

## Finnish Universities' Research Scholarships to the Fudan Nordic Centre, Shanghai during the academic year 2026-2027

Finnish Universities' Research Scholarships to the Fudan Nordic Centre, Shanghai are open for applications until 31 March 2026 for the Fudan Nordic Centre Finnish member universities' researchers. Scholarships are available for a four-month research period in China, within the Kone Foundation's priority fields: the humanities, social sciences or environmental sciences, as well as multidisciplinary work that involves these fields. The Fudan Nordic Centre serves as the base for the stay. The scholarship is intended to cover most expenses during the stay in China. This scholarship programme is a project coordinated by the University of Turku and funded by the Kone Foundation. The current project runs until 2028. Scholarships are open for applications annually. **The current call is open until March 31.**

The Nordic Centre at Fudan University was established in 1995 as a collaborative initiative between 14 Nordic universities and Fudan University. Today, the network consists of 23 member institutions in China, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The Nordic Centre aims to serve as a key hub for cutting-edge Sino-Nordic research, research-based education and outreach activities. Currently, the Nordic Secretariat of the Fudan Nordic Centre is coordinated by the University of Iceland. For more information about the Centre, please visit: <http://www.nordiccentre.net/>.

### Eligibility criteria

Researchers—including doctoral candidates and postdoctoral academic staff—affiliated with one of the Nordic Centre's Finnish member universities and fulfilling the other criteria (below) are eligible for this scholarship. The Finnish member universities are the University of Turku, the University of Helsinki, Tampere University, the University of Eastern Finland and the University of Lapland. The four months' research visit should take place either during autumn 2026 or spring 2027. Please note that the grantee's home unit must contribute a self-financing share of 800 euros.

Eligible applications must fall within the Kone Foundation's priority fields: the humanities, social sciences or environmental sciences, as well as multidisciplinary work that involves these fields. 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.

Funding decisions follow the fields and core values defined in the Kone Foundation's strategy, including academic freedom, the intrinsic value of research, plurality of voice and boldness. Strengthening Sino-Nordic research cooperation is also part of the Nordic Centre's strategy, encouraging collaboration especially in the following interdisciplinary focus areas: Sino-Nordic perspectives, Sustainable development, Digitalisation and technology, Health and welfare. Please note that the latter two areas should be connected to the Kone Foundation's priorities, for example through multidisciplinary approaches, as technical and health sciences alone are not funded.

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 in globally and/or otherwise mutually interesting topics as well as to make longer research periods in China possible.

The aim is that, upon returning to their Finnish member university, the grantee will continue their research and contribute to the Finnish research community with the new research ideas and contribution as well as possibly new contacts and networks gained during the visit. Added value in the application includes plans for Sino-Nordic cooperation—such as long-term collaboration, joint research projects, publications or participation in Nordic Centre activities after the research stay.

### **Scholarship period and amount**

The amount of the scholarship is 2,700 euros per month for doctoral candidates and 3,200 euros per month for postdoctoral researchers. The monthly scholarship (four months) will be paid directly to the grantee by the Kone Foundation, with administration by the University of Turku.

The scholarship is intended to cover most of the expenses in China. Therefore, recipients who are employed are generally expected to be on leave from their salaried work during the research period. The minimum stay is normally four months, as this duration typically enables pension insurance through MEELA, which is usually obligatory for grant recipients. In some cases, shorter insurance periods may be possible, particularly if the recipient can combine the scholarship period with an existing MYEL insurance period under Kone Foundation funding.

In addition, the project will provide a travel grant of up to 1,200 euros. For those employed by the University of Turku, travel costs will also be covered up to 1,200 euros.

Please note that the grantee's home unit must contribute a self-financing share of 800 euros. Applicants must have a preliminary commitment for this share from their unit at the application stage.

Listed candidates for receiving the grant need to accept the scholarship rules. Grantees are responsible for arranging and paying for their visa and other travel-related costs. Grantees will have reporting responsibility after the visiting period.

### **Applying & deadlines**

The electronic application form must be completed and is available here:  
<https://link.webpolsurveys.com/S/F346F8933A290B36>

**The application period ends on 31.3.2026.**

### **Required attachments**

All candidates:

1. CV with a list of publications.

2. Research plan for the research period in China, including:
  - planned cooperation with Fudan University and/or other partners (when relevant)
  - visiting period's relevance for the applicant's own work
  - potential benefits for the home university and impact on academic research in general
3. Confirmation of affiliation to the member university, also during the visiting period
4. Preliminary commitment letter confirming the unit's self-financing contribution (EUR 800).

In addition for doctoral candidates:

5. Research plan for the doctoral thesis, and academic status (PhD/post doc/affiliation) during the planned research period. NOTE: If you will be a post-doc during the actual research period in China, your affiliation status to the member university during the period will be relevant for the scholarship payments. For possible planned post-doc period please pay attention to explain your status during the period, see also requirement 3 above)
6. Recommendation letter from the supervisor.
7. Optional for all candidates: additional recommendations.

### **In cooperation with and further information from your own home university**

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

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

Tampere University: Ilkka Virtanen ([ilkka.virtanen@tuni.fi](mailto:ilkka.virtanen@tuni.fi))

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

University of Helsinki: Minna van Gerven ([minna.vangerven@helsinki.fi](mailto:minna.vangerven@helsinki.fi)).

University of Lapland: Matti Nojonen ([matti.nojonen@ulapland.fi](mailto: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 Nordic Centre assists grantees with practical matters in Shanghai, including invitation letters for visa applications. It may help connect grantees with relevant academics at Fudan University when possible; please note, however, that the availability of partners depends on mutual interest, so having existing contacts or preliminary contacting is beneficial. Doctoral candidates may attend courses or other educational activities offered by the Centre. The grantees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Centre's activities and explore opportunities for future cooperation.

Programme Manager: **Veli-Matti Palomäki**: [veli-matti.palomaki@nordiccentre.net](mailto:veli-matti.palomaki@nordiccentre.net)

More information and the **Handbook for Visiting Scholars**: <http://www.nordiccentre.net/>

This project is funded by



## Privacy Policy (GDPR)

Data controllers / processors	University of Turku (coordinator), Finnish member universities, Kone Foundation, MELA. Each of these organisations process personal data according to their own data protection rules. In addition: Fudan Nordic Centre (outside EU, see below). See also below grantee's responsibility.
Purpose of processing	Managing, evaluating, coordinating and reporting scholarship applications and grant decisions.
Legal basis	Processing necessary for grant administration (Personal Data Act 22.4.1999/523, Section 8).
Data collected in the application	Name, contact details, university affiliation, academic status, field, research topic, other funding, and information given in required attachments (e.g. CV, research plans, recommendations, unit commitments, see the call document).
Who can access the data?	Project coordinator (University of Turku), project committee members (Finnish universities), and authorised university personnel involved in grant handling.
Storage & archiving	Data stored at University of Turku under UTU and Kone Foundation archiving rules; committee members follow their home universities' regulations.
Data shared after selection	Limited info (name, field, topic) may be published by participating universities and Kone Foundation. Required data submitted to Kone Foundation and MELA for payment/insurance. Only selected candidates.
Payment-related data (also to Kone Foundation) and UTU	Home address, phone number, social security number (or date of birth), bank account details (and CV).
Transfers outside EU/EEA	Limited data (name, email, field, topic, planned visiting period) transferred to Nordic Centre at Fudan University, Shanghai, China, to arrange the visit. The Centre is outside the scope of EU GDPR.
Publication by Finnish member universities, Kone Foundation and Nordic Centre	Name, home university, visiting period and field may be posted on the websites.
Grantee responsibility	Grantee handles additional required information with the Nordic Centre, embassies, taxation, insurance and Chinese authorities (outside EU, outside of the scope of EU GDPR)
More information / GDPR contact	Project coordinator: Kirsi.korpela(at)utu.fi
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