China Studies Centre (CSC) Research Grant Scheme Seed Funding Grant Guidelines

In order to generate further research related to Greater China, the CSC will provide seed funding to its members. Seed funding may be used to facilitate short field research trips to China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau. The aim of this program is to provide members with the opportunity to initiate research projects for which they will apply for further funding from sources external to the University of Sydney, e.g. ARC, or from collaborative arrangements. Please note that this is NOT a grant for general research funding. Applicants must demonstrate a clear connection between the proposed activity and the application for future funding and grants.

Grants of up to $5,000 may be awarded for a single application. Preference will be given to applications from, or involving, early career researchers as well as applications which demonstrate that funds requested are matched or exceeded by a third party, which may be internal or external to the University of Sydney. (NB: Evidence of matching funds must be submitted with your application.)

Eligibility and Conditions

Applicants may only submit one application to this scheme per year.

Applicants must submit a research proposal outlining the theme, the budget needed and the expected research output. The funding can be used towards agreed expenses, such as airfares, accommodation and meals, as outlined in the application (NB: per diems will not be funded). Upon completion, grant recipients are expected to present one seminar at the University of Sydney on the research conducted, and complete a research outcomes report. They are also required to acknowledge the support of the CSC in their research.

Applicants must:

- be a member of the CSC (excluding members of the CSC Research Committee) and hold a continuing position or a contract that continues until at least 12 months after the date of the project for which they are applying for funding. Academics on recurring annual research contracts will need to provide a letter of intent of employment signed by the head of their academic unit, indicating they expect the applicant will continue to be employed until at least 12 months after the completion of the project for which they are applying for funding;
- provide a completion report within three calendar months of completion of the funded activity;
- submit a copy of reports they have submitted to the CSC if they have previously been the recipient of CSC funding;
- provide a financial report from the University’s Planning and Reporting finance system outlining expenditure of awarded funds.

Criteria for Award

The applications will be assessed by the CSC Research Committee using the following criteria:

- submission of profile and CV;
- demonstration of a clear connection between the proposed activity and the application for future funding and grants;
- content of a 12 month research plan describing the broader intellectual outcomes of the project and the specific outputs from its successful completion. The research plan must be specific in terms of planned publications and external grant applications, and include a timeline;
- a plan for at least one public event, such as a lecture, seminar, symposium, or website with a clear public address;
- the applicant’s demonstrated service to the CSC.
It should be noted that preference will be given to applications:

- submitted by, or involving, early career researchers;
- which demonstrate that the project is receiving funds from a third party which match or exceed the amount requested;
- demonstrate a cross-disciplinary element.

**Budget & Stipulations**

A funding contribution of up to $5,000 can be requested for travel and/or accommodation costs as well as necessary fieldwork costs clearly specified in the application.

Please provide indicative quotations for all expenses with your application.

Funding can be requested for travel costs, accommodation and necessary fieldwork expenses. The following items cannot be funded by the CSC SGRS Seed Funding Grant Scheme:

- items of recurrent funding (continuing positions, PhD scholarships);
- equipment;
- offshore payments or reimbursements for anyone not employed or formally associated with the University of Sydney;
- per diem allowances (including meals, laundry, telephone cards and other incidental expenses);
- more than AUD$50 per day for meals;
- extravagant accommodation;
- lavish entertainment.

The CSC Research Committee reserves the right to specify how the awarded funding may be used and to query amounts of funding requested. We suggest that you supply supporting evidence to justify the figures requested.

**Submission**

Applications can be submitted at any time to chinastudies.centre@sydney.edu.au. Applications are considered twice per annum, generally within one month of the start of each semester, except as otherwise announced. Please visit the [CSC Research page](mailto:chinastudies.centre@sydney.edu.au) for exact dates.

Those unsuccessful in initial rounds can reapply, though they may wish to consider revising their applications in light of feedback issued by the committee.

For further information, please contact CSC at chinastudies.centre@sydney.edu.au or +61 2 9114 0837.