

The Research Councils of the United Kingdom (RCUK) Office in China was set up in 2007. This is the first overseas office outside Europe, reflecting the growing importance of China as a research partner.

The RCUK Office liaises with research support agencies to enable the funding systems in both countries to work more closely together, and so increase opportunities for joint UK-China research projects.

WHAT ARE THE UK RESEARCH COUNCILS?

The seven Research Councils are legally independent public bodies which provide funding for academic research and postgraduate training. Altogether they receive around £2800 million a year of public money. Most of this is allocated on a competitive basis, using rigorous peer review. Each Council covers a range of academic disciplines.

AHRC – Arts & Humanities Research Council www.ahrc.ac.uk

BBSRC – Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council
www.bbsrc.ac.uk

EPSRC – Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council
www.epsrc.ac.uk

ESRC – Economic & Social Research Council www.esrc.ac.uk

MRC – Medical Research Council
www.mrc.ac.uk

NERC – Natural Environment Research Council www.nerc.ac.uk

STFC – Science & Technology Facilities Council www.scitech.ac.uk

The seven Research Councils work collectively on many issues of common concern, under the name RCUK. Visit the RCUK website www.rcuk.ac.uk or its China office website www.rcuk.cn.

HOW DOES THE RCUK OFFICE WORK?

The RCUK Office in China is sponsored by all seven Research Councils, working collectively as RCUK.

We work closely with research organisations and research support agencies in China. Our main goal is to make it easier for talented researchers in both countries to work together on joint projects that advance knowledge, improve the quality of life, and promote social and economic progress.

To achieve this goal, we are working with agencies in China to remove barriers to research collaboration. For example,

- We help the UK Research Councils and researchers understand more about China's research system, and help agencies and researchers in China understand more about the UK system.
- We seek to align the research funding systems in both countries so that joint calls for research projects become possible, with a joint decision process based on rigorous peer review.
- We explore research priorities in both countries, so that researchers can be encouraged to collaborate on topics important to both China and the UK.
- We are helping to develop China-relevant strands in six cross-Council priority themes (*Energy; Living with Environmental Change; Digital Economy; Nanoscience; Ageing; Global Uncertainties*).

- We run an annual Summer Schools competition aimed at strengthening UK-China research links and enabling young researchers to engage internationally at the start of their careers.
- We support Scientific Workshops on topics where the Research Councils see potential for developing substantive joint research with China.
- We enable professionals in the funding agencies to interact more with counter-parts in the other country, to gain better understanding of policies, processes and possibilities for joint working.
- We provide up to date information about existing and planned collaborative activity between UK and China.

The www.rcuk.cn website

- explains the UK research system to Chinese researchers;
- explains China's research system to UK researchers;
- highlights existing UK-China research collaborations;
- highlights opportunities for new collaborative research activity;
- publicises activities funded and/or organised by the RCUK Office.

HOW WE RELATE TO OTHER UK ORGANISATIONS IN CHINA

The RCUK Office is independent of other UK organisations in China. But we work closely with other bodies to avoid duplicated efforts and maximise the impact of the UK's links with China.

We work closely with the Science & Innovation Network of the British Embassy www.uk.cn/science. Our two websites provide complementary information. The RCUK site focuses on research collaborations, while the Partners in

Science website focuses on broader science policies and innovation activities.

We liaise with the UK Department for International Development office in China www.dfid.gov.uk/countries/asia/china.asp to explore opportunities for joint UK-China research focused on economic development and poverty reduction around the world.

We also liaise with the British Council www.britishcouncil.org/china to gain maximum impact from public outreach activities involving UK researchers in China.

WHO ARE WE?

The Office has five staff initially:

Director: **Mr Chris Godwin**
chris.godwin@rcuk.cn

Deputy Director: **Ms Grace LANG**
grace.lang@rcuk.cn

Activities Programme Manager
Ms Jing CAI
jing.cai@rcuk.cn

Information Programme Manager
Ms Cherry Yu CHEN
Chen.yu@rcuk.cn

Office Manager
Ms Echo Hanli SHAO
echo.shao@rcuk.cn

WHERE ARE WE?

Research Councils UK
Unit 03-06, Sohu Building 3rd floor
Tsinghua Science Park
1 Zhongguancun East Road
Haidian District Beijing 100084

(T) (+86 10) 82151930
(F) (+86 10) 82151931