

Fellowships Program Information Sheet – Yenching Scholarship

Updated: 11-15-22

	Brief description	More information
1. Award	The ~125 recipients of this award each year are fully funded for a master's program in China Studies at Peking University, one of China's top universities . The Yenching Academy, established in 2015, is committed to creating a residential program that fosters a community of enthusiastic and globally oriented young innovators. For students from Mainland China (~20% of participants), the program requires 24 months in residence. International Scholars are funded for 12 months in residence, during which they complete their coursework and may complete the thesis. Degrees are granted upon the completion of all coursework and satisfactory defense of the thesis. Read about the program of study .	Yenching Academy International students and students from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan comprise ~80% of the student body. Among them, students from the U.S. and Canada are ~30%; students from Europe ~30%; students from other Asian countries ~20%; and students from the rest of the world ~20%. All scholars in good standing have the option to extend the fellowship for a second year, if they wish to remain in Beijing. A limited number of financial aid packages are available for those who wish to remain on campus for a second year.
2. Eligibility	Students of any nationality with a bachelor's degree in any field with outstanding academic record (no minimum GPA specified, but 3.7+ the norm for successful applicants), broad curiosity, and a strong interest in interdisciplinary study of China. Preference to aged <=25. Note: Mainland Chinese students may not apply if they did not study at a university in China.	Qualifications The program is taught in English and prior ability in Chinese language is not required. The program requires study of Chinese – including for beginners.
3. Timing	Applications open in August for international students and students from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan. The submission deadline for students at US and Canadian universities is in December. Admissions decisions will be made by May. Elective deferral is not permitted.	
4. Selection Criteria	Successful candidates demonstrate strong motivation and potential to become leaders in their chosen fields. Candidates' personal statements should offer specific and persuasive explanations of how they could benefit from studying in the interdisciplinary China Studies program. Evaluation criteria include academic merit, leadership potential, international experience, and long-term aspirations. The program's acceptance rate is claimed to be 2.7%.	Evaluators look for a record of extracurricular achievement, community engagement, social responsibility, leadership potential, and proficiency in English. Additionally, applicants must demonstrate how this specific program fits into their respective career goals and the unique perspective they might offer their cohort.
5. Smith Role	This Fellowship requires no internal institutional endorsement. As the fellowship program is highly competitive, consult your mentors and advisors and approach the application as you would for an opportunity requiring College endorsement.	Smith College is not currently among the Partner and Cooperating Universities . You would make your application direct to the Yenching Academy.
6. Fun fact(s)	An essential aspect of this program is residential. The living community is located at the heart of Peking Univ., close to the Yenching Academy's academic home. Explore the geographical diversity and backgrounds of Yenching Scholars using an interactive map.	Campus Life Alumni Directory
7. How to get started	Consult Fellowships Program staff (fellowships@smith.edu) to strategize your application approach.	