



Tianjin Scholarship - Frequently asked questions

1. I won't be 18 at the time of departure for the Scholarship. Can I still apply?

Yes. If you are not 18 at the time of departure, you will be required to appoint a legal guardian in China. This will likely be a staff member at Tianjin Normal University. Details will be confirmed later.

If you're under 18 when applying for your visa, you will also need both parents/legal guardians to sign your application forms and provide photocopies of their passports.

2. My school is not in a local authority with a Confucius classroom hub. Can I still apply?

This opportunity is open to those from any state school within a local authority which has a Confucius classroom hub, however, if your school is in an authority which does not have a hub, but you are taking part in the Discovering China National Qualifications courses, you are also eligible to apply.

3. I have Chinese heritage but do not speak Mandarin at home. Can I still apply?

The Scholarship is intended to provide an immersive learning experience for pupils with no previous connections to Chinese language and culture. Therefore, applicants must be non-Chinese nationals from a non-native Chinese-speaking background.

If you have Chinese heritage but do not speak Mandarin at home, you can still apply if you do **not** have a Chinese passport or Chinese Travel Document. Possession of either of these documents mean you have Chinese citizen status.

4. Do I need a Chinese VISA before I can apply for the Scholarship?

No. CISS will help you to start the VISA application process and give you advice on applying after you have been selected to take part in the Scholarship.

5. If I'm accepted onto the Scholarship, can I still keep my place at university?

Possibly. You can apply for university as normal, and if accepted onto the Scholarship, you can apply to defer entry to university until the following year. We cannot guarantee that universities will always accept your deferral, this will be at their discretion. However, we can provide you with a letter supporting your deferral. We can also liaise directly with University of Strathclyde departments should you be accepted into this university.

6. Can I get SAAS funding for this Scholarship and will this affect my application for funding next year at university?

There is no possibility of SAAS funding or student loans for this scholarship. On your return to Scotland, you can apply for SAAS to pay your tuition fees and student loan for university in the usual way.

7. Can I get a part-time job while I'm in China to support myself?



No. The criteria for this Scholarship does not allow scholars to take on a part-time job during their stay in China, as the focus should be on their studies. We would advise you, where possible, to take on a part-time job here in Scotland before you depart to save money for your stay in China.

8. What is included in the Scholarship and what will I be expected to pay?

The Scholarship includes all tuition fees while you are out there, registration for the HSK (Chinese Proficiency) exam, accommodation, transport from airport to university on arrival, initial VISA application fees, and a monthly living allowance to cover food.

You will be expected to pay for a certificate of no criminal record check, your return flights, any textbooks and stationery, entertainment, residence permit in China, registration fee at Tianjin Normal University, a health check in China, as well as gap year insurance (health, travel and belongings).

9. What is expected of me during the Scholarship?

You are expected to take part in three pre-departure briefing meetings, make monthly updates/blog/vlogs about your experiences in China, attend all classes and examinations, participate in events organised by CISS or Tianjin Normal University, respect and adhere to the code of conduct, and be willing to be part of the CISS alumni group after successful completion of the Scholarship.

10. What are typical living expenses – how much will I be expected to contribute to live there?

This will vary according to the individual, as everyone's living expenses are different but once there, China is generally a lot cheaper than Scotland, even in big cities. Previous Scholars have advised that you can live on the allowance but if you want to do social things, they recommend an additional £100 a month.

11. Is there an equity fund?

We hope that any potential scholar is not stopped from taking part in the scholarship because of financial barriers and reasons of social equity. For this reason, if you meet any of the following criteria, you may be eligible for some support:

- Young Carer
- Live in a postcode in SIMD 1 & 2
- Entitled to Free School Meals
- Part of a family of multiple children in full time education
- Any other extenuating circumstances

Please note cases will be reviewed on an individual basis. If you are eligible, we will cover the cost of your outgoing flight to China.

12. What are the term dates?



Exact dates are yet to be confirmed. However, you will likely depart during the first week of September 2026, with Term 1 running until the Spring Festival holiday in January/February 2027. Term 2 then begins and will end in June 2027.

13. What will the accommodation be like?

The university residence where scholars will be staying is a brand-new building where each scholar will have a private room with a shared bathroom between two or four other scholars, as well as shared living spaces with the other scholars and students in an apartment-style set up.

14. What support/care will be offered during the year?

You will have designated key contacts in both Scotland and China throughout the year, with monthly pastoral sessions on Teams with Scottish contacts.