

Quarterly  
Newsletter  
Issue 1  
2018



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, Facebook  
and WeChat.



## EURAXESS China

Dear readers,

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter of EURAXESS China in 2018!

Inspired by the topic of an upcoming [EURAXESS event in Shanghai](#) we have written a comprehensive overview of [How to Benefit from the Power of Researchers' Diaspora Networks](#).

It includes information about the benefits and challenges of being a mobile researcher, discussion about both the personal and professional benefits of Researchers' Diaspora Networks, information about European Researchers' Diaspora Networks that are active here in China, two case studies of successful researchers' diaspora networking around the world, how to take the first steps to establish such a network and how EURAXESS China can help.

The [EURAXESS country in focus](#) this time is **Iceland**. We will look at some facts about this Nordic island country and discuss its S&T system and opportunities for international researchers.

Finally we provide a short overview of upcoming events and activities of interest to China-based researchers [in case you have missed](#) them.

Best regards

Your EURAXESS China team

# 1 How to Benefit from the Power of Researchers' Diaspora Networks



*Europe wishes to work closely with the European scientific diasporas as Europe has always supported mobility*

**Dr. Mary KAVANAGH** Minister-Counsellor, Research Innovation, Global Issues and Innovation  
Delegation of the European Union to the United States, Washington, DC (EURAXESS North America, 2018, p. 8)

## 1.1 The Benefits and Challenges of Mobility

Being away from home for longer or shorter time is often an important part of the career development of researchers. The associated benefits of researchers' mobility for the researcher is often improved academic output and better networks, for senior researchers, and skill and career development for junior researchers.

The benefits for the countries involved are also clear; the receiving country gains access to additional skills and expertise, and for the sending country the scientific diaspora provides productive links internationally and in many cases also gains knowledge when the researcher returns (Guthrie, Lichten, Corbett, & Wooding, 2017, p. vi). In addition to that there are arguments to be made that increased international brain circulation in general leads to disproportionately more scientific output globally (Kurzgesagt, 2018). This seems to be truly a win-win situation for everybody involved.

That being said, mobility isn't painless and it's the researchers themselves that have to bear the brunt of the cost. A mobile researcher has to tear himself up by the roots and adapt to a totally new society and culture with all the personal challenges that comes with that.

This is where Diaspora Networks can be useful. They can help the researcher personally as well as professionally.

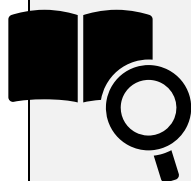
## References

EURAXESS North America. (2018). *Report of 2nd Annual Meeting of European Scientific Diasporas in North America*. Washington DC: EURAXESS North America.

Guthrie, S., Lichten, C., Corbett, J., & Wooding, S. (2017). *International mobility of researchers - A review of the literature*. Cambridge, UK: Rand Europe.

Kurzgesagt. (18. March 2018). *A Selfish Argument for Making the World a Better Place – Egoistic Altruism*. Von YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvskMHn0sqQ> abgerufen

## What is a Diaspora Network?



A Diaspora is a group of people that originate from the same place but live elsewhere. A Diaspora network is usually an organised association of these people in the receiving country that creates a platform for them to get to know each other, but can also refer to a more informal group that does similar activities.

*Researchers' Diaspora Networks allows for a more organic **brain circulation** on both national and international level, frameworks of support and mentoring, opportunities for networking and collaboration*

## 1.2 The Benefits of Researchers' Diaspora Network

### 1.2.1 Personal Benefits

Meeting people that you share a background with can deliver immense personal benefits, especially at the beginning of your stay abroad, but also to a certain extent as time goes by. Being able to talk in your native language and see “familiar” faces can do a lot to dampen the culture shock when settling in a new place. It can bring comfort and bridges psychologically the gap between your current and past experiences, helping with putting all the new things you’ve been learning into a comprehensible context.

In addition to that, a diaspora network can also put you in contact with people that provide you with plethora of practical advices about the place you are staying; even simple things in relations to how to get by in the day-to-day life can sometimes be made a whole of a lot easier with the right nudge from a person that has stayed longer but also might be more privy about the needs of his countrymen. It’s also fun!

For those that have stayed longer there can still be some personal benefits. They might already be well adapted to their new country of residence and have established a good network of friends and co-workers but meeting up with people from their own country can still be of value. It can help people to feel rooted, maintaining their language, reminiscing, as well as be rewarding in terms of being able to help your peers that are “fresh of the boat”. As time goes by the professional benefits of the Diaspora network also starts to accumulate.

### 1.2.2 Professional Benefits

As we can see, there are many benefits of belonging to general Diaspora networks, but for scientists in particular there are professional benefits of belonging to a special Researchers' Diaspora Networks.

- Helps with quickly establishing a network of contacts amongst your peers in the host country that can also facilitate local connections.
- Helps you to identify funding opportunities that are relevant to you, especially those that focus on supporting cooperation between your host and home country.
- Helps you to realize the strengths of talents with your background in the host country.
- Helps you with keeping your connections and links in your home alive and growing. The researcher can serve as a bridge between cultures when it comes to international cooperation and in the case of returning your networks will help you to re-establish yourself back home.
- Good way to get on the radar of your home country's government, companies and institutes for your unique skill set and position.

Depending on the Researchers' Diaspora Network, the organisation might also engage in a more structured approach to career development of their members, such as through mentorship programmes, match-making and other activities.

## 1.3 Which European Researchers' Diaspora Networks Are There in China?



### **AAIC – Association of Italian Scholars in China**

AAIIC (Association of Italian Scholars in China) is a non-profit organization founded in 2015, working in the fields of higher education, research & innovation in the People's Republic of China (PRC). They are professors, scholars, researchers living in China or coming to China on a regular schedule. Besides teaching they coordinate research projects, grants, and supervise students, and also put effort into creating a community of intellectuals, a multidisciplinary environment for the exchange of ideas and experiences. Their aim is to facilitate relocation of Italian academicians and researchers to China, sharing relevant news on positions, grants, and fellowships, and organize cultural events of scientific relevance, with the purpose of promoting cross-fertilization between the cultural environments of the two countries.

**Holland Science  
Network**  
In China

### **Holland Science Network in China**

Holland Science Network is a network for Dutch researchers working in China, both full-time and part-time. It's for scientists with Dutch nationality or any other nationality that conducted PhD, post-doc and/or worked as a (visiting) professor at a Dutch University and is currently contracted by/associated with a Chinese university or CAS research institute for minimum 1 month (not necessarily consecutively) in a year. The network will be organising a yearly conference/workshop and providing a platform to stimulate dialogue and share experience. It also aims at providing an overview of financial schemes related to research in China and establish a link to the university system in China. The first Congress of the Holland Science Network will be taking place in Shanghai on 13 April 2018.

### **Other informal networks**

In addition to the formally organised Researchers' Diaspora Networks there are many other groups working in the same space. EURAXESS China is, for example, aware of diaspora activities for British scientist related to RCUK (Research Council UK), meetings for French-speaking scientists both organized by the French embassy and consulates as well as by private groups, and meeting where Norwegian scientists are welcome related to the NorAlumni organization for people in China with connection with Norway.

## 1.4 My country doesn't have a network, what can I do?

A logical first step would be to approach the representatives of your country nearest embassy or consulate to inquiry about if they know about any informal diaspora networks as described above. Many European missions in China have dedicated officers for the topic of Science and Technology and they are in any case usually very happy to hear about their countrymen that are active in research in China and willing to share with them information.

Do you want to take it further? How about establishing and organising such a network? China is a rising science power and an ever-more relevant destination for research collaboration internationally. Even though European researchers used to be few and far between in the past their numbers are increasing, getting closer to the critical mass needed to start organising. It's a great way to take a lead and develop strong contacts here in China. You can check if your country already has Diaspora networks in other countries and contact the people in charge offering to open a new charter. You can also check with the EURAXESS China Country Representative that can help you identify researchers from your own country and support you in your efforts.

## 1.5 Two Case Studies

### 1.5.1 European Researchers in the United States

In the United States there are many active European Scientific Diaspora Networks; including Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

[EURAXESS North America](#) has been very active in supporting these organisations organising annually a Joint Meeting of European Scientific Diasporas in North America.

Go the website of EURAXESS to also see an overview of these activities in addition to publications on the topic.

### 1.5.2 Chinese Researchers abroad

Chinese researchers also see the benefit of organised researcher's diaspora when abroad. Examples include The Association of Chinese-American Scientists and Engineers ([ACSE](#)) and the Australia-China Association of Scientists and Entrepreneurs ([ACASE](#)).

These networks not only aim at professional benefits but personal as well. As said by one of the members of EURAXESS China, WU Qiaoling from Peking University (北京大学 吴侨玲):

*"During the exchange program which lasted for over a year in Australia, I would participate in gatherings or travels organized by Chinese students or scholars there. After all, when you are in a foreign country, you will feel unusually close to your compatriots."*

## 1.6 How Can EURAXESS Help?

EURAXESS China offers cooperation with anybody that wants to get involved in Researchers' Diaspora Activities. We can help advertise the network's events and news, provide a way for new scientists to get in touch and feature the activities in our publications. We also organise regular networking events that can be focused on diaspora related topics. See on next page information about our upcoming event is an attempt to inspire more activities in this space amongst Europeans in China.



## 1.7 Researchers' Night Shanghai 7.0

INVITATION

HOW TO BENEFIT  
FROM THE POWER  
OF RESEARCHERS'  
DIASPORA NETWORKS?

RESEARCHERS'

NIGHT

SHANGHAI

The focus of the 7th EURAXESS Researchers' Night Shanghai is to discuss **the benefits of organised researchers' diaspora networks.**

A chance to meet fellow researchers and make new contacts.



The event is free and open to European PhD students, post-docs, and more senior researchers from all fields

Drinks and food are on the house!

Register at

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/china/researchers-night-shanghai-70>

DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF  
DIASPORA NETWORKS  
GET INFO AND MEET NEW  
PEOPLE OVER A DRINK

//VENUE

Kaiba (Jing'an)

Wuding Rd 479

武定路 479 号

近陕西北路

//DATE

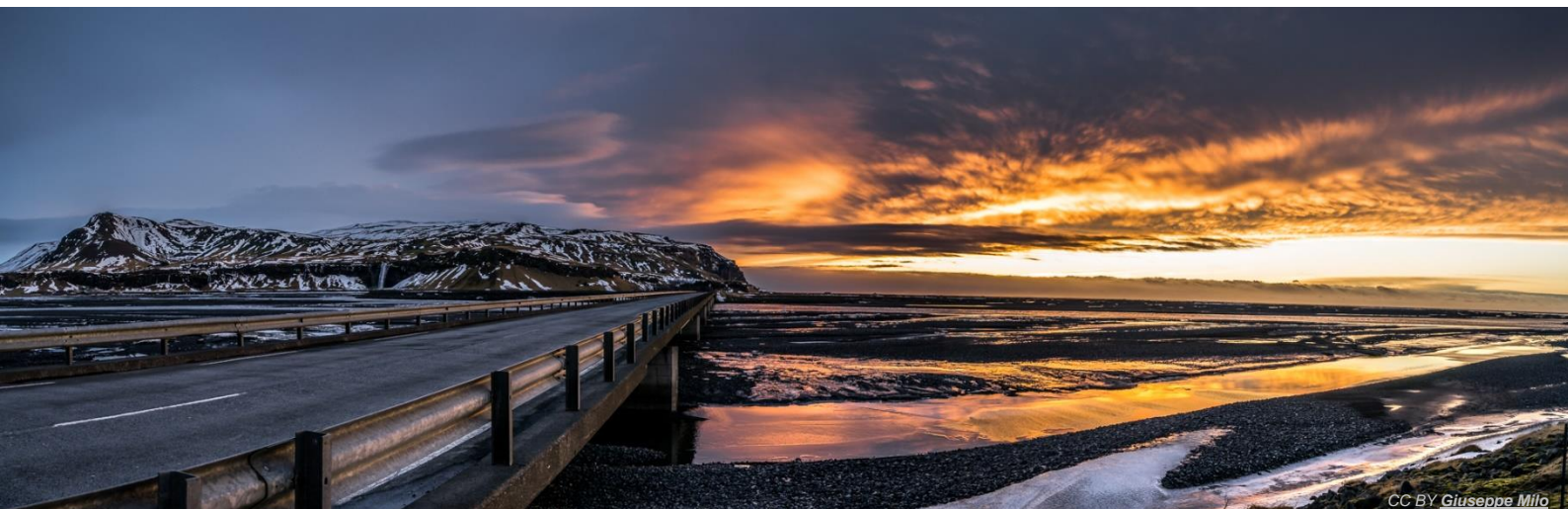
6:30 PM THU

12 APRIL 2018

2018 年 4 月 12 日

星期四晚上 6:30





CC BY Giuseppe Milo



#### Iceland, The Quick Facts

##### Country Size:

103,000 sq.km

##### Population

338,000 (2017)

10.6% are foreign-born

##### Language

Icelandic

English is widely-spoken

##### Capital

Reykjavik

##### Median Age

36.3

##### Currency

Icelandi Króna (ISK)

##### Economy

GDP Per Capita

73.092 USD/person (2017)

Unemployment Rate

2.9% (2017)

To learn more about our  
unique little island visit

<http://iceland.is> .

## 2 EURAXESS Country in Focus: ICELAND

Located in the North-Atlantic ocean close by the Arctic Circle, Iceland is very much a bridge between continents. It takes approximately five hours to fly from New York to Reykjavík, and three hours from London.

Iceland is a progressive, modern society that continuously ranks at the top of measurements for quality of life, such as the United Nations Human Development Index. Its economy is one of the most productive economies in the world, per-capita, and it is annually considered to be one of greenest countries on the planet, due in large parts to its vast renewable energy resources.

The Icelandic system of research and development is a multilevel system with a dispersed decision-making structure. It has a number of fully-fledged research institutions, essential funds and a strong force of well-trained scientists, and covers all major fields in science and technology. Icelandic scientists face a challenging task of maintaining the quality and range of research activities. Concentration of research in key areas is important in order to optimize resources.

### 2.1 Icelandic S&T Policy and Strategy

The Science and Technology Policy Council is responsible for setting public policy in matters of science and technology in Iceland. It's role is to support scientific research, science education and technological development in Iceland so as to strengthen the foundations of the Icelandic culture and increase the competitiveness of the economy. The Science and Technology Policy Council operates pursuant to Act No 2/2003. The Council is chaired by the Prime Minister and its members include the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, the Minister of Education, Science and Culture, the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Innovation as well as 16 representatives nominated by different ministries and

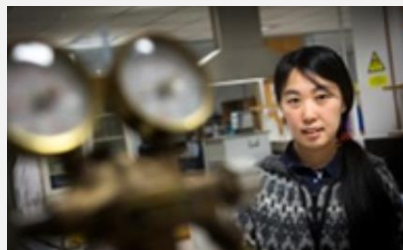




higher education institutions and by the social partners. In addition, the chair may appoint up to four other ministers to the Council. The Council sets the official science and technology policy for a three-year period.

The Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS) supports research, research studies, technical development and innovation in Iceland. RANNIS operates under the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and cooperates closely with the Icelandic Science and Technology Policy Council providing professional assistance regarding the preparation and implementation of science and technology policy in Iceland. RANNIS administers competitive funds and strategic research programmes, coordinates and promotes Icelandic participation in collaborative international projects in science and technology and promotes public awareness of research and innovation in Iceland.

## SNAPSHOT



### Developing Flavouring Agents from Seaweed

Yuetuan Zhang (China)

Zhang is a doctoral student at the department of Food Science and Nutrition, University of Iceland, and her research focuses on Icelandic seaweed, which can be found in abundance in Icelandic fjords and coastline, and its potential for developing novel flavouring agents. Her project has to do with the fundamentals of the biophysics of taste but also includes a practical aspect that allows the food industry to make more tasty food according to Zhang. Research on peptides shows a lot of potential to be a healthier replacement for salt in future food processing without



## Funding

**THE ICELANDIC RESEARCH FUND (IRF)** is an open competitive research fund that supports scholarly research and postgraduate research education in Iceland. To this end, the IRF supports clearly defined research projects of individuals, research groups, universities, research institutes and private enterprises. IRF shall award grants in accordance with the general emphases of the Science and Technology Policy Council and based on an expert assessment of the quality of research projects, the capability of the individuals carrying out the proposed research and their ability to devote time and effort to the project.

**The Technology Development Fund** is a public, competitive fund that supports innovation and technology development projects. The role of the fund is to support research and development activities, which aim towards innovation in Icelandic industry and increased competitiveness of the Icelandic economy. The fund supports projects along the R&D&I value chain from applied research projects, development of start-up companies, to the first steps into marketing. The fund operates according to the policy of The Science and Technology Policy Council, which role is to promote scientific research and research training in the sciences and encourage technological progress in Iceland.



## 2.2 Icelandic Research and Innovation institutions

**The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies** was established in 2006 with the merger of several Icelandic institutes in the field. The institute is located in Reykjavík and has the role of preserving and studying medieval Icelandic manuscripts and disseminating knowledge to the scientific community and public at large about its research in Icelandic studies, history, language and literature as well as preserve and augment the collections within its care.



**Matís Ltd.** is an Icelandic Food and Biotech R&D institute founded in 2007. For years, Matís has been considered a valuable partner in multiple, miscellaneous projects and has played a leading role in large international projects with some of the largest food and ingredient companies in the world. Matís employs around 100 staff in offices, laboratories or Food Innovation Centres located in cities or towns around Iceland. Matís' turnover in 2014 was around \$11.3 million USD, of which approximately 35% comes from international cooperation.



**Iceland GeoSurvey** is a self-financing, state-owned, non-profit institution established in 2003. It is based on seven decades of continuous experience in the field of geothermal and hydropower research and development. During this period Iceland GeoSurvey has provided consulting, training, and scientific services to the Icelandic power industry and the Icelandic government, and to numerous foreign companies and governments all over the world. Although the focus is on geothermal exploration, development, and utilization, Iceland GeoSurvey's experience covers many other geoscience-related fields as well, including groundwater studies, marine geology, and environmental monitoring.



### RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

#### [University of Iceland](#)

The University of Iceland is a research university and places great emphasis on quality in research. The university operates dozens of [research institutions and centre](#).

#### [Reykjavik University](#)

Reykjavik University has a clear and progressive [research strategy](#).

#### [University of Akureyri](#)

[Research](#) is one of the fundamental aspects of the University of Akureyri.

#### [Bifrost University](#)

#### [The Agricultural University of Iceland](#)

#### [Iceland Academy of the Arts](#)

#### [Holar University College](#)

**The Icelandic Meteorological Office** IMO is a governmental institution under the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources. The research focus of IMO is on weather and climate, atmospheric processes, glacier and avalanche studies, hydrological systems, earthquake and volcanic processes and geohazards. IMO also focuses on research in multi-parameter geophysical monitoring to develop more accurate forecasts of hazardous events. IMO has participated in several European and Nordic funded research projects, having the role of lead partner in many of them.



**Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI)** is a government institute under the auspices of the Ministry of Industries and Innovation. The institute employs around 190 staff, operates 2 research vessels and 10 branches around the country, including an aquaculture experimental station. MFRI is leading in marine and freshwater research in Icelandic territories and the arctic, providing advice on sustainable use and protection of the environment. The main research priorities are research on marine and freshwater ecosystems, sustainable exploitation of main stocks, ecosystem approach to fisheries



## OTHER RESEARCH INSTITUTES

[Landspítali - University Hospital](#)

[Icelandic Institute of Natural History](#)

[Innovation Center Iceland](#)

[National Energy Authority of Iceland](#)

[Nordvulk - The Nordic Volcanological Centre](#)

[The Science Institute - University of Iceland](#)

[Institute for Experimental Pathology of the University of Iceland](#)

[Iceland Forest Service](#)

[National Land Survey of Iceland](#)

management, research on fishing technology and seafloor and habitat mapping. MFRI is highly regarded in the scientific community and is therefore a valuable research partner, active at an international level with a strong infrastructure and high quality equipment. MFRI is an appealing work place with progressive human resources policy to strengthen the institute's competitiveness and an effective gender equality policy.

## 2.3 Study in Iceland

Study in Iceland is a service housed within the Icelandic Center for Research. The new website, <http://study.iceland.is>, was launched in 2017 brings together information and resources for international students interested at studying at one of Iceland's seven universities. The website is run in collaboration with Íslandsstofa (Promote Iceland) and provides information on university education, Icelandic as a foreign language, summer schools, life in Iceland, and a practical guide for applicants and foreign students. Study in Iceland also provides advice and signposting to services through e-mail or phone for interested parties.



## 2.4 Important information for incoming researchers: EURAXESS Iceland



The Icelandic Centre for Research is the coordinator of EURAXESS in Iceland and the EURAXESS Bridgehead organization. RANNIS coordinates and promotes Icelandic participation in international cooperation in science, education and culture and interacts with corresponding agencies and research councils in other countries and provides assistance to incoming researchers with advice on daily life and formalities of moving to Iceland. The EURAXESS network in Iceland is quite small as it consists of three members in the country: in addition to RANNIS the University of Iceland and the University of Reykjavík are established as EURAXESS contact points.

## 3 In case you missed...

### 3.1 Additional Diaspora Activities

*Are you a China-based researcher from the Netherlands?* The Holland Science Network will be organising its first congress 13 April in Shanghai.

*Are you a China-based researcher from the United Kingdom?* The Research Council UK will be organising a round-table for China-based academics from the UK 13 April in Beijing.

*Are you a China-based researcher interested in Italy?* The Association of Italian Scholars will be supporting the “Day of Italian Research in the World” on 13 April. More information to come later.

*Are you a China-based researcher from anywhere in Europe?* Join our EURAXESS Researchers’ Night on the topic of Diaspora Networks in Shanghai 12 April.

For more information about the above events contact [china@euraxess.net](mailto:china@euraxess.net).

### 3.2 ENRICH Innovation Tour of China in May

ENRICH China with the support of EURAXESS China will be doing an Innovation Tour of China in Shanghai, Wuxi and Chengdu, May 6-11. See more at <http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/9qmxAlv-O6WwOXGPpU8O7Q>.

### 3.3 Are you based in Xiamen, Changchun or Harbin?

Events introducing Horizon 2020 and funding opportunities will be held in Xiamen (16 April), Harbin (18 April) and Changchun (19 April).

For more information contact [china@euraxess.net](mailto:china@euraxess.net).

### About us

EURAXESS China is a networking tool for European researchers active in China and for Chinese and international researchers wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a career in Europe. EURAXESS 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 China community.

EURAXESS Worldwide networks have thus far been launched in North America (USA & Canada) Japan, China, India, in ASEAN (currently focusing on Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia) and as of March 2017, the EURAXESS Brazil network has been expanded to cover Latin America and the Caribbean as well.

