

Finnish Universities' Research Scholarships to the Fudan Nordic Centre, Shanghai during the academic year 2025-2026

Finnish Universities' Research Scholarships to the Fudan Nordic Centre, Shanghai are open for applications until 19.5.2025. Nordic Centre at Fudan University, Shanghai will offer the grantees office space and some support services. Nordic Centre at Fudan University was established in 1995 through a collaborative effort between 14 Nordic universities and Fudan University. Today the network consists of 24 member institutions in China, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Nordic Centre seeks to be an essential hub for cutting-edge Sino-Nordic research, research-based education and outreach activities. Currently the Nordic Secretariat of the Fudan Nordic Centre is coordinated in Island by the University of Island. For more information, please refer to <http://www.nordiccentre.net/> and documents there. This scholarship programme is a specific project coordinated by the University of Turku and funded by the Kone Foundation. The current project is running until 2028.

What is the length of the scholarship period and amount of scholarship?

The amount of the scholarship is 2700 euros/month for doctoral candidates or 3200 euros/month for post doc researchers. The monthly scholarships will be paid out to the grantee directly by the Kone Foundation but administered by the coordinator, University of Turku. In addition, the project will pay a travel grant of up to 1200 euros except that for those employed by the University of Turku the travel costs will be paid up to 1200 euros. The grant receivers' unit (department or similar) will need to contribute to funding with a self-financing share of 800 euros. This sum will be billed from the sending unit after the candidate has been selected to receive the grant. However, all applicants need to have a preliminary commitment for this share from their unit at the application phase already. Please note also that grantees will pay visa and other travel costs and arrange these themselves.

Criteria for applying

All researchers including doctoral candidates as well as post doc academic staff affiliated in one of the Nordic Centre's Finnish member universities: University of Turku, University of Helsinki, University of Tampere, University of Eastern Finland and University of Lapland and fulfilling the other criteria are eligible for this scholarship for 4 months research period in China to be carried out during the autumn 2025 or during the spring term 2026. In the essence, the scholarship is meant to cover most of expenses in China. Therefore, in general those scholarship receivers who are employed should normally be on leave from their salary work. The minimum period of stay is normally 4 months, as it justifies in most cases the possibility to have a pension insurance at MELA: <https://www.mela.fi/en/about-mela/what-is-mela/> In some cases, shorter periods may be possible, especially if the scholarship receiver can combine their scholarship period with their current MELA (MYEL) insurance period.

Applications are considered from doctoral candidates, post-doctoral researchers and academic staff affiliated with the Finnish member universities and doing research in the Kone foundation's *priority fields of the humanities, social sciences or environmental sciences as well as multidisciplinary work that involves the academic fields mentioned above are eligible for this scholarship*. Applicants and receivers of this scholarship should proof to be affiliated with a Finnish member university during the research period to China.

The aim is also that the grant receiver, upon returning to the Finnish member university to continue their research could benefit also their Finnish research community with the possibly new contacts and networks. In addition to carrying out research, an asset to the application is the possibility for the added relevance for the Sino-Nordic cooperation e.g. in the forms of the possibility and visions to create long-term links; e.g. plan research projects, participation in the future Fudan Nordic Centre activities and events even after their research period. After the research period at the Nordic Centre, the grantee is required to report to the project committee and to the Kone Foundation.

The funding decisions are guided by the same fields and central values that are defined in the Kone Foundation's own strategy, such as: academic freedom and the intrinsic value of research, a plurality of voice, boldness (for the full information, please see <https://koneensaatio.fi/en/grants/grantapplicants/for-what-purposes-does-the-kone-foundation-grant-funding/>). Moreover, enforcing the Sino-Nordic research cooperation is part of the strategy of the Nordic Center which encourages new cooperation especially, but not only, in four interdisciplinary focus areas: *Sino-Nordic perspectives; Sustainable development; Digitalization and technology and Health and welfare*. The research carried out under this programme can be focused e.g. on China or in globally and/or otherwise mutually interesting topics, in which the knowledge of Chinese is not necessary. Kone Foundation's priority fields are the humanities, social sciences and environmental sciences as well as multidisciplinary work that involves the academic fields mentioned above.

Please see also the *section Conditions for grantees receiving the scholarship* below for more information which might be relevant when you are planning your research period.

The project can offer scholarship for the following purposes:

- The scholarships are intended only for longer research periods (4 months) in China, and where the Nordic Centre at Fudan University, Shanghai functions as a base for the grantees. The scholarship programme is intended to support and expand research conducted in the Finnish member universities, therefore the affiliation with the Finnish member university during and after the research period is relevant. The aim is to stimulate researchers to expand their research focus towards research connected with China and to make longer research periods in China possible for them.

Applying & dead-line

The electronic application form should be filled and it is available here:

<https://link.webropolsurveys.com/S/2E98A33FFF255249> (Webropol survey)

Application time ends in 19 5.2025.

Be prepared to include the following attachments in the application via the electronic form:

1. CV with a list of publications
2. Research plan for the research period in China with a description of the possibly planned co-operation with Fudan University and/or possibly with other Chinese partners relevant to this research; the relevance of the research for the applicant's own research and possibly also for the cooperation of the home university.
3. Doctoral candidates: research plan for the doctoral thesis. Please also state your status during the planned research period (doctoral candidate/post doc. If you will be a post-doc during the actual research period in China, your affiliation status to the member university during the research period will be relevant for the scholarship payments. For planned post-doc period please see also requirement 5 below.
4. Doctoral candidates: recommendation by the supervisor.
5. Post doc applicants working with a scholarship (normally not salaried during the period) in a member university please attach the project leader's letter of confirmation or similar of the affiliation to the member university or other prove of the status during the planned research period.
6. All candidates: preliminary commitment letter for the 800 euros self-financing part from the sending unit (free-formed letter signed by the person responsible of the financing)
7. Any other recommendations are voluntary.

Further information about applying from your own university's contact person

For further information about the call is given by the candidate's home university (choose your own university):

University of Turku: Kirsi Korpela (kirsi.korpela@utu.fi) (Coordinator)

University of Tampere: Ilkka Virtanen (ilkka.virtanen@tuni.fi)

University of Eastern Finland: Minchun Ryhänen (minchun.ryhanen@uef.fi)

University of Helsinki: Sami Honkasalo (sami.honkasalo@helsinki.fi)

University of Lapland: Matti Nojonen (matti.nojonen@ulapland.fi)

The decision will be made by project's external evaluation team with members representing the project committee.

Nordic Centre support

The role of the Nordic Centre is to help grantees with practical issues at the Nordic Centre and when settling in Shanghai and writing invitations for visa. The Centre can also help to make contacts between the grantees and relevant academics at Fudan University, when possible. This availability of the cooperators will depend on the mutual interest. Therefore, it is beneficial if you already have some contacts yourself. In some case the grantees who are doctoral candidates can attend courses or other educational events offered by the Nordic Centre. You can also familiarize yourself with the activities of the Nordic Centre and potentially see the possibilities for the future cooperation in that context.

Programme Manager of the Nordic Centre at Fudan University: Veli-Matti Palomäki: veli-matti.palomaki@nordiccentre.net. Please contact him with additional enquiries concerning especially the Nordic Centre and Fudan University <http://www.nordiccentre.net/>. There you can also find there [the Handbook for visiting scholars](#) which will help you when planning your visit. The [Strategy of the Centre](#) is also available.

Conditions for grantees receiving the scholarship

Salary, other scholarships, taxation and sanctuary payments for grant receivers for research period in China

The grantees of this scholarship are obligated to take care of all legal obligations and consequences concerning e. g. taxation, statutory insurance and retirement plan fees as well as personal insurances. The Social Insurance Institution MELA provides MYEL insurances, pension, accident and group life insurance coverage for those under Finnish social security system and receiving scholarships. Statutory insurance payments are approximately 12 - 15% of the monthly grant. Further information on MELA insurance and payments: <https://www.mela.fi/en/grant-and-scholarship-recipient> and in Finnish: <https://www.mela.fi/fi/apurahansaajat>. Kone Foundation will inform Mela of individuals or groups who have received funding for periods of four months or more and whose grants exceed the minimum level for pension payments (€4,605 in earnings per year in 2025). It is the grantees' responsibility to contact Mela to arrange pension coverage. In addition to contacting MELA it is also important to contact Kela and taxation office when arranging the period abroad. The grantees not belonging to the Finnish social security system should secure suitable insurance coverage during their stay in China. Please note that, in practice, it might be difficult to get 4 months visa to China right away. This means that scholarship receivers have got first 3 months visa first and then they have applied the extension for the rest of the period e.g. by applying it for the rest of the period in Hong Kong. The scholarship receiver must be prepared to this kind of uncertainties and extra costs. Please note that any changes to personal grant payment schedule may affect the grantee's MYEL insurance coverage. Grantees are obligated to immediately inform MELA about any changes regarding grant payments.

In the essence, the monthly scholarship is meant to cover most of expenses in China including the accommodation costs. Therefore, in general those scholarship receivers who are employed should be on leave from their salary work. The grantees holding also another scholarship need to follow the rules of both financing parties. However, especially post-doc researchers and senior researchers may in some cases discuss with their employer on whether they could also be paid part of their salary. The purpose would be then to compensate a possible reduction of the income level during the research period in China. In general, the grantees could obtain 25 % of their salary at the maximum, and the research conducted in China should be related to the researcher's general research profile. Especially if the paid salary is higher than 25 %, it can reduce the amount of the payable grant and needs to be negotiated. Also, another scholarship may have an effect to the amount of this grant. It is recommended that another income (partial salary or another scholarship) is mentioned already in the application. In case this is not possible or known at that point, the contact person at the University of Turku needs to be informed of any such arrangements prior to the payment of the actual grant. The Kone Foundation will make the final decision on the amount of the payable grant in such occasions. Anyone employed in the Finnish University when receiving a scholarship at the same time, should contact their own HR and travel experts, to find out obligations from the employer's side.

Following the rules of Kone Foundation in this project

The project follows the rules and [instructions given by Kone Foundation for all its grantees: <https://koneensaatio.fi/en/grants/forgrantrecipients/>](https://koneensaatio.fi/en/grants/forgrantrecipients/). The following sections are the most important for an individual grantee: social security; insurance; taxation; research funding, ethical considerations, reuse of research material and open access. Individual grantee should also see in the section Grant payment the following points: changes, suspension of payment and cancellation. The coordinator (University of Turku) is however, the leader of the project and the primary contact point in any questions concerning the granted scholarship or matters related to the research period. This project is responsible of all the coordination towards Kone Foundation in issues like grant payments and project's own reporting.

After the research period at the Nordic Centre, the grantee is required to write a report to the project committee and to the Kone Foundation. The coordinator will advise about that.

Handling of your Data – Privacy Notices related to the project

The coordinating university, member universities, Kone Foundation and MELA will handle the applicants and scholarship receivers' personal data according to their respective data protection rules.

The grantee her/himself will deal with the Nordic Centre for invitation purposes and with relevant authorities in Finland and China (Nordic Centre, embassy, taxation, insurance etc.). The Nordic Centre at Fudan University handles the data outside EU area, as it is situated in China and run by secretariat in Island (University of Island).

Application phase, selection phase and archiving:

- At the application (provided by Webropol) we will collect the following information: name, contact info, university, status, field and research topic, possible other funding and information provided in required attachments (see above).
- Your information given in this application will be handled in the application phase by the coordinator (University of Turku) of the project and also the project committee who makes the decisions (consisting of representatives from several Finnish Universities). The data is kept at the University of Turku according to regulations of the University of Turku and funding organisation (Kone Foundation) as well as handled by the project committee's members' universities' regulations. The project coordinator, University of Turku takes into consideration of the projects' requirements for the archiving and archiving periods of the applications and decisions. The privacy notice of the University of Turku: <https://www.utu.fi/en/privacy/notice> and in Finnish: <https://www.utu.fi/fi/tietosuoja>.

After the selection when the grantee has accepted the grant:

- Limited information such as the grantees' name, contact info (e-mail), field of study and research topic will be distributed to Fudan Nordic Centre in Shanghai, China by the coordinator. The Nordic Centre may publish the grantees' name, university, visiting period and field of study on its website.
- Limited information such as the grantees' name, field of study and research topic can be published at the websites and information channels of the participating Finnish Universities and Kone Foundation.

- The grantees' information with required information for the payment process will be submitted to the Kone Foundation to their grant payment portal by the coordinator of the project University of Turku.
- Kone Foundation may publish the grantee's name and field of study and research topic in their websites. Kone Foundation also informs MELA about the scholarship receivers with the necessary data for that process (please see Kone Foundation's data protection rules for more information).
- The personal data needed for the payment of the grant from Kone Foundation and by the University of Turku include, in addition to the data already mentioned above: home address, social security number (in some cases birth date), bank connection.

Further information:

- Further information about data handling and GDPR of the project can be obtained from the project coordinator: korpela(at)utu.fi.

Other parties Privacy Notices:

Kone Foundation and MELA have their own Privacy notices for handling the data

- Kone Foundation: <https://koneensaatio.fi/en/about-us/kone-foundations-privacy-policy-statement/> and in Finnish: https://koneensaatio.fi/meista/koneen-saation-saannot_tietosuojaselosteet/;
- MELA: <https://www.mela.fi/en/about-mela/processing-of-personal-data-and-data-protection-at-mela/privacy-and-cookie-policy/> and in Finnish: <https://www.mela.fi/tietoa-melasta/tietosuoja/>.