

2015  
August  
Issue 64



euraxess  
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

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## EURAXESS LINKS CHINA

Dear colleagues,

We hope you had a splendid summer. We're now entering September - arguably the most pleasant time of the year, at least for those of us based in Beijing. This September will be also rich in exciting events in the world of EU-China research collaboration.

This month's [EU Insight](#) concerns a recently published report from the European Parliament on strategies in higher education internationalisation around the globe, with a particular focus on Europe. In a special [In Focus](#) section we look at the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. "[Meet the Researcher](#)" presents you Dr Snežana Krstič, Chair of the Marie Curie Alumni Association. This interview contains very useful information for those who are former fellows of this prestigious EU funding programme, as well as those who are considering to apply in the future.

Furthermore, we bring you more information about our recent activities: [EURAXESS Science Slam](#), EU-China Research and Innovation Tour events in Shenyang, Harbin and Changchun, and upcoming EURAXESS Share: [Science Lunch with ERC Vice-President](#) at Peking University.

Our [News](#) and [Grants and Fellowships](#) sections contain our latest round-up of the most important developments and opportunities.

We hope you do enjoy reading our newsletter, and always welcome your feedback.

EURAXESS Links China



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# 1 EU Insight – Internationalisation of Higher Education in Europe

***“The internationalisation of higher education has been influenced by the globalisation of our economies and societies and the increased importance of knowledge...it is driven by a dynamic and constantly evolving combination of political, economic socio-cultural and academic rationales.”***

This statement succinctly captures the tone of a recently published (end of July 2015) report by the European Parliament’s Committee on Culture and Education entitled *Internationalisation of Higher Education*, which comments on factors currently influencing higher education globally, but in particular within Europe.

## **The report**

*Internationalisation of Higher Education* is the end product of a large-scale study focused on not only understanding, but more so, scrutinising



internationalisation strategies utilised within higher education systems around the world. The study, commissioned by the European Parliament and conducted by a consortium of Europe-based researchers,<sup>1</sup> carried the specific aim of addressing the different forms internationalisation strategies take on and, more importantly, *what* such strategies *should aim to achieve* as a way of helping different regions, nations and institutions within Europe meet new education and societal demands. A secondary aim of the study primarily focused on informing future EU policy.

Using a mixed-methodology of two quantitative surveys and a Delphi panel (a qualitative forecasting method where experts are interviewed for their opinions on future outcomes related to a specific subject/set of questions), the study sought out to provide answers to the following questions:

- 1) *How can 'internationalisation' be understood in the context of higher education, and what strategies are being pursued globally in this regard?*
- 2) *How far and by which means is the European Union and its Member States responding to the challenges of internationalisation?*
- 3) *What are the perspectives of future development, and which recommendations can be made both for policy makers and higher education institutions?*
- 4) *Should national governments and/or the European Union play a more active role in the development, supervision and coordination of national/European internationalization policies?*<sup>2</sup>

To further address these questions, researchers also examined 17 different national reports—10 from within Europe and 7 from without, to gain a sense of the various approaches and rationales guiding global higher education internationalisation strategies. Countries examined within Europe included Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain and the UK. Such a focus intentionally looked beyond the “big three” of England, Germany, and France, which so often dominate internationalisation studies and discussions. Non-European countries examined by the study included Australia, Canada, Colombia, Japan, Malaysia, South Africa and the USA, with the intentional of introducing regional diversity into the assessment.

#### **What *is* internationalisation in the context of higher education, anyway?**

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<sup>1</sup> The consortium was comprised of researchers from the Centre for Higher Education Internationalisation (CHEI, Milan), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan), International Association of Universities (IAU) and the European Association for International Education (EIAE).

<sup>2</sup> De Wit Hans, Fiona Hunter, Laura Howard, Eva Egron-Polak. *Internationalisation of Higher Education*. European Parliament. (2015).



Upon reading the report one learns that the internationalisation of higher education, while a relatively new phenomenon in-and-of-itself, is “both broad and varied”, meaning that it lacks any sort of unified global form. And yet while broadly different, commonalities do exist across national approaches, primarily in the form of features like: visibility and reputation (combined with increased competitiveness); competition for talented students and scholars; a divide in strategy between short-term economic gains or long-term economic development and soft power, or a mixture of short and long-term objectives; increased strategic partnership development; more attention to employability and/or social engagement.<sup>3</sup>

Within Europe, the internationalisation of higher education is not new. The process stretches back at least 30 years, beginning with the ERASMUS programme and followed by the Marie Curie Fellowships. Yet, like many internationalisation strategies, these efforts have a heavy focus on short or long-term and many of the other features mentioned above. But what does this all actually mean in terms of next steps?

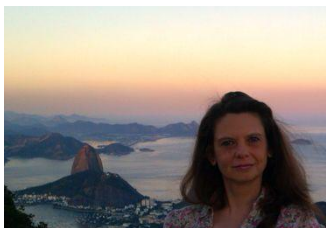
According to *Internationalisation of Higher Education*, a key next step for policy decision makers is to recognise that the end goal for post-secondary education in Europe cannot simply be internationalisation. Rather, emphasis must be shifted towards quality (in this case curriculum and learning outcomes for students and staff), and not be based on economic rationales. While still of value, mobility as a motor of internationalisation must also be rethought, in order to shift the nature of mobility opportunities from being only open to a selected elite, to being a component common to all higher educational experiences. As such, a new definition of internationalisation delivered by the report is to recognise it as “the *intentional* process of integrating an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, functions and delivery of post-secondary education, *in order to enhance the quality of education and research for all students and staff, and to make a meaningful contribution to society.*”<sup>4</sup>

For more information regarding the report’s findings, discover more on how the questions behind the study were answered, and to learn about additional policy recommendations, please click [here](#).

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> O’Malley, Brendan. “Internationalisation should be for all—Landmark Study”. *University World News* (Global Edition), 377. 14 August 2015. <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20150814220104557>



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B.Sc., M.Sc., and PhD from University of Belgrade where she has started her academic career. She has been actively involved in activities related to the European research and higher education policies for many years, particularly in activities related to the mobility and professional development of human resources in research. Several years of experience in media, communicating issues related to environment, science, society, policy and innovation. Invited speaker at numerous European and international conferences and workshops, cooperating with European Commission, UNESCO, EU Presidency Events, World Science Forum, EU Committee of Region, EUA, NISTEP (Japan), Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Germany), and many other distinguished organisations and teams. She holds several international and national awards for scientific achievements and excellence. Her Marie Curie grant experience was undertaken in the CERN School of Computing.

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## 2 In Focus: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

### Interview with Snezana Krstic, Chair of the Marie Curie Alumni Association

#### **Snezana, tell us about your research background and interests**

I am a chemical engineer, but my research background is quite multidisciplinary with a broad interest in issues at the intersection of science, policy, society and innovation. I was involved in research activities as an undergraduate, when I worked on an “intelligent” system for separation of multicomponent liquids, which was of particular importance for the oil, pharmaceutical and petrochemical industry. I continued with issues related to solid waste management and environmental management. My PhD was related to electro-deposited metal powders and particle modelling. Generally, alongside my research career several cross-cutting issues were always present, such as applied informatics and (mathematical) modelling which were also part of my teaching activities at the University of Belgrade, policy analysis and environmental subjects. Engagement in European research and higher education policies has also resulted in scientific and policy analysis contributions related to the internationalisation of higher education and the mobility of researchers. My recent research activities are related to responsible research and innovation and, more precisely, to research integrity, as well as to the multidisciplinary and policy aspects of societal challenges.

#### **Marie Curie – now Marie Skłodowska-Curie under Horizon 2020 - is a prestigious European funding scheme. How did you learn about it?**

Indeed, the Marie Curie Actions are well-known as one of the most prestigious schemes supporting mobility of researchers across and outside of Europe. These opportunities are widely promoted through conferences, the Internet and brochures. However, the strongest impression about the programme, its importance and real value I received was when I had the *opportunity to meet Marie Curie fellows and alumni personally*. I remember them as very successful scientists, engaged in many activities important for researchers, European policies and society. Therefore, I had the opportunity to learn many practical details about Marie Curie Actions and the benefits that it brings to researchers' careers.

#### **What are the most significant benefits you derive as a Marie Curie Fellow in terms of work and networking?**



#### Useful links

Marie Curie Alumni  
Association – MCAA

<https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu>

MCAA [Facebook](#) page

MCAA sign-up page for MSC  
fellows to join the association

<https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/user/register>

**Membership of the MCAA is free of charge**, and open to any past or present Marie Curie researcher;

Marie Skłodowska Curie  
Actions (MSCA) – European  
Commission's website  
providing all relevant  
information regarding the  
Marie Skłodowska-Curie  
programmes, fellowships,  
calls and applications

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/actions/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/actions/index_en.htm)

**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions** have different types of programmes and provide mobility opportunities suitable for researchers with different career paths and professional experiences. One important benefit is that they (the Actions) provide excellent working conditions, with paid social security and pension contributions, and various opportunities for training and professional development.

My Marie Curie grant experience was undertaken in the CERN School of Computing, where I had the opportunity to learn from an outstanding team of professionals and to meet and cooperate with excellent researchers from different parts of the world. Particularly important for me was that I had the opportunity to gain knowledge beyond my scientific field which was particularly useful for my interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary orientation and engagements.

In my view, establishment of the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) has provided additional possibilities to amplify benefits that MSCA bring in terms of networking and career development.

#### **Are there any tips that you would like to give to prospective Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) candidates?**

My tip is to trust in their achievements and talents and apply for the grant, even if they are at the very beginning of their research careers or coming from afar and small countries which might not be recognised as having strong support for science. Another tip is for scientists to consult the MSCA website, identify programmes suitable for their career stage or career path and find relevant host institutions. It is important to understand that the MSCA grants offers excellent opportunities to cooperate with and gain research experience also in non-academic sectors (industry, business sector). Finally, a tip which may be particularly useful for early stage researchers is to regularly follow MSCA open positions announced on the EURAXESS website and directly apply. This option may be easier for prospective candidates who find it difficult to identify suitable host institutions before their application.

#### **You also hold the MCAA chair position. Could you tell our readers more about the association and its objectives?**

The Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) is an international non-profit organisation based in Brussels gathering together researchers who have benefited or are still benefiting from the European Commission's prestigious **Marie Skłodowska-Curie** research programmes. The association was established in November 2013, when we held the first General Assembly. Although we are supported by EU funding, we have a truly international character with members in all parts of the world. We also have established many **regional chapters around the world**. Membership is free of charge and open to all fellows and alumni, regardless of the type of MSCA grant received, length of mobility periods, nationality, scientific discipline or current occupation.

Our objectives are oriented toward developing, promoting and harnessing the outstanding potential of our community. We encourage networking, cooperation and mutual understanding amongst our members from different countries,



sectors of the economy and scientific disciplines, providing additional possibilities for career development and professional growth. Our objective is also to foster global relationships within the global research and innovation community, with particular attention paid to our Marie Curie experience. We aim to highlight accomplishments and excellence of our members by supporting existing and creating new opportunities for dissemination of their outputs. Besides, we have more operational goals and some of them are related to promoting the values of the Association.

### **Why did you decide to promote your experience as MSCA fellow?**

MSCA programmes bring many benefits to their fellows and we believe that our experience can be very valuable for young or experienced researchers who look for funding instruments with attractive employment conditions to support their careers and mobility, both internationally as well as between different sectors. This experience can be also useful for prospective host institutions, in academic or industrial settings, for the policy sector, national authorities or international community beyond Europe which may have limited knowledge about European programmes. Finally, it represents the contribution to the society from science.

### **Tell us more about the local chapters in EURAXESS Links regions (ASEAN - encompassing Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, Brazil, China, India, Japan and North America)?**

The MCAA allows its members to establish chapters on their own initiative and according to their own motivation to cooperate with other members from the region and contribute to the aims of the association. For this purpose, we open official calls and depending on the quality of the proposed working programmes, we also financially support their activities within the limits of our budget. Currently we have chapters in India, the USA (California), and ASEAN (it should be noted that our ASEAN does not correspond exactly to the EURAXESS Links ASEAN). Besides, we have an informal group of China fellows which in the future may decide to establish an official China chapter. I believe that members from other mentioned countries could be also motivated to establish their chapters in the near future.

### **What would you say to local Marie Skłodowska Curie fellows, past and present, to encourage them to join the MCAA association?**

MCAA offers many benefits to its members – opportunities for professional development, networking and cooperation, information on employment opportunities, financial support - which we call Micro-grants - for career development purposes of individual members. We also provide our members possibilities to promote their work and achievements, among fellows and also to large and respected audiences at events organised by ourselves or other organisations, including the European Commission. We work to establish partnerships with various organisations, businesses and other bodies for the benefit of our members. Finally, belonging to a vibrant community of researchers recognised for their outstanding accomplishments and openness

Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) – European Commission's website providing all relevant information regarding the Marie Skłodowska-Curie programmes, fellowships, calls and applications

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/actions/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/actions/index_en.htm)



for new ideas and cooperation is, in my view, a great reason to join the community.

**If a Marie Curie (Marie Skłodowska-Curie) fellow in any of these countries would like to join MCAA, where should she or he start from?**

They should visit our website ([www.mariecurialumni.eu](http://www.mariecurialumni.eu)), find Sign-up button at the right upper corner and complete the registration form.

**What are your plans to the future?**

Growth and development in all directions – creating more opportunities for MCAA members, establishing partnerships and fostering fruitful connections with various organisations and the business sector, and actively contributing to important activities in European, international and local settings.

**Thank you for your time!**

You are welcome! It was a great pleasure to cooperate with the EURAXESS Links team and I am particularly glad that had opportunity to visit recently Brazil and meet the Brazilian research community.

## About the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA)

2014-2020 budget: 6.162 billion euro.



Watch the MSCA video [here](#).

The *Marie Skłodowska -Curie Actions* are **European grants** offered to **researchers at all career stages** and encourage **transnational, intersectoral and interdisciplinary mobility**.

The expected impact of the MSCA in Horizon 2020 includes the support of ~65,000 researchers, including 25,000 PhD candidates, ~200,000 scientific publications in high impact peer-reviewed journals, and ~1,500 patent applications.



Figure 1: The global reach of the MSCA programme.



Figure 2: Overview of the different funding schemes under the Marie Skłodowska Curie actions

Organisations from whatever sector and country can participate in MSCA projects. However, Chinese organisations are not eligible to direct funding.

The different funding schemes within the MSCA are shown in Figure 2:

Innovative Training Networks	<b>ITN</b>	Support for doctoral and early-stage training Training Networks, Industrial Doctorates, Joint Doctorates
Individual Fellowships	<b>IF</b>	Support for experienced researchers undertaking international and inter-sector mobility: European Fellowships and Global Fellowships Dedicated support for career restart and reintegration
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange	<b>RISE</b>	International and inter-sector cooperation through the exchange of staff
Co-funding of programmes	<b>COFUND</b>	Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes: - doctoral programmes - fellowship programmes

## MSCA - What's in it for Chinese researchers?

1. **Innovative Training Networks (ITN)** is the main European doctoral training programme, putting a special emphasis on the non-academic sector participation and the innovation dimension.

**Chinese research institutions:** This action is meant primarily for organizations such as universities, research centres or companies, that propose a research training network. Chinese organizations can join the consortia to submit a proposal (annual calls).

**Chinese researchers:** can apply to the PhD positions created by these networks, including Industrial Doctorate and Joint Doctorate. They are advertised on the [Euraxess Job portal](#).

2. **Individual Fellowships (IF)** are for experienced researchers to undertake their own research project at a host organisation in another country, thus gaining new skills through advanced training and possibly intersectoral mobility.

**Researchers based in China** can apply for a European fellowship, choosing to apply either for a re-integration grant or a scientific grant.

**Researchers based in Europe** can apply for a global fellowship to carry out research in a third country such as China and return to Europe. They can also apply to a European fellowship for mobility within the [EU or associated countries](#).

Calls are annual and advertised on the [Horizon 2020 Participant Portal](#).

3. **Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)** enables international and intersectoral collaboration, based on short-term staff exchanges between

A MSCA IF [call is currently open](#) and will close on **10 September 2015**.



organisations worldwide. The RISE programme is the successor programme of the previous IRSES under FP7.

**Chinese research institutions** can join a consortia as partner, but can't receive direct funding from the European Commission for the secondment of their researchers.

**4. Co-Funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)** calls are open to European research institutions and is thus not relevant for Chinese research organisation. It results in many high-quality fellowship or doctoral programme positions which include transnational mobility and are advertised on the Euraxess portal.

**Chinese researchers** can apply directly to COFUND positions advertised on the [EURAXESS job portal](#).

Sources: EURAXESS Links Network newsletter, [Issue 5](#), April 2014; [Come to Europe brochure](#); [Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions \(MSCA\) – European Commission's website](#).

## EURAXESS Links China is seeking Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellows!

Are you a former Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow? Do you currently live in China? You want to share your experience and earn a travel grant to take part in EURAXESS events?

Contact us by email [china@euraxess.net](mailto:china@euraxess.net) to discuss collaboration opportunities and help us promote the European Research Area.

## 3 EURAXESS Links Activities

### 3.1 EURAXESS Science Slam: News

On [www.scienceslamchina.com](http://www.scienceslamchina.com), you can now find a new section “**Hall of Fame**” that introduces last year's EURAXESS Science Slam finalists, as well as a few other famous slams across the world. Have a look if you are looking for inspiration on how to creatively communicate your research and compete for a trip to Europe!

You can also find “**Frequently Asked Questions**” that give you all details on what a Science Slam is, about the criteria, tips and techniques on how to slam.





On 22 August, we've also had a regional pre-round of the Science Slam in Shanghai in cooperation with We Love Science/我们爱科技 science festival in Shanghai. The winner has become the first finalist to compete for a trip to Europe in Beijing's grand finals. We'll still looking for the rest!

### 3.2 EURAXESS Share: Science Lunch with ERC Vice-President

The *science lunch* with Vice-President of the European Research Council (ERC), Prof Núria Sebastián Gallés, will take place at Peking University (Global Village) at 11.30 on Tuesday, 8 September 2015.

**The ERC is the top European funding body supporting frontier research in all scientific disciplines.** In addition to an update about ERC missions and funding opportunities by the ERC Vice-President herself, the lunch will feature other experienced speakers, recipients of prestigious European and Chinese grants, who will share their perspectives on how to build a research career between China and Europe. **The event will be a casual lunch break that will also enable networking over a buffet-style lunch.**

In addition to the ERC Vice-President, psychologist Prof Sebastián Gallés, three accomplished researchers from diverse disciplines – ERC-funded linguist Yiya Chen, sociologist and recipient of Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship Prof Dongchao Min, and PKU-based astronomer Prof Richard de Grijs - will share their personal perspectives on how to advance your research career with EU and Chinese funding.

As such, the *science lunch* will include practical information on how to apply for EU grants (European Research Council, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship) as well as a discussion on Sino-European mobility. It will be a unique opportunity to discuss funding available to researchers at PKU in an intimate setting. It will allow information exchange and networking.

Our speakers will introduce tips and advice as well as discuss perks and challenges of European funding, research collaboration, mobility and talent exchange between Europe and China.

The event is primarily targeting PKU researchers and research administrators from all research fields and of all nationalities, but this invitation also extends to members of EURAXESS network from other institutions. ***Walk-ins will be possible but we suggest you pre-register with us to secure your spot at lunch as places are limited.*** Send us an email on [china@euraxess.net](mailto:china@euraxess.net) with your name and institution.





### 3.3 EURAXESS at 2015 Research and Innovation Tour in Shenyang, Harbin and Changchun in September 2015

EURAXESS will present at the next stop of the Research and Innovation Tour together with S&T representatives of France, the Netherlands, Austria and EU Delegation at the **Northeastern University in Shenyang** on **9 September 2015**, from 9.30 – 11.30. More detailed programme is available on the [EU Delegation's website](#).

Events in Changchun (22 September) at Harbin (23 September) will follow. Information will be available on the dedicated [R&I Tour website](#).

## 4 News & Developments

### 4.1 EU & Multilateral Cooperation

#### ERC announces its 2016 budget and grant competitions

The European Commission has adopted the ERC Work Programme 2016. The programme, established by the ERC Scientific Council, foresees €1.67 billion for grants to top researchers from anywhere in the world who are ready to come or to stay in Europe to pursue their breakthrough ideas. Within the new series of competitions, the ERC has opened the first one, the call for Starting Grants 2016, with a budget of €485 million and deadline of 17 November 2015. This scheme is open to researchers with 2 to 7 years of experience since completion of PhD and a promising scientific track record.

Full article: [European Research Council](#)

#### 10 European companies named 'tech pioneers'

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has recognised 10 European companies among a class of 49 companies deemed pioneers in technology.

As in previous years, US start-ups dominate, producing 35 pioneers in the fields of IT, life sciences, and energy. There are four winners from the UK, two from the Netherlands and Israel, and single recipients from Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, Taiwan and China.

To be selected as a Technology Pioneer, a company must develop a major technology or innovation with the potential for long-term impact on business and society. In addition, it must demonstrate vision and leadership, and show all the signs of being a long-standing market leader – and its technology must be proven, according to the Forum.

Full article: [Science | Business](#)





## 50 groundbreaking scientists who are changing the way we see the world

Business Insider UK compiled a list of 50 scientists from across the globe who are changing the world for the better. Katrin Amunts, working at Jülich Research Centre (DE) has been nominated for her work on the "BigBrain", which aims to create a 3D atlas of the human brain and should lead to unprecedented insights into the construction and organization of the brain and how it drives our behavior. She is co-leader of the Strategic Human Brain Data subproject.

Full article: [European Commission](#)

See also: [Human Brain Project](#)

## JRC annual conference to focus on building a resilient Europe

The JRC's annual conference will take place in Brussels, Belgium on 30 September 2015. Resilience determines the capacity to successfully deal with difficult events and to adapt and overcome adversity, and in a changing world creates stability, which in turn promotes job creation, economic growth and environmental sustainability. Science plays a key role in this continuous process of building a resilient, stable, competitive and prosperous Europe. The JRC, together with European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC), organises its annual conference bringing together experts, representatives from European institutions and Member States authorities, stakeholders from industry as well as academia addressing a broad audience.

Further details: [JRC](#)



## Tracking Innovation in intelligent transport systems

Intelligent transportation systems (ITS) are all around us: they let us know when the next bus will reach our bus stop, help monitor and manage road traffic and make air travel safer. But how does innovation work at this complex intersection between the transport and the ICT industries? The T-TRANS project found answers and laid the foundations for a European ITS innovation network.

Full article: [European Commission](#)

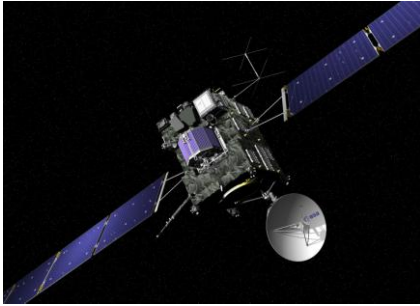
See also: [TTrans](#)

## X-Ray experts export excellence

An innovative high end portable x-ray imaging device is not only revolutionising patient treatment but also giving Europe the opportunity to compete on the world stage in a growing global market for medical technology.



Full article: [EUREKA](#)



© ESA

### What space exploration says about Europe

Far away – more than 102m miles away but moving very fast – the European space probe Rosetta is escorting comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko on its journey to perihelion, its closest approach to the sun. To make this happen, small cabals of scientists from all over Europe, Asia and America had to dream the impossible, formally propose it, argue the case for it, and devise the technology first to make it happen and then to make it worthwhile. Rosetta is a gleaming instance of what Europe collectively can do so well, writes the Guardian in this editorial piece.

Full article: [The Guardian](#)

### EU launches "one-stop-shop" Chinese-language online information platform: [www.oumeng.eu](http://www.oumeng.eu)

As part of the activities to celebrate 40 years of EU-China diplomatic relations, the Delegation of the European Union to China today launched a new online platform aimed at providing a whole range of information about the European Union and its Member States to an interested Chinese audience. The address of the website is: [www.oumeng.eu](http://www.oumeng.eu)

The platform has been created as a "one-stop-shop" to facilitate easy access to indispensable information on key topics of interest for a young audience like travel and visas, universities and scholarships, culture as well as jobs in European companies and embassies. ([EU in China](#))

### European Research Council at ICIAM Congress in Beijing

The International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics Conference took place in August in Beijing. China's Vice President Li Yuanchao stated that the application of mathematics is an important driving force behind the modernization of China, which plays a significant role in the economic development and scientific and technological progress of the country such as the development of the Tianhe-2 supercomputer, or the optimization of the high-speed railway. ERC President Jean-Pierre Bourguignon attended the conference and held subsequent meetings with NSFC on the next steps of the ERC-NSFC implementing arrangement.



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

### **Sweden: Swedish companies shared practices on energy saving**

Investing in energy efficiency is critical to meeting future energy demand and mitigating climate change. It has the clearest impact on saving money, improving business results, and delivering more services for consumers. A workshop on investments for increased energy savings in China was organized in Shanghai on 30 June.

Swedish companies SKF, H&M, Tetra Pak and Volvo Construction Equipment shared their global strategic visions, achievements and challenges in China. ([Sweden Abroad](#))

### **Switzerland: Swiss Day - From higher education, to space science and innovation**

Swiss Day, a promotional program to showcase Switzerland's success in education, science and innovation, was successfully held at Beihang University in Beijing from July 6 to 7. The event attracted about 1,000 visitors, from teenagers to university faculty staff, all of whom were interested in knowing more about the country's competitive advantages in these areas.

The two-day event, launched by the Science, Technology and Education Section of the Swiss Embassy in China in partnership with swissnex China, lifted its curtain on July 6 with a presentation by Professor Claude Nicollier, the first and only Swiss astronaut, on his experience venturing into the space, helping repairing the Hubble Space Telescope and Switzerland's early involvement and major achievements in space exploration. (Swissnews Newsletter July 2015).

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\* Including countries associated with Horizon 2020.



## 5 Grants & Fellowships

### LOOKING FOR FUNDING?

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

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

### 5.1 EU: Call announcements for international researchers

#### EMBO Courses and Workshops

EMBO offers the largest number of life science events in Europe. EMBO Courses & Workshops funds approximately 80 events attracting more than 8,000 participants every year. Funding is available for [Global Exchange Lecture Courses](#) and [practical courses](#), as well as for [keynote lectures](#). [Travel grants](#) support the attendance of participants from countries with less developed scientific infrastructures. EMBO assists the organiser with the design of a poster, set-up of a website and registration system, and with promotion of the event. The consistent high quality and novelty of EMBO Courses & Workshops is ensured through a committee of EMBO Members, which selects the events that EMBO funds. Dedicated scientific organizers guarantee the long-term success of the programme to share research results and train scientists at all career stages. [Click for further details.](#)

#### ERC: Are you an ERC grantee interested in hosting a Chinese researcher on your team? Are you a Chinese researcher, interested in joining an ERC team in Europe?

The ERC/NSFC initiative is the fifth in a string of similar agreements with non-European counterparts of the European Research Council. It is open to active holders of NSFC grants. They can undertake single (6- 12 months) and long-term or multiple short term research visits (e.g. for joint experiments), becoming part of teams led by ERC grant holders in Europe. The first ERC call is expected to be launched in the second half of 2015 and the first Chinese visits will take place in 2016. More information in English and Chinese is available [here](#).

### 5.3 EU: Horizon 2020: 2016 Calls soon to be announced.

The European Commission will soon launch the 2016 calls under Horizon 2020. The three key pillars of Horizon 2020:

- **Excellent Science:** Around EUR 3 billion, including EUR 1.7 billion for grants from the European Research Council for top scientists, and EUR 800 million for Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowships for younger researchers.
- **Industrial Leadership:** EUR1.8 billion to support Europe's industrial leadership in areas like ICT, nanotechnologies, advanced manufacturing, robotics, biotechnologies and space.



- **Societal Challenges:** EUR 2.8 billion for innovative projects addressing Horizon 2020's seven societal challenges, broadly: health; agriculture, maritime and bioeconomy; energy; transport; climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials; reflective societies; and security

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



#### Excellent Science programme

7 open calls including:

European Research Council frontier research grants:

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

[ERC Starting Grant](#) – Deadline **17 November 2015**

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

[MSCA Co-fund](#) - Deadline **1 October 2015**

#### Industrial Leadership

6 open calls (*ALL calls are open to Chinese participation!*):

#### Societal Challenges

13 open calls (*ALL calls are open to Chinese participation!*)

Watch out for the new Work Programmes 2016/2017, to be published in early autumn 2015 ([Click here](#) for *ERC 2016 Work Programme*). If you are in China and want to know more, the *Promoting Excellence: Enhanced EU-China Researchers' Mobility and Collaboration* conference will take place on 7 September at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Information at <http://eu-china-promoting-excellence.eventbrite.com/>



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

### **Czech Republic: 250 Grants Available for Short Research Visits in natural history collection (for European residents)**

SYNTHEsys is an EC-funded project creating an integrated European infrastructure for natural history collections. The SYNTHEsys Office is pleased to announce the third call for applications.

SYNTHEsys (Synthesis of Systematic Resources) Access funding is available to provide scientists (Users) based in European Member, Associate and Candidate States to undertake short visits to utilise the infrastructure (comprising the collections, staff expertise and analytical facilities) **at one of the 18 partner institutions for the purposes of their research**. This is the third of four annual calls for applications during the project's four-year duration.

For a full list of participating institutions please visit [www.synthesys.info](http://www.synthesys.info)

### **Czech Republic: Postdocs for a SoMoPro grant**

CEITEC (Central European Institute of Technology) is looking for postdocs willing to prepare a project proposal to compete for a SoMoPro grant. SoMoPro (South Moravian Programme for Distinguished Researchers) is financed by Region of South Moravia and by Marie Curie Actions (COFUND). For detailed information on SoMoPro click [here](#). Potential topic of the project: Molecular simulations of peptide interaction with phospholipid membranes. Information is on [EURAXESS Jobs](#). Deadline is **15 September**.

### **Estonia: Estophilus Scholarship**

The Estonian Institute offers Estophilus Scholarships to foreign master's or doctoral students, and foreign researchers holding a PhD in order to perform a research stay in Estonia to write a research paper on an Estonian-related topic or to gather material for it. The scholarship is designated to cover subsistence expenses, tuition fees and research costs for a period ranging from five to ten months. The scholarship for a five-month period is EUR 2,500. Knowledge of Estonian is an advantage, but not a requirement. Two calls per year. Next deadline: **1 October**. Further information [here](#).

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\* Including countries associated with Horizon 2020.



### France: PALSE PhD Students Fellowships

PALSE outgoing mobility programme The Avenir Lyon Saint-Étienne Programme (PALSE) supports the outgoing international mobility of PhD students. Outgoing mobility assistance is destined for **PhD students registered at a Université de Lyon doctoral school** who would like to carry out, as part of their doctoral work, a research stay at a research unit located abroad. PALSE funds **3 to 5 month stays** that must take place between January and May 2016. The calls are open to PhD students of all nationalities. Lyon university has preferential partnerships with several universities around the world, among which are the **East China Normal University and the universities of Fudan, Tongji and Jiao Tong in Shanghai**. Application deadlines usually in **early October** (check websites of each doctoral school). Further information [here](#).

### France: Bio Asia - Funding for Internationalization of Sino-French Projects in Biotechnology and the field of Biodiversity

The regional program Bio-Asia is a French initiative directed at Asia in order to strengthen high-level scientific collaboration, as well as to develop a research network for French and regional academic communities in the fields of biodiversity and biotechnologies studies, ranging from the study of natural substances to their applications in agronomy, cosmetics, forestry, health, etc.

BIO-Asia is directed at public or private research units and laboratories attached to higher education institutions, research units or private companies. **It supports project involving France and among other countries also China.**

The subvention, granted for two years, partially funds the budget linked to the internationalization of the projects, i.e. researcher, post-doctoral or doctoral student mobility (travel and mission expenses) or organization of international workshops (mobility and logistics). Other costs are not eligible to funding.

**The deadline for submitting applications is 13 September 2015.** See the call (in English) in [this pdf](#) or visit [their website](#) (in French) for more information.

### Germany: Open Call - 16 PhD Positions in Natural Sciences, Life Sciences, Physics or related fields

The Leibniz ScienceCampus InfectoOptics is offering 16 PhD positions in Natural and Life Sciences. Expected is a Master's degree (or equivalent) in Natural Sciences, Life Sciences, Physics or related fields and very good communication skills in English. Apply until **7 September 2015**.

Information about the individual projects is available at <http://www.jsmc.uni-jena.de/>. **Jena** - City of Science – is a young and lively town with dynamic



business activities, successful scientific centers of innovation and a vibrant cultural scene around the famous Friedrich Schiller University.

See more on the [website of the German Academic Exchange Service \(DAAD\)](#).

### Germany: GEAS-DAAD PhD scholarships (GSSP) in East Asian Studies

GEAS is calling for applications for full scholarships for PhD students, granted by the DAAD GSSP. GEAS is looking for highly motivated and excellent international applicants of the social sciences with a strong interest in institutional theory in East Asia. The scholarships are for all nationalities. More information on [Euraxess Jobs](#).

### Germany: 10-15 re:work Fellowships

Every year the International Research Centre '**Work and Human Lifecycle in Global History**' at Humboldt University in Berlin (**re:work**) invites **senior scholars and postdoctoral candidates** to apply for 10 to 15 international research fellowships for the duration of the following academic year. The fellowships begin on 1 October and end on 31 July (shorter fellowship terms are negotiable). The fellowships require the researchers' presence at the centre. Usually the applications are due in Berlin **by the end of August**.

*re:work* especially welcomes candidates from the disciplines of history, anthropology, law, sociology, political science, and area studies. Applicants should be at the postdoctoral level or senior scholars. To see more information go [here](#) to check out the fellowships.



### Germany: PhD programmes at various Max Planck Research Schools

The Max Planck Institutes and German universities jointly run the International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS). There are 60 IMPRS covering all disciplines: 26 in the Chemistry, Physics and Technology Section, 23 in the Biology and Medicine Section, and 11 in the Human and Social Sciences Section. The PhD programmes are open to **applicants from any country** holding a Master's degree in a relevant field. Proof of English proficiency is a plus, but is not mandatory. Deadlines vary from a school to another: **September – November**. Further information is available [here](#)

### Germany: Science Tour 2016: City of the Future – Research for Sustainable Urban Development

On the occasion of the Year of Science 2016 "City of the Future", launched by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) invites international scientists to learn more about research activities in the area of urban transition, mobility and logistics at



German universities and research institutes. The Science Tour offers German and international researchers the opportunity to discuss current developments with regard to future urban development and to define common areas of interest as starting points for future cooperation.

The Science Tour 2016 is part of the "Research in Germany - Land of Ideas" campaign, initiated by the BMBF in 2006 to strengthen and expand R&D collaboration between Germany and international partners. The tour is planned to take place 31 January - 6 February 2016.

The deadline for applications is **25 September 2015**. [Read the call for applications here](#). [See more about the tour at the Research in Germany website](#).

### **Luxembourg: PEARL funding programme**

With the PEARL funding programme, the Fonds National pour la Recherche (FNR) offers Luxembourg institutions an opportunity to attract established and internationally recognised researchers from abroad in strategically important areas, to accelerate the development and strengthening of Luxembourg's national research priorities. PEARL projects have a lifespan of five years with a financial contribution of between EUR 3-4 million by the FNR. The financial contribution can be used flexibly to implement the research programme at the host institution. **Deadline: 15 October**. Further information [here](#)

### **Italy: TALENTS<sup>3</sup> Fellowship Programmes for Inter-regional Mobility Within Europe (for Europe-based researchers)**

AREA Science Park, with the financial contribution of the European Social Fund within the Operational Regional Programme of Friuli Venezia Giulia region, has developed TALENTS<sup>3</sup> Project, the fourth edition of TALENTS Fellowship Programmes.

The Fellowship Programme TALENTS<sup>3</sup> offers:

**Activity 1: 7 outgoing research grants** to carry out projects at a foreign scientific institution or enterprise developing R&D activities, located in the territory of the EUSAIR (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Greece) or the future EUSALP (Germany, France, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein) macro-regional strategies, with mandatory return to Friuli Venezia Giulia region; the activity is addressed to researchers resident in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region.

**Activity 2: 7 incoming research grants** to carry out projects at one of the scientific institutions belonging to the CER - Coordination Network of Research institutions of Friuli Venezia Giulia or at one of the enterprises established in the regional territory and implementing R&D activities. **In the 1st phase, during year 2015, 4 outgoing and 3 incoming research grants will be granted.**

For year 2015, the Call for Proposals will expire on **October the 8th 2015**, h 3



pm (Italian local time). [Click here](#) to download the Call for proposals and forms. For more information go to the information website of the TALENTS<sup>3</sup> Fellowship Programmes [here](#).

### Norway: High North Programme 2013-2018

The SIU High North Programme supports collaboration between higher education institutions in Norway and institutions in Canada, **China**, Japan, Russia, the Republic of Korea and the United States in order to increase knowledge about the High North. It provides **funds to support student or staff mobility, intensive courses, joint teaching and supervisions, study programmes or degrees**. The programme is open to all disciplines and all levels of education, but must be related to topics such as climate change, the environment, resources, transport/logistics, economy and issues relating to indigenous people. Accredited Norwegian higher education institutions may apply under one of these three categories: - Long term projects: up to NOK 1,5 million for a three year period - Limited project activities: up to NOK 300,000 for a two year period - Preparatory visits: Applicants with a partner in China, Japan or the Republic of Korea may apply for up to NOK 70,000. Deadline **23 September 2015**, more information is available [online](#).

### Poland: New Fellowship Program

**A funding programme addressed to incoming researchers who may apply for 12-24-month fellowships in host institutions in Poland.**

**Applicant:** incoming researcher – a doctoral researcher with a PhD degree or at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience who at the time of recruitment by the host organisation has not resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date. Fellowship duration: 12-24 months. **Researcher receives:**

1. Salary: €4.050 gross/month (full time contract)
2. Mobility allowance: €300 gross/month
3. Family allowance: €300 gross/month
4. Research grant
5. Opportunity to participate in research and non-research training organised by the NCN.

Host Institution receives overheads at a rate of up to 20%.

**The deadline will be 15 December 2015.**

See more information about the [Polish National Science Center at their website](#) and contact details for more info about the call in this [pdf](#).



## Romania: 4 Post-doctoral positions (2 years) within the ERC project on Luxury, Fashion and Social Status in Early Modern South Eastern Europe [LuxFass]

**New Europe College** is one of the South-Eastern Europe's leading institutes for advanced studies, internationally appreciated for its high quality and innovative approach to research. Within the project, **4 post-doctoral positions** will be available for the following themes of research:

1. The luxury goods trade in the Ottoman Empire and the Balkans in the 17th and 18th centuries
2. Regional identities and forms of segregation in Early Modern South-Eastern Europe
3. Social Elites in South-Eastern Europe
4. Fashion and gender in Early Modern South-Eastern Europe. For more information please contact the Scientific Assistant of the ERC Project, Nicoleta Roman: [nroman@nec.ro](mailto:nroman@nec.ro). The application file should be sent by **15 October, 2015**. More information is available [on the official website](#).

## Slovakia: National Scholarship Programme (Incoming and Outgoing)

The National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic (NSP) supports study/research/teaching/artistic mobility of **foreign students, PhD students, university teachers, researchers and artists** toward higher education institutions and research organisations in Slovakia. The scholarship shall cover scholarship holders' living costs during their 1 to 12 months stay in Slovakia with an allowance of up to EUR 1,000 per month. It also supports outgoing mobility of students and PhD students studying at Slovak higher education institutions to selected countries (including Japan). Two calls per year. Next deadline: **31 October** Further information [here](#) (incoming and outgoing), [here](#) (incoming PhD students) and [here](#) (incoming university teachers, researchers, artists)

## United Kingdom: Hong Kong-Scotland post-doctoral scholarship scheme

British Council Scotland is pleased to support the Scottish Government and the Hong Kong Research Grants Council post doctoral funding initiative aimed at stimulating and strengthening academic and research links between Scotland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The scheme is running for the third year.

The aim of this initiative, which is managed by the British Council, is to foster academic links between Scotland and Hong Kong, enabling experienced researchers to conduct cutting edge research in each other's country.

Up to 10 awards are available in the 2015/16 financial year to researchers who are in employment in either a Scottish university or research institution or a Hong Kong University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institution. The 10





awards available will be divided equally between researchers based in Hong Kong and Scottish universities.

**Applications are welcome from researchers in the following research areas:**

- (a) Renewable and new energies
- (b) Healthcare and life sciences
- (c) Sustainable development
- (d) Economics and finance

**The closing date for applications is 22 October 2015.**

See more information on the [website of the British Council](#)

### **United Kingdom: Workshop opportunity and call pre-announcement - UK-China Antimicrobial Resistance Initiative**

The British Medical Research Council (MRC), the British Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the British Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) have announced that they will shortly be launching a call for research proposals focusing on antibacterial resistance.

[Read more about it here on MRC's website.](#)

The UK contribution to this call will be channeled from the Newton Fund. The objective of this Newton Fund call will be to deliver significant 2-3 year research funding for internationally competitive and innovative collaborative projects between researchers from China and the UK that will allow the pursuit of shared research interests.

Before the call is announced the funding agencies will hold **a joint workshop**. This will take place on 24-26 November 2015 in Shanghai, China, with the aim of scoping and refining the call topic. It will also offer an exciting opportunity to bring UK and Chinese researchers together to further understanding of the antibacterial resistance research landscape within the two countries and provide opportunities for networking. Researchers who do not participate in the workshop will not be precluded from applying to the call. *It is currently anticipated that the call will launch in early December 2015 (following the workshop) with a deadline for applications in mid-February 2016.*

**How to apply to attend the workshop:** MRC, BBSRC and ESRC invite expressions of interest from UK based academic experts who would be interested in attending the workshop in Shanghai, China on 24-26 November 2015. Reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be covered by the research councils. There are a limited number of spaces available. We will therefore only be able to invite one academic per research group. Having an existing collaboration with China is not a prerequisite for attending the workshop.

If you would like to attend this workshop, please fill in the [Expression of Interest form \(DOCX, 24KB\)](#) and submit to: [international@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk](mailto:international@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk)





Please only submit an application if you are available on the dates above and able to travel to China. Inability to attend the workshop will not preclude you from being able to apply to the call when announced.

BBSRC, ESRC and MRC will jointly agree which applicants should be invited to the workshop. An equal proportion of attendees from each participating Research Council's remit will be selected.

The closing deadline for expressions of interest is **6th September**.

### United Kingdom: PhD Placements and Supervisor Mobility Grants China-UK

Grants to sponsor PhD students and their supervisors from the UK and China to spend a period of study of between three and 12 months (for PhD students) and up to three months (for supervisors) at higher education institutions in China or the UK. Placements must start between January and December 2016.

These grants are a part of the UK-China Joint Research and Innovation Partnership Fund (known in the UK as the [Newton Fund](#)) was established at the UK-China Summit in 2013. The Fund provides an important framework towards promoting increased research and innovation collaboration between the UK and China supporting long-term, sustainable partnerships and the economic growth of both countries. **Deadline for applications** - 23:59 pm GMT on **10 October 2015**. See more information on the [website of the British Council](#).

### United Kingdom: Newton International Fellowships to support early career international researchers from China

The Academy of Medical Sciences, in partnership with the Royal Society and the British Academy, is offering Newton International Fellowships to support early career international researchers from partner countries.

This scheme is currently open to applicants in China, India, Mexico and Turkey, closing **9 September 2015**.

For further information please contact [newton-international@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:newton-international@acmedsci.ac.uk)

These awards will enable talented early career post-doctoral researchers from partner countries (with no more than seven years' active full time postdoctoral experience) to spend two consecutive years undertaking research at a host university or research institution in the UK, enabling them to benefit from an extended period within a first class research environment in some of the UK's best universities. The award will be made for two consecutive years and provide a stipend, research monies, and basic relocation costs. Get more information about the scheme on the website of the [British Academy of Medical Science](#).





### United Kingdom: Advanced Fellowships

The Royal Society and Academy of Medical Sciences are accepting applications to their *Newton Advanced Fellowships*. The Fellowships provide established international researchers 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. This award is open to international early career group leaders to develop their research by linking them with some of the best research groups in the UK.

The competition closes on **16<sup>th</sup> September**, for details and eligibility requirements see [here](#) for the Royal Society Fellowships and [here](#) for the Academy of Medical Science Fellowships.

### United Kingdom: Applications for 2016/2017 Chevening Scholarships now open in China (Master's degree)

Chevening Scholarships are accepting applications for 2016/2017 via [www.chevening.org/apply](http://www.chevening.org/apply) from 3 August until **3 November 2015**.



Chevening Scholarships are awarded to individuals with strong academic backgrounds who also have demonstrable leadership potential. The scholarship offers financial support to study for a Master's degree at any of the UK's leading universities and the opportunity to become part of an influential global network of 44,000 alumni. There are approximately 1,500 Chevening Awards on offer for the 2016/2017 academic cycle. These scholarships represent a significant investment from the UK Government to develop the next cohort of global leaders. Visit [www.chevening.org](http://www.chevening.org) and [www.cheveninginchina.cn](http://www.cheveninginchina.cn) for detailed information on the eligibility criteria and award specifications. For further information, please contact: [Chevening.Beijing@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Chevening.Beijing@fco.gov.uk)

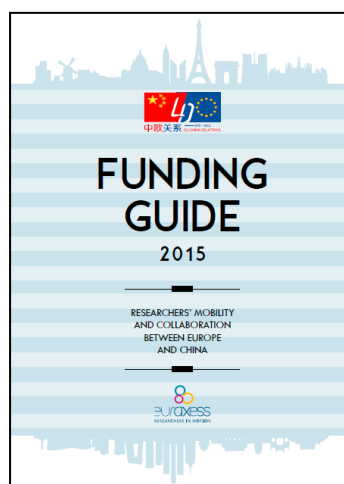
### United Kingdom: Imperial College London Junior Research Fellowships

Applications to this scheme should be submitted before the deadline of **14 September 2015**. Imperial's prestigious Junior Research Fellowships sustain the brightest and best early career researchers from across the world, providing a level of commitment and support that is rare from a UK university. This support gives you the freedom to focus on your research and career trajectory, with no obligatory teaching or administration. More information on [ICL's website](#).



## 5.5 Calls still open

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



### EURAXESS Funding Guide

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

### Other open calls

**Europe: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship. H2020-MSCA-IF-2015 – Individual Fellowships (IF) – European and Global – is closing on: 10 September 2015.** [Details and all application documents are on the Participant Portal.](#)

**Looking for a host (for this year or next)?** Check [500 expressions of interest from Spanish Institutions](#), or see some offers from [Irish](#) or [German](#) host institutions. The following institutions are keen on hosting a MSCA fellow. See their offers below:

#### **Bulgaria: 6 offers from Bulgarian Academy of Sciences**

See offers [this linked document](#). To know more on **MSCA IF** calls that will close on 10 September 2015 [click here](#).

#### **Israel: 5 offers for hosting a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellowship**

See the offers in [this linked document](#).

#### **Poland: MSCA (Individual Fellowship) - Offer from Collegium Civitas**

In [this linked document](#) is a MSC Hosting offer from Collegium Civitas in Warsaw, Poland.

#### **Poland: MSCA (Individual Fellowship) - Offer from University of Silesia in Katowice – Particle Physics**

[Find a MSC Hosting offer from The University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland.](#)

#### **Romania: Valahia University of Târgoviște**

In [this linked document](#) there is a MSC Hosting offer.

#### **Europe: CERN Postdoctoral Fellowships Open For Chinese Nationals**

Deadline: **15 October**. Further information [here](#).

**Europe: EUI Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellowships**

Largest international postdoctoral programme in the Social Sciences and Humanities in Europe. **Deadline: 25 October.** Further information [here](#)

**Europe: Jean Monnet Postdoctoral Fellowships**

Deadline is **25 October**. More information is available [online](#).

**Europe: FEBS Return-to-Europe Fellowship**

**Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS)** Return-To-Europe Fellowships are awarded to support outstanding scientists. Deadline **1 October**. Details are on [FEBS](#) or [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

**Europe: FEBS (Federation of European Biochemical Societies) Long-term Fellowship**

Deadline: **1 October**. Info is available on [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

**China: PIFI – Presidential International Fellowship Initiative**

The PIFI program is available for **four categories** of international researchers and students: A. distinguished scientists, B. visiting scientists, C. postdoctoral researchers and D. international PhD students. Information in English is available [online](#). Applications for categories A, B or C must be submitted through the main host institution affiliated to CAS. Applications submitted by individuals will NOT be accepted. Annual application deadline is **September**.

**France: AgreenSkills fellowships (co-funded by the EU)**

The next submission deadline for applications to AgreenSkills and AgreenSkills+ is on Saturday the **14 November 2015**. **Learn more** [here](#).

**Israel: The Government of Israel Scholarship**

The deadline is **30 November 2015**. [Click here](#) to find out more information and download application forms.

**Germany: Find a Position at a Leibniz Institute**

The Leibniz-Gemeinschaft offers various positions, for PhD students, junior professors, researchers or engineers. Check out if your field of research is available. Click on [this link](#) to check it out.

**Spain: Ikerbasque Research Professors Call 2015**

**Deadline: 10 September 2015.** For further information: [www.ikerbasque.net](http://www.ikerbasque.net)

**Spain: AMAROUT-II Europe Programme**

Energy, Food, Materials, Nanoscience, Networks, Software, and Water. **The call is open until 30 September.** Further information [here](#).

**Netherlands: Rubicon Programme**

Several calls per year. **Next deadline: September.** Further information [here](#)

**Portugal: FCT Investigator**

The funding is up to 5 years. Deadline is **15 September** – all information is available [online](#).

**United Kingdom: STFC Ernest Rutherford Fellowships**

**Deadline: 24 September.** Further information [here](#)

**United Kingdom: PhD at University of Warwick (Chancellor's International Scholarships)**

Length of funding: up to 3.5 years. [More information at the website of University of Warwick.](#)

**United Kingdom and China: Partnership Innovation Challenge**

The call is **now open for applications** from all UK organisations involved in international education. For more information about how to apply, eligibility and further guidance, visit [this website](#), or send e-mail to [partnershipfund@britishcouncil.org.cn](mailto:partnershipfund@britishcouncil.org.cn). The deadline is **16 October 2015**.

**China: NLPR Overseas Visiting Fellowships in Pattern Recognition****1. Visiting Professor (2-3 persons/year)**

Visiting Period: 1-2 weeks. Application Deadline: **Flexible**.

**2. Visiting Scholar (5 persons/year)**

Application Deadline: **October 31**

**3. Visiting Student (5 persons/year)**



Two deadlines per year: 20 April and **20 September**.

Visiting Period: No shorter than 2 months

All information with contact details and application forms can be found on [CAS website](#).

#### **Austria: Erwin Schrödinger Fellowships**

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

#### **Austria: Franz Werfel Grant and Richard Plaschka Scholarship (Austrian Literature and History)**

Next deadline: **15 September**. Further information [here](#)

#### **France: Ifremer 2015-2016 Post-doc grants in Marine Sciences**

Deadline: **10 September 2015**. Further information is [online](#).

#### **France: Connect Talent**

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

#### **France: Institut Pasteur: Doctoral Doctoral Grants**

For more information, visit [online](#) website or contact: [boursesRIIP@pasteur.fr](mailto:boursesRIIP@pasteur.fr)

#### **France: Institut Pasteur Roux-Cantarini Posdoctoral Fellowships**

**Next deadline: 10 September** Further information [online](#).

#### **Germany: Applications for German Chancellor Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation open**

The next application round for the German Chancellor Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is open.

You can apply online until **15 September 2015**. More information on the German Chancellor Fellowship is available at [www.humboldt-foundation.de/youngleaders](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/youngleaders).

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

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

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

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

**Germany: PhD Programmes at the International Max Planck Research Schools**

**Deadlines** vary from a school to another: **September – November**. Further information [here](#)

**The Netherlands: NWO VISITORS TRAVEL GRANT**

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

**Portugal: Grants for Sabbatical Leave.**

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

**Sweden: VINNOVA: VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming Fellowships**

Next deadline: **16 September 2015**. Info is [online](#).

**Sweden: STINT's Teaching Sabbatical**

Deadline is **16 September**, see more information [here](#).

**Switzerland: Swiss National Science Foundation: International Short Visits**

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

**Turkey: CO-FUNDED Brain Circulation Scheme's 4th Call**



The deadline is **21 September**. Get more information [here on the programme's website](#).

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

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

**The UK: Wellcome Trust's Collaborative Awards in Science**

Preliminary closing date for next round of applications is **21 September 2015**. See [more information](#).

**Estonia: Government Scholarships**

More information on the scholarships are available [portal](#); the list of international programmes is [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](#)
- [Study in Estonia Portal](#)

## 6 Jobs

There are more than **10,000** research jobs available on EURAXESS Jobs. Access thousands of job and fellowship announcements in Europe and worldwide on the [EURAXESS Jobs portal](#). You can sort jobs by country, level of seniority, field or research or via free text searches.



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



## 6.1 Jobs in Europe and China

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

In addition to [EURAXESS Job Portal](#), which collects different job opportunities for researchers from all over Europe, you might be interested in taking a look at website of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions research fellowship which has a section called *Jobs for you*. Example of jobs posted recently are a position of a Early Stage Researcher in Spectroscopy of fluorinated Peptides and Peptidomimetics, PhD fellowship in synaptic physiology and a PhD position in fisheries management at Norwegian College of Fishery Science.

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

### Netherlands: 15 positions in Marie Skłodowska-Curie ITN SUSPLACE

The objective of SUSPLACE is to train altogether 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESR) in innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to study sustainable place-shaping practices. The SUSPLACE-approach will provide insight into how to utilize the full potential of places and communities for development, help to build capacities of people to engage in place-shaping processes and strengthen connectivity between policy-makers, academics, businesses and civil society. SUSPLACE is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Innovative Training Network (ITN), funded by the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020.

The 15 individual research projects are divided along five interconnected research themes: inclusive, resilient and connected places, greening economies, and pathways to sustainability. SUSPLACE brings together 6 university partners and 7 non-academic partners in six European countries (the Netherlands, the UK, Latvia, Belgium, Finland, Portugal). Full information is on [EURAXESS Jobs](#).



### **Iceland: 12 PhD Candidate positions in Adaptation to a New Economic Reality (AdaptEconII), University of Iceland, University of Stockholm and University Blaise Pascal**

**Twelve PhD studentships in environmental economics** for Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) are available at the University of Iceland (Reykjavik, Iceland), University of Stockholm (Stockholm, Sweden) and University Blaise Pascal (Clermont Ferrand, France). This is a **Marie Curie Initial Training Network** where students will obtain a **joint PhD** from two of the participating universities. In addition, each Early Stage Researcher will have a training period in a collaborating institution in the UK (New Economics Foundation; Schumacher Institute), Sweden (Swedish National Defence College) or Germany (Wuppertal Institute; Organization for Research in Business Economics- GWS). The training is in the frame of the H2020 as part of the ITN network and the AdaptEconII project.

This is an exciting training opportunity based on the observation that the present economic model of permanent growth is unstable and leads to cycles of growth, peaks and crashes. The training programme will contribute to developing new economic thinking based on knowledge of global resource availability. The Adaptation to a New Economic Reality (AdaptEconII) project is divided into three research themes: (1) Sustainable resource management; (2) Integrated economic systems assessment; and (3) Integrating society and economics. More info on [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

### **Portugal: 8 Positions at New Media and Pervasive Systems PhD Programme**

The increasing Internet pervasiveness as communication and social media is changing the daily routines of today's Information Society. The impact of this active participation is the consequence of two fundamental principles of Informatics Sciences: i) a fast-paced evolution of Internet services and architectures; ii) a wider interaction and immersion of the Internet user, as integrating part of these services, and technologies. NEMPS has as main goal to train individuals within the context of Informatics Sciences and has a total minimum duration of 3 consecutive years, full time, and a maximum duration of 4 years. Research field: Computer Science. More information is available on [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

### **Lanzhou, China: Research Position at Materials for Biotribology Group at LICP**

The materials for biotribology research group at the Lanzhou Institute of Chemical Physics (LICP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) focuses on the design and preparation of materials for biotribology, study on the



properties and theories related to these materials. Doctoral degree in mechanical design, material science, biomedical engineering, biomaterials, polymer materials, computational science or theoretical physics is a prerequisite, along excellent English skills and age under 35. The deadline is **31 December 2015**. More information is [online](#).

### **Harbin, China: Positions at Harbin Engineering University**

Harbin Engineering University is recruiting overseas personnel in the following fields: Physical Sciences, Computer Sciences, Electrical/Electronic Eng, Engineering, Information Technology, Materials Science, Mathematics, Physics, Polymer Science. For more information, [visit this link](#). Deadline is **11 September**.

### **Xi'an, China: Chair Professor + Junior Faculty Positions at Frontier Institute of Science and Technology (FIST)**

Frontier Institute of Science and Technology (FIST), a 4-year old research institute at Xi'an Jiaotong University (XJTU), has quickly grown into one of the best known multi-disciplinary research institutions in China. Its success owes to its high-quality faculty recruited from all over the world. FIST cordially invites applicants to fill new openings for **10 Chair Professor positions, and multiple junior faculty positions**, covering a wide range of inter-connected fields including Physics, Mathematics and Information Science, Materials Science, Chemistry, Life Science, Medicine, and Applied Sciences, etc.

An **eligible applicant for Chair Professor position** should be an internationally renowned scientist with outstanding publication record. An **eligible junior faculty candidate** should have a track-record for excellence in research and potential to become a young leader of his/her field. The applicant can be considered for professor, associate professor or lecturer. More information is [online](#). Deadline **7 September!**

### **Nanjing, China: Nanjing Normal University Recruitment Program for Domestic and Overseas Scholars**

Nanjing Normal University is recruiting overseas personnel in the following fields: Architecture, Urban and Rural Planning, Landscape Architecture, Environmental Science and Engineering, Municipal Engineering, Civil Engineering, Material Science and Engineering, Public Management, History and other related disciplines. The university offers up to 1 million RMB annual salary + housing and start-up funding. More information is available [online](#), the offer expires on **15 September**.



## 6.2 Other EU Research Jobs Portals

### EU

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

### Jobs Portals in Member States and Associated Countries:

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

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

A large, bright yellow circular graphic element, possibly a stylized letter 'C' or a partial circle, is positioned on the left side of the page. It is a solid, vibrant yellow color and occupies a significant portion of the left margin.

<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess>



The European Roadshow gives students and young researchers tips on how to improve CVs, take professional profile pictures, find out about visa formalities and participate in interactive sessions such as workshops, conferences and round-table discussions.

If you are currently in Europe, join the EURAXESS tour and take the first step to a successful research career. More info [here](#).

## Beijing, China: EU-China Cooperation on the Internet of Things

The Internet of Things (IoT) is defined as a dynamic global network infrastructure with self-configuring capabilities based on standard and interoperable communication protocols where physical and virtual “things” have identities, physical attributes and virtual personalities, use intelligent interfaces and are seamlessly integrated into the information network.

IoT has moved from being a futuristic vision to an increasing market reality both in China and Europe. In this context, the EUCTP II will contribute to a three day event dedicated to EU-China IoT cooperation in Beijing from 31 August until 02 September 2015. This activity will have the support of market stakeholders to sketch recommendations for a joint action plan. Following the first two conferences organized in October 2014 and April 2015 in Shanghai and Lyon, the exchanges will provide important input for the EU-China Information Technologies, Telecommunications and Informatisation Dialogue. Priority themes to be addressed will include IoT global opportunities as identified in the context of **eHealth, smart cities, and industrial IoT applications under the topic Industry 4.0.** ([EU in China](#))

## 7.2 Upcoming scientific events in Europe and in China

Field	Date	Location	Title (click for more details)
<b>Events in Europe</b>			
Life Sciences	5-8 September 2015	Birmingham, the UK	<a href="#">6<sup>th</sup> EMBO Meeting</a>
Food Safety	14-16 October 2015	Milan, Italy	<a href="#">Shaping the Future of Food Safety, Together</a>
Innovation Policy	19-20 October 2015	Barcelona, Spain	<a href="#">Innovation for Growth</a>
Research Policy	26- 27 November 2015	Brussels, Belgium	<a href="#">Voice of Researchers</a>



Events in China			
Life Sciences	14- 18 September	Suzhou	<a href="#">Molecular Basis of Aging and Disease</a>
Neuroscience	18-21 September	Beijing	<a href="#">13th International Symposium on Neural Transplantation and Repair</a>
Green energy	24- 26 September	Xi'an	<a href="#">The 5th Low Carbon Earth Summit</a>
Genomics	22-25 October 2015	Shenzhen	<a href="#">The 10th International Conference on Genomics</a>
Materials	18-21 December 2015	Shenzhen	<a href="#">The 2nd International Conference on Advance Materials Research and Application (AMRA 2015)</a>

## 8 Press Review\*

### 8.1 Policy & Papers

#### Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Calls for Accelerating Clarifying Rural Land Property Right

Chinese Academy of Social Sciences released the 4th of August in Beijing, "China Urban and Rural Integration Development Report (2014-2015)" that among other things calls to the Chinese government to establish a unified construction land market. Faced with the issues of urban and rural areas institutional mechanisms of land for construction, local government rely financially on land and building violations of law. A unified market could accelerate the process of clearing up rural land property rights and establish ways to return the land rights of rural collectives back to farmers. ([chinanews.com](http://chinanews.com) – in Chinese).

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### China investing big in scientific research

China's National Natural Science Foundation has funded 37,606 programs with an investment of 18.35 billion yuan (about 2.87 billion U.S. dollars) since the start of 2015, accounting for 80.2 percent of this year's funding plan.

President of the foundation Yang Wei said scientific research funds have been better directed this year, and project leaders who received the investment are getting younger with 43.14 percent under 40 years old.

The foundation is a major funding source focusing on basic scientific research and frontier scientific exploration. It has cooperated with 78 overseas natural science organizations and R&D funding agencies in 39 countries. ([Xinhua](#))

### Zhongguancun International Startups Festival

The first Zhongguancun International Startups Festival kicked off in Beijing's Haidian district, in the hope of developing a Davos-like forum for innovators and startups in the capital's Internet hub.

"This is the first time that Beijing is hosting a global innovation affair like this, which will benefit the city in terms of gathering global resources for innovation and extending our level of opening-up," said Guo Guangsheng, deputy secretary-general of the Beijing municipal government.

The festival features a competition involving around 1,000 startups from China, the United States, Israel, Europe and Latin America. After more than seven months, 21 startups entered the finals on Tuesday. Prizes include \$1.5 million in cash awards and \$25 million in investment funding sponsored by Shengjing, one of China's largest management consulting and private equity investment advisory firms.

"I hope the festival will develop the Zhongguancun brand, like a Davos forum for startups and innovators," Guo said. ([China Daily](#)).

## 8.2 Voices & opinions

### Senior CPC Official Calls for Innovation-driven Development

A senior Communist Party of China (CPC) official called on the country's top scientists to innovate in economic and social development.

Liu Yunshan, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks at a meeting with 54 scientists and experts who are enjoying a state-sponsored summer vacation at Beidaihe, a popular northern seaside resort near the capital.

Entrusted by President Xi Jinping, Liu extended greetings and good wishes to the scientists and experts. Liu encouraged them to adapt themselves to the country's economic development, follow up with advanced technology and contribute to China's sustainable development.



Liu urged them to focus on new types of industrialization, digitalization, urbanization and agricultural modernization as well as the Belt and Road initiative, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei development strategy and the Yangtze River Economic Belt.

Stressing the importance of cultural innovation, Liu urged them to be confident of socialism, Chinese culture and values. Liu said specialists should carry forward the tradition of pursuing truth and pragmatic spirit, practice socialist core values and be role models for young talented people. Liu reiterated that CPC committees at all levels should improve management and incentives for talents and create a better environment for scientific development and innovation.

Academics attending the meeting included members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, industrial experts and university professors.

Since 2001, more than 800 experts in various fields have been invited by the central authorities to summer vacations in Beidaihe. ([CAS](#))

### **Chinese VP Urges Technological Cooperation at Int'l Applied Math Congress**

Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao said Monday (*10 August*) the nation's technological development can benefit from the cooperation with foreign scientists.

Li made the remarks when delivering a speech at the opening ceremony of the 8th International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM).

Li said the Chinese government supports international exchanges and cooperation in science and technology, adding China will work with other nations to boost the development of industrial and applied mathematics.

The vice president stressed that China's innovation-driven development strategy and new type of industrialization have created opportunities for the development of science and technology, including mathematics.

He urged Chinese scientists to conduct academic exchanges and cooperate with foreign counterparts in research as well as contribute to the progress of science, technology and civilization. ([CAS](#))

### **IoT cloud service should be left to the third party providers**

There are two types of founders of smart hardware products startups: traditional electronic hardware engineers with little experience in software development, and Internet software engineers with no knowledge in hardware. Smart hardware, on the other hand, is an industry combining both hardware and software. Entrepreneurs are likely to find it frustratingly inefficient if they decided to do everything on their own. ([SJTU ParisTech Review](#))



### **The Gates Foundation In China: Where Funding Healthcare Innovation Is Serious Business**

Dr. Ray Yip, country director of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in China, shares the triumphs and challenges of working with the Chinese government to provide better public health solutions in China. ([Asian Scientist](#))

## **8.3 Thematic Activities**

### **Health**

#### **The Cost-Effectiveness Of Treating Hypertension In China**

An expanded program of treatment for hypertension could prevent about 800,000 cardiovascular disease (CVD) events every year in China, according to a modeling study published in PLOS Medicine. The predictions of this simulation, led by first author Dr. Gu Dongfeng from the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, indicate that such a program should also be borderline cost-effective, provided low cost essential anti-hypertensive drugs are used. ([Asian Scientist](#))



#### **Differentiating Spine Fate: A Novel Role for Cadherin/Catenin Complex during Spine Pruning**

In a recent study published online in Cell, entitled “Coordinated spine pruning and maturation mediated by inter-spine competition for cadherin/catenin complexes,” Dr. YU Xiang’s research group at the Institute of Neuroscience, Chinese Academy of Sciences, demonstrated a novel mechanism through which the pruning and maturation of dendritic spines in the developing brain are coordinated by the cadherin/catenin cell adhesion complex.

Our brain consists of approximately 100 billion neurons, interconnected through synapses to form an enormous network and responsible for our sensation, motion, memory and emotion. Most excitatory synapses in this network are located on structures known as dendritic spines. The number of dendritic spines rapidly increases in early life, (...) during the transition through adolescence, spine numbers decrease significantly. (...) Nevertheless, the molecular mechanism mediating this fascinating process is still poorly understood. ([CAS](#))

#### **Shanghai university scientists deliver insulin microneedles patch**

Scientists from Shanghai Jiao Tong University have made a breakthrough in the design of a microneedles patch, which will more effectively deliver insulin to patients with diabetes.

The idea for an insulin microneedles patch was first raised in 1998, and it is an alternative to traditional insulin injections for diabetes treatment. Such painless



patches were seen as liberation for patients who fear needles but need regular injections.

Over the years, many kinds of insulin microneedles patches have been developed, but they still face various problems. For example, in using the dissolving polymer microneedles patch, the polymer on the needles often deposited on the skin, making it not suitable for long-term and frequent use. ([China Daily](#))

### **'Evolutionary Fitness' Key in Determining Why Some Females More Physically Attractive Than Others**

International collaboration co-ordinated by the Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing has been trying to discover why there is a link between body fatness and perceived physical attractiveness. The study, which was funded by the National Science Foundation of China and involved researchers from 10 different institutions around the world, was published August 25 in the journal *Peer*.

To test their idea, the scientists built a model that predicted that people would perceive females with a body mass index (BMI) of between 24 and 24.8 as being the most physically attractive as it is the most likely to result in a maximum number of offsprings. Surprisingly that didn't turn out true. In all the populations, males and females rated physical attractiveness of the female images very similarly: The very thinnest images with body mass index of around 19 were rated as most attractive.

This suggests that we find thinness in females so attractive because we equate it with youth - a BMI of 17-20 corresponds to the average BMI of a young 18-20 year old with maximal fertility and minimal risk of future disease. ([CAS Newsroom](#)).

## **Food, agriculture & fisheries, biotechnology**

### **More valuable than gold, but not for long: genetically-modified sea cucumbers headed to China's dinner tables**



By genetically modifying the white sea cucumber, a Chinese delicacy for thousands of years with a price per gram higher than gold, the researchers have opened the door to the mass production of the animals for the first time. Sea cucumbers are soft bodied creatures commonly found on the ocean beds. White cucumbers are due to rare mutations that only occur once in every 200,000 individuals. "Albino" sea cucumbers cannot pass the trait to their offspring, and often die young due to the lack of camouflage to protect against predators.

But the high price tag and alleged health benefits were not the ultimate drive behind the research, lead scientist Yang Hongsheng told the *South China Morning Post*. "They may hold the key to solving many mysteries of marine



biology,” said Yang, deputy director of the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Oceanology in Qingdao. Sea cucumbers exhibit a number of bizarre behaviours uncommon in the animal kingdom; they can hibernate in summer, eject and regrow their intestines, and – at the end of their decade or so on earth – release a chemical to dissolve their bodies, leaving no trace. This covert form of death is not found in any other species. ([SCMP](#))

### **Structural and Functional Analysis of Plant Photoprotective Protein PsbS**

In romantic literature, every relationship – even true love – is said to comprise love and hate without exception. This law also goes for nature, as evidenced by the “love-hate relationship” between plants and sunlight. On the one hand, plants absolutely must receive sunlight in order to undertake photosynthesis. On the other hand, excessive sunlight causes irreversible damage to the photosynthetic machinery of plants.

To reduce or avoid such photooxidative damage, plants have evolved an efficient photoprotective mechanism called energy-dependent quenching (qE). Under high light conditions, the lumenal pH of plant thylakoid drops from 6.5 to 5.5–5.8, leading to the activation of PsbS, a photosystem II protein embedded in the thylakoid membrane. The activated PsbS then initiates qE, enabling plants to safely dissipate excess light energy as heat.

The essential role of PsbS in qE was reported in 2000. However, its pigment-binding properties are still controversial, and its mechanism of action remains elusive. Therefore, solving the three-dimensional structure of PsbS has been long awaited in the photosynthesis field. Four years ago, CHANG Wenrui’s group at the Institute of Biophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, embarked on the structural investigation of PsbS to elucidate the mechanism of PsbS action in qE. ([CAS](#))

### **All certified GM foods on market 'are safe'**

All certified genetically modified foods that are sold on the Chinese market are safe, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

China has established a safety supervision system that covers the complete chain of GM products, including research, production and trading, the ministry said.

The ministry will cooperate with other departments to improve legislation concerning GM products and their testing technologies to ensure the safety of GM products, the ministry said in a reply to a March proposal by 10 members of China’s top political advisory body on improved safety management of GM foods.



The reply, posted on the ministry's website, said that China and other countries have done much research on the safety of GM foods that proved certified GM foods are as safe as traditional foods. ([China Daily](#))

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## Information & communication technologies

### China police tighten cyber security

China's Ministry of Public Security (MPS) unveiled measures to fight online crime. The ministry said Chinese Internet users easily fall victim to cyber attack, Internet fraud and personal information leakage, among other online crimes, which pose a big threat to national security and social stability.

The MPS vowed to increase cooperation with the Cyberspace Administration of China and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology to prevent hacking and ensure data security. It will also improve surveillance by cyber police to curb illegal activities. The ministry said it will harshly crack down on pornography, rumors or information about terrorism, guns or drugs. ([Xinhua](#))

### Looking beyond the chip frontier

Business opportunities are what Qualcomm Inc's Executive Chairman Paul Jacobs sees in China when growth in the global smartphone market continues to slow. The mobile chip maker is planning to bring more cutting edge technologies to the world's top consumer electronics market as Huawei, Xiaomi Corp and other local smartphone vendors take on Apple Inc and the government looks to the Internet of Things to boost a slowing economy. ([Xinhua](#))

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## Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials & new production technologies

### This Self-Powered Liquid Metal Could Change Robotics

Inspired by mollusks, researchers have developed a liquid metal that can move on its own, powered by aluminum "food". Described in a paper published in *Advanced Materials*, the new compound could make big waves in robotics thanks to its ability to change shape to negotiate bends and curves. A team led by Dr. Liu Jing at the Technical Institute of Physics and Chemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Tsinghua University used a mixture of gallium, indium and tin to make the metal compound. It stays liquid at temperatures above -2 degrees Fahrenheit (-19 Celsius), can move itself in a



circle, straight line or even squeeze through complex shapes when placed in a sodium hydroxide solution. ([Asian Scientist](#))

### **Chinese scientists sniff out new cheap way to detect a sarin gas attack**

It is 20 years since the sarin attack in Tokyo subway that left more than a dozen people dead and hundreds injured, but there has been no practical defence in public areas against the killer gas - until now.

A team of researchers in Hefei, Anhui province, said it had worked with the military to develop the world's most sensitive sarin detector which could be installed at low cost in subways and other public areas vulnerable to attack.

In less than a second, the detector can spot sarin gas molecules in the air in concentrations as low as six parts per billion, according research by the team in Chemical Communications, a journal published the Royal Society of Chemistry in London.

The researchers, led by professor Cai Weiping and Duan Guotao with the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Solid State Physics in Hefei, found that sarin left a unique "fingerprint" when its gas molecules were heated to various temperatures. ([SCMP](#))

### **Scientists ponder exoskeletons**

Chinese scientists are developing a flexible and controllable exoskeleton that moves as nimbly as a mind controls its limbs.

Scientists from the Institute of Advanced Manufacturing Technology in Changzhou, Jiangsu province, recently completed an exoskeleton that can help people climb mountains with 30 kilograms of gear or punch through a wall without breaking a sweat.

The exoskeleton looks like an iron skeleton with a bevy of sensors and electric wires. When worn, its sensors catch every move's neuromuscular signals and respond with the right action.

"The potential application of the exoskeleton is wide," said Wang Yucheng, an assistant researcher at the Institute of Advanced Manufacturing Technology. The institute, a unit of the Hefei Institutes of Physical Science at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, focuses on robotics and intelligent manufacturing. Besides military uses, superman abilities also are desired in emergency situations such as fire fighting and earthquake rescues. "For example, if a firefighter runs into a burning building with an exoskeleton, he or she can carry out two or more people who passed out due to the smoke, instead of carrying out one and heading into the danger again," Wang said. ([China Daily](#)).

\* \* \*



## Energy

### China's new energy vehicle production rises rapidly

Chinese automakers produced 20,400 new energy vehicles in July, 3.5 times as many as the month last year, after the government promoted the sector, official data showed on Wednesday (5 August). They produced 12,345 new energy passenger vehicles last month, up 159 percent year on year. Production of new energy commercial vehicles surged 677 percent to 8,045 units, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT). The July data brought total output of new energy vehicles in the first seven months to about 98,900 units, up 300 percent over the same period last year. ([Xinhua](#))

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

### Network to boost pollution monitoring

China will build a comprehensive network to detect pollution of the land, sea and air by 2020, employing satellites, drones and remote sensors to monitor the environment.

The national leadership approved the network plan in July, saying the government will lead the monitoring, share information among departments and regions, and be held accountable if violations are found, the Ministry of Environmental Protection said on Tuesday [4 August]

Satellites, a major tool for monitoring air pollution, will receive a boost this year. The ministry said it will accelerate research on two atmospheric environmental monitoring satellites and two satellites with higher resolution than those currently available. ([China Daily](#))

### Environment is priority on island

Weizhou Island in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region is also known as China's barrier reef. It's the largest and youngest volcano island in the country and has attracted millions of tourists annually in recent years. Too many people produced trash and sewage. The latter, which was discharged untreated directly into the sea, prompted environmental watchdogs to worry about the coral reefs. ([Xinhua](#))

### Ancient Chinese Archives Track Decline Of Rare Apes



Scientists have used historical records from China stretching back over 400 years to track changes in the distribution of gibbons, which today are some of China's most threatened species. This work, published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B, is one of the first instances of using ancient historical records to reconstruct the course of extinctions across several centuries. Researchers at the international conservation charity Zoological Society of London (ZSL) found that only a few hundred years ago, gibbons were distributed across almost half of China. However, gibbon populations collapsed during the twentieth century, and today they survive in only a few remote forest patches in the far southwest of the country. ([Asian Scientist](#))

### **Queenless Asian Hive Bees Avoid Risky Foraging for Reproduction**

The hallmark of insect societies is a caste of workers that generally forego reproduction and instead allocate their time and physiological resources to rearing the brood of their mother, the queen. If a honey bee (*Apis* spp) colony becomes queenless, about 1/3 of young workers activate their ovaries and produce haploid male-producing eggs. In doing so queenless workers maximize their inclusive fitness because the normal option of vicarious production of relatives via their queen's eggs is no longer available. Queenless honey bees lay eggs but can they produce brood food at the same time?

Prof. TAN Ken of Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) and his colleagues of Yunnan Agricultural University conducted a study to determine whether workers of Asian hive bee *Apis cerana* with activated ovaries behaved differently to those without activated ovaries. ([CAS](#))

### **Huge Hidden Ocean under Xinjiang's Tarim Basin Larger than all Great Lakes Combined**



There could be an "ocean" hidden under one of the driest areas on earth, according to a breakthrough discovery by Chinese scientists. The amount of salt water beneath the Tarim basin in northwestern Xinjiang province could be equivalent to 10 times the water in all five Great Lakes in North America. "This is a terrifying amount of water," said professor Li Yan, who led the study at the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography in Urumqi, the Xinjiang capital. "Never before have people dared to imagine so much water under the sand. Our definition of desert may have to change," he said. The Tarim is the world's largest landlocked basin and home to Taklimakan, the biggest desert in China. The basin is known for its rich oil reserves, but to access them requires large amounts of water. ([CAS](#) via SCMP)

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### **Transport (including aeronautics)**

#### **New trolleys can fully recharge in 30 seconds**



Train equipment maker CRRC Corp is introducing a fast-charge trolley bus system that trades traditional overhead cables for an energy model that can fully charge a trolley in 30 seconds while passengers are getting on and off.

The company claims that the flash charge supercapacitor is the only one in the world that allows a trolley bus to run for 8 kilometers with 10 seconds of charging. Although supercapacitor buses have been on trial in Shanghai, Hong Kong and other cities for years, the core component of the new bus, an organic supercapacitor made of carbon-based materials, provides for the charging to be conducted more than 1 million times, said Yang Ying, a CRRC expert. ([China Daily](#))

### **Chinese research vessel on new Pacific seamount expedition**

China's research vessel Kexue moves across the Taiwan Strait, Jan. 10, 2015. China's most sophisticated research vessel -- named Kexue, or Science -- left from the eastern city of Xiamen last Saturday on a new expedition to a west Pacific seamount. The second expedition to the Yap Seamount sea area will focus on deep-sea environment and ecology. With 74 people on board, the vessel is expected to travel 6,000 nautical miles and return in mid-February., ([Xinhua](#))

### **World's first double-fuel ro-ro made in China**

Work on the world's first roll-on/roll-off ship powered by two kinds of fuels began Wednesday (5 August), according to the China's largest shipping company.

The ship, which can carry 3,800 cars, is the first ro-ro powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG) and is manufactured by Nantong COSCO KHI Ship Engineering Co., Ltd (NACKS), a joint venture between China Ocean Shipping (Group) Company (COSCO) and Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. The carrier will run on LNG while sailing through the Baltic and North sea due to strict European environmental requirements and can be powered by conventional fuel in other regions, according to a senior manager with the company. The ship is designed independently by NACKS and consumes less fuel and emits less carbon dioxide and other waste gas compared with conventional carriers. ([Xinhua](#))

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

#### **China's "sky eyes" Help Protect World Heritage Angkor Wat**



China's eyes in the sky are providing a new level of protection for the ruins of Cambodia's Angkor Wat, the magnificent temple of the Khmer Empire, which faces inundation by tourists and environmental dangers.

Chinese satellites are using remote sensing to collect and process images of the site in real time. The technology offers particular advantages in instantly observing and analyzing the effects of natural disasters.

"Basically, we have eyes in the sky and we can see what happens to the ancient temples and their environment immediately," says Hong Tianhua, deputy director and secretary general of the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage under the Auspices of UNESCO (HIST). HIST is the first and only institute in the world to use remote sensing technology to preserve cultural heritage sites under UNESCO. ([CAS](#))

### **Love of Paleontology an Accidental Discovery for China's No. 1 Dino Hunter**

At age 46, he has already identified some 60 new dinosaur species – more than any other dinosaur experts.

He has also helped prove that birds arose from dinosaurs and played a key role in exposing a hoax finding published in the esteemed National Geographic magazine. Professor Xu Xing of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences is widely recognised as China's No 1 dinosaur-hunter and its equivalent of famed American paleontologist Jack Horner. But he could have had a very different career had he not been assigned by the government in 1988 to study paleontology at the prestigious Peking University. ([CAS](#))

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## **Space**

### **Beidou satellites begin autonomous operation in space**

After more than 10 days in space, China's 19th Beidou navigation satellite is working autonomously and has set up a link with another satellite. The two satellites were launched on the same day by a Long March III-B rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan Province, southwest China, on July 25. Beidou is one of the world's four main navigation systems, along with GPS there is Russia's GLONASS, and the European Union's Galileo. All four use autonomous navigation technology. ([China Daily](#))



### **China to launch Jilin-1 satellite in Oct**

Northeast China's Jilin Province plans to send Jilin-1, the country's first self-developed remote sensing satellite for commercial use, into space in October



(...). Jilin-1 consists of four satellites, one for high-definition images, one for testing new space technology and another two for video, said Xuan Ming, board chairman of Chang Guang Satellite Technology Co., Ltd under the Changchun Institute of Optics, Fine Mechanics and Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The satellites will focus on providing photographs to commercial clients, while helping with harvest assessment, geological disaster prevention and resource surveys, Xuan said. Jilin, one of the country's oldest industrial bases, is developing its satellite industry as a new economic drive. The province plans to launch 60 satellites by 2020 and 137 by 2030. ([China Daily](#))

### **China launches Yaogan-27 remote sensing satellite**

China's Yaogan-27 remote sensing satellite was sent into space on Thursday (27 August) at 10:31 am Beijing Time, from Taiyuan launch site in Shanxi province, north China. The satellite will mainly be used for experiments, land surveys, crop yield estimates and disaster prevention. Yaogan-27 was carried by a Long March-4C rocket, the 207th mission for the Long March rocket family. China launched the first "Yaogan" series satellite, Yaogan-1, in 2006. ([China Daily](#))

### **HKU scientists find new galaxy closest ever to earth**

The discovery of a new ring galaxy which arose from a galaxy collision, the closest ever to the earth, was made public by the University of Hong Kong (HKU) on Monday (17 August).

The newly formed ring galaxy was found by chance by a team of astronomers led by Prof. Quentin Parker at the HKU and Prof. Albert Zijlstra at the University of Manchester, during a special wide-field survey of the Southern Milky Way.

The ring is 30 million light years away and is called "Kathryn's wheel", named after the famous fireworks that it resembles and Zijlstra's wife Kathryn. The results were published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. ([Xinhua](#))

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## **People & Higher Education**

### **Colleges face foreign challenges**

Chinese universities running branches and programs in Southeast Asian nations are facing some unexpected challenges. Liu Ersi, head of the Bangkok Business School, said running a school overseas is much more difficult than he had expected. "The costs, the teaching resources, the course design there are so many difficulties to be overcome, so many problems to be solved," he said.

The school was set up last year by China's Yunnan University of Finance and Economics in cooperation with Thailand's Rangsit University. Located in



Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, it now has six undergraduate and graduate programs on economics and administration, enrolling 60 students from Southeast Asian countries, including Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar.

Liu said he had been troubled by a series of headaches, a major one being competition from similar programs sponsored by Western universities. Running branches or programs overseas has become a common practice for Chinese universities in recent years. The country now has four institutions and 98 programs overseas, according to Yan Bingchen, an official from the International Cooperation and Exchange Department of the Chinese Ministry of Education. ([China Daily](#))

### **Technology offers fattest pay packet**

Growing enthusiasm for the "Internet Plus" drive - a new business model combining the Internet with traditional industries - also is translating into higher paying jobs for those majoring in technology at universities. According to a survey on the employment of 2014 college graduates by education research institute MyCOS, jobs in Internet development and application are the highest paying in China, with an average monthly salary of 4,582 yuan (\$716). In comparison, the average monthly salary of university graduates with bachelor's degrees, no matter what their majors are, was only 3,773 yuan in the first six months of employment. ([China Daily](#))

### **China Becomes Largest Cross-Border Source of Educational Resources**

In the year 2014 the number of Chinese students studying abroad was 460 thousand, while the number of foreign students studying in China was 350 thousand in total. 450 thousand students studied in higher educational Sino-international joint ventures. China has already become the largest contributor to cross-border education internationally. ([chinanews.com](#) – source in Chinese).

### **Soft diplomacy along the New Silk Road**

In March, during the Boao Forum for Asia, the Chinese government issued an action plan for its maritime and economic belt, the Silk Road. The Silk Road concept is not new. Chinese President Xi Jinping introduced the idea in 2013 during a visit to Kazakhstan and Indonesia. What is new is the use of education as a tool to help drive China's regional economic ambitions. In May, the Universities Alliance of the New Silk Road led by Xi'an Jiaotong University, was established. The alliance draws together more than 60 universities from 22 countries in Asia, the Middle East and Russia.

Education can be an effective diplomatic tool for engaging neighbours. Beijing's use of education will help it soften the edges of what is viewed regionally as an ambitious and politically complex endeavour. More importantly, the venture will allow China to address the region's yawning skills gap, which invariably stands in the way of its economic ambitions. ([University World News](#))



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## Research Infrastructures

### Quantum Computing Lab Opens in Shanghai

A laboratory opened in east China's Shanghai to develop quantum computers that can process data billions of times faster than current digital computers.

Jointly established by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and China's Internet giant Alibaba, the lab is expected to produce a general-purpose quantum computer prototype with 50-100 quantum bits by 2030, scientists at the lab told Xinhua. It will combine Alibaba's strength in traditional computing, cloud computing and CAS' prowess in quantum computing and AI, they said.

[\(CAS\)](#)

### IGDB and DuPont Pioneer Extend Collaborative Research Agreement

The Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology (IGDB) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and DuPont Pioneer signed an agreement in Beijing to extend a Collaborative Research Agreement on biotechnology and molecular crop breeding on August 13, 2015. YANG Weicai, director of IGDB, and Barbara Mazur, vice president of DuPont Pioneer signed the agreement.

During the past five years, IGDB and DuPont Pioneer have jointly carried out multiple researches in crop genetics and biotechnology. The collaboration enabled both parties to explore new genetic traits, breed new crop varieties. Both parties decided to continue the collaboration and extend the agreement for another five years.

Both IGDB and DuPont Pioneer are strong leaders in agricultural biotechnology.

[\(CAS\)](#)

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## International S&T relations

### China-funded Research Center to Boost Africa's Biodiversity Conservation

The Sino-Africa joint research centre hosted by a Kenyan university will transform biodiversity conservation on the continent and unleash socio-economic benefits to communities.

In an interview with Xinhua, Professor Robert Gituru, the center's director, said the Chinese funded research center will strengthen conservation of African botanical treasures that are facing multiple threats. "The construction of Sino-



Africa joint research centre has commenced and will be completed in June 2016. The centre will be a hub for research and technology transfer to boost conservation of plant species in the continent," said Gituru.

In 2010, a memorandum of understanding between Kenya's Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) led to the establishment of the joint research centre. ([CAS](#))

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### About this newsletter

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