

(The English translation is for reference only. In case of discrepancy, the Ministry of Education of P.R.C. reserves the authority for final interpretation.)

Notice of
Undergraduate Foundation Program
for International Students
under Chinese Government Scholarship Program

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To Education Departments (or Education Commissions) of Provinces, Autonomous Regions, and Municipalities directly under the Central Government, the Education Bureau of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, and Education Sections of other Departments concerned, higher education institutions concerned,

In order to ensure the education quality of international undergraduate students and to improve the effect of Chinese Government Scholarship Program, based on previous pilot projects, and in accordance with the Regulations over Admission of International Students of Higher Education Institutions (hereinafter referred to as the RAIS), the Ministry of Education of China (hereinafter referred to as MOE) decides to launch the Foundation Program since September 1st 2009 for new international undergraduate students awarded with Chinese Government Scholarships before they begin their disciplinary courses. The specific requirements are as follows:

1. Enrollment and Administrative Duties

MOE entrusts higher education institutions (hereinafter referred to as the HEIs) with rich experience in international education to launch the Foundation Program. China Scholarship Council (hereinafter referred to as CSC) is entrusted by MOE to coordinate routine affairs, such as enrollment and management of the Foundation Program, to organize syllabus development of compulsory courses and certain optional courses of Foundation Program, to arrange the compilation of teaching materials and teaching reference books, and to gradually establish an evaluation

system for the complete and dynamic assessment of the students' academic performance.

2. Target Students

All international students with Chinese Government Scholarships who undertake undergraduate program taught in Chinese are subject to Foundation Program. However, those who

Either submit proofs issued by their secondary schools showing that Chinese is the instruction medium in the required courses of their secondary education,

Or hold copies of HSK Certificate (generally valid for two years) that confirm their meeting of the standards set for relevant disciplinary courses, could be exempted from Foundation Program.

3. Overall Objectives

The Foundation Program is designed to prepare target students for their disciplinary studies in Chinese HE Is with a training focus on the improvements of students' capability in the following three areas,

3.1 Communicative Competence in Chinese and in Cross-cultural Contexts

Basic Knowledge of Chinese culture and society;

Communicative skills in Chinese language to deal with daily life problems;

Basic Chinese vocabulary and grammar, and necessary vocabulary and common expression patterns in Chinese for Special Purposes;

Basic Chinese competence in listening, taking notes, and raising questions in class for disciplinary studies;

Basic reading skills of disciplinary materials in Chinese with the help of dictionaries and reference books, and necessary writing skills for disciplinary studies.

3.2 Chinese Proficiency

No less than Band 3 in HSK for students who apply for courses in science, engineering, agriculture, medical science (traditional Chinese medicine excluded), economics, law, management, and education;

No less than Band 6 in HSK for students who apply for courses in literature, history, philosophy, and traditional Chinese medicine.

3.3 Preparatory Knowledge for Disciplinary Studies

Knowledge of Mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, computer science for science, engineering, agriculture, and medical science program applicants;

Knowledge of Mathematics and computer science for economics, law, management, and education program applicants;

Knowledge of Ancient Chinese and computer science for history, literature, philosophy, and traditional Chinese medicine program applicants.

4. Study Duration

Foundation Program usually lasts 1 to 2 years:

1 year (40 weeks) for students with no Chinese language skills who intend to take courses in science, engineering, agriculture, medical science (traditional Chinese medicine excluded), economics, law, management, and education;

2 years (80 weeks) for students with no Chinese language skills who intend to take courses in literature, history, philosophy, and traditional Chinese medicine;

Flexibility is available for students with certain Chinese proficiency.

5. Course Design and Teaching Mode

Foundation Program will be conducted in an intensified mode, focusing on Chinese language skills and complemented by basic disciplinary knowledge. Foundation Program consists of compulsory and optional courses, whose proportion will be decided by the HEIs which offer the above-mentioned program.

Foundation Program must include four components: language, culture, disciplinary knowledge, and language practice.

Language courses are composed of general Chinese and Chinese for special purposes, including such lessons as comprehensive Chinese, listening, reading, oral Chinese, Chinese reading in science and technology, and Chinese listening and note-taking in science and technology, etc. Culture courses involve Chinese culture, general introduction to Chinese Society, and cross-cultural communication. Disciplinary courses contain mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology, ancient Chinese, Chinese for science and technology (or Business Chinese), and computer science. Language

practice refers to those extracurricular activities such as language exercises and social surveys.

The first year of Foundation Program shall include no less than 1,120 class hours, and 960 class hours for the second year.

The general proportion of class hours for different courses is as follows:

	science, engineering, agriculture, medical science (traditional Chinese medicine excluded)	economics, law, management, education	history, literature, philosophy, traditional Chinese medicine
Language	60%	65%	70%
Culture	10%	20%	20%
Disciplinary knowledge	25%	10%	5%
Language practice	5%	5%	5%

In light of the actual conditions of students, HEIs offering Foundation Program shall formulate localized and campus-based teaching plans and teaching modes.

6. Student Administration

HEIs offering Foundation Program shall carry out administration according to the RAIS. Students' performance during the Foundation Program period shall be a main factor for reviewing scholarship and awarding completion certificates.

7. Evaluation

Nationally unified evaluation criteria shall be gradually adopted for core courses in the Foundation Program, which mainly examine the students' Chinese language proficiency and basic disciplinary knowledge.

Upon the completion of Foundation Program, students who have passed the examinations and the annual review of Chinese Government Scholarship will be

awarded with certificates issued by the delivering HEIs. The certificates will guarantee the students a direct admission to relevant HEIs for undergraduate programs.

8. Selection of Undergraduate Program and HEIs

CSC regularly organizes HEIs offering Foundation Program and other relevant HEIs to advise students on selection of undergraduate programs and universities.

9. Students who have received Foundation Program but failed to pass the examinations shall be disqualified for Chinese Government Scholarship. Such students, nevertheless, may obtain proofs issued by the delivering HEIs that confirm their learning experience.

Ministry of Education, P.R. China

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