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EURAXESS LINKS CHINA

Happy Chinese New Year!

We hope you enjoyed a couple of free days over the Spring Festival with your loved ones. Let the sheep/ram/goat bring you a successful year.

In this edition, the [EU Insight](#) elaborates on schemes worth EUR 800 million that will be available to low performing EU Member States in order to widen their participation in research and innovation activities.

As always, you will find plenty of [new announcements](#) for fellowships and calls from Austria, China, France, the UK, Switzerland, as well as other countries and the EU itself (ERC, Erasmus+). What's more, you can find out about [job offers](#) in various fields in Spain, Finland, Norway, Germany or China for researchers of all levels, from natural as well as social sciences.

In the [Events](#) section, we would like to invite you to the [GRAIN2 Workshop](#) in green aviation that will take place in Xi'an on 5 to 8 May 2015. Moreover, the INCONTACT 2020 and China Science and Technology Exchange Center (CSTEC) have announced the [6th International Cooperation Conference – Joint Innovation, Common Prosperity](#) to be held in Beijing between the 17 and 19 June.

Also note that the [China Executive Tour](#) (which we advertised in the January edition) has only few seats left. The Tour is organised by SPI (Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação) and will take place in Beijing and Tianjin between 19 and 25 April 2015.

If you haven't done so yet, fill in [our short satisfaction survey](#). We need to know what your needs are and will appreciate your feedback a lot.

Wishing you a pleasant read,

Yours

[EURAXESS Links China](#)



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RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

This newsletter is for you! Via 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 - Spreading Excellence and Widening participation¹

*Under Horizon 2020, the EU's research funding programme, a strong packet of measures with up to EUR 800 million in funding will be available for widening participation of low-research performing Member States. Such actions include special awards like the **ERA Chairs instrument, Teaming or Twinning**. These three instruments will be introduced in this EU Insight.*

Thirteen universities, technical institutes and private organisations in those parts of Europe that have not done as well as they could in research and innovation are to receive up to EUR 2.5 million each in EU funding to boost their research capacity through the appointment of "**ERA Chairs**", the European Commission announced on 13 February 2015.

Following the pilot call under FP7, this first Horizon 2020 call on ERA Chairs was launched on 11 December 2013 with a budget of EUR 33.6 million. The selected institutions have to award ERA Chairs to outstanding academics who have the capacity to raise standards and attract more high level staff as well as money from other sources, such as EU research funding or regional funds. The positions must be published and respect ERA guidelines (gender balance, fairness, transparency, etc.). **ERA Chair holders can come from anywhere in the world.**

"To make European research the best in the world, we need to unlock the potential in all parts of Europe. With the new ERA chairs we are helping promising regions attract the best research talent and strengthen their standing as research excellence centres."

European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas

¹ This EU Insight is a compilation of the following two press releases from the European Commission:

[Press Release ERA Chairs from February 13, 2015](#)

[Press Release Teaming from January 30, 2015](#)

The information on the Twinning instrument was taken from the call text:

[Twinning Call from the European Commission](#)



List of projects to be funded under the first Horizon 2020 ERA Chairs Call

Countries	ERA Chair Institution	Acronyms	FIELDS
Croatia	RUDER BOSKOVIC INSTITUTE	PaRaDeSEC	Chemistry & Physics
Cyprus	THE CYPRUS INSTITUTE LIMITED	CySTEM	Environment
Cyprus	THE CYPRUS FOUNDATION FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY RESEARCH	BIORISE	Mathematics & Engineering
Estonia	Tallinna Ülikool	CEITER	Economy & Social sciences
Estonia	TARTU ULIKOOL	TransGeno	Life sciences & medicine
Estonia	TARTU ULIKOOL	SynBioTEC	Life sciences & medicine
Poland	INSTYTUT CHEMII FIZYCZNEJ POLSKIEJ AKADEMII NAUK	CREATE	Chemistry & Physics
Poland	INSTYTUT UPRAWY NAWOZENIA I GLEBOZNAWSTWA, PANSTWOWY INSTYTUT BADAWCZY	BioEcon	Economy & Social sciences
Portugal	ICETA - Instituto de Ciências e Tecnologias	EnvMetaGen	Environment
Portugal	UNIVERSIDADE DO MINHO	FoReCaST	Life sciences & medicine
Portugal	UNIVERSIDADE DE COIMBRA	ERAatUC	Life sciences & medicine
Portugal	INSTITUTO DE MEDICINA MOLECULAR	EXCELLtoINNOV	Life sciences & medicine
Romania	INSTITUTUL DE CHIMIE MACROMOLECULARA PETRU PONI	SupraChem Lab	Chemistry & Physics

On 30 January 2015, the EU announced new grants that will help bridge the research excellence gap between Member States and strengthen competitiveness and growth across Europe. The new **Teaming** instrument, under which these grants are awarded, will help improve research performance and increase investment in countries with lower research excellence rankings. With funding from Horizon 2020, 31 projects from such countries have now been selected to prepare operational plans for new Centres of Excellence by teaming up with high-calibre institutions from all over Europe.

Eligible Member states under

Teaming include all those which joined the EU after 2004 plus Portugal and Luxembourg, as well as eight of the non-EU countries associated with Horizon 2020. Teaming will help them to start new collaborations, build new scientific networks and seize new market opportunities.

The first Teaming projects selected for funding will be led by research institutions or agencies as well as national or regional authorities. In phase 1 of this action, the projects will receive up to EUR 500,000 each (EUR 14.5 million in total) to prepare operational plans for new Centres of Excellence or for upgrading existing ones.

Twinning aims to significantly strengthen a defined field of research in a particular knowledge institution (a research-active university or a public research organisation or a private non-profit research organisation) by creating a link between this institution and at least two internationally-leading research institutions in other Member States. Twinning strategies can include short term staff exchanges; expert visits and short-term on-site or virtual training; workshops; conference attendance; organisation of joint summer school type activities; dissemination and outreach activities. Twinning activities will provide no support to infrastructure and equipment and no support for hiring new permanent research staff. The call for applications is still open until 7 May 2015.

"Put simply, we want Horizon 2020 funds to benefit as wide a range of European universities and research institutes as possible. We are determined to see that no part of Europe is left behind in research and innovation. Teaming now helps to achieve this by creating partnerships between those at the top and those with the most potential. Horizon 2020 rewards excellence and, most importantly, the pursuit of excellence."

European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas



2 EURAXESS Links Activities

2.1 Satisfaction Survey 2014

To those of you who haven't filled out our brief user survey, please [click on the link](#) and **let us know what you expect from EURAXESS in 2015**. We won't know what works (and what doesn't) for you, unless you give us YOUR feedback. Thank you for your support!

Link to survey: <https://secure.pt-dlr.de/pt-survey/index.php?sid=79264&lang=en>

2.2 Our Network Newsletter No. 8

The first 2015 EURAXESS Links Network Newsletter is online. It covers the issues of **Open Labour Market** for researchers in the EU, and also contains an outlook for 2015 from **European Research Council** and **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**.

Read the newsletter [here](#)

This is a quarterly newsletter common to all six EURAXESS Links networks – apart from China, also [ASEAN](#), [Japan](#), [Brazil](#), [India](#) and [North America](#).

3 News & Developments

3.1 EU & Multilateral Cooperation

Public consultation: have your say on the achievements of FP7

The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the achievements of FP7, the EU's 7th Framework Programme for research and innovation worth €53 billion of funding for the period 2007-2013. The results of the consultation will feed into the ex-post evaluation of FP7 carried out by an independent external High Level Expert Group.

The evaluation is an important instrument for assessing the achievements and wider impact of FP7. In addition the aim is to improve both the implementation of Horizon 2020, the current EU's funding programme for research and innovation, and the design of future framework programmes. The consultation collects views on the overall management of FP7, the impact of the simplification measures, and the achievements of the supported activities. Individuals, groups or organisations who have had a direct experience with FP7 or just wish to give their opinion are invited to contribute **until 22 May 2015**.



The consultation as well as background information can be found on the [Research & Innovation consultations site](#) as well as the European Commission website [Your voice in Europe](#). ([Horizon Magazine](#))

Bringing research to the market: ERC funds 59 innovative projects

A simple blood test to diagnose breast cancer, a forensic device to trace the origin of tropical timber, and artificial veins inspired by marine sponges; these are some of the inventions to be developed by 59 outstanding researchers selected in the latest round of 'Proof of Concept' Grants from the European Research Council (ERC).

Worth up to €150,000 per grant, 'Proof of Concept' funding helps ERC grant holders to bridge the gap between their existing frontier research and its commercial applications. This top-up funding will enable the scientists to cover costs of technical validation, create a startup to explore business opportunities, or establish intellectual property rights, for example. ([ERC](#))

New Vice Presidents and members of the ERC Scientific Council

Professors Sierd Cloetingh and Mart Saarma have been appointed new Vice Presidents of the European Research Council. This news was coupled with the European Commission's appointment today of three new members of the Scientific Council. Sierd Cloetingh, who also serves as a President of Academia Europaea, is a Dutch professor of Earth Sciences and Tectonics at the Utrecht University. He will be in charge of supervision of the ERC activities in the domain of Physical Science and Engineering. Mart Saarma, an Estonian national, is a professor and a director of the Centre of Excellence in Molecular and Integrated Neuroscience Research at the University of Helsinki. He will take over the Life Sciences domain. ([ERC](#))

The EU is recruiting researchers

The JRC (Joint Research Centre) has launched a call to recruit on fixed-term contracts. As the Commission's in-house science service, the Joint Research Centre provides the science for EU policy making, providing a unique opportunity to make your work count. Successful candidates will work in one of the JRC sites, located in Germany, Belgium, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands.

The selection is open to applicants from the EU Member States or from one of the countries associated with the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

Eligible fields are: Biology, Chemistry, Natural Sciences, Life Sciences, Biochemistry, Oceanography / Marine Sciences, Nanotechnology,



Nanobiotechnology, Veterinary, Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Computer Sciences, Statistics, Material Sciences, Economics, Political Sciences, Social Sciences, Educational Sciences, Psychology, Geography, Environmental Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Agricultural Engineering, Meteorology, Ecology, Forestry, Geology, Hydrological Sciences, Medical Sciences, Pharmacy, Nutritional Sciences. ([JRC](#))



Cancer chronotherapy

EU Research Highlight: Medication timing key in cancer treatment

An internal clock determines many of our bodily functions. The same is true for tumour cells, EU-funded research suggests. This discovery could point the way to a more efficient, personalised approach to cancer treatment. *“During the last 30 years, the potential of using chronotherapy to improve the efficacy of anticancer therapy has been demonstrated,”* says Maria Comas Soberats, the beneficiary of the EU-funded CANCEERTIME research grant. *“If we can understand how daily patterns of toxicity and sensitivity to cancer treatment vary throughout the day and how chronotherapy functions at the cellular level for each type of treatment, this should stimulate novel approaches for treating the disease,”* explains Comas Soberats. ([EU Research & Innovation](#))



EU Research Highlight: Tomatoes with a can do attitude

Every year Europe’s tomato industry produces around 200 thousand tons of waste consisting mainly of skins, pips and fibers. Researchers in a European project are trying to find out if this material can be used in an ecological and economically viable way. At a tomato processing plant near Parma, in Italy, around 2,200 tons of fresh tomatoes are processed and packaged every season.

Some 4 per cent of the raw material ends up as waste and is partially used to produce biogas. But managers at the Parma factory have more ambitious plans, as vice-president Aldo Rodolfi explained: “At the moment we are working with researchers on how to use this waste in different ways. We especially want to use it for the packaging of food products”. To that end, scientists from a European research project have become specialised cooks. ([EU Research & Innovation](#))

3.2 EU Member States*, China & Bilateral Cooperation

* Including countries associated with Horizon 2020.



France: "Digital France" comes to Beijing

As part of the fiftieth anniversary of diplomatic ties, France and China organised the Digital and Creative Forum in Beijing on 22 and 23 January 2015. This is the first event for industry players of the creative digital world held in China by France. This forum is designed to help French companies wishing to set up internationally to build lasting relationships with Chinese actors not only to get a foot in the Chinese market but also relying on Franco-Chinese partnerships to break into the global market. In this context, some thirty French companies, start-ups, SMEs but also large groups are invited to submit their applications in Beijing and innovations in hardware and software to companies and Chinese investors.

French SMEs and start-ups are little known in China as these sectors are dominated by the United States. They are an important target of the forum but will be accompanied by large French leaders in digital development. A return forum for Chinese companies will be held in Paris in November 2015. ([La France en Chine](#))

France: Innovation in the presence of the Prime Minister

Gathering around the French Prime Minister, Manuel Valls, around twenty high-tech French companies operating in Shanghai and involved in research and development came to share their experiences of operating in China. ([La France en Chine](#))

France: CNES and the China National Space Administration (CNSA) formalize their cooperation on the mission ocean observing CFOSAT

On the occasion of the official visit of Prime Minister Manuel Valls in China, Jean-Yves Le Gall, Chairman of CNES and Dazhe Xu, Director of the China National Space Administration (CNSA), signed an agreement on Thursday, January 29 to accelerate the schedule of the observation mission CFOSAT oceans (China-France Oceanography SATellite). The signing took place at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, attended by the Prime Minister and his Chinese counterpart, Li Keqiang.

CFOSAT (China-France Oceanography SATellite) is a scientific observer mission to study ocean wave conditions and wind on their surface, which promote better forecasts for marine meteorology and knowledge of climate variability. ([La France en Chine](#))



Sweden: Karolinska Institutet establishes research base in Hong Kong and China after record donation

Karolinska Institutet is to set up its own research base in Hong Kong. This initiative is made possible by a donation of USD 50 million, equivalent to SEK 400 million, by Hong Kong-based businessman Ming Wai Lau. This is one of the largest private donations ever received by Karolinska Institutet.

The Ming Wai Lau Center for Regenerative Medicine will comprise two nodes, one in Stockholm and one in Hong Kong, and will allow scientists from Hong Kong, China, and around the world to work together in an independent research environment under the auspices of Karolinska Institutet. ([Science Business](#))

The UK: UK and China award five joint Stem Cell research projects

The UK Medical Research Council (MRC) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) have announced five new joint funding awards aimed at addressing key knowledge gaps in stem cell research. These awards form the second phase of the UK-China Stem Cell Partnership Initiative, which has the aim of improving collaborative links between stem cell scientists in the UK and China. The funded projects will focus upon basic and preclinical research that will underpin the development of novel drug and regenerative medicine based therapies for a range of disorders including heart disease, Motor Neurone Disease, Multiple Sclerosis and stroke, as well as tissue repair for wound healing. Read more [here](#). ([UK Medical Research Council \(MRC\)](#))

The UK: MET office Climate Sciences for Service Partnership

On 3rd February, a bilateral meeting between China Meteorological Administration (CMA) Deputy Administrator Jiao Meiyan and UK Met Office Chief Executive Rob Varley was held in Beijing. The two sides confirmed their commitment to the Climate Sciences for Service Partnership and discussed wider collaboration including cooperation on issues of climate services, numerical weather prediction, satellite observation and application, education and training and other fields. Read more [here](#). ([Xinhua](#))

4 Grants & Fellowships

4.1 EU - Call announcements for international researchers



EU: ERC Advanced Grant

Advanced Grants are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are already established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements. Applicant Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal.

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

There are three main research domains:

- Physical Sciences & Engineering
- Life Sciences
- Social Sciences & Humanities

The deadline for this call is **Tuesday, 2 June 2015**.

All application documents are available [online](#).

EU: Erasmus+ Joint Master Degrees

Scholarships for 116 different Joint Master Degree programmes starting in September 2015. Between 13 and 20 student scholarship holders and 4 invited scholars/guest lecturers per intake can take part. Find out more about Joint Master Degrees [here](#) as well as the list of participating universities [here](#).

EU: Erasmus+ call for proposals

Open to any public or private body active in the fields of education, training, youth and sport may apply for funding within the Erasmus+ Programme. **See the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide for the 2015 General Call for Proposals for detailed conditions for participating in the call for proposals, as well as information on the priorities for funding](#)**. It constitutes an integral part of the [2015 Erasmus+ Call for Proposals](#).

Depending on the action and thematic line, **deadlines vary from 4 February 2015 to 1 October 2015**.

EU: ERC Consolidator Grant

The grant amounts to €2.0M with the possibility of an additional €0.75M for a period of 5 years. The call will close on **12 March, 2015**. Learn more on the [ERC website](#) and access the call on the [Horizon 2020 Participant Portal](#).

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](#).

EU: COST

COST is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology. Spring collection date is **24 March 2015** – information is online on, http://www.cost.eu/participate/open_call.

Other open calls under Horizon 2020 and Euratom

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

Excellent Science programme

8 open calls including:

European Research Council frontier research grants:

[ERC Consolidator Grant](#) – Deadline **12 March 2015**

[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)

Industrial Leadership

17 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

29 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: Joint Research Scheme: Experimental Physics & Biomedical Research to Translational Medicine

The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) Joint Research Scheme aims to promote collaboration between researchers/research teams in China and in Austria on the basis of complementing existing strengths of both sides. The Scheme supports research proposals jointly submitted by Chinese and Austrian researchers. The Austrian Science Fund (FWF) is Austria's central funding organization for basic research.

Themes:

1. Experimental Physics, including quantum physics, nano sciences(including surface sciences), photonics, semiconductor and solid state physics,
2. From Biomedical Research to Translational Medicine

Chinese researchers can apply for research costs of up to 3,000,000 RMB per project to cover research costs and international exchange costs. Chinese researchers cannot apply for personnel costs as these costs are covered by the Chinese universities/institutes where the research is conducted.

The project duration should be three years (1st January 2016-31st December 2018). In total, up to four projects will be supported this round. Information (in Chinese) is [online](#).

Austria: CeMM PhD Programme

[CeMM](#) is an international, independent and interdisciplinary Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. "From the clinic to the clinic": Driven by medical needs, CeMM integrates basic research and clinical expertise to pursue innovative diagnostic and therapeutic approaches focused on cancer, inflammation and immune disorders. Their **PhD Programme** is currently accepting applications. It will train a new generation of researchers based on a novel, post-genomic, molecular understanding of biological and pathological systems.

The deadline for applications is on **9th March 2015**. More information [here](#).

* Including countries associated with Horizon 2020.



Austria: Vienna Graduate School of Economics

The Vienna Graduate School of Economics (VGSE) is the graduate school of economics in Vienna. It focuses on the training of PhD candidates in economics. The school is the result of collaboration between the University of Vienna and the Institute for Advanced Studies. It is financed by a research grant of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF).

The application for the programme automatically includes the application for a fellowship. Full and partial scholarships are available. **Deadline: 30th April.** Information is available at the [VGSE website](#).

Belgium: BEWARE Fellowship: *Industry and Academia*

To promote the mobility of researchers towards Belgium, the Department of Research Programs has launched two new funding schemes to attract researchers* in Wallonia / Federation Wallonia - Brussels. The BEWARE FELLOWSHIPS (BElgium WALLonia REsearch) programmes are co-financed by the COFUND program of the European Union (Marie Curie Actions).

- **BEWARE FELLOWSHIPS *Industry***

This program enables SMEs or *accredited research centers* to benefit from the expertise of highly qualified researchers to encourage the innovation process within the Walloon host.

A new call has been launched in **February 2015** (cut-off dates: April 30, June 30, September 30 and November 30).

- **BEWARE FELLOWSHIPS *Academia***

This program focuses on technology transfer. It enables researchers to perform a research stay in a French-speaking university, in partnership with a Walloon company. Over the period covered by the mandate (18-36 months), 25% of it must be spent in the company.

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 15th [online](#).

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

This program is designed for five to ten high-level Chinese researchers involved in the prevention and fight against infectious diseases.

The winners will receive a one-week tour program in France in the autumn of 2015, including a visit to the major research infrastructures in the field of infectious diseases and individual programs of meetings with French experts to enable them to consider active and sustainable collaborations.



The Embassy of France in China will ensure the financial management of transport and stay in France.

Applicants are asked to provide a resume in English, a list of publications and a synthetic summary of their research activity and a list of researchers they would meet **before May 31, 2015**. Application details are available on the website of the [French Embassy in China](#).

Germany: German Institute for Economic Research

The German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) is one of the leading economic research institutions in Germany. Its core mandates are applied economic research and economic policy as well as provision of research infrastructure.

The DIW Graduate Center welcomes applications from highly qualified and motivated postgraduate students from around the world.

The application deadline is **March 31, 2015**. Find more information [online](#).

Germany: Alexander von Humboldt Foundation: German Chancellor Fellowships for Prospective Leaders

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation offers prospective leaders from Brazil, China, India, Russia and the USA the opportunity to conduct a project as guests of the partner of their choice in Germany. With the support of their hosts, the fellows can spend a year concentrating on a project of their choice and give their career a boost. German Chancellor Fellowships are open to an array of sectors such as politics, public administration and business, as well as society and culture. **Next deadline: 15 March 2015** [More information](#).

Germany: PhD in Jena's International Leibniz Research School

The International Leibniz Research School Jena offers 14 PhD positions in Natural, Life and Computational Sciences. A Master's degree (or equivalent) in Natural or Life Sciences is required. The application deadline is **13 March 2015**. Details are accessible [online](#).

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

The Scuola Normale Superiore PhD School in Pisa, Italy offers fully-funded PhD programs to both Italian citizens and students from outside Italy. Fields: Philosophy, Modern Literature and Philology, Classics, History of Art, Modern and Contemporary History, Physics, Condensed Matter Physics, Mathematics, Financial Mathematics, Methods and Models for Molecular Sciences, Neurosciences, Biophysical Sciences, Renaissance Studies, and Political Science and Sociology.

All students admitted to the PhD programme receive full financial support. This includes tuition, fees, and a cost-of living stipend (EUR 14,187 per year, plus



free meals). Applications for admission to the selection process must be registered online by 23:59 CET of the following dates: 28 February 2015, for the spring session or **31 August 2015**, for the autumn session. Click [online](#) for more information.

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

The aim of the INTER Mobility Programme is to promote the scientific exchange between research groups of the Luxembourg public research institutions and research groups abroad in order to foster innovative, internationally competitive research and support the exchange of key knowledge and technological knowhow. **Next 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). More information about the deadline and eligibility criteria can be found [here](#). Chinese applicants are eligible.

Next deadline: **30 April 2015.**

Applications are submitted via scholarship porta 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)

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

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

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

Sweden: Swedish Research Council: Visiting Professorships

Kerstin Hesselgren Visiting Professorship (social sciences, humanities, theology and science of law)

Olof Palme Visiting Professorship (social sciences, humanities, theology and science of law)

Tage Erlander Visiting Professorship (natural and engineering sciences) Next deadline: **12 March 2015**

[More information is available online.](#)



Switzerland: Swiss National Science Foundation: Doc.CH (HSS)

The Doc.CH grants in the humanities and social sciences (HSS) are awarded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) to promising researchers who wish to write a dissertation in the humanities and social sciences in Switzerland on a topic of their own choice. Next deadline: **10 March 2015**. [More information](#)

Switzerland: Swiss National Science Foundation: SNSF professorships

The SNSF professorships enable excellent young researchers who wish to pursue an academic career and have several years of recognised research experience to take a major step forward. Next deadline: **1 May 2015**

Find more information [online](#).

Switzerland: Swiss National Science Foundation: International Exploratory Workshops

International Exploratory Workshops are aimed at researchers in Switzerland who wish to **organise workshops with participants from abroad**. The aim of this funding instrument, which is open to all fields of research, is to allow researchers to meet and advance their knowledge in a field. A grant comprises travel, room and board costs for up to ten participants based outside of Switzerland.

Next deadlines: **3 June** and **7 October 2015**

More information [online](#).

The UK - STFC Newton Agri-Tech Fund

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 Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) Newton Agri-Tech Fund is an initiative that will demonstrate the application of innovative technologies and techniques developed for space applications such as the use of remote sensing, data processing, modelling and simulation to address the needs of the Chinese agricultural community.

A "rapid response" call for proposals has been issued, a workshop will be held in the second week of March. More details on the programme can be found [here](#).

The UK – Newton Advanced Fellowships

Newton Advanced Fellowships provide independent early to mid-career scientists and their research groups and networks with an opportunity to develop the research strengths and capabilities of their research group through



training, collaboration and reciprocal visits with a partner in the UK for up to three years. A broad range of the natural and physical sciences are covered.

The scheme is currently open to applications and will **close on 18th March 2015**. More details and eligibility requirements [here](#) and [here](#).

4.3 Calls still open

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

Austria: Doctoral Programme in Accounting and Taxation (DART)

Find applications details [online](#). **Deadline: 31 March 2015**

Czech Republic - Scholarships for Academic Year 2015/2016

Scholarships to pursue a **study or research stays and visits**. You can find more information under [this link](#). Deadline is **usually 31 March**.

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](#).

France: EFEO Field Scholarships

The deadline is 31 March 2015. More info [here](#).

Global: HFSP Frontier Research Grants

The Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) supports novel, innovative and **interdisciplinary basic research focused on the complex mechanisms of living organism**. [Guidelines for 2016 Program Grants and Young Investigator Grants](#) applications are now available. **Deadline: 19 March 2015**



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](#).

Germany: Humboldt International Climate Protection Fellowships

Applications may be submitted **from now until 15 March 2015**. [View the call online](#).

Israel: Dan David Prize and Scholarships

The [Dan David Prize and scholarships](#) are awarded to doctoral and postdoctoral researchers doing research in: historians and their sources (humanities), information revolution (ICTs) and bioinformatics. Deadline: **10 March 2015**

Norway: RCN's Personal Visiting Researcher Grant

[Find more details online](#). Next deadline: **15 April 2015**.

Sweden: VINNOVA: VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming Fellowship

Further information can be found [here](#). Next deadline: **17 March 2015**

The Netherlands: NWO VISITORS TRAVEL GRANT

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

Luxembourg: AFR PhD Grants

Click [here](#) for more. The deadline for the submission of proposals will be **17 March 2015**.

Romania: PhD Scholarships for International Students

Deadline is **15 March 2015**; all information can be found [online](#).



China: CAS President's International Fellowship Initiative, Category D: CAS-TWAS PIFI for International PhD Students

The deadline for submitting all material and applications is **31 March, 2015**.

Information on CAS website dedicated to [PIFI](#).

China: NSFC Fellowship for International Young Scientists

The deadline is **20 March 2015**. Information is available [online](#) (in Chinese on NSFC Portal)

China: Chinese Government Scholarship - EU Programme

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

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](#)

5 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.



5.1 Jobs in Europe and China

Norway: Full Professor/Associate professor in modern Chinese linguistics and China Studies

The Department of Foreign Languages at the University of Bergen seeks to appoint a full-time, tenured Full Professor/Associate Professor in modern Chinese linguistics and China studies. The successful applicant must be able to teach courses in both Chinese language and China studies. The successful applicant is expected to relocate to Bergen. Find out more details on [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

Application deadline: **1 April 2015**

Finland: Postdoctoral Researchers in Aalto-Valio Postdoctoral Program

Aalto University School of Chemical Technology invites applications for Postdoctoral researchers in the Aalto-Valio Postdoctoral Program. Following the guiding principles to continuously develop innovative products and technologies in the dairy and food industry and to “make the best”, [Valio Ltd](#) has partnered with Aalto University [School of Chemical Technology](#) to create the Aalto-Valio Postdoctoral Program.

Scientists and scholars of disciplines related to the topics (e.g. biotechnology, biochemistry, organic chemistry, polymer technology, surface and colloid chemistry, chemical engineering) are invited to apply

Deadline is **20 March 2015**. More info on [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

Spain: Ikerbasque Research Fellow 2015

15 positions for postdocs by Ikerbasque in the Basque Country (Spain) . Ikerbasque offers 15 contract positions for postdoctoral researchers, within any of the Basque Research Institution (Universities, BERC - Basque Excellence Research Centres, CIC – Cooperative Research Centres, Biomedical institutions and Technology Corporations, among others). Find also specific information about some Research Groups. These Fellowships are directed to promising young researchers; they are intended to offer a track towards a PI role and independent research. Applications by women are especially welcome.

Deadline: **15 April 2015**. Maximum duration of contract: 5 years

More information is available on Ikerbasque's [website](#).



Germany: 60 PhD Studentships at Hannover Medical School

Hannover Biomedical Research School, as part of Hannover Medical School (MMH), invites applications for the above PhD studentships, to commence in October 2015.

The three-year study programs, taught in English, are aimed at post-graduates in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine as well as those from Life Science fields. The PhD program “Regenerative Sciences” is also open to students from the various disciplines of Materials Sciences. Application **deadline is 1 April**, details available [online](#).

China: Traineeship at the EU Delegation

The Delegation of European Union to China is looking for a Trainee for its Science, Technology and Environment Section for a period of maximum 6 consecutive months.

Preliminary: the Trainee will not be an employee of the Delegation of the European Union to China and Mongolia. No contractual relationship will be established under this traineeship and no remuneration will be offered.

Traineeships are addressed mainly to young university graduates who have limited professional experience or who are starting a professional career.

General conditions:

- Traineeship is based at the Delegation of the European Union to China and Mongolia
- Period of the traineeship is from 29 May to 30 November 2015
- Traineeship is full time (40 hours per week)

More information on the website of [EU Delegation to China](#).

The applicant can be a Chinese National or EU Member States citizen.

Read more [online](#).

China: Faculty positions at Genomics Institute at Huaqiao University

Institute of Genomics at Huaqiao University invites applications for bioinformatics scientists and stem cell scientists. Institute of Genomics is a multidisciplinary research team at Huaqiao University in Xiamen, China that focuses on analysis of transcriptome using single-molecule sequencing with primary focus on human disease and development. The University will provide the new faculty with highly competitive salary, generous start-up package and extra benefits for high level scientific achievements including insurance, relocation fee, housing and others.

For all applicants, proven track record of publications is a strong plus. Strong knowledge of written and spoken English is required. Direct your inquiries to Dr.



Philipp Kapranov, email: py1016@hqu.edu.cn; or have a look at [EURAXESS Jobs](#). Find details on [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

China: Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (Kunming)

The State Key Laboratory of Biomembrane and Membrane Biotechnology at the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, invites applications from qualified individuals for 3-5 faculty positions at the level of Full-time Professor.

Directions: Cell Biology, Developmental Biology, Genetics, Cancer Biology and related.

Candidates should receive a doctor degree abroad with a research experience abroad over 3 years or a doctor in China with a research experience overseas over 5 years. All candidates should not be older than 40 years, and will serve as an independent group leader. Successful candidates will be recommended to apply for “National Thousand Young Talents Program” and will receive competitive start-up packages.

Review of applications will **begin February 15, 2015, and will continue until the positions are filled.**

For more details, visit [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

Postdoctoral Fellows in Neutrino Physics at IHEP

The Institute of High Energy Physics (IHEP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing invites applications for postdoctoral fellowship positions in neutrino physics.

Initial appointment will be made for two years with possible renewal. The basic annual salary will be 120,000 RMB (approximately 19.200 USD). Outstanding candidates can apply for “Chung-Yao Chao Fellowship” which provides additional 80,000 RMB (approximately 12.800 USD) per year.

The applications for the fellowship should be made by **March 31, 2015**. The positions will be open until filled, Candidates should have a PhD degree in particle physics or nuclear physics by the time of appointment. Chinese language is not required. For details on application documents and contact information, visit [CAS](#).

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 \(UK\)](#)

6 Events

6.1 EURAXESS Links China recommends

GRAIN2 Workshop in Xi'an, 5 – 8 May 2015

The network building support action [GRAIN 2](#), co-funded by the EU and China aims to provide inputs and contributions to technology roadmaps for **greening future aviation** for meeting requirements such as reduction of aviation emissions, fuel consumption and perceived noise. GRAIN 2 efforts focus on three major lines: Air vehicle, air traffic management system, and sustainable energies.

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



In this Open Workshop on greening technologies will be addressed in the following three areas:

- i) Greening technologies for aircraft and aero-engines
- ii) Greening the operational environment
- iii) Reducing the carbon footprint of aviation via sustainable alternative fuels

For more information on the GRAIN2 project, please visit: <http://www.cimne.com/grain2/>

The registration is not yet online (we will let you know soon) but you can contact Dr Sònia Sagristà Granolles at ssagrista@cimne.upc.edu for more information.

6th International Cooperation Conference – Joint Innovation, Common Prosperity -

INCONTACT 2020 and China Science and Technology Exchange Center (CSTEC) cordially invite you to the "6th International Cooperation Conference – Joint Innovation, Common Prosperity". It will be held in Beijing between the 17th and 19th of June, 2015 under the auspices of the Research and Innovation of the European Commission and China's Ministry of Science and Technology.

This year's conference will be dedicated to the underpinning role of innovation in boosting global growth and global efforts on innovation in achieving this end.

This Conference will detect the trends of research and innovation cooperation in relation to economic growth from national or regional policy perspectives. NCP speakers will in particular identify holdbacks against a more effective innovation network under Horizon 2020. Experts will also share the research opportunities of their own countries for stronger connectivity of national programs with elsewhere.

For more information about the conference, please visit the Conference Webpage at: <http://inco-conference.eu/>

Call for papers: 2nd Academic Conference on China-Central and Easter Europe (CEE) Cross-cultural Dialogue, Education and Business (Krakow, Poland)

Key theme of the conference: **“Societies, markets and cultures in transition”**

Official website: www.china-cee.confer.uj.edu.pl

Date: September 24 to 26, 2015

Venue: Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland



The conference aims to promote new kinds of cross-disciplinary academic, educational and professional dialogue and learning concerning any kind of China-CEE subject area. It will use a comparative approach and combine the diverse experiences and different research approaches across various disciplines from China and CEE in order to analyse similarities between the two regions, as well as to address future challenges related to socioeconomic and institutional transformations in China and CEE. Submission deadline for abstracts (1,000 words): **30 April 2015**.

6.2 Upcoming scientific events in Europe and in China

Field	Date	Location	Title (click for more details)
Events in Europe			
Digital Innovation	17 March 2015	Brussels, Belgium	The Role of Patents: Innovation in a European Digital Single Market
Horizon 2020 – New Commission, new Agenda	24 March 2015	Brussels, Belgium	Science Business
ICT	26 March 2015	London, the UK	The future for Open Access and the move towards Open Data
Environment – Climate Change	11-12 April 2015	Vienna, Austria	Conference on Complex Networks and Climate Variability
Nanotechnologies	10-12 June 2015	Riga, Latvia	EuroNanoForum 2015 Conference
A new start for Europe: Opening up to an ERA of Innovation	22-23 June 2015	Brussels, Belgium	European Commission
65th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting	28 June-3 July 2015	Lindau, Germany	Lindau Meeting
Food Safety	14-16 October 2015	Milan, Italy	Shaping the Future of Food Safety, Together
Events in China			
Pharmacology	16-19 March 2015	Shanghai	Pharmaceutical Compliance
Chemistry	18-20 March 2015	Suzhou	2015 Conference on Advances in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (CABMB 2015)
Biological Physics	18-20 March 2015	Suzhou	2015 International Conference on Advances in Biophysics (ICAB 2015)
Microbiology	18-20 March 2015	Suzhou	2015 Microbiology and Immunology Conference (MIC 2015)



Plant biology	18-20 March 2015	Suzhou	The 2nd Conference on Botany (CB 2015)
Reproductive Endocrinology	18-20 March 2015	Suzhou	2015 Conference on Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine (CTERM 2015)
Cancer research	18-20 March 2015	Suzhou	2015 Conference on Advances in Prevention and Treatment of Cancer (CAPTC 2015)
Medicine	18-20 March 2015	Suzhou	2015 Conference on Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Research (CLMCR 2015)
Pathology and Pathobiology	18-20 March 2015	Suzhou	2015 International Conference on Pathology (ICP 2015)
Medicine	18-20 March 2015	Suzhou	2015 Conference on Advances in Evidence-Based Medicine (CAEBM 2015)
Occupational Medicine	18-20 March 2015	Suzhou	2015 Conference on Occupational Medicine and Endemiology (COME 2015)
Computer science	18-20 March 2015	Suzhou	The 4th International Conference on Signal and Image Processing (CSIP 2015)
Engineering	18-20 March 2015	Suzhou	2015 Conference on Radio Science and Antenna Technology (RSAT 2015)
Physics	18-20 March 2015	Suzhou	2015 International Conference on Microwave and Terahertz Technology (ICMTT 2015)
Computer science	18-20 March 2015	Suzhou	2015 Conference on New Advances in Optical Communications and Networks (NAOCN 2015)
Higher Education	23-26 March 2015	Beijing	APAIE Conference (Swissnex, Peking University): New Paradigm of Engaging Asia Pacific Universities for Exchange and Cooperation in a Global Context: Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions
Oncology	10-12 April, 2015	Shanghai	Asian Oncology Summit 2015
Earth and Env. sciences	10-12 April, 2015	Beijing	2015 Conference on Environmental Pollution and Public Health (EPPH 2015)



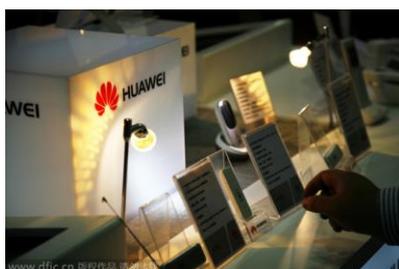
Electrical/Electronic engineering	12-14 April, 2015	Beijing	The 7th Asia-Pacific Power and Energy Engineering Conference (APPEEC 2015)
Engineering	14-16 April, 2015	Beijing	2015 Spring World Congress on Engineering and Technology (SCET 2015)
Computer science	16-18 April, 2015	Shenzhen	The Third International Conference on Digital Enterprise and Information Systems (DEIS2015)
Engineering	22-24 April, 2015	Chengdu	The 3rd Asia Symposium on Engineering and Information (ASEAI)
Biological Engineering	22-24 April, 2015	Chengdu	The 3rd International Symposium on Biological Engineering and Natural Sciences
Education	22-24 April, 2015	Chengdu	The International Conference on Education, Psychology and Society
Cancer research	4-8 May, 2015	Suzhou	Precision Cancer Biology and Medicine
Computer science	24-26 May, 2015	Beijing	2015 Conference on New Advances in Big Data (NABD 2015)
Computer science	24-26 May, 2015	Beijing	2015 Conference on Internet of Things and Smart City (IoTSC 2015)

7 Press Review*

Policy & Papers

Patent applications lead the world

China recorded 928,000 invention patent applications in 2014, more than that of any other country, for the fourth consecutive year, according to data released by the State Intellectual Property Office. The office found that about 663,000 inventions had high quality and market value. About 4.9 patents per 10,000 population were filed, according to the data.



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In 2014, about 485,000 invention patent applications were filed by enterprises, more than the number filed by individuals, academies or research institutes.

Huawei Technologies, the world's biggest maker of telecommunications equipment, was granted 2,409 invention patents in 2014, according to the SIPO data. ([China Daily](#))

China to enhance public awareness of GM technology

China will step up its efforts in improving public awareness of genetically modified (GM) technology in agriculture in 2015, according to a key policy document released by the Communist Party of China and the government on Sunday [1st February].

The country will strengthen the technical study, safety management and better public awareness of GM technology, noted the No. 1 Central Document, which is focused on agricultural modernization.

Compared with the United States and many South American countries that have freely adopted GM technologies, China has shown a marked reluctance to do so.

Though there is no evidence that GM crops harm human health or the environment and most Chinese know little about these technologies, they seem overwhelmingly to regard them with great suspicion. ([China Daily](#))

China looks to young entrepreneurs to drive its innovation economy

Creativity and innovation will become drivers of growth as China looks to young entrepreneurs to steer it away from an investment-led model. As economic growth slows and the property sector cools, the mainland is relying on more people (...) to be creative and brave enough to turn their ideas into profitable businesses. The government hopes these eager young entrepreneurs will help transform the economy into one centred on innovation.

China is managing expectations of its economy by describing slower growth as the "new normal", drawing a line under the 10 per cent-plus growth rate of the past three decades. ([SCMP](#))

China Warns Against 'Western Values' in Imported Textbooks

Meeting in Beijing with the leaders of several prominent universities, Education Minister Yuan Guiren laid out new rules restricting the use of Western textbooks and banning those sowing "Western values."

"Strengthen management of the use of original Western teaching materials," Mr. Yuan said at a meeting with university officials, according to Xinhua, the state news agency. "By no means allow teaching materials that disseminate Western values in our classrooms." On Jan. 19, the leadership issued guidelines demanding that universities make a priority of ideological loyalty to the party, Marxism and Mr. Xi's ideas. ([NY Times](#))





China to bolster 3D printing industry

China will boost its 3D printing sector to help domestic enterprises master core technology and compete abroad, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) said on Saturday [27th February].

The government will help establish a primary industry for the sector by 2016, it said. The ministry also plans to set up an industrial association and to build five or six research centers. ([Xinhua](#))

Voices & opinions

Minister: Internet economy has become main driving force of China's economic growth

"Over the past year, China has made striking achievements in Internet development. The number of Internet users reached 649 million. There are more than 4 million websites; thee-commerce transaction exceeded 13 trillion yuan, and Chinese companies take four positions in the world's top 10 Internet companies. Internet economy has become the main driving force of China's economic growth", said Lu Wei, Minister of Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC).

Lu said that 2014 is the first year of China's comprehensive deepening reform. The year also witnessed the rapid development and deep international integration of China's Internet. China has set up the Office of the Central Leading Group for Cyberspace Affairs, with President Xi Jinping as the leader.

China is willing to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with other countries to exert the power driven by Internet innovation, promote the "One Belt One Road" strategy, share and govern cyberspace, to better provide services for the world, especially the developing countries. ([People's Daily](#))

China's innovation system and the Chinese dream

China must continue to grow and develop if its future is to be secure. According to the report delivered by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012, innovation has been increasingly acknowledged as a crucial tool and key driver to achieve this goal. Obviously, the government of China has clearly recognized that innovation must be a vital determinant in China's future success and its ability to realize Xi's Chinese Dream.

As President Xi and CEOs like Jack Ma have noted, in order to win the innovation game, China needs to attract the best talent from all over the world.



In addition, international cooperation should not be disregarded in the course of implementing innovative policy. It is not contradictory to both introduce foreign technology and encourage innovation. The key to balancing this relationship is to find new approaches to cooperation.

Some alternatives such as talent exchanges, rather than technology purchases, should be encouraged. By 2011, the number of foreign experts who were working in China has sharply increased from 10,000 to 530,000. These experts provide enormous assistance for China's modernization. (China.org.cn)

Science study trips and experiment kits gain popularity in China

As middle-class parents strive to foster their children's curiosity and scientific inquiry, businesses providing science experiments and demonstrations are burgeoning in China.

Five-to-eight year-olds carefully repair fossils using tiny tweezers under microscopes, observe and sleep around gigantic dinosaur skeletons, before getting up in the morning to make sandwiches that imitate earth's geological layers.

The one-night, hands-on science experiment, run weekly at the Paleozoological Museum of China, is one of the projects a Beijing educational company is offering little budding scientists.

Eyeing a rising number of middle-class parents who dislike exam-oriented education and instead value "learning by doing" and early science investigation, Beijing Mcreate Education & Technology Co. Ltd was established in 2012 to tap into youth science education, a barely developed market in China at the time. (China Daily)

Thematic Activities

Health

Myopia A Middle-Class Disease?

In one of the largest population-based studies ever conducted on nearsightedness in children, researchers have discovered that lower-income students in China have better vision than their middle-class counterparts.

Globally, 13 million children worldwide—about half of them in China—are visually impaired because of poor sight not corrected by glasses or other means, according to the World Health Organization. With those factors in mind, research teams have been scrambling to find an answer to the Asian "school myopia" crisis.

To manage this public health issue, multiple Chinese government agencies and universities, together with experts from Stanford University, have undertaken





several large studies on childhood myopia. In 2012, they examined vision in nearly 20,000 fourth- and fifth-grade students: 9,489 students in Shaanxi, a middle-income province, and 10,137 students in Gansu, the second poorest province in China.

The findings include the following: The prevalence of clinically significant myopia in the middle-income province of Shaanxi is almost 23 percent, nearly twice that of the lower-income province of Gansu, which has a 12.7 percent prevalence rate of myopia.

Living in the middle-class area was associated with a 69 percent increased risk for nearsightedness, even after adjusting for other risk factors, such as time spent reading, outdoor activity and whether the student's parents wore glasses. Higher math scores were associated with increased myopia in all children while nearsightedness was less prevalent in males overall. ([Asian Scientist Magazine](#))

Chinese scientists identify six new leprosy gene variants

Chinese scientists have identified six new genetic predispositions for leprosy, which will inform treatment research.

A research team, from the Shandong Provincial Institute of Dermatology and Venereology in east China, over the course of four years worked with institutions from Singapore, the United States, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

"The establishment of the model makes early diagnosis of leprosy a possibility and is the first step to translating our findings into practical technology," said Zhang Guocheng, executive deputy director of the dermatology and venereology control center with the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. ([China Daily](#))

Year of the Sheep brings hope to heart patients

A ventricular assist device (VAD) implanted in a group of sheep has been working well and the next step is clinical tests, Chinese researchers said.

Co-developed by the No. 18 Institute of China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology and Tianjin's TEDA International Cardiovascular Hospital, the third-generation VAD, known as "Rocket Heart", was launched in 2009.

It went into animal testing at the end of last year and no signs of abnormality have been reported.

Chronic heart failure has become one of the most common and life-threatening cardiovascular diseases. There are approximately 80 million patients globally of which 16 million are in China.

Lack of donor hearts is responsible for a long waiting list of patients requiring transplants. ([China Daily](#))



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* * *

Food, agriculture & fisheries, biotechnology

China Sets up First High Security Bio Lab

China completed its first high level biosafety laboratory after more than a decade of construction. The lab, based in Wuhan, capital city of central Hubei Province, will be used to study class four pathogens (P4), which refers to the most virulent viruses that pose a high risk of aerosol-transmitted person-to-person infections.

Its completion was hailed by the country's top science think tank as crucial in the fight against epidemics such as Ebola. Launched after the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003, the lab was jointly built by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Wuhan municipal government. Most of its technology and equipment was imported from France, which cooperated closely with China in its design.

The lab is important for China's public health defense system, said CAS president Bai Chunli. ([CAS](#))

* * *

Information & communication technologies

End of China's 'Silicon Valley'

Beijing Zhongguancun E world was one of the largest shopping centers in Zhongguancun with one billion in sales revenue and 10 million customers annually. It has decided to cease its electronic products retailing operation, and turn into office building for IT companies. It was the second shopping center selling electronic products to abandon retailing business completely and turn into office building in Zhongguancun. ([China Daily](#))

Apple's Biggest Rival In China Sold Out Its New Phone In Just 3 Minutes

Asia is an increasingly important market for Apple, which has made remarkable headway in South Korea because of the larger size of the iPhone 6 and the 6 Plus. It now threatens to unseat Samsung as the market leader in the country. And Apple is poised to announce that, for the first time, it sold more iPhones in China than it did in the US in the past year.

That's why Xiaomi's success is a big deal. China is now essentially Apple's primary market. Apple is also doubling down on its retail presence in the country. Xiaomi says it doesn't intend to enter Western markets for "a few years," but it is



creating handsets that directly compete with Apple's devices and, arguably, that perform better than them. ([Business Insider](#))

China's Great Firewall Is Rising

After Chinese regulators blocked Astrill and several other free and paid-subscription virtual private networks (VPNs), leaping China's Great Firewall — a popular term referring to the complex web of censorship that fences in the Chinese web — has become more difficult. Experts discuss how netizens have reacted to the block, whether they will accept such a limited Internet, and how this latest web tightening will affect Beijing's attempt to project a positive image to the world. ([Foreign Policy](#))

Clouds Over China

Three clouds forming over China are worthy of consideration – the technology cloud, customer cloud, and the entrepreneurship cloud.

Technology Cloud. Cloud computing is one of biggest recent IT trends, and has now reached critical mass. In 2014, for the first time, the majority of IT workloads were processed on the cloud versus the traditional dedicated IT workspace (51% versus 49%). The market for both cloud computing hardware and services is growing in excess of 40% each year, and is now over a \$250 billion market globally. (...)

Customer Cloud. The number of technology users – both companies and individuals – in China has grown dramatically in recent years. (...) The explosion in Internet users, particularly mobile users, is a critical springboard for a new wave of economic activity and growth in China. Mobile payment systems, such as Alipay, are catalysts for the digital economy to flourish.

Entrepreneur Cloud. Jack Ma, the CEO of Alibaba, and Lei Jun, the CEO of Xiaomi, are not only successful businessmen in China.

As one views the economic landscape of China, there are many clouds, but the clouds differ dramatically. Some are the remnants of previous waves, and are beginning to fade. Some are growing in strength and getting larger every year. The economic benefits from these new clouds are just beginning to rain across China, which in the coming years will quite possibly result in another wave of Chinese economic growth and prosperity. ([Forbes](#))

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Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials & new production technologies

World's tallest 3D-printed building showcased in China





It may come as a blow to the construction industry, but the era of 3D-printed buildings could soon be enabling safer, cheaper, and more sustainable building practices.

A Chinese engineering and design firm has unveiled the world's tallest 3D-printed building - a five-storey residential apartment block made from recycled construction materials. ([ScienceAlert](#))

Optical Technique Captures Real-time Diagnostic 3-D Images

Researchers from Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M), the Chinese Academy of Sciences and other institutions are developing a technique which makes it possible to obtain diagnostic, three-dimensional images in real time. This enables scientists to rapidly discover the mechanism of many processes, ranging from how a fruit fly develops to whether a biopsy was correctly performed. ([CAS](#))

Shenzhen named as top 5 start-up hub, Hong Kong nowhere in sight

China's southern boomtown of Shenzhen could be the "Silicon Valley for hardware makers", according to a ranking of emerging start-up hubs around the world by well-respected US magazine Inc.: "Shenzhen is increasingly attracting startups that may have previously only outsourced their manufacturing here. It has become a global magnet for hardware companies eager to learn from the world's biggest (and often best) manufacturers of mainstream electronics." Other world cities filling out the Top 5 were Istanbul, Turkey; Tallinn, Estonia; Santiago, Chile; and Dubai. ([SCMP](#))

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Environment (including climate change, conservation and biology)

New plankton species discovered in South China Sea

Chinese scientists have discovered a new plankton species in the South China Sea, sources with the South China Sea Institute of Oceanography under the China Academy of Sciences said on Monday.

The new species lives in the water of 1,500 to 2,600 meters deep. It feeds on organic detritus, and is fluorescent, said Yin Jianqiang, a research fellow with the institute.

The species was found in trenches near the Nansha Islands, an area with high tropical maritime biological diversity. ([People's Daily](#))

Gov't Efforts to Provide Clean Water for Rural Areas Fall Short



On January 29, central government ministries including the Ministry of Water Resources, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the National Health and Family Planning Commission held a meeting to assess efforts to improve water quality in rural areas during an official five-year planning period that ended this year.

A survey (...) carried out late last year found that only 38 percent of the people living in rural areas had access to clean tap water; the rest got water from wells or rivers and lakes. Moreover, most of the facilities to provide tap water that were built in rural areas are not properly maintained and lack quality control systems. ([Caixin](#))

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Energy

Shale gas exploited in North China

A six-meter-high industrial gas flow was discovered at a shale gas well in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, marking a breakthrough in shale gas development in North China, local authorities said Sunday [15th February].

The well, based in coal-rich Ordos City, is 3,568 meters deep. The maximum daily gas flow of the well is 50,000 cubic meters and has a daily production capacity of 19,500 cubic meters, according to the regional land and resources department. More than 87 percent of the shale gas discovered at the well is methane, making it a potential high-yield well, according to the department.

Shale gas is a natural gas that is found trapped within shale formations. As a clean and efficient energy source, its importance is growing globally. ([People's Daily](#))

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Transport (including aeronautics)

China's Beidou gets infrastructure boost on Qinghai-Tibet plateau

Precision service infrastructure for China's Beidou satellite navigation system will be built on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau as part of efforts to create a nationwide base station network for high precision navigation and positioning by 2018. The infrastructure is critical to practical navigation and includes base station networks, data processing, broadcasting systems and user terminals, which together will help provide more precision services.

Currently, Beidou owns 20 satellites. The system began to provide precision positioning, real-time navigation, location reporting, precise time reading and



short message services for users in China and the Asia-Pacific in December 2012. The government aims to make it a global system by 2020. ([China Daily](#))

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Socioeconomic sciences & the humanities, archaeology & paleontology

Scientists uncover prehuman jawbone in Taiwan

The National Museum of Natural Science in Taiwan has unearthed a jawbone from an ancient human ancestor in the Pescadores trench off the western coast of the island.

According to a team of scientists, the jawbone, of an adult Pescadores primitive, is between 190,000 and 450,000 years old and presumably older than Zuozhen man, the ancestor of aboriginals on the island.

By virtue of the abundant natural resources in Taiwan, Pescadores primitives retained most features of the Homo Erectus, an extinct species of early man that lived throughout most of the Pleistocene era. ([China Daily](#))

Largest Known Muntjac Deer Found In China

Scientists have discovered a new species of muntjac deer, *Euprox grandis* sp. nov., the largest muntjac deer found to date. The study documenting the finding has been published in the journal *Zookeys*. Muntjac, also known as barking deer, are the oldest subfamily of deer. The *Euprox* genus existed in the Miocene period (5 to 23 million years ago) and was discovered in Germany in 1928. Several species of *Euprox* have been reported in China, but only based on rare or fragmentary fossils where the skull was not found associated with antlers. ([Asian Scientist](#))

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Space

Chinese astronomers spot brightest, biggest black hole

A research team led by Chinese astronomers has discovered the most luminous supermassive quasar, a shining object produced by the black hole, ever found in the distant universe.

According to a new study published in the British journal "Nature" on Thursday [26th February], the quasar is 12 billion times the masses of the Sun and 430 trillion times brighter than the Sun. The black hole, which is 12.8 billion light



years from Earth, was first spotted through a 2.4meter telescope in Lijiang in southwest China's Yunnan Province and its existence was confirmed by follow-up studies in the United States and Chile.

"We were so excited when we found such a luminous object just 9 million years after the Big Bang," said lead author Wu Xuebing of Peking University in Beijing, adding that it will challenge theories on how black holes form and grow. ([People's Daily](#))

China tests new carrier rocket's power system

Chinese scientists have completed a ground test on the power system of the country's next-generation carrier rocket which may fly as early as next year.

Scientists test-fired the engines of Long March-5, which uses non-toxic and non-polluting liquefied propellant, on a ground facility to test "coordination and reliability" of the power system, the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense (SASTIND) said on Monday [9 February].

The Long March-5 rockets, designed for the final chapter of China's three-step - - orbiting, landing and finally returning -- lunar program, and for the launches of future space stations, will have a payload capacity of 25 tonnes to low Earth orbits, or 14 tonnes to geostationary transfer orbit.

A test flight for Long March-5 has been scheduled in 2016 from China's Hainan province, the SASTIND said. ([China Daily](#))

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People & Higher Education

Peking University president named

Lin Jianhua was named the 27th president of Peking University on Sunday [15 February].

Lin, a chemist who served as president of Zhejiang University since June 2013, succeeds Wang En'ge, who led PKU for less than two years.

Lin, 59, unlike his processors, spent nearly 30 years at PKU before rising to the presidency. After spending five years in Germany and the United States, from 1988 to 1993, conducting postdoctoral research, Lin returned to PKU as an associate professor in 1993. He was appointed president of Zhejiang University in June 2013 and held that post until returning to lead PKU.

The presidency of PKU is a vice-minister-level position. The future of Lin's processor Wang En'ge, a physicist, 58, has not been announced, though he is said to be a candidate to lead the Ministry of Science and Technology. ([China Daily](#))



Portrait of Xi selected as test for university candidates

More than 12,000 undergraduate candidates applying to the art school of Beijing University of Technology were asked to sketch a portrait of President Xi Jinping. The test has attracted quite a lot of attention. The portrait, with a possible 200 points towards the final mark in the three-day examination that also consisted of coloring and literary sketches, required students to use pencils or charcoal only on the paper aligned vertically. (China.org.cn)

Premier Li Keqiang visits makerspace in Shenzhen

Premier Li Keqiang visits Chaihuo Makerspace in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, on Jan 4. A makerspace is a place where innovators gather to share resources and knowledge to build things. The Premier stressed the important role innovation plays in the development of the Chinese economy. (English.gov.cn)

Campus crackdown on 'Western values'

An ideological crackdown in China's universities, promoting Communist Party allegiance and slamming any adherence to 'Western values', accompanied by a heightened suppression of freedom of speech, has fuelled concerns about the future of higher education, academic freedom and liberal academics in the country.

At a late January gathering of university chiefs, including the heads of the country's top institutions, Peking and Tsinghua universities, Education Minister Yuan Guiren urged a tightening of control over textbooks that spread 'Western values'. ([University World News](http://UniversityWorldNews))

The Pursuit of Beauty

Yitang Zhang is a solitary, part-time calculus teacher at the University of New Hampshire who received several prizes, including a MacArthur award in September, for solving a problem that had been open for more than a hundred and fifty years.

The problem that Zhang chose, in 2010, is from number theory, a branch of pure mathematics. Pure mathematics, as opposed to applied mathematics, is done with no practical purposes in mind. It is as close to art and philosophy as it is to engineering. "My result is useless for industry," Zhang said. Zhang's problem is often called "bound gaps." It concerns prime numbers—those which can be divided cleanly only by one and by themselves: two, three, five, seven, and so on—and the question of whether there is a boundary within which, on an infinite number of occasions, two consecutive prime numbers can be found, especially out in the region where the numbers are so large that it would take a book to print a single one of them. ([New Yorker](http://NewYorker))





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Research Infrastructures

Science and business forum launched

Tongji University has launched a research to business platform offering tailor-made development and managerial training sessions to scientists and management teams.

Organized by the School of Economics and Management's International Executive Development Program (SEM-IEDP), the inaugural three-day event allowed scientists and senior businesspeople from the pharmaceutical, cosmetic, traditional Chinese medicine and food supplement industries to gain a better understanding of each other's operating models, driving values, constraints and ambitions.

Representatives from institutions such as Institut Pasteur of Paris in Shanghai, Spruson & Ferguson Shanghai and Hangzhou Tigermed Consulting Co attended the opening session and discussed topics such as intellectual property protection. ([China Daily](#))

Eisai Expands Facilities In Suzhou

Eisai China Inc. (ECI), a subsidiary of Japanese pharmaceutical company Eisai, has decided to build a new oral solid dose (OSD) production facility at the site of its new Suzhou plant located within the Suzhou Industrial Park. The new facility will expand its existing OSD production facility within the same industrial park. ECI has been producing OSD products such as Methycobal, Aricept and Pariet for the Chinese market at the old plant. ([Asian Scientist](#))

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International S&T relations

Beijing language university to 'set up Tokyo campus'

A Beijing university famous for teaching Chinese to foreigners is to open its first overseas campus in Tokyo. One of the reasons behind the move is that air pollution is deterring Japanese students from studying in the Chinese capital, the news agency Kyodo reported.

The venture by the Beijing Language and Culture University will open in April in Ikebukuro, a commercial district of Tokyo. Students in Japan will be able to obtain the same degrees and diplomas as in Beijing.



The Tokyo campus will be the first Japanese venture by a Chinese university since Tianjin University of Traditional Chinese Medicine set up a school in Kobe in 2006. ([SCMP](#))

Argentina approval building of Chinese satellite tracking station to help missions to moon

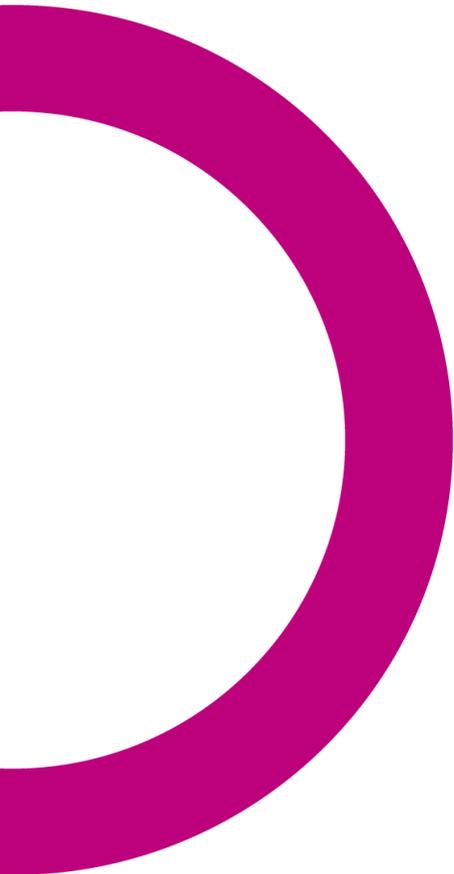
Argentina's Congress has approved the installation of a Chinese satellite tracking station in the South American country's Patagonia region.

The measure passed in the lower house with 133 votes in favour and 107 against. Opposition lawmakers questioned the possible military use of the base and a tax exemption that will benefit the station for 50 years.

President Cristina Fernandez's government has said the project is part of China's plans to reach the moon in 2020.

The satellite station under construction in southern Neuquen province is China's first outside the country for its space exploration programme.

It will be used for monitoring and downloading data through an antenna with a 35-metre diameter. It is expected to cost US\$300 million and will be operational next year. ([SCMP](#))





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About this newsletter

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

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