

Chinese Government Scholarship for South African Students 2017

The Chinese Government is offering scholarships for South African students to study at Chinese institutions from September 2017. The scholarship may be awarded for postgraduate (Masters, PhD or Post-doc) or non-degree Chinese language studies. Bachelor's degree scholarships are taught in Chinese and will only be awarded to applicants who already have the required level of Chinese proficiency (HSK 4 or above). Preference is given to applicants for postgraduate studies.

Criteria and Eligibility

- South African citizens in good health with a strong academic record.
- Available to study in China from September 2017.
- Demonstrated interest in China and commitment to the development of South Africa.
- Applications for PhD studies are open to all fields of study.
- For other levels of study, preference will be given to postgraduates and applications in the following fields:
 - Biotechnology
 - Chinese language studies
 - Environment and Climate change
 - Engineering Maritime Studies
 - Natural and physical sciences
 - Nuclear and renewable energy
 - Space science and technology
 - Statistics
 - Telecommunication
- All students must meet the minimum academic requirements for entry into a similar programme at a South African university.
- **All bachelor's applicant must have a HSK Level 4 certificate in order to be eligible to apply for the scholarship.**

Guidelines for education requirements and age limits:

STUDY PROGRAM	MINIMUM EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS	AGE (AS OF SEPTEMBER 2015)
Chinese language studies (non-degree)	National Senior Certificate (or equivalent) with a university entrance pass (a minimum of 60% average is recommended)	Under 35
Doctoral degree	Master's degree (a minimum of 65% average is recommended)	Under 40
Master's degree	Bachelor's degree (with honours) (a minimum of 65% average is recommended)	Under 35
Bachelor's degree	National Senior Certificate (or equivalent) with a university entrance pass (a minimum of 60% average is recommended) HSK level 4 or higher	Under 25

About the Scholarship

Language of Instruction

According to the regulations of the Chinese Ministry of Education, **all undergraduate (Bachelor's) programmes for scholarship students are taught through the Chinese language medium.** Bachelor's applicants must have HSK Level 4 or higher in order to be eligible to apply for the scholarship.

Candidates applying for programmes taught in Chinese need to provide evidence of Chinese language proficiency. If a language preparatory course is required applicants should apply for Chinese language studies only, **not for the degree.** They will be required to apply again for a scholarship for their degree studies in 2018. Being awarded a scholarship for language studies does not guarantee that a degree scholarship will be available or awarded the following year.

Institutions and Programmes

Applicants are required to apply directly to the institution of their choice prior to applying for the scholarship and submit a copy of their acceptance letter with their scholarship application. If an acceptance letter has not yet been received, evidence of the submitted application may be provided instead.

It is the responsibility of each candidate to do research into available programmes, institutions and programme-specific entrance criteria. The programmes and institutions available under this scholarship are listed at <http://www.csc.edu.cn/laihua/programsearchen.aspx>.

Approximate duration of scholarships

STUDY PROGRAM	DURATION OF PROGRAM	DURATION OF PREPARATORY CHINESE LANGUAGE COURSE	DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIP
Chinese language studies	1-2	None	Up to 2
Doctoral degree	3-4	1-2	3-6
Master's degree	2-3	1-2	2-5
Bachelor's degree	4-5	1-2	4-7

Studies must be completed within the duration of the scholarship, as specified in the Admission Notice.

The Chinese Government provides the following:

- Registration and tuition,
- Shared accommodation in the international dormitory on campus,
- Living allowance:
 - Undergraduates and Chinese language students: CNY 1,400
 - Master's degree students: CNY 1,700
 - Doctoral degree students: CNY 2,000
- Once-off settlement subsidy provided to new students after registration
 - CNY 1,000 for new students who will study in China for less than one academic year.
 - CNY 1,500 for new students who will study in China for one academic year or more.
- Medical insurance
- Once-off economy train ticket from airport to institution (for first time arrival in China and final departure)

The South African Government provides the following (subject to the availability of funds):

- One return economy airfare
- Basic monthly living allowance
- Once-off settlement allowance

All successful scholarship applicants will be required to sign a contract and return to South Africa upon completion of studies.

How to Apply

The application process is two-fold:

1. Complete the DHET application form www.Internationalscholarships.dhet.gov.za and email it with all supporting documents to Internationalscholarships@dhet.gov.za by 22 April 2017.
2. Shortlisted candidate will be required to complete the CSC online application which can be downloaded on <http://laihua.csc.edu.cn> and submit a completed medical examination form (medical tests to be done at applicants own cost). Only candidates who are notified that they are shortlisted need to submit these forms.

Applicants must ensure that a valid email address and current cell phone number is provided on the application form. Email is the primary means of communication and monitoring of inboxes is the applicant's responsibility. The DHET takes no responsibility in cases where applicants cannot be reached.

Selection Process

Applicants can choose one academic programme and three preferred institutions from the list provided. Applicants must have applied for admission to at least one institution in China, which will automatically be considered the first choice of institution.

Applications will be assessed by the South African Department of Higher Education and Training. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by 3 April 2017 and requested to complete the China Scholarship Council online application form and submit health screening documents from a recognised/certified GP or hospital by 10 April 2017.

Application documents of recommended candidates will be submitted to the China Scholarship Council (CSC) for a final decision and placement at an appropriate institution.

The CSC reserves the right to make adjustments to the proposed institutions, specialities and duration of study. If candidates do not meet the required criteria, the institution reserves the right to revise their academic program or give a conditional offer for their proposed programme. Students who attend Chinese language courses or the college preparatory programme prior to their university study must pass all required examinations before they start their major studies.

Admission Notices will be sent to successful applicants via the Department of Higher Education and Training by 31 July 2017. **Students are not, in principle, permitted to apply to change their specialities, institutions or the duration of study as specified in their Admission Notice.**

Supporting Documents Required

CHINESE LANGUAGE STUDIES (NON-DEGREE) APPLICANT	UNDERGRADUATE APPLICANT	POSTGRADUATE APPLICANT
Copy of passport or passport application receipt.	Copy of passport or passport application receipt.	Copy of passport or passport application receipt.
Certified copy of National Senior Certificate (or equivalent) or degree certificate if applicable.	Certified copy of National Senior Certificate or equivalent.	Certified copy of Bachelor's, Honour's and Master's degree certificates (as applicable).
One letter of recommendation from a teacher or employer. Letter must be signed and on a letterhead.	One letter of recommendation from a teacher or employer. Letter must be signed and on a letterhead.	Two letters of recommendation from professors or senior lecturers. Letters must be signed and on a letterhead.
Copy of official acceptance letter from a Chinese institution or evidence that an application has been submitted	Copy of official acceptance letter from a Chinese institution or evidence that an application has been submitted	Copy of official acceptance letter from a Chinese institution or evidence that an application has been submitted
	Copy of HSK certificate (level 4 or higher)	Outline of research proposal (approximately 2-4 pages)

Note:

- **Do not submit CVs or any other documents not requested.**
- **Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.**
- **Medical examination documents are not required with your initial application.** Recommended candidates will be requested to submit medical examination documents.
- **Evidence of application to a Chinese university is required it does NOT guarantee that a scholarship will be provided.**

DEADLINE: 22 MARCH 2017

Applications may be submitted by email and must reach the DHET by the deadline of 22 March 2017.

By email: Subject: Chinese Scholarship Application, [Your surname]
internationalscholarships@dhet.gov.za .

If attachments exceed 3MB, they will not be received. Please contact us regarding an alternative means to submit.

Enquiries: email: internationalscholarships@dhet.gov.za

All applications received by the DHET will be acknowledged by email within 2 working days. Please follow up if you do not receive an email acknowledgement.
