



INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FORUM (ISF)

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Transcript of Lecture [ISF Forum 6]: Chinese Government Scholarship Part 1

Saturday 23rd November, 2019; 0800 WAT

Lecturer: **Bassey, Anthony Pius.**

B.Sc: Animal Science (2.96/5.00), University of Calabar (Sept, 2014);

M.Sc: Animal Science (Animal Products and Processing - 6.2/7.0), University of Ibadan (March, 2019);

Ph.D scholarship: Meat Science and Food Safety (College of Food Sci & Tech), Nanjing Agricultural University, China (Sept, 2019)

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Lecture Agenda

1. [About the Chinese Government Scholarship \(CGS\)](#)
2. [Application Guidelines for the Chinese Government Scholarship \(CGS\)](#)
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About the Chinese Government Scholarship (CGS)

Chinese Government Scholarship (CGS) (also known as the China Scholarship Council (CSC)) is a scholarship fully-funded by the Chinese Government through her Ministry of Education to various countries, including Nigeria, as part of relief effort, bilateral agreement, educational empowerment, etc. Although China has more than 2900 varsities, about 279 of these institutions offer CSC scholarship in Science, Engineering, Agriculture, Medicine, Economics, Legal Studies, Management, Education, History, Literature, Fine Arts, Philosophy, etc (English and Chinese taught). To note, these numbers are subjected to annual change.

Application Guidelines for the Chinese Government Scholarship (CGS)

Since majority of Chinese schools are discipline-specific, it is quite easy to peruse different schools within one's area of interest and degree of choice (Bachelor, Masters, PhD, Post-PhD) than most comprehensive universities including ours. Although, some schools offer Bachelor (CSC) scholarships, higher quotas and preference are given to MSc/PhD

applicants. Prospective applicants will have to search for schools, department of choice and prospective supervisors whose area(s) overlap with theirs.

NOTE: *If you are unable to find a supervisor's contact details during your search, you can search online (through his/her publications, ResearchGate, etc) or mail the school for information. I encountered this problem and the alternatives were very useful.*

Okay, after all said and done, let me guide us through the application process:

1. All schools under CSC have a designated number called Agency Number. You can find this number at school's website, as different schools have different numbers for identification and application purposes.
2. Obtain Acceptance Letter from potential supervisors. This is very important. Below are useful tips to securing one:
 - a. Since application starts Jan 1 – Mar 31 in most schools, you can start contacting potential supervisors from October.
 - b. Write him/her a good and concise "Request for Supervision" mail, highlighting your positive skills, research work, publications (if any) and achievements. **Note:** *Make use of simple words and please, do not BRAG. For publications, I did not have one, so don't start feeling bad before it even starts.*
 - c. Attach your Research CV and academic transcript/certificates for insight on your academic performance. **Note:** *This is different from job CV.*
 - d. Most of these professors are very slow at replying mails. I mean, very sloowww. Please don't bombard their inboxes with incessant reminders. Wait patiently. Here are few tricks I used to gain a potential supervisor's attention:
 - i) Download the Google Translate app.
 - ii) Since English is not their native language, type your mail in English, copy to the app, translate to Chinese. Send.
 - iii) Try and read some recent works of the supervisors, highlight their "importance" to your interest when sending mails. This will interest them more to read yours since they receive tons of mails daily.
 - iv) Mail as many supervisors as you can even if they're in the same college. But please, try to make some changes in content.
 - v) Should you need to call, load enough card because of international tariffs. Since China is 7 hours ahead of us, make your calls around 2:00 – 4:00am WAT. Again, nothing good comes easy.
 - vi) Use New Month messages as a medium to send reminders from previous mails to respective supervisors. Don't forget the translation key. **Note:** *Unlike ours, China is a religious-sensitive country. Please, avoid using "God bless you, I pray, salaam aleakum, Allah, etc" in your mails, calls, etc.*
 - vii) Try other creative ways that work for you.
3. Apply on CSC portal via (www.laihua.csc.edu.cn) using school's agency number. Submit and save a print of your application.
4. Apply to your school(s) of choice via online portals or application forms. Different schools have different application processes.
5. Prepare all required documents (listed below). Find the University International Students Office address and courier 2 sets each (including saved application forms of CSC and school). **Note:** *Use reliable courier services like DHL, FedEx, UPS, etc.*
6. Some schools require application fee. This is mostly after review. Please note.
7. Repeat the aforementioned steps if you have more than one application to send.
8. Commit to God.

Benefits of the Chinese Government Scholarship (CGS)

- Exemption from registration fees, tuition fees and accommodation payments.
- Comprehensive medical insurance in China.
- Monthly allowance of 3,000RMB (M.Sc.) and 3,500RMB (Ph.D.).
- Others (school-specific).

Required Documents for the Chinese Government Scholarship (CGS)

Note: Mandatory (M) / Optional (O)

- 2 sets of Application Form (M)
- 2 Letters of Recommendation (from Associate Professor/Professor in your department or unit) (M)
- Acceptance Letter (M / O) **Note:** It is not a required criterion for all schools but getting one is an added advantage especially for PhD applicants.
- 2 Notarized photocopies of Transcripts/Certificates (M)
- Foreigners Physical Examination Form (M). **Note:** Available online (www.csc.edu.cn/uploads/foreinphy1.pdf) for medical reports.
- Study Plan/Motivation Letter/Statement of Purpose (M). Not more than 800 words. Templates are available online.
- Research proposal (M for PhD applicants). This is subject to change after enrolment.
- International Passport – Data page (M)
- Medium of Instruction Letter (Proficiency letter from school, TOEFL and/or IELTS) (M).
- Publications/ Experience Certificates, Achievement Letters, etc. (O)
- Other relevant documents (O)

Possible challenges while applying for the Chinese Government Scholarship (CGS)

This is inevitable. But irrespective of the hurdles, never give up.

Please, securing a scholarship is not easy, per se. Maybe I was "lucky" to have applied for the first time and won, that doesn't make me better than those who are rejected.

Please, let's keep trying. One day, it will definitely end in Praise.

Thank you.

Questions & Answers

Q: You didn't signify if the English proficiency exam or proof is mandatory or optional.	A: Sorry. It is mandatory, please.
Q: How can we know all the participating universities for the Chinese Scholarship?	A: A document enlisting most of these schools will be sent shortly, please. Thank you. Note: pdf document is attached below.
Q: Thanks for the lecture, M.Sc. in China spans how many years?	A: M.Sc. – 3 years. Ph.D. – 3/4 years. Depends on schools though. So, you may have to peruse your school of choice for clarity.
Q: When is the application window for the scholarship?	A: Application starts January 1 - March 31 in most schools yearly. Although some schools end theirs April.
Q: While checking your profile, I found you had 2.97/5.00 in your B.Sc. (2:2). What has been your experience exploring scholarship opportunities with this grade before having your M.Sc.? Could you kindly give a short admonition to scholars in this category who thinks it is over for them?	A: Unfortunately, I didn't apply for any at that time. CSC was my first. But I think, one will have to gain professional experience in his field of interest as some schools are looking for practical-oriented applicants.
Q: Do we need to send mails both in English and Chinese at the same time or do we choose Chinese alone?	A: Although most professors can read English, I only felt Chinese was catchy for them since it's their native language. Just use either medium, not both.
Q: Can we use appellations such as "sir"?	A: Use Professor and include the name (e.g. Professor Xie). It makes it more specific.
Q: What kind of grade can someone have on order to get the scholarship?	A: On a scale of 5.0. 3.0 and above is a head start For M.Sc. (but you will have to sell yourself by writing a very good SOP showcasing your ability). For PhD applicants, PhD grade from a reputable institution will suffice.
Q: Is it necessary to mail a supervisor before applying for the scholarship?	A: Yes. Kindly refer to the application guidelines.
Q: Does CSC scholarship require IELTS or any other English language test, since the university I graduated from is English language oriented?	A: Yes. Like I said, a Letter of English Proficiency from your school is okay for application. But make sure you notarise at the Ministry of Education.
Q: In a situation whereby there is only one Prof. in your department & no associate professor, can one submit LOR from a Dr.?	A: This I can't say for M.Sc. but for PhD, it counts.
Q: My question is about searching for supervisor or details to contact, is for those who apply for Ph.D., M.Sc. or both?	A: Securing an acceptance is a major criterion to some schools especially for PhD applicants. So, I will suggest you try and source for one be it M.Sc. or Ph.D. You wouldn't want to take chance, would you?

Q: Concerning the area of interest, can we use our undergraduate project as our research work if it is in line with what we are pursuing?	A: Yes, you can but please, don't send a shabby work. China is so sophisticated in research.
Q: What is a research CV?	A: Research CV will include everything pertaining to your academic interests, prospects, etc. highlighting your research experience, area of specialization, conferences attended, publications, etc. I believe templates should be online.
Q: For someone who is working, will recommendation letter from your boss or senior manager fly in this application? Also, does work experience count?	A: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is an academic-specific. Please make use of an academic medium. 2. Work experience counts.
Q: I gathered that Chinese students are not friendly to foreigners. Also, I was told that they alienate foreigners and create a form of discrimination in all activities such that, mixing isn't allowed. In fact, a friend said they (international students) aren't given the chance to participate in sporting activities or form a sports club. Are all these true?	A: Personally, I disagree. Though, some do. I once got a birthday gift from a Chinese lady. Some who are eager to learn English Language will be eager to establish friendships. In addition, you were told. I was also told a lot of things when I left Calabar for Ibadan for my M.Sc. Trust me, I wouldn't be here if I didn't take that bold step. Don't give in to hearsay, please.
Q: Can someone apply direct to Ph.D. using B.Sc.?	A: No.

我们代表ISF家庭感谢您为我们带来如此精彩的综合讲座。愿全能的上帝继续祝福你，并为你减轻程序。非常感谢

Attached Documents

1. Contacts of Chinese professors and their research interests.

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2. List of Chinese universities under the Chinese Government Scholarship.

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