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## EURAXESS LINKS CHINA

Dear readers,

Welcome to our March issue full of new funding opportunities, activities and events across Europe and China.

To mark the International Women's Day on 8 March, we have decided to focus the March edition on **women in science**. You can [read an interview with a Marie Curie Fellow Prof Dongchao Min, who is currently based at the University of Copenhagen](#). The interview revolves around her experience as a female researcher, as well as her own research area, gender studies.

Let's remind ourselves that **gender equality is one of the priorities of the European Research Area**. You may learn what that means in practice and how Europe intends to achieve gender balance in Science and Technology [in our EU Insight](#).

We would like to sincerely **invite everyone in Beijing and Shanghai for the next EURAXESS Share events, Researchers' Nights**. This time, they will focus on **Light**, in line with the **UN's International Year of Light**. You will hear interesting presentations tackling light from different research fields and as always, it will be a pleasant networking opportunity to meet new people, as well as the EURAXESS Links team.

In this edition's [Grants & Fellowships](#), you will find again lots of **new funding opportunities for researchers of all fields and nationalities**. Remember that the Marie Curie Individual Fellowship has opened for application – this prestigious EU funding for PhD holders can be used either for incoming opportunity to go to Europe, or outgoing to come to China.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome! Feel free to forward this newsletter to your colleagues.

All the best

**EURAXESS Links China**



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RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

This newsletter is for you!  
Via [china@euraxess.net](mailto:china@euraxess.net), you can send us any **comments** on this newsletter, **contributions** or **suggestions** you would like to make, or let us know if you wish to unsubscribe.

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# 1 EU Insight – Creating Gender Equality in Science & Research

*On 8 March 2015, International Women’s Day was celebrated around the world. Gender equality is a cornerstone of the European Union and applies to all European policies including research and innovation. The [Strategy for equality between women and men \(2010-2015\)](#), adopted in September 2010, is the European Commission’s (EC) comprehensive work programme on gender equality and pursues three objectives, namely: gender equality in careers, gender balance in decision-making and the integration of the gender dimension in the content of research.*

## **Gender equality in the European Research Area (ERA)**

To create the very best conditions for researchers and scientists, the 28 member states of the European Union (EU) are working towards the creation of single [European Research Area \(ERA\)](#). Their common goal is to establish a unified research area which is open to the world, and in which researchers and knowledge circulate freely. Creating equal opportunities for women and men is an integral part of ERA, and a key priority since 2012.

To this end, EU member states are invited to remove barriers to the recruitment, retention and career progression of female researchers, address gender balance in decision-making and strengthen the gender dimension in research programmes. The European Commission encourages EU member states to create the appropriate legal and policy environment to incentivise institutional changes.

Funding agencies, research organisations and universities are on the forefront in the implementation of institutional changes, in particular through Gender Equality Plans. Scientists themselves can contribute to change practices: Networking among practitioners and professional associations, platforms of women scientists and other networks play a key role in this context.

## **Gender Equality in Horizon 2020**

Gender is a cross-cutting issue in Horizon 2020. The promotion of gender equality in research and innovation is a commitment of the European Commission. It is enshrined in the core documents establishing Horizon 2020, with the following three objectives:

1. [Gender balance in decision-making](#)

The Commission has set a target of 40% of the under-represented sex in expert groups and evaluation panels. Whereas H2020 Advisory groups have a target of 50% for the under-represented sex in expert groups and evaluation panels. For 2014-2015, there is a 52% representation of women.



### Gender balance in research teams at all levels

Applicants for funding are encouraged to promote gender balance at all levels in their teams and in management structures. Gender balance in teams will also be taken into account when ranking proposals with the same evaluation scores.

By signing the grant agreement, beneficiaries commit to promoting equal opportunities between men and women in the implementation of their action. They also commit to aim, as far as possible, for gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action, including at supervisory and managerial level.

#### 2. Integrating the gender dimension in the content of R&I

R&I needs to adequately take into account the needs, behaviours and attitudes of both women and men.

In Horizon 2020, the gender dimension is explicitly integrated from the outset in many of the specific programmes. So far, more than 100 topics out of 610 are concerned with gender. These topics are spread across 13 different programmes out of 20. For each of these topics, one or more proposals will be selected. This gives a promising outlook on the number of projects that will be developing a gender dimension and on the new knowledge that they will bring about.

#### **Facts and figures: *She Figures***

What is the proportion of female to male researchers in Europe, and how is this proportion evolving over time? In which scientific fields are women better represented? Do the career paths of female and male researchers follow similar patterns? Are statistics on women in science comparable across Europe? How many women occupy senior positions in scientific research in Europe?

Published every three years since 2003, *She Figures* replies to these questions. This publication presents human resource statistics and indicators in the research and technological development (RTD) sector and on gender equality in science.

The [She Figures 2012](#) show that despite progress, gender inequalities in science tend to persist. The publication provides an overview of the scientific fields where women are better or less represented, and compares the research workforce in different economic sectors (e.g. higher education, government, and business sectors). In 2015, the next edition of *She Figures* will be published.

#### **Sources and further information:**

[European Research Area - homepage](#)

[Horizon 2020 - Promoting Gender Equality in Research and Innovation](#)

European Commission's [Strategy for equality between women and men \(2010-2015\)](#)

[She Figures 2012](#)

In 2009, the European Commission published a selection of European women scientists' profiles. "**Women in Science**" highlights compelling stories of some of the heroines of European science throughout the ages.

The book can be accessed online and free-of-charge [here](#).



## 2 Feature - Meet the researcher –

**Prof. Dongchao Min, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at University of Copenhagen and Shanghai University**



**Professor Min Dongchao is the director of the Centre for Gender and Culture Studies at Shanghai University, Department of Culture Studies, Faculty of Humanities. She is currently a guest professor at Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) in Copenhagen University. Her research stay is financed by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship of the European Commission.**

*Please introduce yourself and your research.*

My name is Min Dongchao and I am a professor at the Department of Culture Studies, Shanghai University. I am currently working at the University of Copenhagen, with the support of the EU Marie Curie fellowship.

The Marie Curie fellowship enabled me full-time research with good financial support in terms of salary as well as research funding. However, I am now approaching the end of my two years in Copenhagen, and I will soon return to Shanghai for the last, return phase of the project.

*What is your project about?*

My project deals with cross-cultural knowledge and translation. I look at how feminist and gender theories travel from abroad into China, how the term “gender” is interpreted and translated. I look into how people adopt these concepts, or why they refuse to adopt them, with specific focus on the Nordic countries and China. My research focuses on the period of 1980’s into 1990’s, when China was “catching up”, getting back on the international track. I deal with translation issues: How do we translate *feminism* and *gender*? Translation is related to how people think about these concepts, how they use them or refuse them.

*What is the state of women’s studies in China?*

Women’s studies as an academic field started in the middle of 1980’s when China opened its doors to foreign influence. The country started changing; however, new issues also emerged. Suddenly, young girls often found it more difficult to get a job, or they were paid less. When factories were restructuring, women workers were laid off first. After the events of 1989, the interest somewhat cooled off, up until 1995, when the UN’s 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women was held in Beijing. This brought a new wave of interest in gender studies.

Professor Min gained a PhD in Women’s Studies at the University of Manchester, the UK. She worked as a visiting scholar at the University of Sussex, University of Leeds and was a Rockefeller Fellow in women’s studies at University of Hawaii.

Professor Min’s research interests are the areas of cross-culture knowledge, globalization, gender, and feminist philosophy.



*What sparked your interest in the field, and research and academia in general?*

When I was a kid, I liked painting. But during Cultural Revolution, universities were closed down and the society was upside down. I worked in a factory for eight years. All the workers had been encouraged to study philosophy, and I was the head of our study group. Every weekend we read works of Mao and Marx. We didn't have a lot of books but what we had sparked my interest in philosophy. In 1977, the universities opened their doors again, and philosophy seemed like the best option.

My mum who was a professor at Tianjin Normal University certainly had an influence over me. I wanted to become a teacher at the university which is another reason why I went into academia. Thanks to my mother, I knew women can do as much as men, or more. I also learned a lot from interviewing women from the generation of the May 4<sup>th</sup> Movement thanks to my research – female doctors, philosophers, and film directors.

*What is your motivation?*

My motivation is to do something for the real world. I am interested in what is going on, I want to show that through my research in women's studies, I can contribute to the world and understanding of gender.

*How do you translate the theoretical knowledge to the public?*

One thing is teaching, another thing is writing. As an academic in gender studies, you must always keep an eye on what is going on. You need to communicate with the young generation, as well as all people around you.

*Marie Curie is a prestigious European funding. How did you learn about it?*

I got to know about it in 2010 from the Vice-President of my university. However the application deadline was in only one month. Later on, I met with a senior scholar in Copenhagen whom I knew for years. We agreed on working on the project together, so I applied the following year. Only writing down the application took over a month.

*What are your tips to future applicants?*

The key thing is a very good idea, which you need to work on. Also, you need to read carefully all available documents, to understand how your application is reviewed and examined. I read almost everything I could find, in order to understand how my research fits into the purpose of Marie Curie. Research-wise I didn't want to work on something completely new. This is not what Marie Curie is about, you have to have your foundations solid, work hard and take it further.

Ideally you should also have a good working partner at your host institution. This is important especially for young researchers who just finished their PhD

*What are the biggest challenges for female researchers? Compare the situation in Europe and China.*

In China, the situation is now very hard. When we started women's studies in 1980's, there was more space, everything was new. When I came back from



the UK in 2004, I discovered that the whole society has become more conservative.

When I moved back to China, it was hard to find a job in the beginning – I didn't fit in any department. The students have also changed. Before, the understanding was that if they worked hard, they would get a degree and then a job. But the situation started getting less favourable - female graduates get jobs harder.

Schools also do not encourage female students to go into science. The lack of women in science – and as a result, a lack of role models - is a world-wide problem, similar in Europe and in China.

*Why do you think that's the case?*

There is a widespread idea that women are better suited to do literature or history, rather than physics or maths. I try to show that it is the society that thinks this way. It pushes girls away from certain fields from an early age. Gradually, they will adopt this view as their own.

Yet another thing is the lack of women in top positions in research. Even in humanities, female professors are rare. More men than women reach the high rankings. When I came back to China in 2004, I was shocked to see how many women choose not to stay in academia. It is not they don't want to, but the environment makes it difficult. Some of them were from countryside; their family needed their money. So it is not just about the gender, male or female. Chinese society is unequal also in other terms - the rich and the poor, the city and the countryside. These categories influence gender inequality too. They are all connected, and in gender studies you must link women's issues to other issues as well.

It is a big challenge to tackle. I am glad for the past two years, as Marie Curie gave me a fantastic chance to focus on my research and carry on.

*What are the differences in gender studies in Europe and China? Is there cross-cultural knowledge exchange between the two?*

I started women's studies in China but then moved to the UK. There, women/gender studies and feminism changed the whole society. It changed many women's lives, including mine. In Nordic countries, gender equality is supposed to be the furthest, although of course, you will also find conservative views who oppose this.

I want to encourage the Chinese to appreciate Europe more. For years, China has been getting a lot of influence from the US, and it is never good to follow only one model. American influence is dominant, whereas in Europe, you see more diversity, different kinds of views, and different kinds of feminisms. Women's studies thrive in different parts of the world, not just the US.

*How to get more girls into top research?*

Better promotion of programmes such as Marie Curie is essential. If my university didn't pass on information about the programme to me, I wouldn't have known about its existence. I am eager on letting female scholars know



there is this opportunity to go to Europe. There is no age limit to this fellowship, as long as you have a PhD. It is not easy to get it, but it is possible as long as you don't give up and work hard.

We need to talk to students and encourage them. However, not all universities have a course on gender studies. Moreover, schools should promote gender awareness also to young girls and train teachers to talk about these issues with them. It can affect their whole life. At universities, it might be already too late.

## 3 EURAXESS Links Activities

### 3.1 Researchers' Nights in Beijing and Shanghai

**We are delighted to invite you to the 5<sup>th</sup> Researchers' Night in Beijing and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Shanghai.** You will have a chance to meet new contacts in the research community and celebrate the **UN Year of Light!**

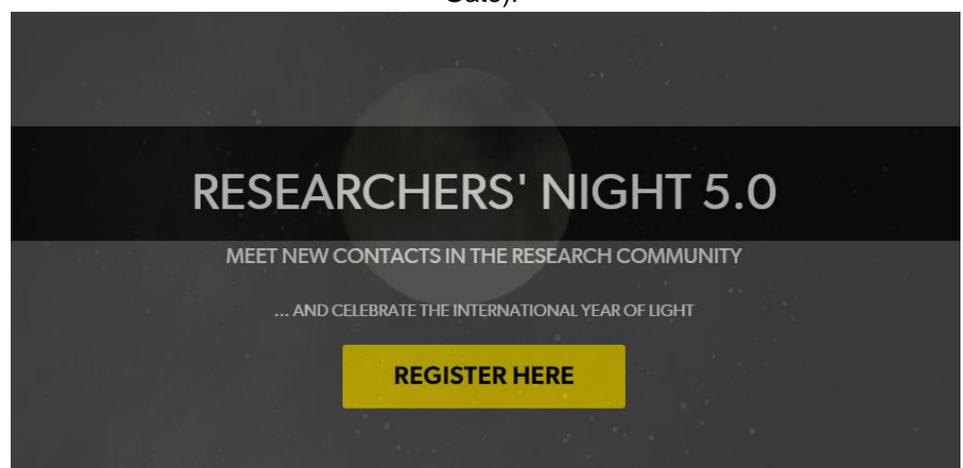
**Researchers' Night: Light** will focus on this engaging theme which is **essential to our lives and cuts across all research disciplines** (e.g. health, optics, energy, astronomy, ICT, urban studies, design etc. etc....)

In a relaxed atmosphere, you will have a chance to meet fellow researchers and reach out to new contacts in the international research community of **Beijing (9 April) and Shanghai (21 April)**.

#### Beijing

**When?** 9th April (Thursday), 6.30pm.

**Where?** House Café, 88 Shuangqing Lu, Haidian (opposite Tsinghua East Gate).





Please register <http://researchers-night-beijing.splashthat.com/>. before Sunday, 5 April, 2015 for Beijing. *Please note that we have only a couple of seats left and if we are over capacity, we might close down the registration before the official deadline!*

### Shanghai:

**When?** 21 April (Tuesday), 6.30pm

**Where?** Kaiba Taphouse, 169 Jianguo Zhong Lu



Researchers from natural & social sciences as well as technology experts will introduce how light matters in their field.

You can join, meet new people, listen and learn - or show your own ideas about light in your research. The event is open to all researchers (PhD students, post-docs and senior researchers), all fields (incl. social sciences and humanities), and research-related professionals from Europe, China and beyond. Before Friday 17 April, 2015 for Shanghai <http://researchers-night-shanghai.splashthat.com/>

**Thanks for distributing the invitation among your friends and colleagues.**

## 3.2 Intercultural Integration Survey

**Are you a Chinese researcher with a mobility experience from Europe?**

**Share your views online by 15 April.**

We are conducting [a survey on cultural integration of Chinese researchers in Europe](#). It is addressed to Chinese researchers currently in Europe or those who were in Europe in the past. This brief online survey will enable us to collect your opinions, suggestions and comments, which are extremely helpful for the



improvement of our services and setting new aims. Please take a few minutes to complete it by 15 April 2015.

The survey involves 12 questions. No personal or confidential information is requested.

### **We really appreciate your input!**

Your opinion counts! [www.impacte.eu/intercultural-integration-survey](http://www.impacte.eu/intercultural-integration-survey)

And if you are thinking about relocation (back) to Europe in the future, don't forget that [EURAXESS Services](#) offer researchers (and their families) **free assistance to plan and organise their move.**

You can explore the website - EURAXESS is in 40 countries and we have more than 200 centres altogether. On [services.euraxess.org](http://services.euraxess.org) you can find online information about local conditions for researchers (incl. funding, taxes, health insurance, visas and others.). Visit [services.euraxess.org](http://services.euraxess.org)

## **4 News & Developments**

### **4.1 EU & Multilateral Cooperation**

#### **High-Level Event on Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development**

As part of the [EYD2015](#) events, to highlight the importance of women and girls as central actors in moving towards sustainable development and to combine proposals for unlocking women's full economic potential in context of post-2015 framework, a high level political event was organized in Riga on March 2 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with the European Commission, the Latvian government, and in close cooperation with civil society, specially women's movement and private sector.



Girls and women over the world are eager to contribute to research and innovation in their respective country. How long will they have to wait until their rights to education and equal pay for the same job are part of the reality and their - *our* - dream fulfilled? What about facilitating access of female researchers?



EURAXESS Links Network is committed to putting its share on it. We take seriously supporting female researchers too.

Read more: [European Year for Development 2015](#) and [EURAXESS Links](#)



### **European Parliament takes an important step towards gender equality**

The European Parliament has adopted a resolution which supports the fight for wage impartiality, parental leave proposals and promote educational policies that encourage women to make their careers in science, technology and ICT sectors.

Read more: [European Parliament](#)

### **European Commission's Report on Equality between Women and Men – 2014**



"The present report outlines the progress achieved in 2014 in the six priority areas of the Commission's 2010-15 strategy for equality between women and men. It is a way for the Commission to review EU and Member State action on gender equality and identify remaining challenges and gender gaps, on the basis of updated information and statistics.

It strengthens the EU's accountability and lays the ground for evidence-based policie. Although gender gaps have narrowed in recent decades, inequalities within and between Member States have grown overall and challenges remain in critical areas such as:

- Men drop out of school more often and perform less well in reading. Women are more likely to have a higher education degree but are significantly under-represented in STEM studies and careers, in research and in senior posts at all levels of education, including higher education;

Find out other critical areas and the Full Report here: [European Commission](#)



## 10 years of commitment to better working conditions for researchers



European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, was joined by former Commissioners Philippe Busquin, Janez Potočnik (in the picture) and Máire Geoghegan-Quinn.

These key players in setting up and promoting the Charter & Code discussed its development and the importance of empowering researchers and attracting talent to Europe

On 3rd March, the first two hundred Deans and Rectors from universities and research institutes to have implemented the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers received the 'HR Excellence in Research Award' for their efforts to create attractive working conditions for researchers in Europe. These two tools are at the core of [EURAXESS Rights](#) component within EURAXESS-Researchers in Motion.

To mark the event, the European Commission hosted a conference to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Charter and Code, celebrating the creation of an attractive, open and sustainable labour market for researchers in Europe.

Researchers relentlessly highlight the importance of mobility for their careers: at EU level, 80 % of internationally mobile researchers believe mobility has strongly increased the advancement of their research skills and 62 % believe mobility has had a positive impact on the quality of their research publications

Read more: [European Commission](#) and [EURAXESS](#)

## EU Prize for women innovators 2016 | Call open



The EU Prize for Women Innovators was launched in 2011 to give public recognition to outstanding women entrepreneurs who brought their innovative ideas to the market. After two successful editions in 2011 and 2014, the European Commission is launching the third edition of the prize on 9 March 2015. Three prizes will be awarded at the end of the competition: 1st prize: €100 000 / 2nd prize: €50 000 / 3rd prize: €30 000. Contestants will be able to submit their entries until 20 October 2015.

Read more: [European Commission](#)

Watch video: [European Commission](#)

## Positive role models are key to gender equality

Female role models are an important way to promote gender equality among senior scientists, according to Professor Caroline Dean, a plant biologist at the John Innes Centre, in Norwich, UK.

Prof. Dean is the winner of the 2015 European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) and Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) Women in Science Award for her work in plant biology and working to promote women in science.

Read full interview: [Horizon-The EU Research and Innovation magazine](#)



## The 17th edition of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards

Although not a European Union award, with the inclusion of the announcement of the latest edition of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards, EURAXESS Links Network wants to contribute to the recognition of the contribution to science and society of five exceptional women honoured for their ground-breaking discoveries in the physical sciences. The five scientists were selected in the 5 *regions* of the world by an independent International Awards Jury made up of 12 prominent international scientists who were personally chosen by the President of the Jury and 1999 Nobel Prize winner, Prof. Ahmed Zewail.

These five exceptional (women) researchers are:

AFRICA AND THE ARAB STATES: Prof. **Rajaâ Cherkaoui El Moursli** - *High Energy Physics and Nuclear Physics*. Professor, Mohammed V- Agdal University, Rabat, MOROCCO

ASIA / PACIFIC: Prof. **Yi Xie** – *Inorganic Chemistry*. Professor, University of Science & Technology of China, Hefei, CHINA

EUROPE: Prof. **Dame Carol Robinson** - *Physical Chemistry - Mass Spectrometry*. Professor, University of Oxford, UNITED KINGDOM

LATIN AMERICA: Prof. **Thaisa Storchi Bergmann** – *Physics and Astronomy*. Professor, Federal University of Rio Grande Do Sul, Porto Alegre, BRASIL

NORTH AMERICA: Prof. **Molly S. Shoichet** – *Polymer Chemistry*. Professor of chemical engineering and applied chemistry, chemistry and biomaterials & biomedical engineering, University of Toronto, CANADA

Read more: [L'Oréal](#)

## Women in Science | Horizon | The EU Research and Innovation Magazine

*Where are the women?*

Regarding women in science, some countries are leading with more than 30% of women holding full academic positions, while others are way below. More women are reaching senior levels in science and engineering, however gender equality is not yet fulfilled in the EU. Addressing this situation is a priority for the European Commission. *Women In Science* is one of the four key themes under Horizon magazine, being the other three Bioeconomy, Horizon 2020 and Innovation Union.

Read more: [Horizon | Women In Science](#)



## Inadequate Childcare Policies Affect Scientists' Careers

European Platform of Women Scientist (EPWS) Vice-President Prof. Claudine Hermann has been interviewed for a recent article on Euroscientist - Inadequate Childcare Policies Affect Scientists' Careers.

It is not due to science but due to the cultures of the different countries that the problem of childcare is more on the shoulder of women than men. But the role models and the family models are changing slowly and that affects scientists and other high educated women," says Claudine Hermann , vice-president of the European Platform of Women Scientists, retired professor of physics at the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris, France, with three children.

Hermann claims that scientific institutions should invest more money to support female and male scientists with children to compensate the fact that the number of scientists with children varies much from country to country."

Read full article: [Euroscientist](#)

## Report I Statistical Data on Women Entrepreneurs in Europe – 2014

This report presents the key findings of an analysis of available data on women entrepreneurs in 37 countries, which include the 28 EU Member States, Albania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Iceland, Israel, Turkey, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Norway and Serbia. This group of countries is referred to as Europe-37.

The study objective was to collect, analyse, and systematically present the most recent data on women entrepreneurs in Europe-37. These data will be used to develop evidence-based policy and actions, and thus include number of women entrepreneurs, the type of entrepreneurship, the sectors in which women entrepreneurs are mainly active, age cohort and educational level.

Full report: [European Commission](#)

## 4.2 EU Member States\*, China & Bilateral Cooperation

### Ireland: ISCP Biomedical Workshop

2015 ISCP Biomedical Workshop, co-organised by ISCP programme (*International Strategic Cooperation Programme China-Ireland*) and Guangzhou

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\* Including countries associated with Horizon 2020.

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Medical University, was successfully held on 19 March 2015, at Dongfengxi Campus, Guangzhou Medical University. ([ISCP China](#))

### **France: International Conference on Ebola 23 and 24 March**

Co-organized by the Chinese Center for Disease Control (CDC-China), the Pasteur Institute and the Mérieux Foundation, with support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the National Commission for Health and Family Planning (CNSPF), this high-level conference in Beijing brought together nearly 150 experts around the theme Ebola. The epidemic of West African is declining but still, significant efforts are needed to achieve the goal of eradicating the disease. ([France en Chine](#))

### **France: Agreement between the CEA and the Beijing Computational Science Research Center**

Gabriele FIONI, Science Director of the Office of Material Sciences at the Atomic Energy and Alternative Energies Commission (CEA) and Mr. LIN Hai-Qing, director of Beijing Computational Science Research Center (CSRC) signed on Thursday, March 19, 2015 a framework agreement in the field of Theoretical Physics. The agreement covers the physics of condensed matter, biophysics and statistical computing. The agreement provides for exchanges of researchers and the development of shared projects. ([France en Chine](#))

### **UK: UK-China programme to address China's agricultural challenges**

On 12 March, leading UK & Chinese researchers joined together in Beijing to discuss how to use remote-sensing technology to address global challenges. Agricultural science and technology is being increasingly driven by the global challenges of rising populations, rapid development of emerging economies and global shortages of land, water and energy.

The largest UK - China Agri-Tech workshop under UK Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) was held in Beijing between 10 and 12 March, 2015. It has brought together over 100 participants including leading UK and Chinese researchers from nearly 50 partner institutions. This STFC-led programme is funded by the UK - China Research and Innovation Partnership Fund, part of the UK's Newton Fund. ([GOV.uk](#))



## Denmark: 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Funding Guide for Researchers between Denmark and China

Considering doing international collaboration within your field of research? Then we recommend you to take a look at this funding guide for Danish researchers collaborating with China. The guide provides a snapshot of the current openings, where you can find more information on eligibility, criteria etc. Follow the link to [see the full guide](#). Enjoy reading and good luck applying.

## Netherlands: The Netherlands helping China to achieve cleaner air

Upon signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the Dutch Minister of Environment Ms Mansveld and her Chinese counterpart Chen Jining agreed on the manner in which the Netherlands will be helping China to improve its air quality.

A Dutch representative will help the Chinese government to draft new legislation patterned on the Dutch model. The new Act is intended to achieve a substantial reduction in emissions from factories and vehicles in China. In addition, China will be utilising the expertise of Dutch institutes such as the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) and the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) to gain further insight into and exert more control over environmental issues. ([Dutch Embassy in Beijing](#))

# 5 Grants & Fellowships

## 5.1 EU - Call announcements for international researchers

### EU: MSCA Individual Fellowship

The **Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions** ([MSCA](#)) support research training and career development focused on innovation skills. The programme funds worldwide and cross-sector mobility that implements excellent research in any field (a "bottom-up" approach).

You can download a [pocket guide](#) to MSCA.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie **Individual Fellowships** are meant to support the best, promising individual researchers from anywhere in the world (applicants must have a PhD by the call's deadline).

There are two types of Individual Fellowships.





## 1. European Fellowships (EF)

- EFs are held in the EU or associated countries; they are open to researchers either coming to Europe (e.g. from China) or moving within Europe; they can help reintegrate researchers coming back to Europe.

## 2. Global Fellowships (GF)

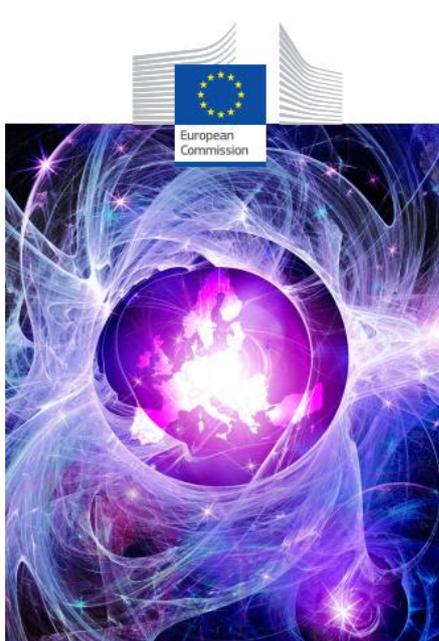
- Fund secondment outside Europe for researchers based in EU or associated countries; after two years abroad, a mandatory 1-year return period follows.

**Deadline: 10 September 201**

[Details and all application documents are on the Participant Portal.](#)

[This blog](#) has all you need to know about Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. It is managed by [Net4Mobility](#) and contains **Frequently Asked Questions on MSCA actions** (IF, ITN, COFUND, RISE). **Net4Mobility is a Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions National Contact Point** project with the objectives to increase the knowledge among the NCPs.

This blog can also be **useful to individual mobile researchers**, especially the IF (Individual Fellowships) section. <http://mariecurieactions.blogspot.ch/>



Boost your research career

**Come to Europe!**

From Master degree to advanced stages of career, the European Union funds outstanding researchers from all over the world to develop their potential in Europe.

## Come to Europe! EURAXESS ERC, MSCA and Erasmus+ brochure

A new EURAXESS brochure: "Come to Europe!" presenting a few bulleted points on the three main European opportunities for researcher mobility (ERC, MSCA and Erasmus+) is available on-line on our website. You can find all basic information on one handy leaflet. [Download it](#) and share with your colleagues.

## Europe - International Doctoral Programme in Economics

The International Doctoral Programme in Economics is a four-year program offered by Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Italy, and the University of Strasbourg, France. Students will be offered one year of intensive course work by an international Faculty, and will then proceed to supervised research work, yielding an original dissertation to be discussed in a final, public examination. Moreover, the Programme is part of a European network involving and supporting interEuropean exchanges of research students and faculty. Applicants of any nationality holding a master's degree or equivalent are welcome to apply. **Deadline: 7 May.** Further information [here](#)



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.

## ERCIM Alain Bensoussan Fellowship Programme

The European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM) aims to foster collaborative work within the European research community, and features several leading European research institutes as members. ERCIM offers fellowships for **PhD holders from all over the world** who have completed their PhD no longer than 8 years prior to the application deadline. Successful applicants will receive a fellowship for a 12 months stay at one of the institutes of the ERCIM network. Topics cover most disciplines in **Computer Science, Information Technology and Applied Mathematics**. Several calls per year. Next deadline: **30 April**. Further information [here](#)

## Other open calls under Horizon 2020

Access all open calls on the [Horizon 2020 Participant Portal](#).

### Excellent Science programme

9 open calls including:

European Research Council frontier research grants:

[ERC Advanced Grant](#) – Deadline **2 June 2015**

[ERC Proof of Concept Grant](#) – Deadline **1 October 2015** (cut-off dates 5 Feb. and 28 May 2015)

[MSCA Individual Fellowship](#) – Deadline **10 September 2015**

### Industrial Leadership

20 open calls, including the following one particularly encouraging collaboration with China (*however, it should be kept in mind that ALL calls are open to Chinese participation!*):

[COMPET-06-2015: International Cooperation in space science](#) – Deadline **8 April 2015**

### Societal Challenges

37 open calls including the following ones particularly encouraging collaboration with China (*however, ALL calls are open to Chinese participation!*):

[WASTE-7-2015: Ensuring sustainable use of agricultural waste, co-products and by-products](#) – Deadline **21 April 2015**

[MG-5.5a-2015: Demonstrating and testing innovative solutions for cleaner and better urban transport and mobility](#) – Deadline **23 April 2015**

[MG-1.8-2015: International cooperation in aeronautics](#) – Deadline **23 April 2015**

[LCE-18-2015: Supporting Joint Actions on demonstration and validation of innovative energy solutions](#) – Deadline **5 May 2015**

[INT-11-2015: European cultural and science diplomacy: exploiting the potential of culture and science in the EU's external relations](#) – Deadline **28 May 2015**



## 4.2 EU Member States\*: Call announcements for international researchers

### Austria: Erwin Schrödinger Fellowships

The purpose of the **Erwin Schrödinger Fellowships** is to allow young scientists doing research in Austria to perform work stays at leading foreign research institutions.

**Young and highly qualified scientists of any discipline and nationality** currently affiliated with an Austrian research institution may apply for research **stays abroad of 10 to 24 months in length** (without return phase) or a stay of 16 to 36 months in length (including return phase of 6 to 12 months). The **applicants must find and obtain an invitation from host institutions** both abroad and in Austria (in case they apply to the fellowship scheme including a return phase).

**Applications accepted continuously.** Further information [here](#)

### Austria: APART Fellowships

The Austrian Academy of Sciences ([OeAW](#)) is offering **APART fellowships** for the promotion of **postdoctoral research**.

APART enables **scientists and scholars who have already proved their aptitude for scientific research** by completing their doctoral thesis and collaborating in **research projects in Austria or abroad**.

APART fellowships are designed to increase Austria's scientific potential and to appeal to female scientists in particular.

Scientists and scholars who are **Austrian citizens** as well as **researchers performing their research in Austria** are invited to apply if they have completed their doctoral studies no less than two and no longer than six years before the deadline date.

**Deadline: 1 May.** Further information [here](#).

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\* Including countries associated with Horizon 2020.



### **Austria: OeAW DOC Fellowships**

The Austrian Academy of Sciences ([OeAW](#)) is offering **Doctoral fellowships** to enable **young, excellent doctoral candidates from all disciplines and nationalities** to carry out their PhD project within a definable period of time in Austria.

Applicants must have **obtained their Master's degree less than 2 years prior to the deadline**. Upon success, they must enrol in a doctoral programme in Austria. The fellowship provides a **gross annual sum of EUR 35,000** for a **duration of 24 to 36 months**.

**Deadline: 1 May.** Further information [here](#).

### **Belgium: Travel Grants for Long Stays Abroad**

This FWO grant supports researchers who will be staying abroad for at least 5 weeks and at most 12 months for research purposes. In this way, the FWO aims to encourage the mobility of researchers.

The grant covers the travel expenses and a fixed daily allowance of €66.00/day or €1,650.00 per month.

There is no nationality requirement for postdoctoral level candidates. Applicants must be affiliated to a university in the Flemish Community (or to a university college of the corresponding association) or belong to the scientific staff (of the Dutch-speaking community) of a federal or Flemish scientific institute. Applicants must have the nationality of one of the member states of the EEA or of Switzerland, or have obtained your degree in the EEA or Switzerland. If not, they must have held an appointment of at least 50% at a Flemish university for at least one year.

Submission deadline: no later than 3 months before departure. Applicants must attach the invitation of the host institution. [Click for more details](#).

### **Estonia: Kristjan Jaak Scholarships**

The Kristjan Jaak Scholarship programme supports incoming and outgoing mobility, both short and long-term, for master's and doctoral students as well as for teaching staff.

Scholarships are divided into four categories with varying deadlines. Estonian language proficiency is required to apply for a scholarship.

Next deadlines: **1 May** (Short and Long-term Studies Abroad)

**1 June** (Foreign Visits: short term), Further information [here](#)



## France: Call for Proposals, ICT Asia

Initiated by France, the ICT-Asia programme aims to strengthen scientific cooperation with emerging Asian countries in the field of information and communication technologies. In addition to funding research projects involving France and at least two partner countries in Asia, ICT-Asia organises an annual workshop for all researchers involved or interested in the programme in the presence of representatives of the French and Asian partner organisations.

In 2015, ICT-Asia will be held between 25 and 26 May in the Philippines (Los Baños), in partnership with the Regional Centre for Southeast Asia for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA).

Abstracts will be accepted the following topics:

- Modeling and climate monitoring
- Risk Reduction
- Applications of ICT for food security
- Urban and Rural Information

Deadline is **15 April 15, 2015**. For more information, visit [France en Chine](#) or see: <http://bit.ly/ictasia2015>

## France: ANR "Hosting High-Level Researchers" Call

ANR has just published the second edition of the "Hosting High-Level Researchers" call. This funding instrument is dedicated to individuals, it is open to all scientific fields. **It enables "junior" or "senior" researchers from any country to carry out an ambitious research project in France.**

Launched for the first time in 2014, the "Hosting High Level Researchers" programme fits into a global context of international mobility of researchers.

The reply to this call is a collaborative effort between the researcher and the hosting institution. It is a great opportunity for foreign researchers to conduct ambitious research projects in France under excellent conditions. And at the same time, for the French research organisations, it is an opportunity to attract high-level foreign scientists

The ANR funding can reach up to €500.000 for junior researchers and €1,000,000 for senior profiles, and will enable the successful candidate to set up a research team and carry out an ambitious 3 to 4 year project with high impact on a scientific subject that has received little, if any, attention in France.

The deadline is **29 May 2015**. More information on [ANR's website](#).



### France: INRIA Postdoctoral Fellowships

In 2015, Inria is offering many post-doctoral positions, each lasting about 12 or 24 months, for holders of a PhD or other doctorate. You can browse the selection [here](#). Selection is due late April.

### France: Connect Talent

The support for Connect Talent is funded by Pays de la Loire Region to research, training and innovation "breakthrough projects".

Eligible fields: acoustics, vegetal, renewable marine energies, numeric, professional electronics, agro food, tourism, material for molecular photonics and organic electronics, European studies, creative and cultural industries, among others. [Have a look at the specifications](#) to find out details.

**What can be funded?:** Talents - Technological research and development projects - Training projects.

Deadlines: **28 April 2015, September 2015 and February 2016.** More at [www.connectalent.org](http://www.connectalent.org)

### France: Institut Pasteur: Doctoral Doctoral Grants

Each year the Department of International Affairs - Institut Pasteur International Network allocates funding to promote and aid completion of doctoral theses for both French and foreign scientists in institutes of the Institut Pasteur International Network located outside mainland France (in Shanghai or in Cambodia).

The research topic can be related to any theme developed in laboratories at International Network institutes, such as infectious diseases (infectious pathophysiology, immunology, microbiology, epidemiology, virology, parasitology), and public health activities (diagnosis, surveillance, resistance, etc.).

Doctoral grants aim to promote mobility opportunities for young scientists. The program is open to all nationalities. Funding covers living and insurance expenses (€1,400 net per month). One return fare between the home country and internship location is also funded. Applications are accepted from January to September.

The first step is to find a host institution [here](#). For more information, visit [online](#) website or contact: [boursesRIIP@pasteur.fr](mailto:boursesRIIP@pasteur.fr)



### France: Institut Pasteur Postdoctoral Grants call for proposals

The Department of International Affairs of the Institut Pasteur finances **one postdoctoral scholarship** to promote and facilitate postdoctoral traineeships for **French and foreign researchers** within an institute of the Institut Pasteur International Network (RIIP) outside metropolitan France.

Any subject covered by RIIP institute laboratories may be the theme of the proposal, which the candidates must draft themselves after finding a host in RIIP.

Applicants of **any nationality**, holding a **PhD degree** and having **no previous postdoctoral experience** may apply. Further information [here](#).

Deadline: **end of May**

### France: Call for applications for the Joussot-Dubien Award 2015

Call for applications is offered by the The Graduate School of Chemistry, Biology and Physics of Bordeaux Institute of Technology.

This 10 000 € award, cosponsored by Airbus Defence & Space, aims to attract excellent students from abroad.

Open to candidates currently studying outside of France and having already obtained a bachelor level in Chemistry (Physical-Chemistry, Materials Science, Polymers, Analytical Chemistry) or Food Science. **Deadline: 1 May 2015**

Find out more [by clicking here](#).

### France: IHÉS Call for Visiting Researchers

The *Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques* (IHÉS) encourages **theoretical research** in mathematics, physics and human sciences methodology. It is a reference point for excellence in the international scientific community, with significant achievements in mathematics and theoretical physics.

Each year, **IHÉS welcomes some 200 mathematicians and theoretical physicists** from all over the world (post-doctorates and senior researchers) for periods ranging from a few days to one year (maximum two in exceptional cases).

IHÉS visitors are given **complete freedom in their research**, allowing them to change fields if they so desire. IHÉS offers invited researchers a per diem, office space in the scientific building and free accommodation in its nearby housing estate.



The **sole criteria for selection is scientific excellence.**

**Deadline: May.** Further information [here](#).

### **France: IEA Paris Fellowships Call for Applications 2015**

The Paris Institute for Advanced Studies ([IEA-Paris](#)) welcomes applications from **high level international scholars and scientists in the fields of the humanities, the social sciences** and related fields for periods of **five or nine months**, during the academic year 2016-2017.

The Paris IAS will host around twenty guest researchers, allowing them to work freely on the project of their choice.

Applicants of any nationality holding a PhD and having at least 2 years of research experience after their degree may request residencies for the following periods: 1 September 2016 to 31 January 2017 (5 months), 1 October 2016 to 30 June 2017 (9 months) or 1 February to 30 June 2017 (5 months).

**Deadline: 30 April.** Further information [here](#).

### **Germany: K.C.Wong Scholarships**

This scholarship programme allows scientists to carry out research with German colleagues at universities, universities of applied sciences and non-university research institutes in Germany.

Highly qualified Chinese scientists and researchers from the natural sciences, mathematics, engineering, agriculture and medicine can apply.

Research visits for postdoc Chinese scientists and researchers are supported.

Duration of funding is **3-12 months**. Grant holders receive monthly payments of 2,211 euros. **Deadline 30 April.** [Click for more info](#).

### **Germany: Emmy Noether Programme**

The **Emmy Noether Programme of DFG** provides early career foreign researchers (or German researchers working abroad) with the **opportunity to rapidly qualify for a leading position in research** by leading an independent junior research group and assuming relevant teaching duties **in Germany**.

Researchers from all disciplines and nationalities may apply.

Applicants **must have at least 2 years of postdoctoral experience, but no more than 4 years** of experience after completion of their PhD degree. **Foreign applicants are expected to continue their scientific career in Germany** following completion of the **funding period of 5 or 6 years**.



**Applications reviewed continuously.** Further information is available [here](#).

### **Germany: The Anneliese Maier Research Award**

**The award** rewards foreign researchers in the fields of the **humanities and social sciences** whose scientific achievements have been internationally recognised.

Applications for the award may only be submitted through **nominations by established academics in Germany**. Award winners are expected to **spend a period of up to five years cooperating on a long-term research** project with the nominator and/or specialist colleagues at a research institution in Germany.

The Humboldt Foundation grants **each year up to eight Awards**, each with an individual value of EUR 250,000.

**Deadline: 30 April.** Further information [here](#)

### **Latvia: Government Scholarships**

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia welcomes **applications for bachelor, masters and PhD study stays** from foreign students.

Scholarships for **bachelor and master's studies are granted for a period of up to 10 months; for PhD students up to 11 months**, with the exception of master's students engaging in a course on Latvian culture or history, who can be granted a scholarship for up to two academic years. The amount of the scholarship is EUR 500 per month for bachelor and master's students; EUR 670 for PhD students. **Deadline: 1 May** Further information [here](#)

### **Latvia: Summer Schools for PhD Students, Researchers and Teaching Staff**

You can now apply for one of the three [Summer Schools](#) to be organized this summer in Latvia: "Arcadia" organized by Riga Technical University, "Daugava River. Visible. Invisible" by Latvian University of Agriculture and "Latvia – Place for Creative Development" by Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences. There are 6 scholarships available for each of the schools.

Citizens **from countries which have signed an [Agreement](#) with the Latvian State Education Development Agency** can apply – some European countries and China fall into this category. Deadline is **4 May**. More information [online](#).



### Latvia: Government Research Stays

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia welcomes **applications for research fellowships** from **Latvian and foreign academic staff** of a number of countries.

Fellowships are awarded for periods of **up to 5 months**, and cover allowance and accommodation. **Deadline: 1 May**. Further information [here](#)

### Ireland: Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Postdoctoral)

The Enterprise Partnership Scheme is an innovative initiative whereby the Irish Research Council, in partnership with private enterprises and public bodies, awards co-funded postgraduate scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships to the most promising researchers in Ireland. **Open to all nationalities, deadline 17 June 2015**. The total value of the Enterprise Partnership Scheme Postdoctoral Fellowship will be up to a maximum of €45,895 in any approved year. More info is [online](#).

### Ireland: SFI's Industry Fellowship Programme 2015

The purpose of the Industry Fellowship programme is to facilitate the bi-directional **movement of academic and industry researchers**. Fellowships can be awarded to academic researchers wishing to spend time in industry worldwide and to individuals from industry anywhere in the world wishing to spend time in an Irish Research Body. Applicants must hold a PhD degree and show excellent academic record (publications in particular).

Fellowships can be for **between 1 and 12 months** in duration if full time or for up to 24 months if part time. The maximum Industry Fellowship amount is EUR 120,000 direct costs.

Two calls per year. **Next deadline: 3 June**. Further information [here](#).

### Italy: Train2Move

University of Turin, with the support of the European Commission and the banking foundation Compagnia di San Paolo, is going to launch the 2nd Call of 2020 RESEARCHERS: TRAIN TO MOVE (T2M) programme.

With the 2nd Call, T2M programme intends to offer 14 more grants to high skilled researchers, giving them the opportunity to carry out a research project at one of 26 hosting departments of the University and to attend a unique training on soft skills.



Deadline for submission is the **5th of May 2015**. All useful information is available at <http://www.train2move.unito.it>.

### **Hungary: Antall József Summer School in Budapest for young researchers**

The Antall József Knowledge Centre (AJKC) came into being in the form of a foundation in cooperation with the Corvinus University of Budapest. The institution is named after Dr József Antall (1932–1993), the first freely elected Prime Minister of Hungary, who served from 1990 to 1993.

The Knowledge Centre is an organisation independent of parties, ideologies and current politics. It organises its third international Antall József Summer School between 6 and 17 July at the Antall József Knowledge Centre in Budapest.

Eligibility: MA, PhD students or young professionals with a university degree in the field of political and social sciences, coming from the V4 countries, the Western Balkan, as well as the Eastern Partnership member states. **Deadline: 1 May, 2015.** [Read more.](#)

### **Hungary: Stipendium Hungaricum for PhD Students**

The Hungarian Government announced the policy of “Global Opening”, as part of which the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme was launched in 2013 for foreign students.

The aim of the programme is to promote cultural understanding, economic and political relations between Hungary and other countries. It funds full time studies on undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels. **Chinese nationals are eligible.** Click for more information [www.stipendiumhungaricum.hu/](http://www.stipendiumhungaricum.hu/).

### **Hungary: Doctoral, Postdoctoral and Research Stays**

The [Hungarian Scholarship Board](#) offers scholarships for foreign students, lecturers and researchers in higher education institutions, research or art institutes. Among them are the full (C1) and partial (2) PhD programmes, Postdoctoral (D) and Research (E) stays.

Students of any nationality and any discipline holding a master’s degree can apply to the PhD programmes. Successful applicants may receive monthly stipends of HUF 100,000 (EUR 330) for the whole duration of the programme - 36 months for C1, 10 months for C2.



**Researchers of any nationality and any discipline holding a PhD degree** can apply for a **Postdoctoral or Research stay** of a duration of **1-10 months (D)** or **3-21 days, 1-10 months (E)** during which a monthly stipend is covered.

**Deadline: 8 April.** Further information [here](#)

### **Norway: FRIPRO Mobility Grants**

Grants by the Research Council of Norway, co-funded by the EU, are designed to increase mobility and promote career development for young researchers

All research fields are eligible. Researchers 0-6 years after PhD of all nationalities, must apply from a Norwegian research institution

Payroll costs for the applicant for three years, Overseas research grants (first year), round-trip travel expenses for two trips between Norway and the host country, operating expenses of up to NOK 60 000 per year. The duration is 3 years (first two years spent at a research institution abroad and the third year at a Norwegian research institution – Deadline **27 May 2015**. Find info [online](#).

### **Norway: Personal Visiting Researcher Grants**

The **Research Council of Norway (RCN)** funds this grant, the objective of which is to help strengthen Norwegian research groups by **offering visiting foreign researchers (postdoctorate level or higher) the opportunity to perform research in Norway**. The grant may cover stays for visiting researchers **from one to 12 months**. The applicant must be from a Norwegian research institution.

**Next deadlines: 15 April; 27 May.** Further information [here](#)

### **Portugal: Grants for Sabbatical Leave.**

BOLSAS DE LICENÇA SABÁTICA (BSAB) Grants by Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT) are **designed for holders of doctoral degrees on sabbatical leave for the purpose of carrying out research at foreign universities**.

All research fields and nationalities are eligible. Candidates must first obtain authorization for the sabbatical leave from the institution to which they are contractually bound. Monthly allowance of €750 (2014), length 3 months – 1 year. The call is permanently open, information (in Portuguese) can be found [online](#).



### Portugal: Carnegie-Mellon Portugal Programme

The Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program is an education, research and innovation ecosystem that brings together Portuguese universities, research institutions and companies, in cooperation with Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). On [this webpage](#) you can find research positions related with the Entrepreneurial Research Initiatives (ERIs) and the Early Bird Projects (EBPs) carried out in the scope of the Program, which is funded by the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT).

### Spain: ICREA Senior Call for Research in Catalonia

ICREA (Catalan Institute for Research and Advanced Studies) opens 10 senior research positions in the areas of: **Experimental Sciences & Mathematics and Technology & Engineering.**

Minimum requirements are a Ph.D. degree obtained preferably before 2011, with at least four years of international exposure at pre-doctoral and/or post-doctoral level.

Successful applicants will have a permanent contract with ICREA and will work at universities or research centres in Catalonia.

Applications must be submitted before **Tuesday, 21 April 2015** [via ICREA website](#).

### Sweden: FORMAS Mobility grants for young researchers

The Research Council Formas hereby invites applications for funding of mobility starting grants for young researchers within all of Formas' areas of responsibility - the **Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning.**

Formas welcomes applications favourably with a multi- or interdisciplinary approach. This call is directed towards a **researcher who has been awarded a doctoral degree.**

To be eligible for funding the applicant must have an employment position at a Swedish educational institution or research institute (home university). At least one third of the period must be spent at the home university and at least one third of the period must be spent at the host university. **Deadline is 16 April.** Details are available on [FORMAS website](#).

### Turkey: TÜBİTAK Programme 2216 - Research Fellowship Programme for International Researchers

TÜBİTAK grants fellowships for international highly-qualified PhD students and young postdoctoral researchers to pursue their research in Turkey in the fields



of Natural Sciences, Engineering and Technological Sciences, Medical Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities.

Application is open to **candidates of any nationality, enrolled in a PhD programme abroad or having obtained their PhD abroad**, and aged less than 35 years. Successful candidates may receive a monthly stipend of TRY 2,250 (EUR 830), travel costs and part of the research costs of the successful candidate for a maximum duration of 12 months.

There are two application rounds per year. Next application round: **16 March - 20 April**. Further information [here](#)

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

Three types of visits are granted within this programme: **Short-term (up to 1 month)**, **Long-term (up to 12 months)** and **Sabbatical Leave (from 3 months to 12 months)**. All types of grants cover monthly stipend and travel costs. **Applications accepted on a rolling basis**. Further information [here](#)

### **The UK: Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professorships**

The **Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professorships** are awarded to UK institutions that wish to **invite an eminent researcher from overseas** to enhance the knowledge and skills of academic staff or the student body within the host institution.

**Applications in all subject areas are considered** with the exception of clinical and pharmaceutical research.

**Applications must be made by a member of academic staff, based in the UK**. The host institution must agree to administer the grant, and to provide appropriate facilities for the Visiting Professor.

The scheme **covers maintenance, travel expenses and research costs**. Visiting Professorships can last for **3 to 12 months**. **Deadline: 14 May**. Further information [here](#)

### **4.3 Calls still open**

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

### **EU: ERC Advanced Grant**



Advanced Grants are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators of any nationality. The deadline for this call is **Tuesday, 2 June 2015**. [Details online](#).

**EU: RISE (Research and Innovation Staff Exchange)**

This call for proposals is open until **28 April 2015**. Find the details of the call on Horizon2020's [Participant Portal](#).

**EU: The European Respiratory Society (ERS) Fellowships**

**Deadline: 31 July 2015**. Further information [on this link](#).

**Austria: Joint Research Scheme: Experimental Physics & Biomedical Research to Translational Medicine**

**Deadline 24 April 2015**. (in Chinese) is [online](#).

**Austria: Vienna Graduate School of Economics**

Full and partial scholarships are available. **Deadline: 30th April**. Information is available at the [VGSE website](#).

**Belgium: BEWARE Fellowship: *Industry and Academia***

A new call has been launched in **February 2015** (cut-off dates: April 30, June 30, September 30 and November 30). Online applying form will be available from March 15<sup>th</sup> [online](#).

**Denmark: DFF (Danish Council for Independent Research) Call for Proposals**

The DFF supports independent research based on the researchers' own ideas, within and across all the main fields of science. Next deadlines: **27-29 April 2015** - further information [here](#) and [here](#) (DFF website)

**Estonia: Government Scholarships**

More information on the scholarships are available [on StudyinEstonia portal](#); the list of international programmes is [here](#).

**Germany: Humboldt Research Fellowships**



The applications for **Fellowships for Postdoctoral Researchers** and for **Experienced Researchers** are reviewed on a rolling basis. Further information here ([Postdoctoral](#)) and here ([Experienced Researchers](#)).

**Germany: DAAD: Reintegration of German scientists**

Individuals may apply for travel grants for job interviews and scientific presentations in Germany to enable their possible return, or for monthly scholarships. More information [here](#).

**The Netherlands: NWO VISITORS TRAVEL GRANT**

The call is now open, information [here](#).

**France: EMERGENCES 2015: Call for applications for Chinese scientists in the field of emerging infectious diseases**

Deadline **31 May, 2015**. Application details are available on the website of the [French Embassy in China](#).

**Italy: Call for 86 posts in PhD courses at the Scuola Normale Superiore**

Applications can be admitted by **31 August 2015**, for the autumn session. Click [online](#) for more information.

**Luxembourg: National Research Fund (FNR) - INTER Mobility Call for Proposals 2015**

Deadline: **30 June 2015**. [More information](#).

**Slovakia: Slovak Academic Information Agency (SAIA): National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic –**

Study/research stay for PhD students (1-12 months). Deadline: **30 April 2015**, [www.scholarships.sk](http://www.scholarships.sk).

**Slovakia: Scholarships of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic –** study/research stay for PhD students (5 months), teaching/research stay for university teachers and researchers (3 months)

More information about the deadline and eligibility criteria can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Next deadline: **31 May 2015**

**Switzerland: Swiss National Science Foundation: SNSF professorships**



Next deadline: **1 May 2015**, info [online](#).

**Switzerland: Swiss National Science Foundation: International Exploratory Workshops**

Next deadlines: **3 June** and **7 October 2015**. More information [online](#).

**China: Chinese Government Scholarship - EU Programme**

Deadline is **30 April 2015**. Detailed information on how to proceed with application can be found [here](#).

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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](#)

## 6 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 or research or via free text searches.

You can also advertise for jobs and fellowships at your organisation, free of charge, on the EURAXESS Links China website.



## 6.1 Jobs in Europe and China

### Macedonia: Faculty Positions at the University of S&T



The [University of Information Science and Technology "St. Paul the Apostle" – Ohrid](#) (UIST) is searching for multiple faculty and postdoctoral positions in the following general areas: **Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Mathematics, Physics and, Statistics**

The UIST especially interested in the applicants with experience in: Big Data, Bioinformatics, Computational Biology, Computer Game Design, Computer Vision, Control, Robotics, Data Mining, Digital Signal and Image Processing, Financial Engineering, Information Theory, Java Programming, Machine Learning, Network Science, Operations Research, Probability Theory, Social Networks, Telecommunications, Virtual and Augmented Reality and similar areas.

The appointment will be into ranks of Assistant, Associate or Full Professor. Few positions of Visiting Professors are open for a 12 month appointment 100 % funded (ideally for sabbatical leave). A competitive salary between 25.000 and 45.000 euros (net) for professors and between 15.000 and 20.000 euros (net) for postdocs, depending on the experience, is on offer.

Research interests that are innovative, interdisciplinary and extend a growing faculty cluster in computational science and engineering are preferred.

More info is on [EURAXESS Jobs](#) or [careers@uist.edu.mk](mailto:careers@uist.edu.mk).

Application deadline is **15 June, 2015**.



### **Norway: Research with “Pollution, Climate Change, and Visions for Sustainability in China”.**

Doctoral research fellowships within the project "Airborne: Pollution, Climate Change, and Visions for Sustainability in China". Two PhD Research Fellowships connected to the project Airborne: Pollution, Climate Change, and Visions for Sustainability in China are available at the Department of Cultural Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS), the University of Oslo. IKOS seeks to recruit two PhD candidates each of whom will work on a doctoral project within the range of Airborne. Information is [online](#). Deadline is **15 July**.

### **Europe: 15 Early-Stage Researchers (Positions within the C-CASCADES project, Marie Curie Initial Training Network**

C-CASCADES is seeking to employ 15 Early-Stage Researchers (Positions within the C-CASCADES project) to contribute to a breakthrough in the understanding of the transfer of carbon between land and ocean at the planetary scale and its consequences for atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and climate.) The consortium is composed of 9 academic partners and 4 intersectoral partners from all across Europe.

C-CASCADES includes a comprehensive European-wide training – early-stage researchers will perform original research at its host institution, secondment at project partner institutions, and network-wide training (summer school, training workshops and mini-conferences).

All positions are full-time and funded for 3 years at competitive rates. Each will receive a living allowance (gross EU contribution) of 3110 euros/month (multiplied by a country correction factor), plus a mobility allowance (600 euros/month) and, if eligible, a family allowance of up to 500 euros/month. Applicants can be of any nationality and must hold a Master degree. Find out more on [EURAXESS Jobs](#), more about the project on [C-CASCADES website](#).

### **Italy: Positions available within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie ITN-EJD programme (Clean combustion of natural gas)**

CLEAN-Gas is a “European Joint Doctorate” programme for highly motivated young scientists. The network is funded by the European Community through the Horizon 2020 Actions.

The scientific goal of CLEAN-Gas is to develop new experimental and numerical tools for improving natural gas combustion in innovative burners. CLEAN-Gas Project, coordinated by Politecnico di Milano, is based on a strong collaboration between the public and the private sector.

The gross salary for all ESR (PhD) positions is around 38000 €/year plus a mobility allowance of about 600 €/month and a family allowance of about 500 €/month, where applicable.



Each ESR will have to complete at least one secondment (temporary transfer to another CLEAN-Gas academic partner) for a total period of about 10 months during the term of his/her employment.

Eligible early-stage researchers may be of any nationality. Deadline is **19 April**. [EURAXESS Jobs](#)

### **The UK: LSE Fellow in the Anthropology of China**

London School of Economics is looking for an LSE Fellow to teach on the MSc programme “China in Comparative Perspective”. The teaching will be delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars and small group tutorials. In addition to a developing research profile, candidates must have expertise in China and should have a strong interest in comparative social science. They should have a doctorate in Anthropology. **Deadline 13 April!** [Find out more online.](#)

### **The UK: Fellowship at SOAS in an ERC project**

Postdoc position at the School of Oriental and African Studies’ China Institute is open. Apply until 19 April to work on an ERC project with Dr Jieyu Liu, examining the changing family relationships in Chinese societies in East Asia. It is a fixed-term post from 1 October 2015 until 30 September 2016. The research associate will be expected to carry out literature reviews and analysis of data sets, and to assist with project management.

The candidate must have a PhD, in Sociology/Anthropology or a related social science discipline, with a specialisation in family studies or be close to completing a PhD. The successful candidate should have outstanding writing skills and conceptual abilities. ([SOAS](#))

### **China: Director-General at Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth**

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) invites applications for the position of Director-General of the Institute of **Remote Sensing and Digital Earth (RADI)**.

RADI boasts China’s largest research center and indispensable strategic research force in the field thanks to 30 years of remote sensing development in the country and a galaxy of outstanding professionals.

Candidates must have a doctoral degree and professorship or equivalent in a world-class university or research institution with a globally recognized record of academic accomplishment in the areas of remote sensing or Digital Earth.

Their research interest should be in line with the major academic directions of RADI and they must have more than 10 years of experience in leading scientific research projects and managing S&T teams. Applications are accepted from 24 March to 24 April, 2015. Learn more at [CAS website.](#)



## China: Editor Position in Advances in Atmospheric Sciences

Advances in Atmospheric Sciences, an international journal hosted by the Institute of Atmospheric Physics (IAP) of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chinese National Committee for International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences, and co-published by *Springer* and *Science Press*, invites application for an editor position.

Requirements: At least a master degree in Atmospheric Sciences, or a related field; at least 5 years' experience as a researcher or an editor; high English proficiency. Learn more at [CAS](#).

## 6.2 Other EU Research Jobs Portals

### EU

- [Career.edu](#)
- [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 \(UK\)](#)



## 7 Events

### 7.1 EURAXESS Links China recommends

#### **Webcast of seminar on Project Management and Admin in Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**

**Seminar + webcast will take place on 21 April 2015 at 8.30 CET (2.30pm Beijing time)**

Whether you want to know more about the basics of Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie project management and administration or you have tricky questions on your mind, this is your opportunity!

The training, which will take place in Helsinki, Finland, provides a basic understanding of project management and administration issues in H2020 MSCAs. **The focus of the day will specifically be on Innovative Training Networks (ITN), Individual Fellowships (IF) and Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE).**

The training can be followed via webcast. Please note the start is 9.30 Finnish time, so 8.30 CET if you are following the webcast, or 2.30pm if you are following from China. Kindly register for the event and webcast by 13 April. [CLICK HERE](#) for the programme and registration.

#### **DRAGON-STAR China-EU S&T Cooperation Forum, 28 April 2015, Brussels**

The *China-EU S&T Cooperation Forum*, organized by CSTEC, China Science and Technology Exchange Center under the Ministry of Science and Technology and supported by all Dragon-Star partners, is scheduled to take place in **Brussels on 28 April, 2015**. The forum foresees around 100 participants. A Chinese delegation of 20-40 from the academia, industry, research and policy-making circle active in China-EU S&T collaboration will participate in the forum and around 60-80 European counterparts will be envisaged as well. The forum aims to:

- 1) Endorse and showcase the successful China-EU S&T cooperation in various S&T areas
- 2) Review the past collaboration and look into future possibilities for cooperation in priority S&T areas of common interests
- 3) Demonstrate the success of Dragon-Star through project outputs that promotes bilateral S&T cooperation

More information will follow on [Dragon-Star website](#).



## GRAIN2 Workshop in Xi'an, 5 – 8 May 2015: Greening Aviation - A Global Challenge:

The second Open Workshop of GRAIN 2 will be held in Xi'an, from the 5th until the 8th of May.

[You can register here.](#) In this Open Workshop on greening technologies will be addressed in the following three areas:

i) **Greening technologies for aircraft and aero-engines:** innovative methods and tools for optimized aircraft and aero-engines with highest fuel efficiency, optimized propulsion/ airframe system leading to minimize emissions, prediction of aircraft emissions effects based on new engines technologies and alternative fuels, multidisciplinary/ multi-physics modelling, simulation, optimization and control, new multifunction materials, including environmentally sustainable materials and smart structures;

ii) **Greening the operational environment:** utilization of environmentally friendly chemicals in production, operation and maintenance, optimized handling and control of the engine exhaust emissions, such as to low or zero emission aircraft taxing, new low-emission ATM concepts;

iii) **Reducing the carbon footprint of aviation via sustainable alternative fuels:** development of biofuels for greenhouse gas emission reduction; increase the knowledge of acceptance conditions at engine aircraft level, optimization of the aircraft/ alternative fuel combination.

Please visit: <http://www.cimne.com/grain2/workshop> for details.

All information is accessible on [CIMNE website](#).

## 7.2 Upcoming scientific events in Europe and in China

Field	Date	Location	Title (click for more details)
<b>Events in Europe</b>			
Environment – Climate Change	11-12 April 2015	Vienna, Austria	<a href="#">Conference on Complex Networks and Climate Variability</a>
Nanotechnologies	10-12 June 2015	Riga, Latvia	<a href="#">EuroNanoForum 2015 Conference</a>
A new start for Europe: Opening up to an ERA of Innovation	22-23 June 2015	Brussels, Belgium	<a href="#">European Commission</a>
65th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting	28 June-3 July 2015	Lindau, Germany	<a href="#">Lindau Meeting</a>
Food Safety	14-16 October 2015	Milan, Italy	<a href="#">Shaping the Future of Food Safety, Together</a>



Events in China			
Oncology	10-12 April, 2015	Shanghai	<a href="#">Asian Oncology Summit 2015</a>
Earth and Env. sciences	10-12 April, 2015	Beijing	<a href="#">2015 Conference on Environmental Pollution and Public Health (EPPH 2015)</a>
Electrical/Electronic engineering	12-14 April, 2015	Beijing	<a href="#">The 7th Asia-Pacific Power and Energy Engineering Conference (APPEEC 2015)</a>
Engineering	14-16 April, 2015	Beijing	<a href="#">2015 Spring World Congress on Engineering and Technology (SCET 2015)</a>
Computer science	16-18 April, 2015	Shenzhen	<a href="#">The Third International Conference on Digital Enterprise and Information Systems (DEIS2015)</a>
Engineering	22-24 April, 2015	Chengdu	<a href="#">The 3rd Asia Symposium on Engineering and Information (ASEAI)</a>
Biological Engineering	22-24 April, 2015	Chengdu	<a href="#">The 3rd International Symposium on Biological Engineering and Natural Sciences</a>
Education	22-24 April, 2015	Chengdu	<a href="#">The International Conference on Education, Psychology and Society</a>
Cancer research	4-8 May, 2015	Suzhou	<a href="#">Precision Cancer Biology and Medicine</a>
Green aviation	5-8 May, 2015	Xi'an	<a href="#">GRAIN2 Workshop</a>
Computer science	24-26 May, 2015	Beijing	<a href="#">2015 Conference on New Advances in Big Data (NABD 2015)</a>
Computer science	24-26 May, 2015	Beijing	<a href="#">2015 Conference on Internet of Things and Smart City (IoTSC 2015)</a>
EU-China R&I Cooperation	17-18 June 2015	Beijing	<a href="#">INCONTACT</a>

## 8 Press Review\*

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## 8.1 Policy & Papers

### **President's initiatives spur plan for new scholarship**

China plans to set up a scholarship designed exclusively for students coming to study in the country from nations involved in Beijing's initiatives to build a Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. ([China Daily](#))

### **China eyes innovation in face of economic "new normal"**

A document, co-published by the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the State Council, China's cabinet, on Monday underscored the role of innovation-driven development amid the economic "new normal" of slower growth.

A government work report, delivered by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on March 5, highlighted the "twin engines" that would drive development, namely popular entrepreneurship and mass innovation paired with increased supplies of public goods and services.

An institutional and legal framework, conducive to innovation-driven development, should be established by 2020, the document continued. Such a framework would allow free movement of talent, capital, technology and knowledge, thus, encouraging coordinated innovation and enhancing efficiency. ([Xinhua](#))

### **China Will Ensure Purchase of All Renewable Power It Generates**

China, the biggest renewable-energy investor, has asked local authorities to ensure the purchase of all the clean power generated in the country.

The nation has also asked renewable-power plants to run at full capacity, taking into account grid safety and stability, the National Development and Reform Commission said in a statement on its website. China will prioritize the use of clean power to meet electricity demand in Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, the Yangtze River Delta and the Pearl River Delta, the agency said. ([Bloomberg](#))

### **China to roll out plans to raise retirement age within two years to cope with ageing population**

Social Security Minister says it is inevitable that people will have to work longer to cope with the costs of millions more retiring. The government will roll out a detailed plan by 2017 on how to raise the age of retirement as the nation tries to cope with the costs of caring for a rapidly ageing population. The current system, allowing men to retire as early as 60 and women at 55, was formulated in 1953, he said.

Any adjustment would be "gradual" over a long period of time, said Yin.

A report by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences showed that in 2012, about two-thirds of provincial government pension funds failed to balance the



books. The worst offenders were Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces, each more than 20 billion yuan in debt. ([SCMP](#))

### **China's natural science foundation finances 39,000 programs in 2014**

China's National Natural Science Foundation (NSF) funded more than 39,000 programs in 2014 with a total investment of 25.1 billion yuan (about 4.09 billion U.S. dollars), they announced on 24 March.

NSF president Yang Wei said at a meeting that in 2015, the foundation will focus its resources on basic research and frontiers of science to upgrade the nation's ability to innovate.

The meeting adopted an initial target for its development in 13th Five-Year Plan starting 2016, including one requiring investment in basic research and output from it to equal those of technological powers like the United States by 2020. ([People's Daily](#))

### **Government shifts science role**

The government will no longer authorize or fund science and technology projects directly, but focus instead on making development plans, assessing projects and monitoring evaluation and research funds, the science and technology minister said.

"The key to managing science and technology research is to take good care of the relationship between government and the market," said Wan Gang, who also is a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. "The ministry has already canceled and transferred some power to authorize and launch projects, activating the market's energy," Wan added, saying that this will reduce administrative interference with research and encourage innovation.

For decades, the Ministry of Science and Technology had great power to approve projects and allocate research funds, thus determining the direction of research. Academia and society have widely criticized the government, saying it had too big a hand in influencing China's research.

"Many professors are busy socializing with officials (to get projects) and spend less time in the lab for research," said Shi Yigong, a National People's Congress deputy and dean of the School of Life Sciences at Tsinghua University.

To change the situation, Shi said, the science and technology evaluation system must be changed. ([China Daily](#))



Wan Gang (Photo Xinhua)

## **8.2 Voices & opinions**



## **A woman's place at the top table is not assured**

The under-representation of women in senior and leadership positions is a global phenomenon – Hong Kong is certainly no exception. Out of 110 positions at the level of dean and above, figures from 2014 show that only 8 women (7.3%) are represented in the most senior leadership roles across the sector. Hong Kong does not currently have a woman university president or vice-chancellor. And if we move further down the academic hierarchy, the figures do not improve significantly; women comprise only 18.7% of associate and assistant deans and heads of departments.

Worryingly, there are a number of commonly held assumptions and attitudes held by Hong Kong academics and senior leaders that potentially serve to work against an improvement on the above figures. ([University World News](#))

## **China's Polluted Soil and Water Will Drive up World Food Prices**

China's push for more intense farming has kept its city dwellers well-fed and helped lift millions of rural workers out of poverty. But it has come at a cost. Ecosystems in what should be one of the country's most fertile regions have already been badly damaged—some beyond repair—and the consequences will be felt across the world. ([ChinaFile](#))

## **'Chinese government interference in universities limits technological innovation': NPC legislators**

China's legislators have called for the government to reduce its intervention in university management, which they warned will pose an obstacle to technological innovation.

Excessive government interference on university campuses had led to frequent personnel changes, costly, eye-catching projects and overstated enthusiasm among professors in pursuing administration positions, delegates from central Anhui province told yesterday's National People's Congress panel discussion.

In this year's government work report, the central government has high hopes that innovation will give a boost to China's slowing economic growth.

However, Liu Fanzhong, a professor at Peking University and a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said that it was hard to push for technological innovation if the system of management at universities did not undergo a reform. ([SCMP](#))





## Chinese chemical plant protestors ‘demonstrate in ignorance’, says scientist

Protestors fighting plans to build chemical plants in China often act through lack of scientific knowledge and their actions can damage the country’s development, according to one of the nation’s leading climate change scientists.

Qin Dahe, the vice president of the China Association for Science and Technology, said the protests against paraxylene plants, or PX, were borne of the belief that the factories were highly dangerous, the *Beijing Times* reported.

“The real issue these phenomena reflect is that the scientific literacy of our citizens still needs to be improved,” he said. ([SCMP](#))

## 8.3 Thematic Activities

### Health

#### Folic Acid: Not Just For Pregnant Women

In a study that included more than 20,000 adults in China with high blood pressure but without a history of stroke or heart attack, folic acid was found to significantly reduce the risk of stroke. The results have been published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Stroke is the leading cause of death in China and second leading cause of death in the world. Primary prevention (prevention prior to a first episode) is particularly important because about 77 percent of strokes are first events. Although folic acid supplements have been suggested to prevent stroke, only limited and consistent evidence was available. ([Asian Scientist](#))

#### Only 0.2% Of Chinese Population Has Ideal Heart Health

Nearly three out of four Chinese adults have poor cardiovascular health, with poor diet and growing rates of obesity compounding the risks associated with continuing high rates of smoking, according to a new survey published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. ([Asian Scientist](#))

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### Food, agriculture & fisheries, biotechnology

#### Technology Helps Unlock Secrets of Rare Bacteria

In the last decade, the study of microbes in soil and water has advanced through new DNA technology. Through this, studies of marine waters have found many types of astonishingly rare bacteria in the oceans - the so called rare biosphere.



Now, researchers from Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Urban Environment have turned their attention to the rare biosphere of freshwater lakes and reservoirs across China (...), used next generation sequencing to look for the very rare bacteria and compare their patterns of abundance with the commoner bacteria found in the lakes. ([CAS](#))

### **IMHE Applies Molecular Spectroscopy Technology to Research on Tracing Organic Pollutants**

The extensive application of pesticides especially in farmland, water bodies including ground water and surface water might be polluted via leaching or overland flow. Prof. TANG Xiangyu of Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment (IMHE) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and his team have been working on addressing the issues by means of *in-situ* monitoring of spectroscopy changes. ([CAS](#))

\* \* \*

### **Information & communication technologies**

#### **Yahoo Said to Close R&D Center in Beijing Employing Hundreds**

More than 350 workers at facility get emails detailing layoff plans, one employee says. High labor costs were the major reason for the closure, the employee said. Yahoo has no other businesses in China.

The Beijing center was set up in June 2009 and employs more than 350 people, its website says. ([Caixin](#))

#### **China has nearly 1.3 billion mobile users, and 4G is growing fast**

Everybody in China has a mobile phone these days: that's an exaggeration, but not as much of one as you might think. According to the latest numbers from China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), China has reached 1.29 billion total mobile users.

Not all of those are smartphone users or users of the mobile web, of course, but those figures are growing fast too. In fact, China has picked up more than 200 million mobile broadband (3G and 4G) subscribers over the past year. ([Techinasia](#))

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### **Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials & new production technologies**

#### **Extracting Lithium From Coal**



Lithium is an essential component of rechargeable batteries used almost ubiquitously in mobile gadgets such as phones, laptops, tablet computers and in many electric vehicles.

Associate Professor Qin Shenjun of Hebei University of Engineering, in Handan and colleagues point out that coal is a highly polluting energy source. They suggest that the recovery of valuable rare metals from coals or coal-processing byproducts could be a promising way to make the inevitable long-term use of this fossil fuel resource more economic, efficient and cleaner. ([Asian Scientist](#))

### **3D-printed car debuts in Hainan**

China's first concept car built using 3D-printing technology debuts in Sanya, South China's Hainan province, March 24, 2015. The vehicle's main body, made by 3D-printer in five days, weighs 500 kilograms, and the rest uses components to assemble. It takes one month to make this electricity-powered vehicle. ([China Daily](#))

\* \* \*

## **Environment (including climate change, conservation and biology)**

### **Yangtze Finless Porpoise Protection Program Kicks Off**

The Yangtze finless porpoise protection program of the largest scale in China kicked off in Hubei, Hunan and Jiangxi Province. 8 Yangtze finless porpoises will be moved from Poyang Lake to nature reserves in Hubei and Hunan Provinces. At present, there are 450 Yangtze finless porpoises in Poyang Lake, accounting for about half of the total amount in China.

The Tian'ezhou nature reserve was constructed by Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1992 to protect finless porpoise in Yangtze River. The number of Yangtze finless porpoise in Tian'ezhou has been increased to more than 40 from the original 5 in 2006. ([CAS](#))



### **Newly Established Nature Reserve Not Ensure Bird Diversity in Xishuangbanna**

Habitat degradation and loss are commonly regarded as the most important threats to biodiversity globally, driving local extinctions and skewing the abundances of persisting species. In the face of this loss and degradation of natural habitat, one of the most common measures for conserving biodiversity is in the use of protected areas.

However, many tropical nature reserves are performing poorly and interventions in the broader landscape may be essential for conserving biodiversity both



within reserves and at large. (Study of a team from) Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden found that at least 20% and probably 40% of the bird species that formerly occurred in the Mengsong landscape have been extirpated. Despite having a relatively large area of natural forest habitat, the bird fauna was depauperate and that intense local hunting is the most likely cause of extirpations. ([CAS](#))

### **China's answer to 'An Inconvenient Truth' sparks rush for shares in green-tech companies**

Environmental firms rise in value as programme focuses national attention on poor air quality. ... The shares in (environmental) companies rose to record highs on the prospect of new pollution laws after the documentary *Under The Dome* sparked interest in environmentalism. ([SCMP](#))

### **Wandering panda visits Sichuan township**

A wild panda, about two years old, made an unexpected visit to Yingxiu township, Wenchuan county of Southwest China's Sichuan province at around 2 am on Thursday, also the day of China's traditional Lantern Festival.

The panda seemed to be searching for food as it snowed on the hill, said Shi Xiaogang, the head of the Wolong National Nature Reserve, a famous panda center, which is only nine kilometers away from Yingxiu township as the crow flies. ([China Daily](#))

### **China Publishes Atmospheric Science Lexicon in Tibetan**

China has finished translating atmospheric science jargon into Tibetan, with a Mandarin-Tibetan lexicon of such terminology published in Tibet.

Head of the compilation committee Soinam Doje said that the compilation, which took five years, was done by local meteorologists and Tibetan language experts in Tibet on the basis of a Mandarin version of the lexicon.

The publication of over 2,000 entries covers such areas as atmosphere, synoptic meteorology and climatology, he said.

"About 30 percent of the Tibetan translations are newly created words," ([Beijing Review](#))

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## **Energy**

### **China to boost new energy vehicles**



The number of new energy vehicles to hit China's roads by 2020 will reach 300,000 as the country aims to save energy and combat pollution, the transportation authority announced.

China will create a favorable environment to foster quicker growth in the new energy vehicle sector through intense government-led promotion, according to a guideline issued by the Ministry of Transport (MOT).

The guideline set the target of 200,000 units of new energy buses and 100,000 new energy taxis and city logistics delivery vehicles by 2020 to encourage the production and purchase of new energy vehicles. ([Global Times](#))

\* \* \*

## **Transport (including aeronautics)**

### **Chinese Firms 'Have Leg Up in Deal for Kuala Lumpur-Singapore Rail Line'**

Chinese companies have two advantages over foreign rivals when bidding to build a high-speed rail line connecting Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, two experts say: cost and time needed to complete the work. The Malaysian and Singaporean governments agreed in 2013 to build the 350 kilometer line, which would be the first high-speed railroad in Southeast Asia. The bidding for the project will open in the second half of this year, a person with knowledge of the matter said. ([Caixin](#))

### **Beijing seeks private funds for metro**

Beijing will invite more private funds to invest in major projects in seven fields including metro construction, shanty town reconstruction and environmental protection projects, said a key document released by the municipal government. ([ECNS.cn](#))

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## **Socioeconomic sciences & the humanities, archaeology & paleontology**

### **Could Climate Explain The Differing Success Of The Tang & Song Dynasties?**

Simulations of China's climate over the last two millennia suggest that the Tang dynasty experienced regional warming while the Song dynasty was affected by global warming. The Tang dynasty (618–907 AD) is generally considered a golden age of Chinese culture while Song dynasty (960–1279 AD) is thought of as relatively weaker though still prosperous. It has been proposed that the



demographic, economic and military strength of an ancient dynasty could be related with climate conditions, since a warmer climate is favorable to national economy development. ([Asian Scientist](#))

### **Sichuan salt: A new perspective on China's industry in modern times**

Industrial development in China has been plagued by all kinds of failures, and people are not unaware of the causes: a conservative social structure, overexploitation by the state, lack of capital, and a cultural bias against commerce.

With all that said, in her book *The Merchants of Zigong: Industrial Entrepreneurship in Early Modern China*, Madeleine Zelin paints a rather unknown picture of the salt business in Zigong, Sichuan province based on her research and provides new perspectives of Chinese commerce in earlier ages. ([Paris SJTU Tech Review](#))

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## **Space**

### **Private companies asked to join moon program**

China will open its lunar exploration program to private enterprises in an attempt to boost technological innovation and break State-owned companies' monopoly in the space field, according to the country's top space authority.

As a starting measure, private enterprises are being encouraged to take part in the Chang'e-4 lunar probe mission, according to a statement issued by the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense, which oversees space programs. ([China Daily](#))

### **China at technical preparation stage for Mars, asteroid exploration**

China has been researching the technical feasibility of exploring Mars and asteroids, a top space scientist and national political advisor revealed on Tuesday.

Ye Peijian, from the China Academy of Space Technology and chief scientist with the country's lunar probe mission, said Chinese space researchers had tackled some of the technical difficulties associated with the exploration of Mars and asteroids. However, he added, the projects are only at the technical preparation stage, which suggests that it will be some time before an official project is announced. ([China Daily](#))



### **Long March 6 launch to put new engine to the test**

China will soon conduct the first flight of the Long March 6 launch vehicle using the country's new-generation rocket engine, according to a senior scientist.

"A launch of the Long March 6 is planned in the middle of the year and it will use the newly developed 120-ton-thrust engine as its main propulsion," said Tan Yonghua, president of the Academy of Aerospace Propulsion Technology and a national lawmaker.

The academy, China's leading developer of the liquid-fueled rocket engine, forms part of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, the major contractor for the country's space activities. ([China Daily](#))

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### **People & Higher Education**

#### **Chinese Scientist Honored by UNESCO For Women in Science Award**

Yi Xie, professor at the University of Science and Technology of China, was on Wednesday honored with the L'Oreal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards 2015, together with four other women for their ground-breaking discoveries in physical sciences. Dedicated to both honoring distinguished women scientists and supporting promising young researchers, the L'Oreal-UNESCO For Women in Science initiative gives five annual awards and accelerates the careers of 15 exceptional young women chosen every year. ([CAS](#))

#### **Innovation Encouragement Brightens Economic Prospect**

Prof. Pan Jianwei, a principal investigator at the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC), led his fellow researchers to successfully double the bandwidth for quantum teleportation. Based on technologies developed from its basic research findings in the past 15 years, the Pan team is building a 2,000-km quantum communication line connecting Beijing and Shanghai and planning to enable the space-to-Earth encoding information transfer via an experimental quantum communication satellite expected to be launched in 2016. ([Xinhua](#))

#### **Macau is becoming a higher education destination for Chinese students**

Just as casinos have proliferated across Macau in the past 15 years, so too have colleges. When the city returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1999, it was home to two universities and two tertiary institutions. Since then the total has more than doubled to 10. That's a lot of college places for a city of just 600,000 people. Perhaps not surprisingly, most of the slack is being taken up by students from mainland China. ([SCMP](#))



### **A Frankenstein recruiting system feeding off students**

To get into a top Chinese university, such as one of China's leading 39 research intensive universities, the members of Project 985, is an achievement difficult to accurately capture in words.

Meanwhile, the number of Chinese students pursuing education overseas has been increasing over the last three decades, with an explosion occurring over the last five years. Between 1978 and 2012, more than 2.6 million students went to other countries to study. ([University World News](#))

### **China's Top Schools Get Middling Marks for Transparency**

Mar. 11, a think tank affiliated with the Chinese government released its first-ever Chinese university transparency index, ranking 115 schools based on their willingness to disclose information about everything from the employment rate of graduates to joint programs with foreign schools. Elite Peking University fared particularly poorly in newly released rankings.

Peking University, arguably the most prestigious university in China, and the 39th-best university in the world according to U.S. News & World Report, didn't even crack this list's top 50, lagging far behind a number of obscure local schools. Other prestigious institutions, like Tsinghua University in Beijing and Zhejiang University in southeastern China, fared slightly better, but sat outside the top 10. The findings have observers angry about the relative opacity of China's wealthiest, flagship institutions. ([Foreign Policy](#))

### **Two Chinese universities climb up world reputation rankings**

Times Higher Education (THE) published the 2015 THE World Reputation Rankings on Wednesday, revealed a new round of the top 100 universities across the world.

Five Chinese universities entered the ranking. They include Tsinghua University, which moved to 26th from 36th last year, and Peking University, which rose nine places to 32. The THE said both Tsinghua and Peking secured their highest ever positions. "This is a strong performance by China. Its two leading institutions have made gains in the reputation rankings, reflecting the country's commitment to developing world-class universities," said Phil Baty, editor of THE Rankings. ([ECNS.CN](#))

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### **Research Infrastructures**

**Major publisher retracts 43 scientific papers amid wider fake peer-review scandal**



A major publisher of scholarly medical and science articles has retracted 43 papers because of “fabricated” peer reviews amid signs of a broader fake peer review racket affecting many more publications.

The publisher is BioMed Central, based in the United Kingdom, which puts out 277 peer-reviewed journals. A partial list of the retracted articles suggests most of them were written by scholars at universities in China, including China Medical University, Sichuan University, Shandong University and Jiaotong University Medical School. But Jigisha Patel, associate editorial director for research integrity at BioMed Central, said it’s not “a China problem. We get a lot of robust research of China. We see this as a broader problem of how scientists are judged.”

Meanwhile, the Committee on Publication Ethics, a multidisciplinary group that includes more than 9,000 journal editors, issued a statement suggesting a much broader potential problem. The committee, it said, “has become aware of systematic, inappropriate attempts to manipulate the peer review processes of several journals across different publishers.” ([Washington Post](#))

## International S&T relations

### Nature: China and Europe pore over proposals for joint space mission



An array of satellites around the Moon is in the running to become the first mission in a collaboration between Europe and China — a telescope to peer back to the Universe’s ‘Dark Ages’, the time before the first stars were formed.

The proposed project, called Discovering the Sky at the Longest Wavelengths (DSL), is one of around 15 submitted for a call by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) that closed on 16 March. The final mission will be led by principal investigators affiliated with both European and Chinese institutions, with an aim to launch in 2021. ESA will contribute just more than €50 million (US\$53 million) to the project, which China is expected to match. ([Nature](#))

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### About this newsletter

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