



Guide to China Scholarships

How To Find, Apply, And Win Scholarships To Study In China



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About This Guide

This guide is for international students who want to study in China and are looking for financial support. Whether you are aiming for a Bachelor's, Master's, PhD, non-degree Chinese language program, or an MBA, you will find:

- An overview of all major scholarship types in China
- What each scholarship typically covers
- A clear FAQ section to answer the questions students ask most often

Disclaimer

Scholarship policies and deadlines can change quickly. This guide reflects our best understanding at time of writing; always confirm with official CSC, university, and embassy sources. We welcome feedback from students to keep this guide up to date - if you spot a change, let us know at apply@china-admissions.com.

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II. Scholarship Landscape at a Glance

Each year, tens of thousands of international students receive some kind of financial support from the Chinese government, local governments, universities, or partner organizations.

Most scholarships for international students in China fall into the following categories:

Scholarship Name	Program Levels	Application Period	Where to Apply	Scholarship Coverage
CSC Type A (Bilateral Program)	Bachelor, Master, PhD, Scholar	Nov – Feb (varies by country)	Your local Chinese Embassy or Ministry of Education	Full: Tuition, Dorm, Stipend (2500-3500 RMB), Insurance.
CSC Type B (University Program)	Master, PhD (Rarely Bachelor)	Dec – March	Directly to the Chinese University (CSC Portal)	Full: Tuition, Dorm, Stipend (3000-3500 RMB), Insurance.
MOFCOM Scholarship	Master, PhD	Feb – May	Economic & Commercial Counselor's Office (ECCO) of Chinese Embassy	Full+: Tuition, Dorm, Higher Stipend (3000-3600 RMB), One-time 3000 RMB resettlement fee, Airfare.
International Chinese Language Teachers (CIS)	Bachelor, Master, Short-term Language Program	March – May (Sept intake)	cis.chinese.cn	Full: Tuition, Dorm, Stipend (2500-3000 RMB), Insurance.

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	(1-sem, 1-yr)			
CSC EU Window	Bachelor, Master, PhD, Scholar	Nov – Feb 8	Mission of P.R. China to the EU (Agency No. 00006)	Full: Tuition, Dorm, Stipend, Insurance.
CSC AUN / ASEAN	Master, PhD	Jan – March	ASEAN University Network (AUN) Secretariat	Full: Tuition, Dorm, Stipend, Insurance.
"Youth of Excellence" (YES CHINA)	Master (English)	Jan – April	Designated Universities / campuschina.org	Full: Aimed at senior officials/managers. Specialized high-level coverage.
Local Scholarship (Provincial/City Scholarships e.g., Shanghai Government Scholarship, Jasmine)	Bachelor, Master, PhD	Jan – June	Provincial Education Dept. or University portal	Full or Partial Tuition fee Coverage (Some cover only tuition; others may include a monthly stipend).

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University Specific Scholarships (e.g., President's or Freshmen Scholarship)	Bachelor, Master, PhD	Jan – June	University portal	Varies: Usually Tuition waiver + sometimes include accommodation discounts
Program Specific (e.g., MBA/Belt & Road)	Master, PhD	Varies	Specific College or Program (e.g., School of Management)	Varies: Often partial tuition or merit-based corporate funding.

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III. Chinese Government Scholarship (CGS / CSC)

What is the Chinese Government Scholarship (CGS / CSC)?

The Chinese Government Scholarship, often referred to as CSC or CGS, is one of the most well-known scholarship systems for international students. It is funded by the Chinese government and administered by the China Scholarship Council (CSC). Through this scheme, the Chinese government provides financial support for outstanding international students, scholars, and professionals to study or conduct research at approved Chinese universities.

Sub-Program / Channel	Also Known As	Main Target Region / Group	Supported Study Categories*	Application Channel / Where You Apply
Bilateral Program	CSC Type A	Students from countries with bilateral agreements with China	Undergraduate, Master's, PhD, General Scholar, Senior Scholar	Chinese Embassy / Consulate or designated national agency in your home country
Chinese University Program	CSC Type B	International students applying directly to Chinese universities	Mostly Master's & PhD	Directly to the university (plus CSC online system)
Great Wall Program	-	Students and scholars from developing countries (often via UNESCO)	Postgraduate (Master's), General Scholar, Senior Scholar	National Commission for UNESCO in the home country
Regional / Organization -Specific Programs (EU, AUN, PIF, WMO, etc.)	-	Students and scholars from specific regions or fields (EU, ASEAN, Pacific Islands, meteorology, etc.)	Undergraduate, Master's, PhD, General Scholar, Senior Scholar (varies by program)	Relevant regional body or international organization (e.g. Mission of PRC to the EU, AUN Secretariat, Pacific Islands Forum, WMO)

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CSCA Requirement for Undergraduate Applicants

For **undergraduate programmes**, many applicants must first take the **CSCA Exam** (China Scholastic Competency Assessment) at www.cscsa.cn and then submit a **valid CSCA transcript** as part of their application.

Note

Always check which test subjects you need to take on the official university website. You can also check in more details in our guidebook: [Guide to the CSCA Exam](#).



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IV. Segmented CSC Programs (ACYLS, MOFCOM, YES China, China Link)

There are also various segmented government and regional initiatives, such as:

- Scholarships for students from specific regions or country groups (e.g. ASEAN, Belt & Road countries, African or Pacific nations).
- Programs funded by ministries like the **Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM)** or special schemes like **ACYLS, YES China, and China Link**.

These often provide **generous full funding** (tuition, accommodation, living allowance, insurance, and sometimes travel costs), but they usually:

- Target **specific profiles** (e.g. ASEAN young leaders, government officials, academic staff, short-term researchers).
- Have **separate application routes** through home-country ministries, regional bodies, or designated universities rather than the standard university / CSC portals.

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V. Local Government Scholarship (Provincial / City Scholarship)

Several provinces and cities in China offer scholarships to attract international students to local universities. Typical examples include:

- Beijing Government or municipal scholarships
- Shanghai Government Scholarship
- Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Guangdong, and many other provincial or city scholarship schemes

Typical Coverage

Coverage depends on the city and category, but often it includes:

- Full or partial tuition; or a one-off payment to cover the tuition (e.g. RMB 20,000)
- In some cases, it may also include on-campus accommodation and some living allowance (e.g. Xi'an Government Scholarship)

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VI. University Scholarships

Most major universities in China offer their **own internal scholarships** for international students. These may be called:

- “University Scholarships”
- “Presidential Scholarships”
- “Entrance Scholarships”
- “Freshman Excellence Awards”, etc.

They are funded directly by the university and usually tied to **your admissions application**.

What Do University Scholarships Usually Cover?

Think of university scholarships as **flexible discounts** on your study costs.

Most often they include:

Full or partial tuition waivers

- 100% (full tuition)
- 50% / 30% / 20% tuition waivers

Possibility to renew for the next year

- If you maintain a strong GPA and good conduct, the scholarship can be extended

Sometimes universities combine this with:

- **Small living allowances**
- On-campus accommodation discounts
- One-time “**excellence awards**” for top-ranked students

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VII. Language Scholarships (ICLTS)

The International Chinese Language Teachers Scholarship (ICLTS) supports students who want to study Chinese language or become future Chinese language teachers.

What Does ICLTS Cover?

Think of ICLTS as a “full study package” for Chinese language and teaching:

- **Full tuition**
- **On-campus accommodation** (usually in a student dormitory)
- **Monthly living allowance** (amount depends on program & year)
- **Comprehensive medical insurance**

Is ICLTS a Good Fit for You?

Use this quick checklist:

- You want to **study Chinese language or Chinese language education** in China
- You are interested in **teaching Chinese** or working in related fields in the future
- You are between roughly **16–35 years old**
- You already have (or are willing to obtain) **HSK + HSKK** certificates
- You’re comfortable studying in an environment focused on **Chinese language & culture**

Important

Exact deadline and requirements can change each year. Always refer to the current official ICLTS announcement and the host university website for final details.

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VIII. What CSC Does Not Cover & Common Limitations

The Chinese Government Scholarship (CSC/CGS) is generous, but it is not a magic “covers everything” solution. This chapter explains what CSC doesn’t cover, and how to plan around those limitations so you don’t waste time on an impossible route.

Programs Not Covered (English UG, MBBS, MBA)

CSC has a strong focus on Chinese-taught degree programs and specific strategic areas. This means some popular international programs are outside of CSC’s scope.

In practice, this usually means:

- ✖ English-taught undergraduate programs are not covered
- ✖ MBBS (English-taught clinical medicine) is not covered
- ✖ Top MBA programs are often not covered

So if your dream program is:

- Bachelor’s in Business, Computer Science, or any other major taught in English, or
- MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery), or
- MBA (offered at top universities),

...you should not rely on CSC to fund it.

Instead, you should focus on:

- University scholarships (entrance/Presidential scholarships)
- Local government (city/provincial) scholarships
- Other scholarships (program-specific scholarship, external scholarships)

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IX. Timeline & Planning: When to Apply for What

If you want to start your program in September, here is a typical timeline you can follow.

Timeframe (for Sept intake)	What You Should Focus On
12–18 months before enrollment	Research programs & scholarships; decide degree level, major, and target cities
August–December (previous year)	Prepare tests (HSK/IELTS/TOEFL), collect documents, contact recommenders, prepare for the medical examination and no criminal record
December–February	Main application rounds for CSC + many university & local government scholarships
March–May	Last scholarship deadlines (for uni/local gov), complete remaining steps
June–August	Receive results, apply for visa, arrange accommodation & flights, prep departure

Spring Intake (February / March)

Some universities in China offer a **Spring intake**, especially for **Chinese language programs** and a limited number of other majors.

Because there are fewer programs starting in Spring, the **application window is earlier and shorter** than for Fall.

Scholarships for Spring Intake

While CSC is usually **not an option** for Spring intake, you still have some scholarships to explore:

- **International Chinese Language Teachers Scholarship (ICLTS)** – the main scholarship for language programs, including Spring starts.

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X. The Golden Key: Agency Numbers

One of the most common (and painful) reasons CSC applications quietly fail is a tiny technical detail: the **Agency Number**.

When you submit your Chinese Government Scholarship (CSC) form, the system asks you for an **“Agency Number”**. If this number is wrong, your application can be **misrouted or never reviewed**, even if the rest of your documents are perfect.

What Is an Agency Number?

An **Agency Number** is a unique numeric code assigned to a “**receiving agency**” in the CSC system.

A receiving agency can be:

- A Chinese embassy / consulate / national dispatching authority (for **Type A – Bilateral Program**), or
- A Chinese university (for **Type B – Chinese University Program** and some special programs).

Without the correct agency code, your application is like a letter with no correct address.

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XI. Frequently Asked Questions

1. What types of scholarships are available for international students in China?

In general, international students can apply for:

- Chinese Government Scholarships (CSC / CGS)
- University scholarships offered by individual universities
- Local government scholarships from cities and provinces
- International Chinese Language Teachers Scholarship (ICLTS)
- Program-specific scholarships such as MBA and special degree scholarships
- Regional and ministerial programs, such as MOFCOM, ASEAN-China Young Leaders Scholarship, etc.
- Private and external scholarships from companies, foundations, and home-country governments

2. How competitive are Chinese scholarships?

Many scholarships, especially fully funded CSC scholarships and top city/university scholarships, are competitive. Be sure to have a strong academic record, and also prepare strong personal statement and complete documents. Partial scholarships and some university schemes may be less competitive, but you should still prepare carefully.

3. Can I apply for more than one scholarship at the same time?

Often, you can apply for multiple scholarships, but you cannot hold two scholarships at the same time. If you are awarded more than one major scholarship, you will be asked to choose one.

4. When should I start preparing for scholarship applications?

Ideally, you should start preparing 12-15 months before your intended start date. This gives you time to research programs, prepare language tests, request recommendation letters, and gather the required documents. Many major scholarships for September intake close between December and March each year.

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XII. Official Resources & Links

- [Chinese Government Scholarship \(CGS / CSC\)](#)
- [International Chinese Language Teachers Scholarship \(ICLTS\)](#)
- [ASEAN-China Young Leaders Scholarship \(ACYLS\)](#)
- [MOFCOM Scholarship \(Ministry of Commerce\)](#)
- [Youth of Excellence Scheme of China \(YES China\)](#)
- [China Link Scholarship Program](#)
- [Shanghai Government Scholarship \(SGS\)](#)
- [Follow China Admissions YouTube channel for helpful videos](#)
- [Subscribe on China Admissions](#) for more updates and opportunities and check out our [online events](#) to meet universities directly.

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What's Next for You?

Thank you for reading this introductory guide to scholarships in China. We hope these tips help you begin your journey toward funding your education.

The Full Guide to China Scholarships drops next week.

It's bigger, better, and packed with the deep-dive strategies, exclusive templates, hidden grant opportunities, and step-by-step roadmaps to success.

[Register here to stay tuned](#)

