



China Studies Centre Development Plan, 2021-2023

Mission

To produce research that leads to the understanding of China, its society and cultures, and interactions with the world.

Vision

The China Studies Centre [CSC] will enhance The University of Sydney's long tradition of excellence in China research by bringing together researchers on China from across faculties and disciplines, enabling international academic collaboration with researchers from China and other countries, and being a research-informed voice in Australia's public China discourse.

Scope

The CSC has been reconceived as a Level 2 Centre in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. It is now a research centre designed to increase high quality research output and its consequent research impact related to China for the University and its staff. It is expected to raise its own funding and to that end should develop a strategic application pipeline for external research funding; make its expertise available to the government, business, and local community; and encourage donations.

Although the CSC is now housed in FASS and will be anchored in the humanities and social sciences, the cross-disciplinary nature of Level 2 Centres will ensure its scope includes relevant research in Business, Law, Architecture, Music, Public Health and Environmental Studies.

The CSC will work with the Office of Global Engagement [OGE] and the University's Centre in China in Suzhou. OGE is responsible for partnerships in and with Chinese institutions; the Centre in China is its China-based arm.

Aims

1. Increase the output of high-quality China-related research by academic staff at The University of Sydney;
2. Increase the profile and impact of China Studies research by University of Sydney staff, both in academic contexts and beyond;
3. Raise funding not only to meet the costs of the CSC but also to leverage future growth opportunities.

Objective

By 2029 at the latest, the China Studies Centre must demonstrate 'that it has achieved financial sustainability, an international reputation and continued an upward performance trajectory'. This is a requirement of the *FASS Centres and Collaborative Networks Framework*.

Strategies

1. Collaborative research

The main focus of the CSC has to be increasing high-quality research output and resultant research impact. One well-known way to do this is through large-scale collaborative projects. These will need to be precisely focussed; multi-disciplinary; include researchers where appropriate from across the University, Australia, China and the rest of the world; be output and impact oriented; and have the potential to attract external funding and improve the Centre's and the University's profile.

CSC will approve a number of such Collaborative Research Projects. Details of the approval process and procedures in Appendix A. Funds will not be transferred to the projects, but support will be provided for specific aspects of a project as and when negotiated. There will be a mutually agreed expectation of leveraging support to obtain external funding. Details of application for support and procedures in Appendix B.

There will be an Annual Workshop at which one of the CSC identified Collaborative Research Projects will present on their research.

The CSC will participate in China Studies-focussed international consortia, which may or may not be related to specific CSC collaborative research projects.

2. Individual research

Individual researchers, their activities and projects are also crucial for the development of the CSC. The CSC will support individual-based activities in a number of ways. These will include:

Workshops to assist individual researchers in organising and developing their research and particularly applying for and (hopefully) obtaining external competitive funds/grants.

A Research Development Program, meeting monthly and providing support to researchers.

Individual research projects will also be approved for support. Details of the approval process and procedures in Appendix A. Funds will not be transferred to the projects, but support will be provided for specific aspects of a project as and when negotiated. There will be a mutually agreed expectation of leveraging support to obtain external funding. Details of application for support and procedures in Appendix B.

Individual research members will present papers at an Annual CSC Conference.

There will (in principle, depending on post-pandemic travel arrangements) be a program of Visiting Fellows to Chinese Studies and CSC (with the School of Languages and Cultures).

3. *Research presentation and events*

CSC will organise events to present and discuss research and related issues. In addition to the Annual Workshop and Annual Conference (as mentioned in the preceding two strategies) these will include:

A monthly *International Research Seminar/Webinar* with invited presenters from around the world.

A *Bookworm Series* of seminars/webinars where CSC members present on their recently published research.

CSC will support the Australian Society for Asian Humanities monthly seminar (with Department of Chinese Studies, and Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture, UNSW)

The development of podcasts related to China Studies.

The establishment of an *Australia-China Academic Dialogue*. The aim is to facilitate discussions on common academic interests with colleagues in China and Australia.

The establishment of *Sydney China Seminars*: an informal forum for China Studies academics in Sydney to meet.

The establishment of a *Chinese-Australian Student Dialogue*: a regular forum for Chinese-Australian, Chinese, and other Australian students to discuss matters of mutual interest.

4. *PhD support*

PhD students at the University are based in departments, and not the CSC. Nonetheless, many who work on China Studies-related topics look to CSC for encouragement and support. The CSC will provide a PhD support program for doctoral students. There will be a series of workshops and other activities throughout the academic year, in addition to mentoring arrangements, where appropriate.

5. Outreach

A crucial part of the CSC vision is to interact with the world outside the University, not only to provide knowledge and understanding on China Studies-related matters, but to raise the profile of The University of Sydney and the CSC, and to use such opportunities as may arise to leverage the CSC's position in knowledge production to raise funds to support its activities.

To those ends CSC will organise:

A Media Service: to encourage CSC members to be media-ready, and to bring the expertise at the University to the notice of the media in cooperation with University Marketing and Communications.

An Advisory Service: to encourage CSC members to provide paid consultancy work to business and governments.

The presentation of Business Workshops for external business partners seeking advice for activities in China.

Funding and resource support for activities

As a Level 2 research centre, CSC has limited resources and funding. It is not able to provide grants to specific projects, collaborative or individual. Indeed, as its *Objective* make clear CSC is expected to be self-financing by 2029.

Funding and support will be provided to projects and individuals for specific activities. Collaborative and individual projects must be approved as CSC activities before requests for funding or support can be considered. Procedures for approval as a CSC project are provided in Appendix A.

Any support, financial or otherwise, provided by the CSC to a collaborative or individual project will be subject to a set of procedures, detailed in Appendix B.

Organisation

Leadership

The CSC has a Director and an Administrator who are staff appointed to the Centre.

The Centre must also have a Deputy Director as required by the *FASS Centres and Collaborative Networks Framework*. This unremunerated position will be appointed by the Dean, FASS on nomination from the Director.

Membership

Members: University of Sydney staff active in research on China may be recognised as members of the China Studies Centre. Staff recognized in this way will be the individuals leading the Centre's drive to reach its aims and objectives, and their participation will provide the basis for the assessment of success. Members are required to present themselves as members of CSC as well as of their home department/school/faculty at The University of Sydney.

Affiliate Members: Those who are not employed by the University of Sydney and who wish to be associated with the Centre may be appointed as Affiliate Members.

PhD Student Members: Doctoral students working on any aspect of China studies at The University of Sydney may be recognised as Student Members of the CSC.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will work with the Director, Deputy Director, and Administrator to lead the development of the CSC. Members of the Executive Committee will be appointed on the nomination of the Director and with the approval of the Dean FASS, each to take responsibility for a specific CSC strategic area, as follows:

- Collaborative research
- Individual research
- Research presentation and events
- PhD support
- Outreach

A preliminary outline of areas of responsibility for each member of the Executive Committee is provided in Appendix C.

The Executive Committee will meet every month, except July and January.

Advisory Board

CSC will establish an Advisory Board drawn from business and government communities. The Board will provide advice and direction to the activities of the Centre.

The Advisory Board will be appointed on nomination by the CSC Executive Committee to the Dean, FASS for a period of two years. Appointment may be renewed.

An outline and Terms of Reference is contained in Appendix D.

Evaluation

FASS will review CSC's performance annually, with a major review scheduled for 2023.

CSC will be assessed in terms of its research outputs and impact, and its capacity building, against its defined performance targets.

Research outcomes and impact. [Note: the following indicators will have more precise metrics indicated by the Executive Committee in negotiation with FASS, once the former is established.]

High quality traditional academic output

Increased per capita research output;
Increase in individual citations numbers.

Other outputs (such as NTROs or policy reports) where appropriate

External funding success

Increased per capita applications for ARC grants;
Increased per capita success in ARC awards;
Category 3 funding

The consolidation of external partnerships and research collaborations

Development of international collaborations with China and elsewhere.
Development of non-research-based external collaborations.

Evidence of public engagement and impact

Notably higher public profile for the China Studies Centre and staff working on China Studies;
Recognition of research and activities beyond citations and impact metrics.

Evidence of excellence

Prizes, awards

The strategic development of collective and individual research capacity;

Attracting and mentoring PhD students

Involvement in cross-faculty and inter-disciplinary HDR supervisions

Support and development program for ECR

Support and development researcher program

Plan for future growth and financial sustainability

Plan for internationalisation

Planning for forms of recognised excellence.

Appendix A

Procedures for approval as a CSC project

Both collaborative and individual projects are required to obtain CSC approval to be recognised as a CSC project.

The Executive Committee will consider approval of CSC projects at its monthly meeting.

To apply for approval, a project must outline:

- Participant(s)
- The aims and objectives of the project
- Research plan
- Planned outcomes
- Proposed or actual external (to the CSC) funding
- Duration of the project (an initial maximum of 3 years for approval; re-approval is possible)

Application for approval should be accompanied by evidence of the research track record of the applicant(s).

If necessary, the Executive Committee may ask to meet with applicant(s) to discuss the proposed project.

CSC projects are approved for an initial maximum of 3 years and may be re-approved on further application and track record.

Any project approved in this way must advertise itself as a China Studies Centre project, alongside any Departmental/School/Faculty affiliation.

At the end of the project's approved lifetime, CSC should receive a report on the project's progress and outcomes, detailing funding conditions, publications, and impact.

Appendix B

Procedures applying to support from the China Studies Centre to an individual or project.

The CSC has a limited budget. All support must be accounted for, reported on, and where appropriate publicly recognised. Failure to meet the requirements set out in these procedures will disqualify an individual or group from further support.

Requests for support

All requests for either individual or project support will be considered by the Executive Committee at its monthly meeting.

To receive support (financial or otherwise) from CSC a project (individual or collaborative) must be already recognised as an approved project of the CSC.

The CSC does not provide grants to individuals or projects. It will provide funding and support to specific aspects of CSC projects.

A request for funding or support must detail the precise purposes of the activity, the relationship to the approved project, and the proposed outcomes.

It is a condition of support that any funding made available to a project must be used within the calendar year and cannot be carried forward, except in exceptional circumstances. Exceptional requests will be determined by the Executive Committee.

Reporting requirements

At the completion of the activity for which funding or support was granted by the CSC a report and (where appropriate) financial accounting is required on the purposes for which funding or support was requested. This report should include details of the ways in which CSC support was leveraged to find additional external funding and support.

If the completion of the activity has not occurred within twelve months of the approval of support by the CSC Executive Committee, then a report is required by that date.

Recognition

Any project receiving funding or support should acknowledge that support from the China Studies Centre, alongside any Departmental/School/Faculty support.

Appendix C

Responsibilities of Members of the Executive Committee

Collaborative research

Narrowly focussed and externally funded research projects.

An annual workshop offered by one of the CSC-supported research projects.

Sydney China Seminars: an informal forum for China Studies academics in Sydney to meet.

Australia-China Academic Dialogue: discussions on common academic interests with colleagues in both China and Australia.

Participation in China Studies-focussed international consortia.

Individual research

Workshops to assist researchers in organising and developing their research and particularly applying for and (hopefully) obtaining external funds/grants.

A Research Development Program, meeting monthly and providing support to researchers.

An Annual Conference where (research) members present work in progress.

Visiting Fellows to Chinese Studies and CSC (with the School of Languages and Cultures).

Research presentation and events

International Research Seminar/Webinar: invited presenters from around the world.

Bookworm Series of seminars/webinars where CSC members present on their recently published research.

Australian Society for Asian Humanities monthly seminar (with Department of Chinese Studies, and Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture, UNSW)

An online site for occasional papers.

Development of podcasts related to China Studies.

PhD support

PhD support program: Workshops and other support if possible.

PhD program development.

Chinese-Australian Student Dialogue: a regular forum for Chinese-Australian, Chinese, and Australian students to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Outreach

CSC Media Service

CSC Advisory Service

Business Workshops

Advisory Council

Operations

Administration

Finance

Communications

Advisory Board

The China Studies Centre has been established to produce research that leads to the understanding of China, its society and cultures, and interactions with the world. It will operate by bringing together researchers on China at The University of Sydney and beyond, enabling international academic collaboration with researchers from China and other countries, and by being an informed voice in Australia's public China discourse.

The Advisory Board will provide advice to the China Studies Centre on its operations and activities, and provide assistance in its development of links and contacts beyond the University.

Terms of Reference

1. To provide advice to the China Studies Centre on its academic and business plans;
2. To monitor alignment of Centre objectives and targets;
3. To assist the China Studies Centre in developing relations with the business and government communities;
4. To make suggestions for the strategic direction of the China Studies Centre; and
5. To make recommendations to ensure growth and research excellence.

Members

The Advisory Board of the China Studies Centre will have approximately 6-7 members drawn from the business and government communities in Australia, one of whom will serve as Chair.

Members of the Advisory Board will be nominated by the Executive Committee of the China Studies Centre for approval by the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for a period of two years.

Meetings

The Advisory Board will meet three times a year.

Meetings of the Advisory Board will be attended by the Executive Committee of the China Studies Centre.

The Secretariat of the Advisory Board will be provided by the China Studies Centre.