

## **SPECIAL RESEARCH FUND ANNOUNCEMENT 2023 PREFERENCE PROGRAMME FOR CHINESE PhD CSC CANDIDATES**

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### **Announcement and application information**

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Each year the Flemish Government allocates research funds to Ghent University so as to implement the Flemish Government's Resolution of 21 December 2012. In accordance with this resolution, Ghent University has drawn up rules and regulations regarding the funds of the Special Research Fund (BOF, Bijzonder Onderzoeksfonds) <sup>1</sup>. Each year the Research Council invites research proposals for the different initiatives.

At least 3.5% of the financial means of the Special Research Fund has to be used to support bilateral scientific collaboration initiatives. One of these initiatives is the cofunding of Chinese doctoral students who obtained a PhD-scholarship of the Chinese Scholarship Council.

This invitation concerns:

**Preference programme for Chinese PhD CSC candidates  
Applying for a CSC scholarship in 2023**

**The deadline for applications at Ghent University is  
17 January 2023, 23.59 (Belgian time).**

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<sup>1</sup> Board of Directors, 18.01.2013

### **Ghent University preference programme for Chinese PhD CSC candidates**

Ghent University has signed a cooperation agreement with the China Scholarship Council to stimulate Ghent University as host institution for Chinese PhD students. This cooperation agreement will last for 5 years from 1 August 2018 until 31 July 2023. In the framework of this cooperation agreement Ghent University will fund the tuition fees of all admitted and funded CSC doctoral students. Holders of a CSC PhD grant will also be exempted from paying Ghent University bench fees up to 4 years of consecutive study/research.

**Within the framework of this agreement Ghent University yearly supports a *preference co-funding programme* by providing a merit-based top-up research allowance to the best 10 CSC applicants choosing Ghent University as destination for their studies.**

By means of their Ghent University supervisor selected students will dispose of an extra research allowance of €3.720/year on top of their CSC-scholarship. In consultation with their Ghent University supervisor they can use this research allowance for paying study and research expenses related to their PhD studies at Ghent University. This research allowance starts 1 October 2023 at the earliest and amounts to the number of months CSC grant x € 310.

**This call is open for excellent Chinese candidates who will apply for a CSC PhD-grant in 2023 to start their PhD studies at Ghent University. Candidates who already obtained a CSC scholarship are not eligible for the preference programme at Ghent University.**

**The *preference programme* is only intended for students who either want to obtain a PhD degree at Ghent University or who want to take a joint PhD degree at both Ghent University and their Chinese home university. (Exchange) CSC students who intend to obtain a PhD degree at their Chinese home university only, are not eligible for the *preference programme* at Ghent University.**

In case candidates are not selected for the Ghent University *preference programme*, or do not *qualify* for this *preference programme* (read the *evaluation and application criteria below*) they can apply for a CSC scholarship - *personal programme* instead.

### **Evaluation of applications and granting of the cofunding**

The Research Council will preselect the 15 best candidates at Ghent university prior to the CSC scholarship selection based on the qualifications of the candidates. These **15 students will be invited to apply for a CSC preference scholarship**. CSC will select out of these group of nominated students (approximately) 10 students for a CSC preference scholarship.

CSC applicants need to choose between the different available CSC scholarships (preference **or** personal). Students who were nominated by Ghent University in the framework of the CSC preference programme but who ultimately do not obtain a CSC preference scholarship, will not be able to apply for another CSC scholarship (e.g. personal) in the same year.

This call is highly competitive. To be eligible for this Ghent University *preference programme* students:

- must have obtained a (weighted) **bachelor score of minimum 85/100** or must prove to have a minimum GPA (grade point average) that equals this score.

Students will be ranked on the basis of their bachelor study result. Therefore students must include a transcript of records (or other official document) that attests their **weighted bachelor study result translated into a score/100**.

Students who only have a GPA must always indicate the maximum score that can be obtained (e.g. .../3, .../4,.../5) and must add an official attestation of the used grading/credit system + conversion scale into a 100 percentage scale. If needed, students are advised to contact the student administration of their respective universities to attest their study result into a score/100. Without this information the application will not be considered eligible.

- Candidates for the preference programme must also prove to have a **master degree or be in the final year of their master studies**. Students that have been enrolled as a PhD student on the basis of a bachelor degree are also eligible to apply.

Applicants with a lower bachelor score or without master study/PhD enrollment will not be taken into consideration for this programme.

### Ghent University preselection:

The candidates that qualify for the *preference programme* (bachelor score minimum 85/100 + master/PhD studies) will be ranked according to their **bachelor study results** and **university where they have or will be graduated** (bachelor and/or master/PhD).

Ghent University will give preference towards

- the **highest ranked student** (on the basis of their bachelor result) +
- **candidates that graduated/studied (bachelor and/or master/PhD) at Chinese universities/institutions listed on the Double First Class University Project**. Within this list of Chinese university/institutions preference will be given towards partner universities from Ghent University (list available on <https://www.ugent.be/en/research/funding/bof/chn/overview.htm>). Minimum 5 candidates that study/graduated at Ghent university partner universities listed on the Double First Class University project will be invited to submit a PhD scholarship proposal through the preference program. Candidates that study/have graduated at other universities than those mentioned in the Double First Class University project list take the remaining places in the nomination.
- **Ghent University will preselect maximum 2 candidates from the same university.**

No restrictions will be imposed relating to the fields of research.

### Language

The applications for grants for Chinese candidates are to be submitted in English.

### Result

The Ghent University supervisors will receive a letter/e-mail from the Chairman of the Research Council with the selection result. Details on the feedback procedure will be mentioned in this letter. All applicants can also contact the Research Co-ordination Office for the result and feedback via [bof@ugent.be](mailto:bof@ugent.be).

### Submission

Applications for the preference programme for Chinese CSC candidates must be submitted on the required forms: <https://www.ugent.be/en/research/funding/bof/chn/overview.htm>

The **deadline** for applications is: **17 January 2023, 23.59 (Belgian time)**.

The deadline will be strictly respected; late or incomplete applications will be rejected without review.

The **application** has to be submitted electronically to [BOFapplication@UGent.be](mailto:BOFapplication@UGent.be) (please use a pdf converted from the Word document and not a scanned pdf<sup>2</sup>).

The document has to be named as follows: "surname Candidate\_name Candidate\_BOF\_CSC\_application". Send the application form and annexes as separate PDF-files

The proposals must be drawn up in English. Add a copy of the following documents:

- copies of diplomas, transcripts of records and document(s)<sup>3</sup> to attest the studies (Ba + Ma/PhD) and the study results for the bachelor translated into a score/100.
- official attestation of the grading/credit system (if applicable)

The **Ghent University supervisor** has to fill in an **ethic questionnaire**. This document is available on the same webpage as the application form. The supervisor has to send this ethic questionnaire to [BOFapplication@ugent.be](mailto:BOFapplication@ugent.be).

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<sup>2</sup> Via File < Export < Create PDF/XPS document

<sup>3</sup> Explanation of grading/credit system



**Scientific/scholarly report**

Within 3 months following upon the end of the cofunding a final scientific/scholarly report must be submitted, signed by the supervisor. This report will relate to the full period of the cofunding that was granted and will present the results of the research project. The scientific/scholarly report must be made on the required forms, which are available on the University website <https://www.ugent.be/en/research/opportunities/phd/dosChina.htm>. The report has to be sent electronically to [BOFapplication@UGent.be](mailto:BOFapplication@UGent.be)

**More information**

For further general information, please contact the Research Co-ordination Office, Mrs. An Moors – tel. +32 9 264 95 61 (e-mail: [BOF@UGent.be](mailto:BOF@UGent.be)), or Dr. Dirk De Craemer, head of the office.

## APPLICATION INFORMATION

### 1 Administrative data (must be filled out completely and accurately, using arial font size 10 pt.)

#### 1.1 The candidate

To be eligible for this *preference programme* - at the time of the application (deadline) - students must have *started* the admission procedure as a future PhD student at Ghent University. The admission procedure does not have to be completed by the time of the pre-selection deadline, but must be finished by the time of the CSC application in China.

The admission procedure at Ghent University needs to be initiated by the Ghent University supervisor. This is a mostly administrative procedure during which the academic aspects (equivalence of your degree, research proposal and language skills) will be evaluated. <https://www.ugent.be/en/research/doctoralresearch/enrolment-doctorate>

#### 1.2 Supervisor (only one allowed)

The proposals must be submitted by:

(1) a supervisor who is, at the moment of the deadline of this call, associated with Ghent University either as:

- (a) a member of the tenured academic staff (Zelfstandig Academisch Personeel)
- (b) a visiting professor with at least a research assignment

or by:

(2) a senior assistant, senior lector, assistant professor, associate professor, full professor or senior full professor within the integration framework at UGent who holds a PhD degree. In this case, it is compulsory to add a co-supervisor (see 1.3) who belongs to category (1) of the supervisor.

This supervisor acts as the **sole** authorized person for the granted research budget and as spokesperson. The supervisor carries the responsibility for the proper implementation of and reporting on the project.

Please mention the ORCID-ID of the supervisor.

The supervisor is obliged to have an ORCID-ID (publically available). Those who do not yet have an ORCID-ID can find more information on: <https://www.ugent.be/orcid>.

#### 1.3 Co-supervisor (only one allowed)

Co-supervisors have no access to the budget for this PhD research. As is evident in the project description and the plan of work, the co-supervisor must make a real contribution to the coordination of the PhD research. Depending on the category to which the supervisor belongs, the following distinction is being made:

(a) If the supervisor belongs to **category (1) of the supervisor**, a co-supervisor is **optional**. At the moment of the deadline of this call, the co-supervisor must:

- belong to one of the categories of the supervisors
- have an appointment at Ghent University, the University Hospital, VIB, IMEC, IBBT and/or Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School or at one of the University Colleges ("hogescholen") from the Ghent University Association **and** hold a PhD degree.

(b) If the supervisor belongs to the **integration framework, or will retire during the course of the scholarship**, it is **compulsory to add one co-supervisor who belongs to category (1) of the supervisor**. In that case the application has to be supported by a co-supervisor who is:

- a member of the tenured academic staff (Zelfstandig Academisch Personeel)
- a visiting professor with at least a research assignment

The status of the co-supervisor (including the type and duration of the appointment) and the home institution have to be specified in the application forms.

Please mention the ORCID-ID of the co-supervisor. The co-supervisor is **obliged** to have an ORCID-ID (*publically available*). Those who do not yet have an ORCID-ID can find more information on: <https://www.ugent.be/orcid>.

#### 1.4 Title of the PhD proposal

Concise title of the PhD research

#### 1.5 University where the student wants to obtain the PhD degree

There are two possibilities: either the PhD student takes the **PhD degree at Ghent University** or the student takes a **joint PhD degree at both Ghent University and the Chinese home university**. Indicate what is applicable.

**Joint PhD degree** means that two (or more) partner institutions assume joint responsibility for the supervision of the PhD candidate's doctoral research, the organization of the doctoral examination and the award of the doctoral degree. The degree awarded can be either a joint degree (one diploma signed by each institution) or a double degree (two diploma's, with the name of the partnering institution clearly mentioned so they cannot be mistaken for two separate degrees). For more information about Joint PhD agreements see: <https://www.ugent.be/en/research/doctoralresearch/joint-phd/overview.htm>

***Students who want to obtain a PhD degree at their Chinese home university only ('exchange students'), are not eligible for this preference programme.***

#### 1.6 CSC-application for a PhD-grant

Give the requested information.

#### 1.7 Does the proposed research include possible ethical and/or biosafety issues and/or processing of personal data?

The Ghent University supervisor must submit a separate advice on the ethical and biosafety context of the proposed research project. The advice document is available on the same webpage as the application form.

If available a favourable ethical recommendation or evidence of a bio-safety file can be added as an annex to this advice.

#### 1.8 Abstract of the research proposal in Dutch and English

Please give a short Dutch and English description of the research proposal in maximum 60 words. Include the title of the project, the abstract and also at least 3 keywords, divided by a semicolon “;” .

#### 1.9 Research field codes (at least one):

Please include at least 1 research field code. For the different codes, see <https://www.ugent.be/en/research/research-ugent/research-discipline.htm> under “Disciplinary Subfield L4”.

#### 1.10 Data Management Plan

When research funding is granted by BOF, the researchers (promoters or holders of a pre-doctoral or post-doctoral fellowship) will be asked to write a data management plan (DMP) submit it to [dmp.admin@ugent.be](mailto:dmp.admin@ugent.be) within 6 months after the start of the project.

The DMP has to be based on one of the templates that are available on [DMPonline.be](http://DMPonline.be). It is preferable to use this tool also for the drafting of a DMP.

Researchers are also expected to keep the DMP up-to-date during the course of the project and are accountable for the data management of their projects at any time. No later than three months after the end of the project, the researchers will need to upload the final version of their DMP in GISMO. See for more information on: <https://www.ugent.be/en/research/datamanagement/policies/ghent-university.htm#BOF-andIOF-fundedresearch>. Questions about writing a DMP or the templates can be addressed to [rdm.support@ugent.be](mailto:rdm.support@ugent.be).

## 2 The candidate

### 2.1 Studies

Mention the global title of your studies (bachelor and master/PhD level) (not the titles of the individual courses) and if applicable the results per degree (weighted marks or GPA). Add copies of all diplomas and certificates and the transcripts of records (in English). If you are currently in the final year of your master degree studies, add the transcript of records of the master courses you have completed so far.

**Students will be ranked on the basis of their bachelor study result.** Therefore students must include a transcript of records (or other official document) that **attests their weighted bachelor study result translated into a score/100.**

Students who only have a GPA must always indicate the maximum score that can be obtained (e.g. .../3, .../4,.../5) and must add an official attestation of the used grading/credit system + conversion scale into a 100 percentage scale. If needed, students are advised to contact the student administration of their respective universities to attest their study result into a score/100. **Without this information the application will not be considered eligible.**

To be eligible for this *preference programme* students must prove to have obtained a (weighted) **bachelor score of minimum 85/100.** Applicants with a lower bachelor score will not be taken into account for the CSC preference programme at Ghent University.

Candidates for the *preference programme* must also prove to have **a master degree or be in the final year of their master studies/have started their PhD studies.**