



## **2020 CLUSTER FUNDING GUIDELINES**

Application deadline 30 April 2020

The China Studies Centre's academic members are distinguished by seven research clusters: Business and Economics; Environment; History; Language, Literature, Culture and Education (LLCE); Politics and Law; Science and Technology; Wellbeing. Choice of the appropriate academic cluster is made when applying for membership.

CSC academic members who are also members of a CSC Research Cluster can apply for funding for significantly innovative research activities. The total amount of grant funding for this specific category is \$60,000 per year (maximum funding for each project \$20,000).

The activity must occur within 12 months of the grant approval.

### ***Eligibility and conditions:***

Applicants must submit a proposal outlining the activity, the budget needed and the expected research or publication output. Funding can be used towards agreed expenses, such as airfares, accommodation and meals, to be clearly outlined in the application. Collaborative projects that involve several members of the cluster will be given priority. Cross-cluster (i.e. multi-cluster) projects are also welcome.

An applicant must:

- be a member of the CSC and research cluster and hold a continuing salaried position or a contract that continues until at least 12 months after the date of the project. Academics on recurring annual research contracts need to provide a letter of intent of employment signed by the head of their academic unit, indicating they expect the applicant will continue to be employed until at least 12 months after completion of the project. Each applicant needs to be specified, submit a current CV and be eligible to receive research funding
- to avoid that cluster members submit applications that clash with others from the same cluster, only one of the two cluster leaders are entitled to submit applications on behalf of the cluster members. Please check on our website the identity of those cluster leaders and coordinate with them before proposing a project
- show that they are making every effort to receive similar or comparable funding from other parts of the University or externally
- submit a copy of all reports previously submitted to the CSC for previously funded projects
- present outcomes of the research in a CSC seminar, or similar event, if requested
- use the funding awarded within 12 months of receipt and provide a completion report that includes a summary of the completed activity and expenditures for this grant.

### ***Criteria for Award***

Proposals for cluster funding will be reviewed and decided by the Director, the Deputy director and the Chair of the CSC Research Committee using the following criteria:

- originality, potential and feasibility of the project
- academic significance of the activity
- description of a clear pathway to achieving the projects' broad intellectual outcomes (possible future funding, publications, other outputs). The research plan must include a timeline and a description of the participants either confirmed or invited
- involvement of at least one other member of the academic cluster
- submission of profile and CV

It should be noted that preference will be given to applications that:

- are submitted by, or involving, early career researchers

- demonstrate a multidisciplinary element
- involve several members of the cluster, or more than one cluster (i.e. cross-cluster).

The committee will consider positively all previous contributions made to the academic life of the China Studies Centre.

### ***Budget & Stipulations***

A maximum amount of \$20,000 funding per proposal can be requested under this scheme.

Applicants are requested to provide indicative costs for all expenses with their application.

Funding can be requested for travel costs and accommodation. The following items **cannot** be funded by the CSC Cluster Funding:

- items of recurrent funding (continuing positions, PhD scholarships)
- equipment
- offshore payments for anyone not employed or formally associated with the University of Sydney
- per diem allowances
- more than AUD\$50 per day for meals
- extravagant accommodation

The China Studies Centre reserves the right to specify how the awarded funding may be used and to query amounts of funding requested. Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide supporting evidence (i.e. quotes) to justify the proposed budget.

### ***Submissions***

Please email the applications to [chinastudies.centre@sydney.edu.au](mailto:chinastudies.centre@sydney.edu.au) by 30 April 2020.