

Quarterly  
Newsletter  
Issue 1  
2016



euraxess  
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

This newsletter is for you!  
Via [china@euraxess.net](mailto:china@euraxess.net),  
you can send us any  
**comments** on this  
newsletter, **contributions**  
or **suggestions**.

To become a **member** of  
EURAXESS, you can **sign**  
**up** here. You can also  
follow us on LinkedIn and  
Facebook and WeChat.



## EURAXESS Links China

Dear readers,

We are happy to bring you our revamped newsletter which will be from now on released quarterly.

In this newsletter, you will find focused pieces on research landscape in specific European countries (this time we focus on Spain), hot topics related to scientific collaboration or researchers' mobility between China and Europe, interviews with inspiring researchers, and a peek on our recent or coming up activities.

Best regards

EURAXESS China team

## Table of Contents

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Briefing .....  | 2 |
|   | 1.1 New measures to attract foreign talent to China .....   | 2 |
|   | 1.1.1 Permanent residency and employment .....  | 2 |
|   | 1.1.2 Visa .....  | 3 |
|   | 1.2 Details on the breakthrough co-funding deal in Horizon 2020 with<br>China + Hong Kong and Macau ..... | 4 |
|   | 1.2.1 Calls and deadlines.....  | 4 |
|   | 1.2.2 Eligibility .....   | 4 |
|   | 1.2.3 Where to find out more: .....   | 5 |



1.2.4 Hong Kong and Macau’s co-funding mechanisms .....5

2 In focus: Spain ..... 5

    EURAXESS Member in Focus: Spain .....5

3 Meet the Researchers: Wu Ling-An, Institute of Physics (CAS) ..... 9

4 In case you missed..... 10

    4.1 Flash Notes Highlights.....10

    ERC-NSFC Agreement.....10

    EU: H2020 SME Innovation Associate Call for Proposal .....10

    Erasmus Mundus programme “Lotus Unlimited” .....10

    Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) – Research and Innovation Staff Exchange Programme (RISE) .....11

    Creating Gender Equality in Science & Research .....11

    4.2 Event Outlook .....11

# 1 Briefing

## 1.1 New measures to attract foreign talent to China

Officially endorsed during the NPC, one of the goals of the 13<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan is to make the global recruitment of foreign scientist smoother and more streamlined. Below find a summary of news regarding permanent residencies, green cards, visas and other policies that should enhance researchers’ mobility.

### 1.1.1 Permanent residency and employment

It has been notoriously hard for employers in China to offer short-term work experience and internships for foreign students and young professionals, be it in universities, research institutions or companies. Work visa are cumbersome to obtain and the resulting residency permits are only open to those with a work experience of 2 years outside of China.

On 1 March, Beijing’s Zhongguancun, approved easing out procedures regarding employment of foreign experts and employment of foreign students. Foreign students studying at Beijing universities can now take part-time jobs or internships or become involved in tech businesses in the area known as China’s „Silicon Valley“. This move comes after Shanghai introducing similar favourable policies in mid-2015 to attract foreign talents.

Under the new policies in Zhongguancun, overseas Chinese with a PhD degree who hold a foreign passport can now enjoy greater access to green cards that guarantee a permanent residencies. Moreover, [a newly launched center](#) would offer visa, residence-related services to foreigners who start businesses or are employed in Zhongguancun.



China began to grant permanent residency to foreigners through green cards in 2004. Currently about 5,000 experts own a green card. This number might grow as green cards might become easier to obtain and their use more practical, under new guidelines introduced by SAFEA (State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs) who also administers the [1000 Talent scheme](#).

The drive to recruit foreign talents into strategic, emerging and hightech sectors is hardly going to discontinue. In the wake of China's goals and mission to become a world-class destination for research and innovation, Chinese government seems to become more aware of the need to bring in foreign researchers. To make their mobility easier, new rules regarding visas and permanent residencies must be introduced. Still as of now, what the effort will mean for the mobility of researchers in China, especially non-ethnic Chinese, remains to be seen. Let us know your opinion on [china@euraxess.net](mailto:china@euraxess.net).

### 1.1.2 Visa

Since 30 January, [144-hour visa free policy](#) for passengers transiting through Shanghai and Yangtze River Delta region has taken effect. Six days of visa-free transits can be very handy for short-term mobility e.g. research visits or academic conferences.

Passengers of 51 countries who are eligible (includes all EU member states) can stay in Shanghai Municipality, Zhejiang and Jiangsu.

This policy guarantees a transit visa, meaning the departure and arrival country can not be the same. It covers *all types of ports* of entry for visa-exemption transit (not just Shanghai airports as before but also sea ports and rail ports, plus Nanjing Lukou and Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airports).

Visitors coming to Beijing might have to wait for a similar move. [Beijing currently has a 72-hour visa-free transit](#). However, the good news relates to streamlining visa application procedures at the Public Security Bureau and simplify procedures and shortening approval time with a new online application system (PSB website is in Chinese).

New procedure issued on 6 March also specifies the possibility to obtain an M or F visa on arrival in Beijing. Foreigners are now allowed to apply on the website and get a visa upon arrival at Beijing Capital International Airport the Entry and Exit Department at Terminal 2 and Terminal 3. This applies for those who arrive in Beijing at the invitation of a Chinese host *for an emergency issue*.

#### **Sources for more info:**

[Beijing streamlines its visa procedures](#)

[Granting longer visas for foreign experts eyed to ease entry](#)

[Universities scour globe for top leaders to build international reputation](#)

[144-Hour Visa-Exemption Transit Policy Takes Effect on January 30 at Ports of Entry in Shanghai](#)

[Beijing opens paths for international students](#)

[Green cards decision to bear fruit for foreigners](#)



## [Beijing center helps woo foreign talent](#)



### 1.2 Details on the breakthrough co-funding deal in Horizon 2020 with China + Hong Kong and Macau

Chinese Government and the EU agreed to set up a co-funding mechanism for Horizon 2020. This is an important breakthrough in the EU-China research and innovation partnership.

For five years, up to 200 million RMB, or 28 million euro, will be made available annually by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) on the Chinese side for China-based entities that will participate in joint projects with European partners under Horizon 2020. 200 Million RMB from Chinese side is available with a ceiling at **5 Million RMB per project on Chinese side** for up to 3 years.

Chinese authorities are keen on supporting Chinese participation through the co-funding mechanism in the broad areas of: Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology, Sustainable Urbanisation, ICT, Space, Aviation, Energy, Health, Transport, Water, Advanced Manufacturing, and exchange of young scientists. This applies to all areas within the three pillars of Horizon 2020 (Excellent Science, Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges) which makes the CFM support all topics under H2020.

#### 1.2.1 Calls and deadlines

All Calls and Topics in the WP 2016/2017 are publicly online on [H2020's Participant Portal](#), and they open to Chinese participation. The co-funding mechanism provides matching funds for China-based participants in successful Horizon 2020 projects. In addition to that, some topics specifically encourage Chinese participation. [Find the list here.](#)

The CFM call was published in December with two deadlines: **31 March** and **31 July**:

**March deadline:** Chinese applicants selected in proposals under Horizon 2020 WP 2014/15 and Chinese applicants in proposals under Horizon 2020 WP 2016/17 submitted before 31/03/2016 (single stage or stage 2 for twostage proposals).

**July deadline:** Chinese applicants in proposals under Horizon 2020 WP 2016/17 *submitted before 31/07/2016* (single stage or stage 2 for two-stage proposals) are eligible. If the eligible applicant missed the 1st deadline (31 March) , they **cannot** apply for the 2nd deadline.

#### 1.2.2 Eligibility

Universities, research institutes and enterprises **legally established in Chinese territory** are eligible (European-invested company/institution or a Sino-Europe joint venture legally established in China are eligible to apply).





The CFM call administration agency (China S&T Exchange Centre) will organise evaluation according to its relevant procedures and criteria. **Those selected by Horizon 2020 may not finally be co-funded by the CFM.**

Project proposals should be submitted online **via the applicants' affiliated S&T entities** – that is provincial or municipal S&T Departments (Commissions, Bureaus) etc., departments or bureaus of the ministries of the State Council.

### 1.2.3 Where to find out more:

[EU Delegation to China and Mongolia, Research and Innovation](#) (the S&T section of the EU Delegation has a very comprehensive and useful source of all information related to EU-China research and innovation including information on Horizon 2020, themes and priorities, innovation, events calendar, EU Member States.)

[EU Delegation to China and Mongolia, Research and Innovation, Horizon2020](#) (many resources to download on the right side)

[Horizon2020 Participant Portal](#) (for all calls)

[China S&T Exchange Centre](#), National Contact Point for Horizon 2020 and administrator of the co-funding mechanism

[Translation \(non-binding\) of the CFM](#) to English

[Co-funding News on EURAXESS Links China website](#)

### 1.2.4 Hong Kong and Macau's co-funding mechanisms

Hong Kong and Macau have also established co-funding mechanisms.

[EU-Hong Kong Collaboration Scheme for co-funding in 2016-17 Horizon 2020 calls.](#) Hong Kong applicants applying for this Research Grant Council's funding must be partners in a successful proposal submitted in response to the 2016-2017 Horizon 2020 call issued on 14 October 2015. Deadline in July. [More info here.](#)

[EU-Macau Research Collaboration Scheme](#) in 2016-17 Horizon 2020 calls will provide financial support for Macao participants in selected Horizon 2020 proposals. The call is now open for application with the same deadlines as provided by the Horizon 2020 call on the EU side. [Click for details.](#)

## 2 In focus: Spain

### EURAXESS Member in Focus: Spain

*EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance their career development. This pan-European effort is currently supported by 41 countries, of which we will profile one in each of our quarterly EURAXESS Links China e-newsletters. In this edition, we will zoom in on Spain.*



### **SPAIN and the research, development and innovation system in figures**

Spain has been a Member State of the European Union since 1986. It has a population of 46.455.123 people. Its Gross Domestic Product was 1.041.160 million € in 2014. Life expectancy in Spain keeps growing every year, reaching 82,8 years in 2014. Spain welcomes every year a huge number of tourists, reaching 64.938.945 visits in 2014.

The Spanish System of Science, Technology and Innovation embeds internationally recognized institutions where scientists and entrepreneurs can enjoy a variety of funding opportunities. Spain's strategy on science, technology and innovation (2013-2020) <sup>1</sup> promotes the capacities of the system and enables collaboration between all the stakeholders of the system while increasing the social and economic returns from investment in R&D&I.

In 2014, Spanish institutions published 77.013 scientific publications (including articles, conference proceedings and reviews), ranking 10<sup>th</sup> in the world. That means 3,19% of the total world production. In terms of excellence (share of highly cited publications (top 10%)), energy and veterinary sciences were the top research areas in Spain. Also, international collaboration of Spanish institutions keeps growing every year: up to 44,69 % of publications in 2014 were co-authored with a foreign institution. Finally, the total number of European patents with a Spanish origin in 2014 was 467.

Spain is very active in European research. At the moment, around 9% of the H2020 funding is allocated to Spanish institutions. Some of the areas that can be highlighted as especially important for Spanish participation are: Energy, NMBP (Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing) and the SME (small and medium-sized enterprises) instrument.

### **Research Excellence in Spain**

The "[Severo Ochoa Centres of Excellence](#)" programme for independent research centres and the "Maria de Maeztu Units of Excellence" programme for recognize institutions from all areas of knowledge that perform cutting-edge research at world standards. The awarded centers and units show outstanding international scientific leadership and are open to international collaborations. The evaluation committees involved in the selection process are all highly reputed foreign researchers, including Nobel laureates.

Spain counts with a number of so-called "[Unique Scientific and technological infrastructures \(ICTS\)](#)" composed by facilities of different scientific areas ranging from the life sciences to astrophysics or engineering, distributed

---

1

[http://www.idi.mineco.gob.es/stfls/MICINN/Investigacion/FICHEROS/Spanish\\_Strategy\\_Science\\_Technology.pdf](http://www.idi.mineco.gob.es/stfls/MICINN/Investigacion/FICHEROS/Spanish_Strategy_Science_Technology.pdf)



throughout the Spanish territory and areas and devoted to cutting edge and the highest quality research and technological development.

### Recruitment Opportunities

In addition to opportunities brought by Horizon 2020 ([MSCA](#) and [ERC](#)), Spain has many recruitment opportunities on both national and regional level and as well as in the private sector. An extensive list with the opportunities has been published online on the [website of EURAXESS Links China](#).

The national opportunities span from **Ramón Y Cajal Contracts** for high level researchers doing long-time research; **Juan de la Cierva Incorporation**, for young researchers that have finished their education and have proven leadership skills; **Juan de la Cierva training**, for young researchers looking for a post-doctoral training in a Spanish institution; **Industrial Doctorates**, cofunding foreign PhD students to pursue their doctorate in industry; **Pre-Doctoral Grants-Training Doctors**, grants devoted to training pre-docs in Spanish institutions; **Pre-Doctoral Grants – Training of University Teachers**; and **Torres Quevedo Contracts**, which are grants for permanent contracts for doctors in the private sector.

Among the regional opportunities available, **IKERBASQUE** attracts high level researchers to research institutions in the Basque Country; **ICREA**, to recruit researchers from all over the world to Catalonia; **ARAID**, positions for researchers in the region of Aragon; **OPORTUNIUS**, a programme of the Innovation Agency of Galicia to attract international researchers to the region; and **Fundación Séneca**, for international researchers to come to the region of Murcia.

In the private sector, the **Obra Social La Caixa Internships** aims at supporting the mobility of 20 young researchers and support their incorporation into the best research groups in Spain.

For more details, follow this [url](#).

### Important information for incoming researchers

The Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) is the national coordinator for the EURAXESS Spanish network. Almost 100 services and local centres are ready to support incoming researchers. All the information can be found at [www.euraxess.es/eng](http://www.euraxess.es/eng)

Every two years, FECYT publishes an exhaustive up-to-date information about the working conditions, everyday life, and the specific characteristics of Spain, as well as the procedures necessary to become established in Spain: <http://www.euraxess.es/eng/services/foreign-researchers-in-spain>



### **Opportunities for research, technology development and innovation in the region**

The Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI) is Spain's National Innovation Agency. It is a public entity currently under the Secretariat of State for Research, Development and Innovation, Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, Government of Spain.

CDTI is charged to promote business RDI, raise Spanish companies' technological level by funding their R&D projects, both at national and international level. As a Spanish public agency financing industry-driven R&D projects (industrial research, experimental development) developed by Spanish companies, it promotes Spanish technologies in foreign markets via innovation and technology adaptation projects.

Based on the paradigm of open innovation, CDTI manages the participation of Spain in HORIZON 2020 and multilateral programmes promoting industrial R&D cooperation such as EUREKA, IBEROEKA and EUROSTARS. Similarly and, CDTI has entered into agreements with several R&D funding agencies in Asia and developed Industrial R&D funding programmes with countries like Japan (NEDO), China (TORCH), and India (DST-GITA, DBT, MNRE, TDB) aiming at promoting and financing industry-driven, market-oriented R&D projects/collaborations between entities from Spain and from the respective countries.

The primary goal of [Chineka, the bilateral program between Spain and P.R. of China](#) is to foster technology cooperation between entities of Spain and China through joint technology projects.

: Present in 27 countries, [CDTI External network](#) offers support to those Spanish entities interested in developing technological cooperation projects with companies in other countries, facilitates the identification of technological opportunities outside the EU and promotes technology cooperation.

Besides Chineka, in P.R.C and the regions of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, as well as the unilateral programme can be used for Spanish companies as the funding mechanism. To find more information about [R&D funding programmes, visit cdti.es](#).



Professor Ling-An Wu is a professor in experimental nonlinear and quantum optics at the Institute of Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. She grew up in England, and then obtained her BS from Peking University and PhD from the University of Texas at Austin in physics. She has former classmates and students in Europe, China and the US. She is officially retired, but working harder than before due to new outreach activities. She currently teaches at the new University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Huairou, Beijing.

### 3 Meet the Researchers: Wu Ling-An, Institute of Physics (CAS)

*On the occasion of International Women's Day, EURAXESS interviewed Professor Ling-An Wu (Institute of Physics, CAS) to catch a glimpse about the situation of female scientists in China.*

**Professor Wu, please tell us about your research career.**

*I only began doing research as such after I started on my PhD programme when I was 37. Before, I was doing English translation and interpreting at the Institute of Physics - back then, young scientists didn't have good standards of English - but I wanted to do research. When China started to open up, my husband went to the US as a visiting scholar, and I went along as a spouse. Due to the Cultural Revolution we never finished our formal courses, and I wanted to make up for that. I got my degree after 6 years when I was 43.*

**What sparked your interest in science?**

*As a kid, I was fascinated with stars, wondering what is going on in the skies above. Astronomy was my first love, but I loved experiments, making things with my hands. I liked to create new things. Except for needlework! I hated embroidery.*

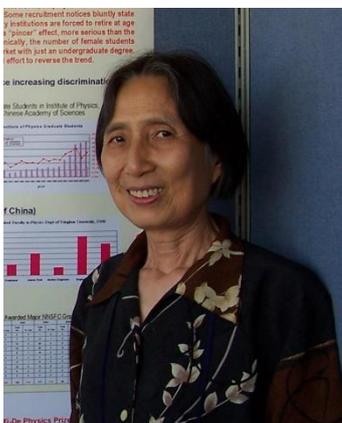
**Why did you choose optics as your field of research?**

*I love optics because it is in every part of our lives. It has a great future and unlimited opportunities for research, because it is related to our vision. Vision is the most basic sense in our whole body. Through our eyes we learn the most – nothing can surpass vision. Similarly in science, you have to use optics to interpret the world. Be it medicine or astronomy – you must transform the signal into something you can see. That's why I like optics.*

**Did you have any role models when you were growing up?**

*I grew up in England. My mother – herself a remarkable woman – always told us about Marie Curie, so this was my role model. My mother's major was English and my father taught Chinese at the University of Oxford, so we didn't have much science background. Still, she brought me up with the idea that we should do science. She wanted me to become a doctor, but I thought physics seemed a lot easier. Some people say physics is difficult, but this is a misconception.*

**What were the greatest challenges that you have faced throughout your career? Do you think those challenges differ from those of your male colleagues?**





*In England, I went to a girl's school. There you don't really feel pressure from male competitors which gives you a certain amount of confidence. I came back to China when I was 18, which was a great culture shock, but I wasn't afraid of anything, despite the fact I was virtually illiterate in Chinese. This was rather naïve. But at that age you don't foresee things, and you adapt quickly. And I was struck with the equality between men and women in China at that time. Women and girls were tough and believed they could do everything the men could do. That's quite different now, sadly.*

*The Chinese media put a lot of emphasis on the feminine aspect now – women should be weak, rely on the man. And I think that affects the gender balance in science to a certain extent. In some ways, we have gone backwards.*

[Click here to read the rest of the interview](#), including discussion about the difference between equality and equity, how to encourage women in their pursuit of scientific careers and on discrimination female researchers may face in China.

In our March Meet the Researcher series, we also interviewed three Marie Curie Fellows: [Dr Marie-Luce Chevalier](#) (Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences), [Dr Zhihong Hu](#) (CAS, Institute of Virology) and [Prof Dongchao Min](#).

## 4 In case you missed....

### 4.1 Flash Notes Highlights

Do not miss our weekly flash notes for latest updates and funding deadlines. Here are a few highlights from previous weeks:

[EURAXESS is looking for Marie Curie fellows in China](#) – have you been awarded an Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship in the past? We want to hear from you.

#### [ERC-NSFC Agreement](#)

Call for NSFC grant holders to join teams by PIs funded by the European Research Council. Deadline is 28 April.

#### [EU: H2020 SME Innovation Associate Call for Proposal](#)

For researchers from all over the world.

#### [Erasmus Mundus programme “Lotus Unlimited”](#)

For academic staff and admin staff. Partnership universities in China: Beijing University, Nanjing University, Sichuan University. Deadline: 17 April. More info [here](#)



## [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions \(MSCA\) – Research and Innovation Staff Exchange Programme \(RISE\)](#)

Deadline 21 April.

### [Creating Gender Equality in Science & Research](#)

Gender equality is a cornerstone of the European Union and applies to all European policies including research and innovation. To create the very best conditions for researchers and scientists, the 28 member states of the European Union (EU) are working towards the creation of single [European Research Area \(ERA\)](#). Their common goal is to establish a unified research area which is open to the world, and in which researchers and knowledge circulate freely. Gender equality has been one of the priorities of a “[Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth](#)” (ERA) since 2012.

## 4.2 Event Outlook

| Name  | Field             | Date             | Location  | Website   |
|---|-------------------|------------------|---|---|
| 1. EU-China Week on Aviation Research   | Aviation Research | 18-22 April 2016 | Von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics & the European Commission, Brussels | <a href="http://tinyurl.com/j9lh92w">http://tinyurl.com/j9lh92w</a>             |
| 2. Lunch Meet-up for Marie Curie Fellows                                      | All fields        | 28 April         | EU Delegation to China and Mongolia   | <a href="http://tinyurl.com/MSCAlunch">http://tinyurl.com/MSCAlunch</a>         |
| 3. EURAXESS Researchers' Night Beijing  | All fields        | 5 May 2016 (tbc) | House Café (Tsinghua University East Gate).                                 | <a href="http://rn-beijing.splashthat.com">http://rn-beijing.splashthat.com</a> |
| 4. EURAXESS Researchers' Night in Shanghai: European Research Council edition | All fields        | 2 June           | Kaiba Taphouse (tbc)  |   |



\* \* \*

### **About us**

EURAXESS Links China is a networking tool for European researchers active in China and for Chinese researchers wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a career in Europe. EURAXESS Links China provides information about research in Europe, European research policy, opportunities for research funding, for EU-China and international collaboration and for trans-national mobility.

**Membership is free.**

Visit us at [china.euraxess.org](http://china.euraxess.org) and [Join](#) the EURAXESS Links China community.

EURAXESS Links networks have thus far been launched in North America (USA & Canada) Japan, China, India, the ASEAN hub (encompassing Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia) and Brazil.