

## QMUL China Scholarship Council (CSC) Admissions Guide 2023/24 Academic Year

The China Scholarship Council (CSC) is the Chinese Ministry of Education's non-profit organization that provides support for international academic exchange with China and is the primary vehicle through which the Chinese government awards scholarships.

QMUL and CSC have an agreement to jointly fund up to 60 (full PhD and joint PhD) students per academic year. This agreement is for programmes within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science and Science and Engineering only.

For successful applicants, QMUL will provide a fee waiver and then the CSC will provide living expenses (£1350/month) for 4 years, visa costs and one return flight to the UK.

The funding for each full PhD awardee will be up to 48 months, while the funding model for each joint PhD awardee will be up to 24 months.

This year (22/23) we have had 41 new students join us via the CSC/QMUL co funding agreement.

### **1. Eligibility**

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a citizen and permanent resident of the People's Republic of China (and hold a Chinese passport)
- Satisfy all eligibility criteria set out by the CSC. Please refer to CSC website for full details: <http://www.csc.edu.cn>
- Apply to QMUL for the scholarship (as instructed in the 'Application Process' section below) by the deadline of **31 Jan 2023**.
- By the deadline of **16 March 2023**, have submitted all the required documentation to support application; including having met English language requirements for their chosen research programme.

Please note that:

- Applicants who have already commenced their doctoral degree at QMUL are also eligible to apply
- These scholarships cannot be held on a part-time basis
- Applicants who fail to apply to both QMUL and the CSC, as appropriate, will not be considered
- These scholarships cannot be deferred to the following academic year.
- Candidates should not be currently working outside China at the time of application, and successful candidates must agree to return to China upon completion of their research degree.

### **2. Application**

Queen Mary applications are open now so applicants should be encouraged to apply as early as possible to help reduce delays in January/February. Please note: It can take 6-8 weeks for PhD applications to be processed.

2.1 The deadline for prospective CSC candidates to apply to QMUL is **31<sup>st</sup> January 2023**.  
**This is the same for both faculties.**

2.2 The CSC accepts applications between **10th March 2023- 31st March 2023**.  
Instructions to complete this application are available via the CSC website.

### 2.3 New PhD candidates

- i. Prospective applicants should contact a supervisor first to obtain provisional approval for supervision. If the supervisor is interested, then candidates should be advised apply online using the standard QMUL research student application form (<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/applying-for-a-phd/>), on which they must specify in the funding section that they are making a CSC studentship application.
- ii. In the Faculty of Science and Engineering, CSC studentships are allocated to named academics for specific research projects, so it is important that these projects are clearly listed on the school's webpage. It may be possible for students to propose a new project, but this will need to be discussed with the named supervisor first.
- iii. The Admissions Office will pre-screen the qualifications and comment on the university, English language and academic qualifications to assist schools in reviewing applications. Admissions will process applications as they come in and aims to have processed all CSC applications received by **31st January** for release to Schools for review by **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**
- iv. **Upon receiving list, please let Admissions know if the list for your School is not comprehensive and you know of other CSC candidates applying, who may not have specified this in their online application form.**

2.4.) **Continuing QMUL students who wish to apply for CSC funding** should approach their supervisor in the first instance. If the supervisor supports this application, then they should approach the school DGS, as well as their Faculty Deputy Dean for Postgraduate Research, keeping the school research programmes administrator in cc. Subject to approval of nomination, schools are requested to inform the RDO of these applications (email [researchdegrees@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:researchdegrees@qmul.ac.uk) as well as the Sponsor Relations manager ([f.mckay@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:f.mckay@qmul.ac.uk)). The RDO will provide applicants who are supported by their School with a letter of support from QMUL. There is no QMUL application deadline for these students. The only deadline they are working to is the CSC deadline in March.

2.5.) **Research/Visiting Associates** can be accepted for a maximum of two years. Applicants need to complete an online application for which can be found here <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/associate/>. Admissions will process these applications and send them to the department for a decision. The deadline for this is also **31<sup>st</sup> Jan**.  
CSC have shifted to funding a lot more visiting ("Joint PhD") PhDs in recent years, so we expect increasing numbers of these to apply. Their full degree is from their Chinese university, but they can study with us as associate students.

2.6.) **Transfer Students**. CSC sponsored students who are currently enrolled in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of a PhD programme at another UK (or overseas) university are in certain circumstances able to apply to CSC to transfer their funding to another institution. We can accept these students who have already secured funding, however, please note that these will still count as a part of our allocation of jointly funded students, and so should be included in our March nomination list.

If you are approached by a funded CSC student who wishes to transfer after the January deadline, we will not be able to accept them under our co funding agreement.

**Please note that NO applications after 31<sup>st</sup> January will be accepted by our Central Admission team. If a CSC applicant approaches you after this date, you should advise them it is too late to apply, and they will need to wait until next year or seek alternative funding.**

### **3. Entry requirements**

All applicants must meet the QMUL general entry requirements and programme-specific conditions, and any immigration permission requirements set by the UK Visas and Immigration body ([UKVI](#)). The QMUL minimum entry requirement for a postgraduate research degree programme is normally an upper second-class honours degree, or a masters' degree (including a UK integrated masters) from a UK university or an equivalent qualification at this level of achievement from an overseas university.

**English language:** English language requirements must be evidenced by a valid English language proficiency test (typically less than 2 years old by the start date). QMUL and CSC English language requirements are in general higher than the UKVI requirements, and vary by School: <http://www.qmul.ac.uk/international/englishlanguage/requirements/index.html>

**Candidates must meet the formal QMUL English language requirements.** If a candidate asks the School or supervisor to produce a letter of support specifically for their English Language proof, this should not be provided. Exceptional cases can be referred to the Admissions English Language panel for review.

After submitting their application, applicants will have until **Thursday 16th March** to submit outstanding documents (e, g English language, transcripts etc).

**If an applicant does not meet the English Language requirements by this deadline, we will not be able to nominate them to CSC for funding.**

### **4. Advising Admissions of School decisions on applications**

CSC will never fund more than two students for one (primary) supervisor in any given year. So, schools should make sure not to return more than two offers for any supervisor.

#### **i) New candidates applying to study at QMUL**

School decisions should be returned by schools on MySIS by **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March** at the latest and earlier if possible. They should clearly state that the offer is subject to winning CSC funding. This condition is required on the offer letter to meet CSC's requirements as it confirms that we are nominating the offer holder for joint CSC-QMUL PhD funding.

#### **ii) Applications for CSC funding from continuing QMUL students**

Please provide the RDO with a list of all students who are applying. School support (or reservations) should be reported to RDO by email. RDO will send each applicant supported by the school a letter of support to include in their CSC application. Schools should inform students if they are not willing to support their application for a CSC-QMUL scholarship: the CSC scheme is very competitive, so if students have already applied previously, with the same supervisor and project, they may be unlikely to succeed unless they are performing exceptionally/there are new aspects to the supervisor's CV. QMUL should only support very strong applicants.

### **5. Making an offer to study at QMUL**

The offer letter issued by admissions is the standard letter issued to all applicants and this is suitable for CSC. Some candidates ask for extra information, supervisor letters etc, but this is not required by CSC.

## 6. Confirmation and enrolment

CSC will inform the Global Engagement Office of all the successful candidates in late May. Admissions will confirm the offer of a place to study to candidates, providing all other conditions are met. Applicants will then be able to request a CAS from MySIS (as described above). In late August (usually on or about 20 August onwards) Admissions starts the ATR process to transfer records from Admissions to Registry who manage the enrolment process. Students must have met all their offer conditions and have accepted their offer of study in order for their record to be cleared to enrol. The ATR process generates the message to candidates providing information about the enrolment process.

### Further information:

#### About the CSC scheme:

Flora Mckay, Sponsor Relations Manager.

[f.mckay@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:f.mckay@qmul.ac.uk)

Ms Ying (Patty) Wang, Regional Manager - East Asia

[ying.wang@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:ying.wang@qmul.ac.uk) Tel: +86 (0)10 5730 6039 (China) or [chinaoffice@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:chinaoffice@qmul.ac.uk)

**PGR Admissions:** [researchadmissions@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:researchadmissions@qmul.ac.uk)

**PGR enrolment:** Mary Childs, Research Degrees Office [m.childs@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:m.childs@qmul.ac.uk)

### Summary of Key Dates 2023-24

Date	Action
<b>September 2022</b>	Applications Open
<b>31<sup>st</sup> January 2023</b>	QMUL deadline for CSC applications. <b>No applications should be accepted after this date.</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	The Admissions Office aims to have processed all CSC applications and released these to schools for review by this date
<b>7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	School decisions on CSC applications should be uploaded on MySIS by this date. (Earlier decisions will allow candidates more time to work on their applications). Admissions will issue offer letters to successful applicants. Schools should provide supervisor information, and assist candidates with their applications (information on expertise at QMUL, in the school, etc.)
<b>10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	CSC application portal opens.
<b>16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Last date that students can submit outstanding documents (e.g., English Language, transcripts etc)
<b>31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Deadline for candidates to apply to the CSC
<b>Late May/early June 2023</b>	CSC notifies Global Engagement Office of successful candidates.

