

UK UNVEILS SCHOLARSHIP PLAN

British universities to offer 150 postgraduate scholarships to Chinese students in fields such as engineering, law and bioscience. **Xu Lin** reports.

Chinese students who are applying for postgraduate studies in the United Kingdom will have a new opportunity to receive financial support.

The British Council, together with 31 universities in the UK, has recently unveiled the Great Scholarships 2018 – China campaign, with a total value of nearly 1 million pounds (\$1.33 million).

The 31 institutions across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will offer 150 postgraduate scholarships ranging from 5,000 to 20,000 pounds in fields such as engineering, law and biosciences.

Scholarships will not be awarded in the form of cash, but will be presented directly as tuition fee waivers.

Chinese students can find more information on the scholarships on the individual websites of the universities involved.

Once they receive admission from participating universities for the autumn semester in 2018, they can then apply for the scholarships online.

The value and number of scholarships offered at each university vary, as do the types of courses available.

Individual universities will use different criteria to select the final candidates, whether it be their academic

ability or social contribution, depending on the courses.

According to the British Council, from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, about 82,000 study visas were issued to Chinese students, and 97 percent of those who applied were successful. It represented an increase of 17 percent in applications compared with the previous 12 months.

In the 2015-2016 academic year, about 154,000 students from the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Macao were enrolled at UK universities.

“The UK is confident of its world-class education system and is committed to ensuring that all international students enjoy a diverse learning experience,” says Jazreel Goh, director of education marketing at the British Council in China.

“An education in the UK will teach you how to think, not what to think. The skill will help you improve yourself. Those who have studied in the UK bring back three things – individuality, inspiration and creativity,” she says.

According to Goh, students should not focus solely on the rankings of the UK universities when making their applications, but should consider their own interests and personalities.

Many Chinese graduates return to China for work due



Chinese students with their counterparts from across the globe in Britain. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

to the favorable development and work opportunities, Goh says.

The British Council organizes two job fairs every year for them.

“The University of Cambridge will support just one student from China studying for a master’s degree with the Great Scholarships because we have to be evenhanded with students from different countries,” says Sue Osterfield, deputy director of the Cambridge Commonwealth, European and International Trust, which provides international students at Cambridge with scholarships,

including several hundred from China.

“Students need to be well-qualified to meet the entry requirements of our university,” she says. “With more scholarships offered at Cambridge, we will attract the best students.”

The university will not restrict the types of courses available to successful applicants who receive a 20,000 pounds scholarship, Osterfield says. Successful candidates will still have to provide funds for living expenses and any additional tuition fees.

When assessing applicants’ suitability for a scholarship,

Osterfield says the university will not only judge them on academic merit, but also take into account if students will fit into the courses, their academic objectives and their personal statements.

According to Osterfield, Cambridge has experienced an increase in Chinese applicants in recent years, with most popular courses being engineering, physics, chemistry, mathematics and law. Students from China also make up the second-largest group of overseas students at the university.

Three Chinese students for the PhD program and one for

the master’s program at the University of Liverpool will each receive a 5,500 pounds Great Scholarship.

“As for the scholarship, we will take into account their achievements, undergraduate institution and their arguments for what they want to do with the qualification once they receive it. In the personal statement, they need to make the best case for themselves as possible,” says professor Graham Kemp, director of the Liverpool Doctoral College.

Kemp says that for PhD programs, engineering, chemistry, environmental science and management



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Jazreel Goh, education marketing director, British Council in China

have proved the most popular among Chinese students. The university has been developing more short-term placements for PhD students over the past few years, she says.

Meanwhile, the China Education Expo 2017 is currently on tour and stopping at Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou and Shanghai between Oct 21 and 29, with about 60 UK institutions attending. They will promote UK-China joint programs and offer consultations for the Great Scholarships.

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