- Agro-industry;
- Aviation-space;
- Environmental technologies.

Other fields may be considered, including human sciences, and fundamental or applied research.

Under the same scheme, fellowships are available for **Belgian or resident students** to follow a doctorate or postdoctorate programme in a university abroad.

Deadline: **1 March 2016** (for long term stays).



Wallonie - Bruxelles
International.be



BELGIUM (Wallonie-Bruxelles): [F.R.S.-FNRS Post-doctoral temporary incoming fellowship](#)

This funding aims to finance a research fellowship (up to 3 years) for a non-Belgian PhD holder (with maximum 6 years of experience) coming from abroad to work for a research programme funded by Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique F.R.S.-FNRS. Various Research Fields. This consists of a research grant for a duration of 3 years maximum.

Deadline: **rolling basis**

BELGIUM (Wallonie-Bruxelles): [Ulysse incoming Mobility](#)

A highly qualified researcher, working abroad for at least 5 years, can come and settle down in a Wallonie-Bruxelles Federation (WBF) university in order to lead a research team. He/she will have an employment contract for 3 years, followed, under certain conditions, by a permanent recruitment at the host university, as well as money to cover the recruitment of staff, the acquisition of equipment and the running costs.

Deadline: **rolling basis**.



Candidates are only eligible for a PhD fellowship within the first five years of obtaining their Master's degree, calculated on the start date of the fellowship (1 October).

BELGIUM (Flanders): FWO [PhD](#) and [postdoc](#) fellowships

The FWO-Vlaanderen is the **funding agency of Flanders for research performed at the universities in Flanders**.

- **Incoming [PhD fellowship](#) :**

These fellowships are intended for **young EU, ERA and Swiss researchers** who are doing their PhD at a Flemish university are granted for a period of 2 years, renewable once.



With co-financing of the COFUND work programme (No 665501)* within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) of Horizon 2020, the FWO launches a new mobility programme in 2015, entitled '[PEGASUS]², giving wings to your career'. This programme aims to stimulate the international mobility of researchers by attracting excellent postdoctoral researchers to the Flemish Community via incoming fellowships on the one hand, as well as by offering postdoctoral researchers in the Flemish Community the opportunity to carry out part of their research abroad on the other hand.

The PhD research must be fundamental in nature. There is no restriction as regards the topic. The FWO employs a strictly bottom-up approach, in which the researcher can choose the topic of his/her research.

- **Special PhD. fellowship:**

The Special PhD fellowship is intended to enable persons not employed within scientific research to complete a PhD within a year and to obtain study leave from their current employer for this purpose.

- **Postdoctoral fellowships:**

WHAT? The postdoctoral fellowships from the FWO are intended to help researchers who already have a PhD to develop an independent research career. The fellowship is provided for a period of 3 years and can be renewed once if necessary.

WHO? PhD obtained no longer than 6 years ago

- **[PEGASUS]² Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships**

[PEGASUS]² INCOMING Postdoctoral fellowships

WHO? postdoctoral researchers (Belgians and non Belgians) who obtained their PhD no longer than three years ago.

[PEGASUS]² OUTGOING Postdoctoral fellowships

WHAT? Outgoing fellowships with a duration of three years intended for postdoctoral researchers of the Flemish Community who wish to carry out research at a foreign research institution or company the first two years of their fellowship, and return to the Flemish Community the third year of their fellowship in order to continue their research activities at the Flemish host institution to which the fellow is affiliated during the entire 3-year fellowship (obligatory return period!).

Deadlines: **1 February 2016.**

FINLAND: Finish Foundations' Outgoing Post Doc Pool

The Säätiöiden post doc-pool covers all expenses of a research period abroad for at least one academic year. The pool grants are intended only for sending post-doctoral researchers abroad from Finland.

Two application rounds per year. Deadline: **15 January 2016.**

FRANCE: Mobility grant for doctoral research on contemporary China 2016

From 1 September 2016, the Scientific Board of research institutes in Asia attached to the French Foreign Ministry will award **one nine-month PhD scholarship** at its annual meeting in April 2016.



The scholarship comprises a monthly stipend of **1625 EUR**, round-trip air travel from one of the member countries of the European Union to Hong Kong, China or Taiwan and possibly a repatriation insurance. Deadline **31 January 2016**. Find out more information [on CEFC website](#).

FRANCE: [CNRS Exceptional Call for Proposals](#)

Following the attacks perpetrated in Paris in November, the CNRS makes a strong appeal for new multidisciplinary research projects capable of exploring all the potential issues and challenges that surround these tragic events, paving the way for durable solutions.

The CNRS will examine all proposals. The objective is to fill unoccupied territory, to answer questions involving several disciplines, to use participative methods and individual expertise. Each project selected, based on a rigorous, simple and rapid procedure, will be granted financial support so as to yield results as of 2016.

Research projects (3 to 5 pages maximum) must be sent in electronic (pdf) format to: attentats-recherche@cnrs.fr. Projects will be examined as they are submitted. There is no standard form.

*LE STUDIUM® Loire Valley Institute for Advanced Studies, operating in region Centre of France, has as its members the University of Orleans, University François-Rabelais Tours, INSA Centre Val de Loire, ESAD, national research institutions including BRGM, CEA, CNRS, INRA, INSERM and Poles of competitiveness. In total, more than forty laboratories in member structures work with LE STUDIUM®.

LE STUDIUM is co-funded by the European Union Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA).

FRANCE: [LE STUDIUM® incoming programme for senior researchers](#)

The incoming modalities are offered:

- [LE STUDIUM research professorship](#) enables a foreign Professor to participate in postgraduate teaching, research and research team building. The Professorship residence is a period of three months in region Centre for 4 consecutive years (12 months in total). For this programme two laboratories in region Centre or three teams from the same laboratory need to be involved.
- [The LE STUDIUM research fellowship](#) is designed to attract internationally competitive researchers for at least one year. An average of twelve awards are available in this campaign. Experienced international researchers are eligible to submit an application after having negotiated their acceptance to a host laboratory and/or host enterprise.
- [LE STUDIUM research consortium](#) award enables the creation of a virtual team of five researchers (one researcher from region Centre). This team meets for a full week twice a year over 2 years (4 meetings in total). The consortium should have a well-defined objective, a research work plan to implement and to achieve milestone goals between meetings.

WHO? Senior international researchers that are in possession of a doctoral degree and have at least five years of full time equivalent research experience. Applicant researchers must be national or long-term resident of a country other than France and must not have resided or carried



out their main activity (work, etc.) in France for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the deadline for submission of proposals.

Deadlines: **8 February 2016.**

GERMANY: Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience (P.R.I.M.E)



The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) offers a **new funding programme** - co-financed by the Marie Curie Programme of the European Commission - for **outstanding postdoctoral researchers from all disciplines and nationalities**. The funding consists of **salaries** instead of scholarships.

Funding is provided for 18 months, in which 12 months have to be spent abroad and 6 months (re-integration phase) at a German university. The re-integration phase is mandatory.

Applications may be submitted before completion of the PhD. The PhD must, however, be completed before the start of the funding period.

Deadline: **1 February 2016.**

GERMANY: PhD fellowships in organismal biology

WHAT? The International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) for Organismal Biology offers two 3-year fellowships for PhD projects in Organismal Biology. A maximum of 3 months abroad per year (and a total of 9 months abroad) can be funded.

WHO? Non-German citizens not living in Germany for more than 15 months prior to application. Applicants must have graduated from a minimum 4-year study program, with comprehensive scientific work in Biology or a related field.

Deadline: **15 January 2016.**

LUXEMBOURG: INTER Mobility Programme 2016



The aim of the INTER Mobility Programme is to promote **scientific exchange between research groups of the Luxembourg public research institutions and research groups abroad**.

The INTER Mobility Programme allows for **research stays in both directions** (researchers working in Luxembourg to go abroad or for researchers from elsewhere to come to Luxembourg).

More specifically, the FNR intends to support **OUTGOING** and **INCOMING established senior researchers**.

The minimal duration of an FNR-funded research stay is 6 weeks. The total cumulated duration of the research stay is limited to 1 year.



The next application deadline is **20 January 2016**.

LUXEMBOURG : [ATTRACT 2016](#)

WHAT? The ATTRACT programme by the National Research Fund (FNR) aims to support Luxembourgish research institutions to expand their competences in strategic research areas by **attracting outstanding young researchers with high potential to Luxembourg**.

The programme is designed **for researchers not yet established in Luxembourg with a PhD and between 2 and 8 years' professional experience**; it offers them the opportunity to set up an independent research team within a public-sector research institution in Luxembourg that is willing to host them.

Research proposals should be submitted jointly by the candidate and the host institution, which has to provide a clear and attractive career track to the candidate.

Proposals selected under the ATTRACT programme have a lifespan of five years and the financial contribution by FNR can be up to EUR 1,500,000 or EUR 2,000,000 for 'Starting Investigators' or 'Consolidating Investigators', respectively. Following a successful final evaluation, the applicant can transition to the next career stage and obtain tenure (if not already the case) and promotion.

Projects submitted should be innovative and of high scientific quality.

Deadline for pre-proposal: **15 January 2016**.

NETHERLANDS: [Innovational Research Incentives Scheme Veni](#)

The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) launched a call under its Innovational Research Incentives Scheme – Veni.

WHAT? Grants of EUR 250,000 to conduct independent research for a period of **three years**. **All fields** are covered by this scheme.

WHO? The grant is open to **researchers who have recently obtained their PhD** (within the last three years). Researchers from outside the Netherlands can apply, but the project to be funded should be carried out at a Dutch institution recognised by NWO.

Deadline: **5 January 2016**.

NETHERLANDS: [Lorentz Center International Workshop Funding](#)

The Lorentz Center, located at the University of Leiden, is an international center that coordinates and hosts interactive workshops. These are often in the domain of the sciences, but interaction with and broadening towards the humanities is encouraged.

The Lorentz Center organizes **international workshops in the sciences and encourages the interaction towards the humanities**. It encourages ground



breaking innovative research, also in relation to the grand societal challenges. It focusses on stimulating new collaborations and interactions between scientists from different countries and fields, also outside the academic community. The center stimulates active participation of both junior and senior scientists and scholars. Deadline **15 January 2016**. More information is [here](#).

SWITZERLAND: Outgoing fellowships

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) offers:

- [Doc.mobility](#): 6 to 18 month fellowships or doctoral students who wish to enhance their scientific profile by working at a research institution abroad. Deadlines: **1 March & 1 September**
- [Early Post-doc.Mobility](#): 18 month fellowships for postdocs at the beginning of their career. Deadlines: **1 March & 1 September**
- [Advanced Postdoc.Mobility](#) enabling **advanced postdocs** to conduct a 12 to 36 month-**research stay abroad** with the option of a return phase at a research institution in Switzerland. Eligibility requirements include having obtained a doctorate (PhD) or medical training with a doctorate (MD) and **at least 1 year's experience as a postdoc**. Deadlines: **1 February & 1 August**

These mobility fellowships are for Swiss nationals or permanent residents

Common requirement: **Swiss nationality**, valid permanent residence, residence or cross-border commuter permit, or marriage resp. registered partnership with a Swiss national. For **persons with foreign nationality, at least 3 years of research activity at a Swiss research institution** are required.

SWITZERLAND: [Swiss National Science Foundation \(SNSF\) Ambizione](#)

Incoming
PhD + 5 years or 3 years of clinical experience for medical practitioners

Ambizione, Ambizione-PROSPER and Ambizione-SCORE grants are aimed at young researchers with a PhD in all disciplines from all countries who wish to conduct, manage and lead an independent project **at a Swiss higher education institution**.

The grants comprise the salary and project funds for a maximum of three years. Deadline: **12 February 2016**.

THE UNITED KINGDOM : [Newton Fund – Researcher Links](#)

Call is now open for applications for grants to run international research workshops for **UK and Chinese researchers, as part of Researcher Links**.

Researcher Links Workshops **bring together early-career researchers from the UK and a partner country** to allow them to make international connections





that can improve the quality of their research. Once funded, grants are available for early-career researchers in the UK and the partner country to attend.

THE UNITED KINGDOM: [Newton Fund: China–UK research and innovation bridges competition](#)

Innovate UK, the **Research Councils UK (RCUK)** and the **Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) for the People's Republic of China** are to invest up to £16 million in collaborative research and development projects that propose new commercial solutions to critical challenges impacting the socio-economic growth and development of China in relation to **energy, healthcare, urbanisation and agri-food. Deadline 16 March.**

THE UNITED KINGDOM: [Newton Advanced Fellowships](#) and [Newton Mobility Grants](#)

Newton Advanced Fellowships provide early to mid-career international researchers who already have a track record with an opportunity to develop their research strengths and capabilities, and those of their group or network, through training, collaboration and visits with a partner in the UK. **Deadline 9 December 2015.**

Newton Mobility Grants provide support for international researchers based in a country covered by the Newton Fund to establish and develop collaboration with UK researchers around a specific jointly defined research project. These one-year awards are particularly suited to initiate new collaborative partnerships, between scholars who have not previously worked together, or new initiatives between scholars who have collaborated in the past. **Deadline 9 December 2015.**

The UK: Newton Fund Joint Calls

Three Newton Fund calls have been launched during this period including the joint call on [Agritech](#) (STFC & NSFC), [Antimicrobial Resistance](#) (MRC, BBSRC, ESRC & NSFC) and the [Research and Innovation Bridges competition](#) (Innovate UK, RCUK & MoST for the People's Republic of China).

INTERNATIONAL: [Society in Science: the Branco Weiss Postdoctoral Fellowship](#)

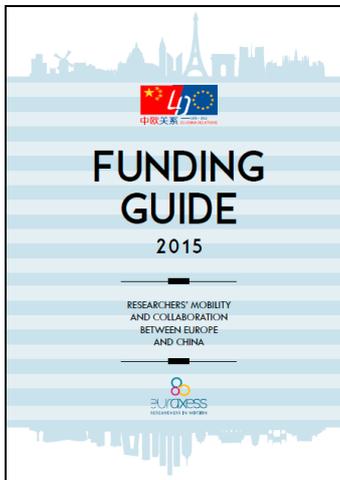
WHO? Young researchers of any nationality (no more than 5 years of research experience after the completion of their doctoral degree) may apply for a fellowship for up to five years, **working at an academic institution of their choice anywhere in the world.** Ideally, fellows pursue unconventional projects in new areas of science, engineering and social sciences.

Deadline: 15 January 2016.



5.5 Calls still open

Calls first announced in [previous editions of the newsletter](#)



EURAXESS Funding Guide

You can browse through a **wide array of European-level funding**, dozens and dozens of **national funding schemes**, plus a number of **Chinese funding schemes open to Europeans**. Feel free to forward it to your colleagues, friends in research-related fields all your students. We can also mail you a printed copy if you are interested. [This is the link to the downloadable PDF.](#)

From European Commission funding, opportunities offered by all EU Member States and Associated Countries – download the Funding Guide.

Other open calls

EMBO Courses and Workshops

Funding is available for [Global Exchange Lecture Courses](#) and [practical courses](#), as well as for keynote lectures and [travel grants](#).

[Click here for further details.](#)

Austria: Vienna IST PhD Programme

Deadline: **8 January 2015**. Further information is available [here](#).

France: Discover China, Cai Yuanpei and Xu Guangqi

As part of the development of Sino-French scientific cooperation, a package of researcher mobility support programs are being implemented: Discover China, Xu Guangqi, Cai Yuanpei

Discover China: Deadline 11 January 2016

Cai Yuanpei Deadline 22 February 2015.

Xu Guangqi Deadline 18 January 2015.

Read more at the [website of the embassy of France](#) (in French).

France: COOPOL Innovation Program - Launch of the call for proposals 2016





The ninth edition of COOPOL Innovation program is now open. Candidates have until 18 January 2016 to submit their projects. **Read more at the [website of the embassy of France](#) (in French).**

Luxembourg: ATTRACT for foreign researchers

5 years and receive up to EUR 1.5 million or EUR 2.0 million for the “Starting Investigators” or “Consolidating Investigators” respectively. Deadline: **15 January 2016** Further information [here](#).



Sweden: VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming Fellowships

Fellowships are awarded for 12 – 36 months, details [here](#). Deadline **16 March 2016**.

Germany: DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships in the fields of Space, Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research

The application deadline depends on the offer. More information [here](#).

Portugal: Grants for Sabbatical Leave.

All research fields and nationalities are eligible. The call is permanently open, information (in Portuguese) can be found [online](#).

Switzerland: Swiss National Science Foundation: International Short Visits

Next deadline: Anytime. More information is [online](#).

Turkey: TÜBİTAK Programme 2221 - Fellowships for Visiting Scientists and Scientists on Sabbatical Leave

Applications accepted on a rolling basis. Further information [here](#).

United Kingdom: 250 Great Minds - University Academic Fellowships

The University of Leeds wants to recruit **250 outstanding University Academic Fellows**. Visit dedicated website <http://250greatminds.leeds.ac.uk/>

The UK/Wales: Strengthening International Research Capacity in Wales (SIRCIW) – a Marie Skłodowska- Curie Actions (MSCA) COFUND Fellowship Scheme

Applicants must have a PhD with three to five years postdoctoral experience, and should not have worked more than 12 months in the UK in the last three years. Up to **90 fellowships** in Wales, more [SIRCIW website](#).



Other useful websites for EU fellowships and funding:

- [Find A Postdoc](#)

- [Find scholarships in Europe](#)

- [Find PhDs in Europe](#)

- [Austrian Database for Scholarships and Research Grants](#)

- [Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science Funding Guide](#)

- [Estonian Research Portal](#)

- [France PhD portal](#)

- [DAAD's Research in Germany Portal](#)

- [DAAD Research Fellowships and Grants Portal](#)

- [Study in Estonia Portal](#)

6 Jobs

There are currently more than **7,000** research jobs available on EURAXESS Jobs. Access thousands of **job and fellowship announcements** in Europe and worldwide on the [EURAXESS Jobs portal](#). You can sort jobs by country, level of seniority, field of research or via free text searches.

You can also attract talent and advertise jobs and fellowships at your organisation, free of charge.

The screenshot displays the EURAXESS Researchers in Motion website. At the top, there is a blue header with the European Commission logo and the text "EURAXESS Researchers in Motion". Below the header, a navigation bar shows "European commission > Euraxess > Jobs". The main content area features a large "JOBS" heading, a search bar with the placeholder "I'm looking for..." and "Enter keyword", and several filter options: "...in this place" (Country), "...in this field" (Research field), and "More filters". The search results indicate "11420 offers available!". On the right side, there are three colored buttons: "SERVICES" (yellow), "RIGHTS" (purple), and "LINKS" (teal).

6.1 Jobs in Europe and China



Europe: Job Opportunities for You Supported by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

In addition to [EURAXESS Job Portal](#), which collects different job opportunities for researchers from all over Europe, you might be interested in taking a look at website of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions research fellowship which has a section called *Jobs for you*.

Take a look at the [MSCA website](#).

Europe & China: PhD Studentships at Lancaster University's Environment Centre

6 PhD Studentships at Lancaster University's Environment Centre for EU Citizens to study various aspects of Food-Agriculture-Water-Environment in China. The 6 studentships include 2 years in China at leading research institutions, funded by the EuropeAid-funded project '[SEW-REAP](#), (*Addressing food Security, Environmental stress and Water by promoting multidisciplinary Research EU And China Partnerships in science and business*)" project, which aims to provide solutions to the Agri-Food-Water-Environment Nexus within China through collaborative research. For more details please click [here](#). Closing date is Sunday, **17th January 2016**.

Portugal: 40 positions for Science Communication and Research Management – Pre-Applications Open

The Centre for Biomedical Research (CBMR) welcomes pre-applications for the up-coming FCT call: Communication and Knowledge Transfer. This call will award 40 positions for Science Communication and Research Management in FCT-funded R&D units. Candidates must hold a PhD degree.

Deadline for pre-applications: **January 15th, 2016**

CBMR is a research centre located at the University of Algarve (Faro, Portugal) dedicated to research in Biomedical Sciences (<http://cbmr.ualg.pt/>). It has recently been very positively evaluated and receives significant funding from FCT to support its strategic programme. CBMR is composed of several groups performing internationally competitive research on several biomedical-related topics. More details on EURAXESS Jobs.

The pre-applications should include:

- cover letter with a brief description of the candidate's motivation;
- curriculum vitae;
- name and contact of up to two (2) references.

Each application will be reviewed by a selection committee, and following a positive pre-selection the candidate will proceed with the submission of her/his application to FCT, with the support of CBMR and the University of Algarve. For



inquires please contact cbmr@ualg.pt For detailed information about eligibility, regulations and submission procedure, consult [Regulation n. 749/2015](#).

6.2 Other EU Research Jobs Portals

EU

- [Academic Jobs EU](#)
- [Euro Science Jobs](#)
- [European Job Mobility Portal](#)
- [Careers with the European Union: European Personnel Selection Office](#)
- [Careers with the European Union \(EPSO\), non-permanent positions](#)
- [EuroBrussels- European Southern Observatory \(ESO\) recruitment portal](#)
- [CERN job portal](#)
- [Joint Research Centre external staff recruitment portal](#)

Jobs Portals in Member States and Associated Countries:

- [CEA PhD and Postdoctorate offers portal](#)
- [Belgian Federal Portal for Research and Innovation](#)
- [Cyprus' Research Promotion Foundation Database](#)
- [CNRS external examination portal](#)
- [Max Planck Society's job portal](#)
- [Helmoltz Association's job portal](#)
- [Irish Research Council Funding Portal](#)
- [Italian National Research Council vacancies](#)
- [BBSRC vacancies \(UK\)](#)
- [Science and Technology Facilities Council vacancies \(UK\)](#)
- [Helmholtz Centres \(Germany\)](#)
- [Leibnitz Institutes \(Germany\)](#)

To better plan and organise your stay in a foreign European country, researchers and their families can also benefit of the free and personalised assistance offered by the EURAXESS Services Centres, a network of more than 200 centres located in 40 different European countries.



7 Events

7.1 EURAXESS Links China recommends

Invitation: “ European Research Council: Opening New Frontiers in Academic Research Between Europe and China”

Euraxess Share lecture at the EU Delegation will take place on **12 January 2015**, 6.00pm-8pm at the EU Delegation to China and Mongolia, Galileo Room.

Do you want to know how to win an ERC grant? Meet Dr. Manuel Pérez García, ERC Starting Grantee based in China, for an exclusive testimonial on how to prepare a winning ERC research project from China.

Dr Perez Garcia is going to introduce his “road to the ERC” and his project “GECEM: Global Encounters between China and Europe“. The Beijing-based audience will get a unique insight into a] how to build a ERC project from China, b] how to prepare a proposal and c] how to go through the interview process, d] how to use existing support structures for researchers’ networks in China, e.g. EURAXESS. As an economic historian with a speciality in economic and knowledge transfer between East and West, Dr. Pérez García will also talk about international academic mobility and knowledge exchange between Europe and China - in the historical perspective as well as present times.

Dr. Manuel Pérez García <http://www.manuelperezgarcia.eu/> is currently an Associate Professor at the Department of International Politics, School of International Studies, Renmin University of China (SIS-RUC). See his profile at the website of SIS-RUC <http://sis.ruc.edu.cn/static/teachers/ip/674.html> .

Dr. Pérez García’s main interest lies in consumer behaviour and trade networks in Mediterranean Europe, circulation of exotic goods such as tea, silk and porcelain from India and China. In his project he pays particular attention on market integration between the West and East prompted by the Manila-Acapulco galleon routes.

As a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of History, Tsinghua University (Beijing, China), Dr. Pérez García started studying cultural transfers between the West and East. He is being in China since 2011, firstly working at Tsinghua University, and later, in 2013, he moved to Renmin University of China where he is fully based as faculty staff member. He founded the **Global History Network in China (GHN)** <http://www.globalhistorynetwork.com/>

As a first (European) researcher fully based in China to win an ERC Grant, Dr. Pérez García was awarded the grant in December 2015 with his project “**GECEM: Global Encounters between China and Europe: Trade Networks, Consumption and Cultural Exchanges in Macau and Marseille, 1680-1840**”, in which the Universidad Pablo Olavide (UPO) of Seville (Spain) will act as main European institution for this project.



Dr Manuel Pérez García,
ERC Starting Grantee



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

The European Research Council (ERC) is the EU’s top funding body, encouraging the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding. ERC supports bottom-up driven, frontier research across all fields, on the basis of scientific excellence.



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CALL FOR PAPERS: New European Research on Contemporary China 2016

The third edition of the NERCC Conference will take place at **July 4-6, 2016 in Beijing, Delegation of the European Union to China.**

This conference aims to bring together **doctoral candidates, post-doctoral researchers and recent PhDs based in China, either European nationals or affiliated with European research institutions**, in order to produce an overview of the emerging problematics in Chinese studies.

The focus of the conference is **on contemporary China, in a multi-disciplinary social science perspective.**

The objective of this Conference is to provide a forum for these young researchers at the European level and in China to engage with each other's work and foster a better understanding of economic and socio-political processes at work in contemporary China as well as at an international level as China is becoming an increasingly important global actor.

The participants will present their research during thematic panels. Each speaker will deliver a paper in English, followed by a discussion with invited scholars and specialists.

Download the Call for Papers [here](#). Thank you for distributing it via your networks.



8 Press Review*

8.1 Policy & Papers

China to strive for greater clout on the internet through global governance system

As an emerging internet power, China will take on bigger responsibilities and push for new rules in the cybersphere, the mainland's internet tsar said at the close of the World Internet Conference on Friday (18 December).



In his closing speech at the event in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province, Lu Wei, head of the Cyberspace Administration of China, said Beijing would promote the building of internet infrastructure, step up innovation in the internet economy, and create a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyberspace.

Lu also repeated Chinese President Xi Jinping's call at the opening of the conference for a global internet governance system. Xi had said "existing rules governing cyberspace hardly reflect the desires and interests of the majority of countries". ([China Daily](#))

China set for quantum leaps in spook-proof communications

China is on track to launch the world's biggest spook-proof quantum communications system in the next six months, one that could eventually cover Hong Kong, a leading Chinese scientist said on Friday.

Beijing will send the world's first quantum communications satellite into space in June – around the same time as it aims to put the world's longest quantum communications network into service, according to Pan Jianwei, the projects' chief scientist.

On the sidelines of the World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province, Pan said the network would stretch 2,000km from Beijing to Shanghai, and be the largest and most extensive quantum communications system in the world.

Quantum technology is considered to be unbreakable and impossible to hack. It encrypts messages with a key of quantum particles and detects third-party attempts to intercept the particles. Pan is a physicist and vice-president of the University of Science and Technology of China in Hefei, Anhui province. His team's groundbreaking experiment on quantum teleportation was voted the most important. ([China Daily](#))

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China to continue innovation-driven development strategy

China will continue to implement the strategy of innovation-driven development and promote mass entrepreneurship and innovation, said a statement issued Monday (21 December) after the Central Economic Work Conference.

Reform and innovation will inspire creativity and new growth engines while facilitating upgrading in traditional industries and growth in emerging ones, said the statement.

New measures will be explored to tap the potential of domestic demand and further expand consumption demand, according to the conference. ([China Daily](#))

World's biggest radio telescope and first-ever quantum satellite: China's top 5 scientific plans for 2016

Chinese scientists are expected to open portals to new and uncharted territory in 2016 with some of the world's most powerful and costly research hardware at their disposal. ([SCMP](#))

8.2 Voices & opinions

How Clocks Created Time for Sino-European Ties

(G)ifting a clock has not always been considered bad luck in China. On the contrary, clocks, watches, and elaborate timepieces were among the most valued gifts an emperor or official could receive during the Ming and Qing dynasties. European-made clocks and timekeeping technology played a vital role in the cultural exchange between China and Europe from the 17th to the 19th centuries. Many of them are still on display in the Hall of Clocks and Watches at the Forbidden City, also known as Beijing's Palace Museum. ([Caixin](#))

8.3 Thematic Activities

* * *

Socioeconomic sciences & the humanities, archaeology & paleontology

Hyenas Lived in SW China 4 mln Years Ago, Research Confirms

A group of fossils discovered on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau have been confirmed as pliocene-era bone-crushing hyenas, which date back some four million years, a Chinese archaeologist said Wednesday (23 December).





The fossilized teeth and lower jaws were discovered in 2012 at an altitude of 4,195 meters in the Zanda basin, southwest of Tibet Autonomous Region in southwest China.

After years of research by Chinese and U.S. scientists, both sides agreed that the fossils date from the Pliocene Epoch (five to three million years ago), making this discovery the first on Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, according to the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"Pliocene hyenas were dog-like predators. Their bone-crushing teeth were perfect for tearing up prey," said Li Qiang, an IVPP researcher and member of the research team. ([CAS](#))* * *

Space

China launches world's most sensitive dark matter hunting probe

China has launched a satellite designed to shed on light on one of the most intriguing mysteries of the universe – dark matter.

The probe, renamed "Wukong" - or Monkey King - shortly before launch, blasted off on a Long March 2D rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in the Gobi Desert, Inner Mongolia at 00:12 UTC on Thursday, December 17(08:12 Beijing time).

The 1,900 kg satellite was inserted into a sun-synchronous orbit, where it is expected to function for 3 years at an altitude of 500 km.

It will carry out both indirect detection of dark matter and studies into high energy cosmic rays.

The probe, originally known as DAMPE (DARK Matter Particle Explorer), was built in collaboration with the University of Geneva and Italian universities in Bari, Lecce and Perugia. It was then tested at CERN in Switzerland. ([GB Times](#))

Dark Matter Particle Explorer Send Back Science Data

The Dark Matter Particle Explorer (DAMPE) that was launched recently, sent back on December 24 its first batch of scientific data. The data was received at 17:55 that day by Miyun Station under the China Remote Sensing Satellite Ground Station (RSGS), and real-time transmitted to the National Space Science Center (NSSC) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in Beijing.

So far the experts are satisfied with results of preliminary analysis of data and have concluded that the payload is functioning properly as per expectations and they are not anticipating any problems. ([CAS](#))

* * *

People & Higher Education

Math Quartet Joins Forces on Unified Theory



A new breakthrough that bridges number theory and geometry is just the latest triumph for a close-knit group of mathematicians. That a number of elite mathematicians would come out of the same class at a top university is unusual, but not unprecedented. (...) What's unusual about the group formed by Zhang, Yuan and their two friends (The mathematicians Wei Zhang, Xinwen Zhu, Zhiwei Yun and Xinyi Yuan) is the degree to which they continue to collaborate and the extraordinary amount of successes that they've had. ([Quanta Magazine](#))



* * *

Research Infrastructures

Sino-Russian cooperation on nuclear cures for cancer

Chinese and Russian top scientific agencies signed an agreement on Friday to make superconducting cyclotron (SC) therapy equipment, the first of its kind in the world aiming to provide the most advanced nuclear cure to some 14 million cancer sufferers worldwide.

An official from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) said as high-energy proton and heavy-ion radiotherapies are the world's most advanced radiation therapy technology, offering precision "strikes" for solid tumors in cancer patients, the design of the SC200 will be a "substantive contribution" to world healthcare.

The China-Russia Superconducting Cyclotron Joint Research Center, set up on Friday, will try to bring out related systems and components of SC200 in 2017 and construct the equipment in 2018, said Kuang Guangli, president of CAS Hefei Institutes of Physical Science (CASHIPS). ([China Daily](#))

China Develops Heavy-ion Medical Accelerator

Chinese researchers have developed a heavy-ion medical accelerator to be used in radiotherapy for cancer, researchers said Thursday. (24 December)

A recent test of the machine's beam was successful, marking the end of China's dependence on imported equipment, according to researchers with the Institute of Modern Physics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which is based in northwest China's Gansu Province.



The researchers said the newly-developed machine is able to accelerate carbon ion beams to 400 mega electron volts per nucleon and provide slow and resonant non-linear extraction. ([CAS](#))

* * *

International S&T relations

China-Africa – Reviewing higher education’s gains

One interesting observation regarding China’s Africa policy is that of ‘inclusivity’. Whether the African country is rich or poor in natural resources, democratic or not, China maintains the relationship.

But why are China-Africa relations important for Africa’s future?

Scholarships provide opportunities for human resource capacity building and collaborative research amid budget deficits, the HIV-Aids pandemic and recent extremism in many African countries.

Chinese scholarship alumni association(s) may influence governments – African and China – by identifying priority areas on which scholarship programmes should focus to ensure their impacts are felt by the larger community.

Ongoing mega-construction projects by Chinese firms. For instance, the University of Dodoma, on completion, will accommodate 40,000 students. Hence there is expanded enrolment for students who could otherwise be left out. ([University World News](#))

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About this newsletter

EURAXESS LINKS CHINA NEWSLETTER is a monthly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS Links China, which provides information of specific interest to European researchers and non-European researchers in China who are interested in the European research landscape and in conducting research in Europe or with European partners.

The information contained in this publication is intended for personal use only. It should not be taken in any way to reflect the views of the European Commission nor of the Delegation of the European Union to China.

Please email china@euraxess.net for any comments on this newsletter, contributions you would like to make, if you think any other colleagues would be interested in receiving this newsletter, or if you wish to unsubscribe.

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About us

EURAXESS Links China is a networking tool for European researchers active in China and for Chinese researchers wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a career in Europe. EURAXESS Links 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.

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EURAXESS Links networks have thus far been launched in North America (USA & Canada) Japan, China, India, the ASEAN hub (encompassing Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia) and Brazil.