The University of Sydney Centre in China was officially launched on 11th November 2016. Based in the Suzhou Industrial Park Dushu Science, Education and Innovation District, the Centre is a multifunction research and education hub. It is designed to facilitate and strengthen intellectual and creative exchange between Australian and Chinese researchers, academics and students.

The Centre in China Conference Funding is administered by the China Studies Centre at the University's Camperdown campus. The purpose of the Funding is to assist the University’s academic staff members to host conferences, workshops and seminars in Suzhou in order to facilitate and enhance relationships with collaborators in China. Up to $15,000 per conference may be awarded for a successful application. The Funding may be used to cover costs associated with the conference, workshop or seminar held at the University of Sydney Centre in China. This may include airfares for Australian and Chinese participants (from Australia and within China), accommodation, venue hire (where necessary), catering, and local travel.

ELIGIBILITY AND CONDITIONS

An applicant may submit only one application to this scheme per calendar year. An applicant must:

- demonstrate that he/she is an academic staff member of the University of Sydney holding a continuing salaried position that continues until at least 12 months after the date of the proposed conference. 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 that the applicant will continue to be employed until at least 12 months after the date of proposed conference.

- submit a proposal outlining the purpose, scale, Chinese partners (if applicable), expected outcomes, confirmed and potential speakers, draft program of the proposed event, and other material information. Applicants must show how the proposal meets the University’s objectives in relation to the Centre in China.

- submit a budget with supporting documents such as quotations for airfares, hotel accommodation and so on. The venue and hotel choices are expected to be reasonable and of an acceptable but not extravagant standard. Budgets should refer to the costs base provided by the Centre in China. The budget proposal is not expected to be highly detailed, but should represent a reasonable and well-documented estimate of costs. Applicants should note that the all airfares should be economy class in accordance with University policy and that allowances for meals should not exceed $50 per person per day. Applicants with vague or poorly thought out budgets or for which no supporting documentation is provided will not be considered.

- Provide the names and short biographies of all persons who are to be funded. Generally only University of Sydney academics or students would be funded. If funding is required to support external persons, detailed reasons must be provided.

- acknowledge the support of Centre in China Conference Funding at the conference, and any publications or activities that arise from the conference.

- provide a completion report within three calendar months of the conclusion of the conference, which should include a financial report outlining expenditure of awarded funds as well as relevant invoices and suitable documentary evidence.

- activities for which applications are made must be concluded within 12 months of receiving funding.
CRITERIA FOR AWARD

The applications will be assessed by the China Studies Centre Research Committee using the following criteria:

- significance and academic importance of the event
- quality of the proposal
- quality and nature of proposed outcomes

It should be noted that preference will be given to applications:

- where the applicant can show that he/she has used best efforts to obtain or has obtained funds matching or exceeding the funding applied from an additional party, which may be internal or external to the University of Sydney
- which demonstrate a multidisciplinary element, by involving academics from different Faculties or disciplines
- which are submitted by early career researchers
- which are submitted by an applicant who has demonstrated the existing and/or proposed collaborations with Chinese partners

Applications which are related to or are in addition to other applications funded by the China Studies Centre will receive low priority. The CSC Research Committee reserves the right to specify how the awarded funding may be used and to adjust, where appropriate, the amount of funding awarded.

SUBMISSION

Applications can be made by completing the application form on the China Studies Centre website. Please note that electronic applications are preferred. Please combine the completed application form and all supporting documents into one file and email to chinastudies.centre@sydney.edu.au. All applications will be passed on to the CSC Research Committee for consideration after the applications deadline.

For further information, please contact China Studies Centre at chinastudies.centre@sydney.edu.au or (02) 911 40837.