



**Memorandum**

**Between**

**Wallonie-Bruxelles International**

**Le Fonds de la Recherche scientifique - FNRS [National Fund for Scientific Research]**

**and**

**The China Scholarship Council**

**relating to cooperation in the fields of higher education and  
scientific collaboration**

Given the Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium and the Government of the People's Republic of China of 9 December 1980;

Given the Memorandum of Agreement on cooperation in the fields of higher education and research of 30 October 2003;

Given the exemption from the APS procedure applied to Chinese candidates and post-doctoral researchers hosted in Wallonia-Brussels under this programme;

Given the Decree of 9 May 2008 concerning approval of the cooperation agreement between the French speaking Community, the Walloon Region and the French Community Commission of the Brussels-Capital Region creating a joint entity for Wallonia-Brussels International Relations;

Given the 1st Memorandum relating to cooperation in the fields of education and scientific collaboration between the General Commissariat of International Relations of the French speaking Community of Belgium and the Fonds de la Recherche scientifique-FNRS [National Fund for Scientific Research], for one part and, the China Scholarship Council, for the other, concluded on 2 June 2008, revised on 21 January 2010;

Given the 2nd Memorandum relating to cooperation in the fields of education and scientific collaboration between the General Commissariat of International Relations of the French speaking Community of Belgium and the Fonds de la Recherche scientifique-FNRS [National Fund for Scientific Research], for one part and, the China Scholarship Council, for the other, signed on 23 June 2015;

Given the positive results achieved under this partnership,

**Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI)**, 2, Place Saintelette, 1080 Brussels, and **Le Fonds de la Recherche scientifique** [National Fund for Scientific Research] (F.R.S.-FNRS), 5 rue d'Egmont, 1000 Brussels, hereinafter referred to as the Wallonia-Brussels Party,

and, for the other part,

**The China Scholarship Council (CSC)**, level 13, Building A3, N 9 Chegongzhuang Avenue, Beijing 100044, P.R. China, hereinafter referred to as the Chinese Party,

Agree, according to the principles of equality, mutual benefit and efficiency, to continue the joint programme, initiated since 2008 with a view to promoting and encouraging collaboration in the field of research and higher education between universities and graduate colleges of the French speaking Community of Belgium and university level institutions in the People's Republic of China.

## **Article 1 - The programme's objective and general principles**

- 1.1. The joint programme will provide means to foster study and research exchanges primarily as part of joint research projects between the French Community of Belgium and the People's Republic of China.
- 1.2. For the Wallonia-Brussels party, the candidates will be either:
  - 1.2.1. graduates from a higher education institution organised or subsidised by the French speaking Community of Belgium holding a master's degree,
  - 1.2.2. doctoral students carrying on a doctorate – joint or not – in a university organised or subsidised by the French speaking Community of Belgium,
  - 1.2.3. or post-doctoral researchers carrying out research in a university institution organised or subsidised by the French speaking Community of Belgium.
- 1.3. For the Wallonia-Brussels Party, the programme is intended for candidates from higher education institutions of the French Community of Belgium to carry out specialisation studies, a doctorate or senior scholar research work in Chinese universities.

- 1.4. For the Chinese Party, the programme is intended for candidates from China to pursue their study or research in universities of the French speaking Community of Belgium as PhD Student, Visiting PhD Student, Post-Doctoral Fellow or Visiting Scholar.
- 1.5 The Parties agree to finance study and research grants according to their priorities, the financial assistance shall have to comply with the applicable regulation in the sending institution.
- 1.6. The candidates shall have to undertake to comply with the current rules in the host institution.

## **Article 2 - Main study and research fields**

The parties agree to cooperate in one or other of the following fields in priority:

- Chinese language studies(only for Belgium students);
- French language and Francophone cultures;
- Law;
- European studies, International relations;
- Economy and management;
- Telecommunications, information technologies, digitisation and digital sector;
- Technologies in the field of agriculture, Life and Health Sciences;
- New materials, nano technologies;
- Energy and environment;
- Aeronautics and space;
- Logistics and transport.

## **Article 3 - Implementation plan**

### **3.1. Mobility from the French speaking Community of Belgium to China**

- Each year 15 long-term grants (including requests for renewal) and 60 monthly payments for short-term doctoral or post-doctoral research (up to 10 researchers every year without exceeding 6 months each) will be offered to candidates of Wallonia-Brussels Party;  
Priority will be given to doctoral, doctoral stay and post-doctoral programmes.  
In the absence of short-term applications, the number of monthly payments will be transformed annually into 5 additional grants for one year programmes;
- All the applications shall have to be submitted, if an online form has not been set up, via the ad hoc form, to the WBI, each year at the latest by 28 February and the application submitted online at the same time to <http://studyinchina.csc.edu.cn> by

the end of February. This parallel procedure is essential in order to enable the FNRS to assess the applications ;

- The Wallonia-Brussels candidates shall have to :
- Be in possession of a formal offer or an invitation letter from the host institutions and attach a copy of this offer or pre-admission letter to the application;
- For the language programmes only, if the candidate is not in possession of a formal offer or pre-admission letter from the host institution, he/she shall have to state up to a maximum of three choices of host institutions in the application file. In the latter case, it will be the CSC's responsibility to assign a host institution to the candidate if the file is selected.
- Selection procedure: the selection process is carried out in two stages. The selection is organised by WBI and the F.R.S.-FNRS. An initial selection consists of eliminating inadmissible application and prioritising them. The final selection is carried out by the Chinese party.
- Selection schedule: All the OUT selections will end in April of each year in regard to candidates who do not possess a formal offer or invitation letters and the end of June for the others. The Chinese party will notify the results of the final selection of Wallonia-Brussels candidates to WBI by the end of June at the latest.

### 3.2. Mobility China to the French speaking Community of Belgium

- Each year 20 Scholarships will be offered to Chinese students & scholars to support their study or research in universities of the French Community of Belgium, as PhD Student (36 to 48 months), Visiting PhD Student (6 to 24 months), Post-Doctoral Fellow (6 to 24 months) or Visiting Scholar (3 to 12 months).
- Applications shall have to be submitted, each year, to the CSC according to CSC application timetable (normally between 10 to 31 March).
- Candidates shall have to be in possession of a formal letter or an invitation letter from the host institutions. A copy of this offer or invitation letter shall have to be attached to the application.
- Selection procedure: the selection will be organised by the CSC.
- Selection schedule: the selection for all candidates will end in May each year. The list of selected applications will be sent by the Chinese Party to the Wallonia-Brussels Party through the Wallonia-Brussels representation in Beijing by 15 June at

the latest. This list will include the grant recipient's name, first name, his speciality, his home and host university and the duration of the programme.

Generally, the selection of candidates is done on the basis of an assessment:

- of the quality of the candidate's academic and/or scientific profile;
- of the quality of the project presented;
- of the competence of the participating scientific partners;
- of the scientific results expected from this collaboration for research stays;
- of the project's development prospects;
- of the relevance of the project in the candidate's training programme.

APS procedure

A Chinese candidate with proof that he/she has a CSC grant is exempted from the APS procedure according to the terms and conditions that have been applicable since 1st January 2015.

#### **Article 4 - Coverage of expenses**

The financial conditions required by the programme are guaranteed by WBI and the F.R.S.-FNRS [National Fund for Scientific Research] for the Wallonia-Brussels Party and the CSC for the Chinese Party.

The financial assistance shall have to comply with the current regulations in the sending institution.

It is each Party's responsibility to cover the expenses for its own nationals according to the current local provisions (appendix 1).

#### **Article 5 - General coordination**

For successful implementation of this memorandum, the Parties agree to confer for any additional details. For this purpose, both Parties will designate the following contact point: for the Wallonia-Brussels Party, Wallonie-Bruxelles International, Department of fellowship, (tel 0032(2) 4218203; for the Chinese party: Chinese students to Belgium are in charged by the Division of European, Asian & African Affairs, (tel 0086 (10) 6609 3955); Belgian students to China are in charged by the Division of International Students Affairs, (tel 0086 (10) 6609 3921).

In case of change of contact points, both Parties agree to mutually inform each other by verbal note which will be attached to this memorandum.

## **Article 6 - Duration**

This MOU comes into force at the time of its signing in three original English copies, one for each.

This MOU will cover a period of 5 years. If neither of the parties has any objection to the MOU, it will be automatically extended for an additional period of 1 year unless one of the two parties requests its negotiation or termination.

It may be discontinued by each of the parties with 12 months prior notice, notified in writing.

The withdrawal from this MOU does not affect, excepting decision to the contrary by the Parties, the projects already undertaken under this MOU.

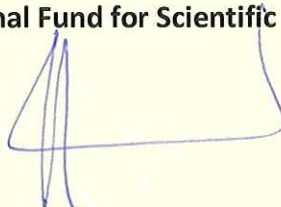
Beijing, 18 November 2019

**For Wallonia-Brussels International,**



**Pascale DELCOMMINETTE,  
General Administrator**

**For FRS-FNRS [National Fund for Scientific Research],**



**Véronique HALLOIN,  
Secretary General**

**For the China Scholarship Council,**



**WANG SHENGGANG,  
Deputy Secretary-General**

## **Appendix: Financial provisions and others**

### **1. Wallonia-Brussels Party take in charge :**

#### **1.1. For Chinese Scholarship recipients:**

- A Chinese Scholarship recipient under this programme is exempted from payment of the administration fee prior to commencing a visa application.
  
- Enrolment costs (equivalent notion to education costs for the Chinese Party) for the Chinese candidates who come to a university in the French-speaking Community of Belgium under this MOU;
  
- Monthly accommodation assistance of 400 Euro maximum per month for the period of stay in Belgium associated with the project.

#### **1.2. For Belgian Scholarship recipients:**

##### **A. Long-term study and doctorate and postdoctoral grants:**

- a monthly grant allowance indexed annually covering living and accommodation expenses of an amount of 982.56 Euro;
- a return airline ticket each year, in economy class;
- a single lump-sum allowance for setting up of 123.95 Euro;
- payment for health, repatriation and public liability insurance policies in compliance with the regulations and practices on Chinese territory;
- an allowance for expenses for books and internal travel with a maximum of 250 Euro per academic year;
- payment for dissertation expenses up to 185.92 Euro and thesis expenses up to 619.73 Euro.

##### **B. Doctoral or post-doctoral research grants (short stays):**

- a lump-sum monthly allowance 1300 Euro covering living and accommodation expenses;
- a return airline ticket in economy class;
- payment for health repatriation and public liability insurance policies in compliance with the regulations and practices on Chinese territory;
- if applicable, payment for local travel expenses depending on the stay programme's requirements based on receipts.

## **2. Chinese Party:**

### 2.1. For Belgian Scholarship recipients:

- The host Chinese universities will not charge enrollment fees ;
- The Chinese Party shall grant exemption for research fund (including material fee, library fee, guidance fee etc.) for short-term doctoral or post-doctoral research.
- The Chinese Party shall grant exemption for tuition fee for long-term grants.

### 2.2. For Chinese Scholarship recipients:

- living expenses are 1350 Euro/month including medical insurance throughout the period of the grant;
- a return airline ticket;

The criteria for grants shall have to be applied depending on the current regulations of each Party.