PhD Program between Georg-August-Universität Göttingen and the China Scholarship Council (CSC)

1. Program overview

Selected Chinese students will enroll in a designated doctoral (PhD) program at Universität Göttingen and undertake study. If the selected Chinese students successfully complete the requirements of the designated program, they will be conferred degrees by Universität Göttingen.

2. Fields of Cooperation

CSC and Universität Göttingen will support the following areas of study with priority: Agricultural Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, Economics Sciences, Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology, Geosciences and Geography, Humanities, Law, Mathematics and Informatics, Medicine, Physics, Social Sciences and Theology.

3. Entry criteria

3.1 Candidates will be citizens and permanent residents of the People’s Republic of China at the time of application;

3.2 Candidates must not be currently working abroad;

3.3 Successful candidates must return to China upon completion of their studies and/or research,

3.4 Candidates must hold an unconditional acceptance letter to a doctoral (PhD) program at Universität Göttingen. They must therefore fulfill the relevant academic entry requirements set by Universität Göttingen, including a high level of English or German language proficiency;

3.5 Candidates should be intending to pursue study/research in one of the priority academic areas identified by Universität Göttingen and CSC. However, applicants to other study/research areas will also be considered. The support academic areas are also subject to the availability of relevant programs of study at Universität Göttingen.

3.6 Candidates should satisfy the selection criteria set out by CSC by completing the CSC Application Form and the CSC Employer Reference Form at http://apply.csc.edu.cn/.
4. Application and selection process:

4.1 Candidates should directly apply for admission to Universität Göttingen before the application deadline set by Universität Göttingen. Candidates should specify in their application that they are applying for the Universität Göttingen/CSC joint scholarship scheme.

4.2 Universität Göttingen will evaluate the candidates according to the application procedures of the respective programs. Universität Göttingen will provide CSC and each qualified candidate with a copy of the offer letter by March 20th each year. This offer letter should be unconditional in terms of academic performance and English/German language capability. The offer should also clarify that Universität Göttingen will cover their full tuition fees, subject to their obtaining CSC’s support.

4.3 After receiving the offer letter from Universität Göttingen, candidates must also apply to CSC by completing an application for funding and employer reference (forms are available online at http://apply.csc.edu.cn). Completed materials must be submitted to CSC through CSC’s application agencies by April 5th each year.

4.4 CSC will evaluate the candidates according to CSC requirements and priorities, and provide Universität Göttingen with a final list of scholarship recipients and inform the successful candidates in May each year.

4.5 The chosen candidates then register at Universität Göttingen as doctoral students. If the chosen candidates could not meet the requirement of registration at Universität Göttingen, both CSC and Universität Göttingen reserve the rights to terminate the enrolment and the scholarship awarded based on mutual consensus.

5. Funding model

For doctoral students, Universität Göttingen will offer applicants a tuition waiver and CSC will consider applicants for an annual living allowance as prescribed from time to time by the Chinese Government (which includes Overseas Student Health Cover), a return airfare to Germany by the most economical route, and visa application fees. The funding for each doctoral candidate will be up to 48 months.
6. Supervision of candidates

Universität Göttingen will provide graduate chief academic supervisors. Wherever possible, co-supervision between Universität Göttingen and the Chinese universities from which the candidates come will be encouraged. This is seen as a channel for the development of long-term research collaboration between Universität Göttingen and Chinese universities, which both CSC and Universität Göttingen embrace as long-term goal.

Universität Göttingen commits to provide CSC the academic performance of the students (self report, signed by supervisor) on PhD research programs at the end of each academic year.