Confucius Institute Scholarships 2020-2021

The Confucius Institute Scholarship programme provides financial aid for students, scholars and Chinese language teachers to study in a Chinese university for a limited period.

Please note that the application procedure for 2020 has changed since 2018. Please read the 'application procedure' very carefully.

The information below sets out the criteria for the 2020 awards. Please read all of the information carefully before beginning your application. If you have questions please check the FAQs section before you get in touch to see if we can answer your query. If you do not find what you are looking for, you can contact us for more information.

About the Scholarship programme
Each year there are a limited number of scholarships available. For 2020, applications are invited from the following groups:
• **Business Confucius Institute students at the Athens University of Economics & Business (BCI at the AUEB)**
• **Business Confucius Institute Classroom students**

Each year the Confucius Institute scholarship selection panel reviews all applications and those that are judged to be of a sufficiently high standard are recommended to the current selection of Chinese universities (approved by Hanban). Applications are then made directly to the host universities in China, and the final decision rests with them, not with the Confucius Institute.

Please make sure that you read the eligibility criteria and application procedure carefully before submitting your application.

**Scholarship terms**

Scholarship winners are exempt from the following:

• Registration fees
• Tuition fees
• Fees for basic learning materials
• Accommodation fees on campus.

They are also provided with the following resources:

• A monthly allowance
• Outpatient medical services
• Comprehensive insurance for foreign students studying in China.

Once an application has been submitted, the contact email address for any issues relating to the application is scholarships@hanban.org

**Application Procedure**

The applicant is advised to contact the recommending institution and the host institute he/she is planning to apply for prior to starting the application, which may increase the possibility of winning the scholarship.

From **March 1st, 2020**, all applicants should log on to the Confucius Institute Scholarship website to set up an individual account and carefully read all the information about host institutions before beginning the application process.

Applicants need to have electronic versions of the entire required documents (detailed below) ready to upload during the application process. Please ensure that any scans of documents are in colour and are as clear as possible.
If you wish to choose Business Confucius Institute (BCI) at The Athens University of Economics & Business (AUEB) to support your application, please ensure that you select us on the online application to ensure we receive your application. We will create a certificate of attendance based on the year(s) of studying with us. For this purpose, don't forget to bring a coloured photo. Your certificate of attendance will be included with the online application. Your application is incomplete without the certificate of attendance and the letter of recommendation, written by your BCI teacher or BCI director, stamped and signed by the BCI director.

Once the application form has been submitted electronically applicants must send to BCI (confucius@aueb.gr) the copy of the completed and submitted application form to complete the application process. It is NOT sufficient to apply online only.

The application deadlines are:

b) November 10, 2020 (for those commencing in March 2021).

**How to apply**

The application process has changed since 2018. Please follow these instructions carefully.

1. Applicants should register here and under the applicant login box in the left hand corner, click “注册”.

2. They should then read all of the application and eligibility criteria very carefully.

3. Before completing the online application, applicants should submit or send electronically the following documents to The Business Confucius Institute at The Athens University of Economics & Business office (29, Evelpidon street, 113 62 Athens, 5th floor, on workdays from 10am-2pm):

   - A photocopy of your passport (please note that the name on your application must match your passport name exactly or this will invalidate the application) with a 6 month validity after your arrival to China.
• A personal statement of 200 - 800 characters written (preferably by hand) detailing your Chinese learning background, aims and study plan in China (this does not have to be in Chinese).
• A copy of your HSK and HSKK results report (the certificates and not the screenshots of your online scores).
• Degree certificates and/or academic transcripts.
• A reference letter from your academic adviser (including the number of hours of Chinese you have studied and your Chinese ability).
• Students who have participated in the Chinese Bridge competition should also include their certificate of participation.

Additional requirements for Master’s Degree Scholarship applicants only:
• Master’s Degree Scholarship applicants only are required to submit two letters of recommendation by professors or associate professors (in Chinese or English).
• Master’s Degree Scholarship applicants must hold a Bachelor’s Degree.
• Master’s Degree Scholarship applicants must submit written commitment stating that they will be engaged in Chinese teaching for at least 5 years after graduation. This should be written in Chinese and signed.
• Host institutions will contact applicants directly if further materials are required.

Please allow sufficient time to get a reference letter (minimum 5 working days will be required).

Applicants will then complete the online application form and upload all supporting documentation. Once the application is submitted, they will then need to print out a papers copy of the completed application form and submit it or send it by email to the Business Confucius Institute at AUEB office. (29, Evelpidon street, 113 62 Athens, 5th floor, on workdays from 10am-2pm).

The application deadlines are:

b) November 10, 2020 (for those commencing in March 2021).
Eligibility

Category 1: scholarships for one semester's study
Applicants are allowed to choose to complete their period of study (5 months duration) in Autumn (September 2020) or Spring (March 2021) in the institutions approved by Hanban. Successful applicants may choose to study Chinese Language for a period of one semester. Scholarships for one semester’s study are awarded to outstanding BCI students of Chinese that fulfil the following eligibility criteria.

- Applicants must be non-Chinese citizens aged from 16 to 35 as of September 1st, 2020 and in good health (if you are already a certified local Chinese teacher then you must be under 45).
- Applicants should have no prior experience of studying in China. (This includes participants of Study China). Applicants holding the X1 or X2 visa are not eligible.

i. Chinese language international education, Chinese language and literature, Chinese history, Chinese philosophy, etc.
   - Applicants must have achieved a score of at least 180 on the HSK (Level 3).*
   - Applicants must have achieved a score of at least 60 on the HSK Oral Exam (beginner level).*

ii. Traditional Chinese Medicine and Taiji Culture
   - Applicants must have any HSK test score.*
   - Applicants who have achieved a score of at least 60 on the HSK Oral Exam (beginner level)* are preferred.

Category 2: scholarships for one-academic year's study

The programme will begin in September 2020 and the grant period is one academic year (11 months). Scholarships for one-academic
year's study are awarded to outstanding BCI students of Chinese that fulfill the following eligibility criteria.

- Applicants must be non-Chinese citizens aged from 16 to 35 and in good health (if you are a local Chinese teacher then you must be under 45).
- International students, who are now studying in China or have studied in China since September 2019, are not eligible for the scholarship.

i. **Chinese language international education**
   - Applicants must have achieved a minimum score of 270 on the HSK test (Level 3). *
   - Applicants must have achieved a score of at least 60 on the HSK Oral Exam (beginner level). *

ii. **Chinese Language and Literature, Chinese History, and Chinese Philosophy**
   - Applicants shall have a minimum score of 180 in HSK test (Level 4). *
   - Applicants must have achieved a score of at least 60 on the HSK Oral Exam (intermediate level). *

iii. **Chinese Language Study**
   - Applicants shall have a minimum score of 210 in HSK test (Level 3). *
   - Applicants who have achieved a score of at least 60 on the HSK Oral Exam (beginner level) * are preferred.

**Category 3: Scholarships for a Master’s degree in Chinese Language International Education**

The successful applicants will begin studying in September 2020 and the grant will cover two academic years. They will obtain a Master's degree in **Chinese Language International Education** and their graduate diploma upon completing their period of study and passing the related examinations. Scholarships for a Master’s Degree
in **Chinese Language International Education** are awarded to outstanding BCI students of Chinese language who are committed to becoming Chinese teachers and fulfil the following eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must be non-Chinese citizens aged from 16 to 35 and in good health (if you are a local Chinese teacher, then you must be under 45).
- This scholarship is open to graduates who intend to become Chinese teachers.
- Applicants who are able to provide an employment agreement or certification upon finishing their study from designated working institutions are preferred.
- Applicants must hold a Bachelor’s Degree.
- Applicants must have a Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) exam score of 210 or over (level 5) in order to apply.*
- Applicants must have achieved a score of at least 60 on the HSK Oral Exam (intermediate level).*
- After the first academic year of study, students must pass HSK 6 and obtain a score of 70 for the HSK (Oral Exam) to continue onto the second year.

Students are subject to annual academic performance review. Only those who achieve outstanding marks in academics and Chinese language proficiency are entitled to a **full scholarship** for the following year; those who achieve average academic records are entitled to **partial scholarships** (Without living allowance); the others will not be entitled to scholarship any longer.

**Category 4: Scholarship for Undergraduate Program in Chinese Language International Education**

Successful applicants will begin studying in September 2020 and the grant will cover 4 academic years. Scholarships for this category will be awarded to students who fulfil the following eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must be non-Chinese citizens aged from 16-25 and in good health.
- Applicants should hold a high school diploma or above.
• Applicants must have a score of at least 210 in the Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) Level 4 in order to apply.*
• Applicants must have a score of at least 60 in HSKK Test (Intermediate Level).*

* Screen shot of the online results are not accepted. Only the scans of the original certificates are accepted. The HSK & HSKK certificates are valid indefinitely. However, for academic purposes, it is valid only for two years from the date the exam was taken.

** The Confucius Institute Full Scholarship covers tuition fee, accommodation fee, living allowance and comprehensive medical insurance. Partial scholarships cover tuition fee, accommodation fee and comprehensive medical insurance.
Frequently asked questions

What does the scholarship cover?

Scholarship holders are exempt from registration fees, tuition fees, learning materials, accommodation on campus, monthly allowance, outpatient medical service and comprehensive insurance for foreign students studying in China.

Tuition is under the overall planning and utilization of host institutions to provide teaching and management of scholarship students organizing cultural and social activities, as well as organizing Chinese language proficiency tests. Tuition fee does not cover the textbook expenses and tourist tickets.

Scholarship recipients will receive their monthly allowance from the Chinese hosting universities after arrival.

Living allowance is granted by host institutions on a monthly basis. The monthly allowance for undergraduates, one-academic-year study students and one-semester students is RMB 2,500 per person. For Master’s degree program, the monthly allowance is RMB 3,000 per person.

Accommodation fee is under the overall planning and utilization of host institutions which should provide scholarship holders with free dorm rooms (usually double rooms). For those who live off campus with the permission of their host institutions will be entitled to accommodation allowances from their hosts by month or quarterly. The allowance is RMB 1,000 / month for PhD students, and RMB 700 / month for other scholarship students paid on a monthly / quarterly basis from the host institutions.

How do I enrol?

Enrolment timelines are based on the semesters of individual host institutions. Students who are enrolled before or on the 15th of the admission month are entitled to the full allowance of that month. Students, who enrol after this date, will only be entitled to half the allowance.

What are the terms of the scholarship?

Master’s Degree Scholarship winners with more than one year’s duration will have an annual appraisal and only those who have
passed HSK 6 and obtained a score of 70 at HSK (Oral Exam) will be able to continue.

All the successful applicants will be required to pass a physical health examination and we regret that scholarships will be cancelled for those who cannot pass the physical examination.

All degree scholarship programme applicants will be subject to annual academic performance review. Only those who achieve outstanding records in academic and Chinese language proficiency will be entitled to a full scholarship for the following year; those who achieve average academic records will be entitled to partial scholarships. Poor scores will not allow the applicant to be entitled to the scholarship. Partial scholarships consist of tuition fee, accommodation fee and comprehensive medical insurance.

The one year academic and one semester study programmers will be required to attend a Chinese language proficiency test before graduation. The test fee will be reimbursed by the host institution.

During the study period (for all scholarships) any student who is absent from China for personal reasons for more than 15 days (excluding legal holidays) will have their allowance suspended during absence. Allowance will also be terminated if a student is suspended or has to drop out of the Scholarship.

**Do I have to organise medical insurance?**

Comprehensive medical insurance is purchased by host institutions in accordance with relevant regulations on internal students stipulated by the Ministry of Education of China. Insurance fee per person is, RMB 400 for one-semester students, and RMB 800 per year for students engaged in program longer than one academic year.

**Will the Confucius Institute provide a translation service?**

Hanban presents all information in Chinese and we are unable to help you with the translation. It is your responsibility to complete the application in full.

**Do I need to submit the Physical Examination Form before I apply?**

You do not need to complete the physical examination when you submit your application before the deadline. However, this will be required before you register at the Chinese university.
**Which universities can I apply to?**

You can find a list of receiving institutions and courses on the Confucius Institute Scholarships website (cis.chinese.cn).

**Do I need an offer from a Chinese university before making the application for the scholarship?**

No you don’t. You are required to select two universities and courses you wish to study. You are free to apply to whichever university from the list you wish as long as it offers the relevant scholarship.

Please note that other universities may require different materials to be provided or operate within different deadlines. We strongly recommend that you make contact with the institution you are interested in to check these details before starting an application.

**How does the selection process work?**

Once application materials are verified by the Division of Scholarships of Hanban as valid, host institutions will then review the eligibility of applications and submit the admission list to Hanban. Hanban will then conduct an overall assessment of all applications and admit applicants on the basis of competitive selection. Normally, the admission results will be announced within 45 working days after the application materials are confirmed as valid. During this period, we advise that you log in and check your application twice a week to ensure there are no issues with your application and do not rely on email notifications as they are unreliable.

**Who should I approach for my reference?**

Your referee should be someone who can comment on your academic ability and performance at university and confirm the number of hours you have studied Chinese language as well as your linguistic ability (where applicable). If successful, this academic reference will be used to produce the final reference letter from the Business Confucius Institute at The Athens University of Economics and Business.

**If I am not a student of the Confucius Institute, who is my recommending institute?**

Unfortunately, applications to be processed from BCI at the AUEB are invited only from the following groups:
What area of specialisation should I choose?

If you are applying for the one semester or one year's scholarship, please choose Chinese Language. This will not affect your study programme of Chinese language and culture. If you are applying for the MA please choose the appropriate option for International Chinese Language Education.

What academic transcripts should I provide as part of my application?

You should provide the transcripts of your highest qualification such as your undergraduate transcript (full or partial if you have not finished the degree).

I have passed the required HSK and HSKK exams but my certificate will not have arrived before the deadline. Can I still apply?

No. Screen shot of the online results are not accepted. Only the scans of the original certificates are accepted.

The application form requires contact details for a “business contact in China or guardian”. Who should this be?

BCI will provide you with a business contact in China should you not have a friend of relative in China. Alternatively, you could contact the host Chinese university’s Overseas Students Department and request the required details from a contact there.

When is the deadline for applying for a CI scholarship?

The application deadlines (cis.chinese.cn) for 2020-2021 are:

b) November 10, 2020 (for those commencing in March 2021).

What if I am unable to complete registration at the host institution?

If the scholarship winner is unable to register for a specific reason then they must inform the host institution 15 days prior to the
registration day with a written explanation. Those who fail to complete registration without an explanation will have their scholarship revoked and will not be able to apply again for the scholarship.

**What if I am under the age of 18?**

Applications from those over 16 but under 18 are welcomed. Please note that applicants under the age of 18 must provide relevant legal documents of entrusted legal guardians in China.

**Can I apply if I have previously been awarded a CI Scholarship?**

It is not permitted to apply for the scholarships more than once. This is in order that as many students as possible have the opportunity to study in China.

If you have further queries that are not answered here please call the **Business Confucius Institute at the Athens University of Economics & Business** on the following number and email address:

- +30 210 82 26 735
- confucius@aueb.gr, dklouvatou@aueb.gr

If you have queries that are specific to the application process then please use the following email:

- scholarships@hanban.org