King's-China Scholarship Council PhD Scholarship programme (K-CSC) 2024-25

Applicant Guidance

King's College London and the China Scholarship Council (CSC) hold an agreement to jointly fund Chinese students to pursue research degrees (PhDs) at King's College London.

Up to 100 K-CSC scholarship awards are available for the 2024-25 competition.

Please be aware that students funded through this scheme must abide by any additional terms and conditions set by the CSC.

Please use the **postgraduate course finder** to search for a suitable doctoral programme.

To find a supervisor at King's, **please click here** for guidance.

Value of Award

As part of the agreement between the CSC and King's College London, successful students have their full international tuition fees covered by the university and receive, from the CSC, an annual living allowance (currently set at a rate of £1200-1350 per month*) plus overseas student health cover, return airfare to London and visa application fees. The Scholarships are valid for up to 4 years.

You will not be asked to pay any 'bench fees'. These should be waived or covered by the relevant supervisor/department/faculty at King's.

* *Please be aware that the cost of living in capital cities is usually higher than the rest of the country. This is true of London. Whilst funders may recognise this with their stipend levels, many CSC students choose to supplement their stipend in some way with additional funds. Please therefore also seek guidance on budgeting whilst living in London via the Money Advice webpages.*

Key Dates

Date	Applicant Actions
From early October 2023	Practice your English language skills and prepare for your English Language test if necessary. Refer to PG English Language entry guidance here.
	Review the university's online research portal (https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/) and website to find a suitable supervisor. For guidance on finding a supervisor, please read the 'Guide to finding a supervisor'
	Contact potential supervisors about your area of research interests.
	Discuss your research ideas with your potential supervisors (some disciplines may require a research proposal) and determine the correct doctoral programme to apply for.
18 Oct 2023	Admissions applications open for 2024-25 intake
2 Jan 2024 (23:59 UK time)	Deadline for you to apply to King's College London for the scholarship via the online admissions system. Applications must include a specific funding code: **2425-KCSC** (see 'Application Process' section for de25tails) and should also include the name of your proposed supervisor.
15 Jan 2024 (23:59 UK time)	Deadline for you to submit all required supporting documentation via your online admissions application, such as proof of English language proficiency, references, official transcripts and certificates, including professional/university-made translations, and if applicable: personal statement/writing sample/research proposals (see 'Application Process' section for details). English entry requirements must be met by this point!
8 Mar 2024	King's aims to finalise the nominations list to the China Scholarship Council (CSC).
Expected 10-31 Mar 2024	Period for nominees to apply separately to the CSC. Note that timeframes within China might be earlier.
	The application guidance will be published on the CSC official website: https://apply.csc.edu.cn.
Early June 2024	Announcement of results expected from the CSC.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, you <u>MUST</u>:
- Be citizens and permanent residents of the People's Republic of China (and hold a Chinese passport);
- Be due to commence a full-time MPhil/PhD research degree programme at King's College London in the 2024/25 academic year (i.e., from Oct 2024 and by no later than June 2025), with an aim to complete the PhD degree;
- Satisfy criteria set out by the CSC, e.g., relating to age (up to 35yrs on application), education, and employment. Please to refer to CSC website for full details (http://www.csc.edu.cn).
- Agree to return to China upon completion of your studies/research;
- Apply to King's College London for the scholarship (as instructed in the 'Application Process' section below) by the deadline of 2 Jan 2024, 23:59 UK time;
- By the deadline of 15 Jan 2024, 23:59 UK time:
  - o have submitted all the required documentation to support your King's admissions application;
  - o have met the English language requirements for your chosen research programme;
  - o ensure that your referees have submitted their reference(s) to support your admissions application;
- Also, follow the separate CSC application procedure and submit the required documentation to the CSC by its stated deadlines (see http://www.csc.edu.cn for further details). NB: CSC application rules differ slightly between domestic applicants (those applying in China) and overseas applicants (those applying from abroad) – further guidance is provided below, under 'CSC guidance';

Please note that:
- Applicants who have already commenced their doctoral degree at King's are not eligible.
- These scholarships cannot be held on a part-time basis.
- Distance learning programmes are not eligible.
- Professional doctorate degrees (such as the MD(Res) and DClinPsy) are not eligible.
- Joint PhD programmes are not eligible.
- Applicants who fail to apply to both King's and the CSC, as appropriate, will not be considered.
- These scholarships cannot commence prior to October 2024 or after June 2025.

CSC Guidance:
Depending on whether a candidate is applying from within China (domestic applicant), or from abroad (overseas Chinese applicant), the following CSC rules apply to King's candidates:

For domestic applicants, applicants must either:
- o Be in the final year of an undergraduate degree at a Chinese university/institute in China and hold an MPhil/PhD offer to study at King's for 2024/25. Or,
- o Be completing a master's degree at a Chinese university/institute in China and hold an MPhil/PhD offer to study at King's for 2024/25. Or,
- o Be an in-service staff (i.e., employed) in China and hold an MPhil/PhD offer to study at King's for 2024/25.

For overseas Chinese applicants, applicants must either:
- o Be studying a master's degree abroad (e.g., in the UK) and be due to complete in 2024, and hold an MPhil/PhD offer to study at King's for 2024/25. Or,
- o Be an overseas Chinese applicant (not including those who returned to China and then went abroad) who completed their master's degree at an overseas university within one year and hold an MPhil/PhD offer to study at King's for 2024/25.

NB: Final year undergraduate students who are studying abroad (i.e., at a university/institution outside of China) are ineligible to apply to the CSC.
The above CSC guidance is correct at the time of publishing but may be subject to change. Please refer to the CSC's website for full details.

Application Process

Application Start: 16 October 2023	Application Deadline: 2 Jan 2024

King's College London accepts applications for the K-CSC awards up until **23:59 UK time on 2 January 2024.**

To apply, please follow the instructions below.

INSTRUCTIONS:

STEP 1: By the deadline of 23:59 UK time on 2 Jan 2024, you MUST:
- Apply to King's College London for a full-time MPhil/PhD degree programme with a 2024-25 start date (i.e., from 1 October 2024) using the King's online admissions application system – **King's Apply***
- Contact a potential King's supervisor that you would like to study under and include the proposed supervisor's name in your admissions application. For guidance on finding a supervisor, please click here. Normally, your programme will sit within the same department as your proposed supervisor. If you are unsure what programme to apply for, please check this with your proposed supervisor and/or department.
- On the funding part of your KCL online Admissions Application Form, ensure you tick the box at item 5 (Award Scheme Code or Name) and enter the code: **2425-KCSC (please copy and paste the code exactly). Applicants who fail to input this exact code (the bit in red) as instructed will not be picked up when we extract details from the admissions system, so it is vital that you do this correctly! Please refer to print screen below for guidance on what this should look like:**

If you have already applied for admissions but deferred entry to 2024/25, you must update your online admissions application to include the code 2425-KCSC in the funding section of your application, as instructed above. The same deadline of 2 January 2024 at 23:59 UK time applies.

STEP 2: By the deadline of 23:59 UK time on 15 Jan 2024, you MUST:

ensure that you have submitted all the required supporting documentation as part of your online Admissions application, to include:

- Official degree transcripts and certificates, including professional/university-made translations. Please note that if your degree is from a Chinese institution, you must also provide your graduation certificate;
- Proof of English Proficiency**;

References: Some programmes will require two references, and some will only require one reference. Your online admissions application will indicate the correct number of references needed for your programme, and the admissions system will automatically submit a request to your given referee(s) once you have submitted your admissions application. Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that your referee(s) submit the reference(s) on time;

- If applicable, you may also be required to provide a personal statement, writing sample and/or research proposal. Requirements vary between programmes so please refer to the online prospectus and admissions application for guidance about all necessary documentation.

** PLEASE NOTE: if you are currently studying a master's degree in a majority English speaking country, such as the UK and USA, you may still be required to provide a valid English test certificate by 15 January 2024 to prove your English language proficiency. If you have previously taken an English language test within the last 2 years, please upload your test certificate to your admissions application. For any queries relating to English language proficiency, please contact the King's Admissions Team via your online application.

For guidance about Postgraduate English language entry requirements, please refer to the webpage at: https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-taught/how-to-apply/entry-requirements/english-language-requirements. NOTE: if you experience problems accessing an English Language test centre, please consider the online options acceptable by King's, such as the TOEFL Home Edition and IELTS Indicator. The results turnaround time for some English tests is up to 10 working days, therefore, if you need to take a test, please do so as soon as possible.

Important notice: we currently are not accepting results from the 'Online' Pearson Test of English (Academic), but accept the 'in-person' Pearson Test of English (Academic).

PLEASE BE AWARE that material from your admissions application will be extracted and used as part of the assessment/selection process. As part of the standard admissions process, you may be contacted about missing material/documents, however this is not guaranteed, and **it is your responsibility to ensure that all the relevant information and supporting materials are provided in time. Applications that are incomplete by the given deadline will not be considered.**

STEP 3: Submit a <u>separate</u> application to the CSC:

- If you are selected for nomination by King's for our K-CSC awards, we will issue you with a 'Confirmation of Nomination' letter by 8 March 2024. Please use this letter alongside your admissions offer letter to apply separately to the CSC via their application channels.
- If you are currently in China, you must follow the local application procedures in China, or, if you are currently studying abroad, you may need to apply through a Chinese Embassy. For CSC guidance, please visit http://www.csc.edu.cn.
- Note that the CSC application process is separate to the process run by King's College London.
- The CSC application period is normally 10-31 March, however, application deadlines for institutions within China may differ, so please check carefully.

APPLICANTS WHO FAIL TO APPLY AS INSTRUCTED WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

Selection Process

Once the application deadline has passed, the Admissions Office and the Centre for Doctoral Studies (CDS) Office will gather and record the details of all the applications received that state 2425-KCSC as the Award Scheme Code.

The Admissions Office and the CDS Office will check the eligibility of all applicants, and all applications that are deemed eligible will be circulated to faculties for assessment and selection.

The assessment of applications is based on:
   i)   Evidence and strength of academic qualifications gained (minimum entry qualification is an undergraduate 2:1 and/or a higher degree), and where applicable, professional qualifications and/or relevant experience
   ii)   Strength of the research project
   iii)   Match of the applicant's interests with his/her potential supervisor

Academic faculties will put forward their ranked shortlist of candidates to the CDS office by 01 March 2024.

The CDS office will consider the nominations across all academic faculties and decide on the university's final list of nominees. Only those candidates who have met the English entry requirements for their programme and obtained an admissions offer are eligible for nomination to the CSC.

The CDS office aims to finalise the university's list of nominees and submit this to the CSC by 8 March 2024.

As soon as the nominations list is confirmed, the CDS office will notify applicants of their status via email.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are successfully chosen for nomination, you will be issued a 'Confirmation of Nomination' letter by the CDS office to confirm that King's College London agrees to waiver your tuition fees at King's if you are eventually successful with the K-CSC scholarship. This letter is separate to the standard admissions offer letter provided by the admissions office for the degree programme.

Nominees must apply separately to the CSC via their channels and the CSC will conduct a separate selection process based on the applications it receives via their process. The CSC will evaluate candidates according to CSC requirements and priorities and make the final overall decision about the awards. The CSC will normally confirm their list of successful scholarship recipients with the CDS office towards early June.

IMPORTANT NOTE:
   •   Applicants can only be successful with a K-CSC scholarship if they are chosen/supported by BOTH the King's College London Centre for Doctoral Studies and the China Scholarship Council.
   •   For applicants who make it on to the King's College London nominations list, their details (to include: full name, date of birth, gender, programme details, start date and end date) will be shared with the CSC as part of the nomination process for identification purposes.

Announcement of Results

If your K-CSC application is deemed ineligible, i.e., due to the late or incomplete submission of information/documents, your admissions application will automatically be rejected via the online admissions portal.

If you are unsuccessful with the K-CSC award, your admissions application will also be automatically rejected via the online admissions portal. This is because the university will assume that you no longer wish to further pursue your place at King's without K-CSC funding. However, if you decide that you do want to continue with your MPhil/PhD application at King's because you are able to secure alternative funding or self-fund (where possible), please contact your proposed supervisor to discuss this and, if supported, please contact the admissions office via King's Apply to request that your admissions application is reinstated.

If you do who make it on to the university's final nominations list, you will be informed via email as soon as possible, which is likely to be around mid-March.

Final decisions lie with the CSC and are normally confirmed towards early June. As soon as the CDS office is aware of the outcome, we will contact you to let you know of your position.

If you are successfully offered a K-CSC award, you will be asked to provide a decision on acceptance/decline by a given deadline. A failure to respond by the given deadline will result in the award offer being automatically withdrawn.

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CONDITIONS & REGULATIONS OF FUNDING

- K-CSC awards are offered on the condition that the candidate has met/will meet all the conditions required for acceptance by his/her chosen Faculty of study.

- Each K-CSC award is made on the assumption that there are adequate resources for the research project, and that the candidate's proposed course of study is acceptable to the department/division and Faculty in which they wish to study.

- The 2024-25 K-CSC awards are only valid to commence between 1 October 2024 and 1 June 2025; deferral of an award to a later academic session is not permitted.

- K-CSC awards granted for the 2024/25 academic session cannot be used retrospectively for whole or part of any earlier session.

- K-CSC awards cannot be transferred to another institution.

- K-CSC scholars must be registered as a full-time student for the length of their PhD degree.

- K-CSC scholars must comply with university regulations to submit their PhD thesis within the required time frame.

- If a K-CSC scholar wishes to make a change to: a) the research project, b) the supervisor, or c) department/division specified on their application form, he/she must first seek approval from the Centre for Doctoral Studies office. The award-holder would need to outline the changes proposed and provide confirmation of i) the department/supervisor's support of such changes, and ii) the tuition fees (if they are different from the amount attached to the original research project). Failure to inform the Centre for Doctoral Studies office of such a change may impact on the continuation of an award.

- If a K-CSC scholar needs to take time out from their studies due to illness, accident, or due to any other unforeseen circumstances, they must report this as soon as possible to the relevant Faculty Office/Record Centre to request an interruption of studies. The K-CSC scholar must also inform the Centre for Doctoral Studies office and the China Scholarship Council (via the Chinese Embassy) to request a temporary suspension of funding. If the Centre for Doctoral Studies office or China Scholarship Council are not informed and continues to pay for a scholar who is absent from their studies, a refund may be sought for any overpayment, and it may affect the continuation of the scholarship.

- If a K-CSC scholar is: a) financially supported by another organisation/sponsor; Or, b) secures additional funding later on during the course of their research degree, and the Centre for Doctoral Studies considers the additional funds/awards to be sufficient to cover maintenance and/or the programme tuition fees, the scholar may not be permitted to hold these funds/awards concurrently. The rule to remember is that if two funds/awards overlap in their level of support, e.g., both provide funds to cover full tuition fees, they cannot be held concurrently.

- K-CSC scholars who receive funding from alternative sources are required to disclose details of those funds to the Centre for Doctoral Studies office so that an assessment can be made regarding any potential overlap of funding.

- Applicants must be aware of all the additional financial commitments involved when attending their chosen course of study at King's. K-CSC awards are granted on the understanding that the K-CSC scholar will take responsibility for any additional expenses incurred for the duration of study.

- A K-CSC award can be terminated at any time under the following circumstances:
    - If an unsatisfactory progress report on the K-CSC scholar is received from his/her supervisor/department
    - If the K-CSC scholar is unable to upgrade from MPhil to the PhD
    - If a K-CSC scholar ceases to be a full-time doctoral student
    - If a K-CSC scholar is no longer required to pay fees at the overseas rate
    - If a K-CSC scholar receives other overlapping funding

- Students who receive a China Scholarship Council funded award will also need to abide by any terms and conditions set out by the China Scholarship Council. Scholars will be required to enter into a legally binding agreement with the CSC before they are able to take up the scholarship. If there are any significant developments that could affect/hamper a scholar's expected completion of the PhD, scholars are advised to get in touch with the Education Section in the Chinese Embassy.