

The University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS) established a research-oriented undergraduate science and engineering program in 2014. The program is highly competitive and selective, admitting only 400 of the very best students from across various provinces of China each year. Those admitted rank among the top 0.1% of high school senior students taking China's national college entrance exam.

## UCAS Overseas Graduate Studies Fellowship Program 2023-24

Six years ago, UCAS launched an overseas graduate studies fellowship program to support its best graduates upon completion of their BS degrees for PhD studies abroad starting in the Fall of 2018. The fellowships cover tuition, fees and living expenses at overseas institutions for a full year. Recipients of the 2023-24 Fellowships are now applying for admission to your institution.

## Fellowship Criteria

A Graduate Fellowship Selection Committee, which I (CFS) chair, reviewed applicants' academic records, personal statements and awarded scores in the following areas:

- 1) Academic achievements such as overall GPA and subject GPA
- 2) Intellectual spark, curiosity, passion, motivation, self-confidence
- 3) Ability to perform under stress and thrive in high-pressure environments
- 4) Knowledge of proposed area(s) of graduate studies
- 5) Competence in the English language

Thirteen students (from 400-strong cohort) have been awarded the UCAS Overseas Graduate Fellowships for 2023-24. The committee believes the fellowship recipients are among the best of China's best in computer science, materials science, electrical & electronic engineering, chemistry, physics, life sciences and mathematics.

## UCAS Students' GPA

In this connection, we would like to bring to your attention a matter that may be of relevance when assessing our fellowship recipients for admission to your institution's PhD programs.

The UCAS grading system is extremely stringent and to date, a GPA of 4.0 has yet to be achieved. At UCAS, a GPA of 3.9 is considered exceptional performance and a GPA of 3.8 is considered excellent performance.

By way of comparison, the vast majority of the pioneer group of UCAS students enrolled in the Study Abroad Program at MIT, Berkeley, Chicago and Columbia in the spring of 2017 and Fall of 2018 achieved perfect GPAs of 4.0.

We hope that the above information will be helpful in your admission decisions with regard to UCAS students. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

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