THE CHINA HELPER

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FOUR ROUTES, NOT ONE

CSC Scholarship
National government. Full tuition, housing, stipend and insurance.
BIGGEST AWARD

Provincial & Municipal
Regional government. Usually tuition, sometimes a living allowance.
SMALLER POOLS

University Awards
From a 20% tuition waiver to a full award. Stacks with the rest.
EASIEST TO GET

Confucius Institute
Full funding for language and teaching-oriented study.
LANGUAGE YEAR

China Scholarship Tracker

Four funding routes, what each one pays, the documents that decide applications, and a fill-in grid so nothing slips past a deadline.

THE ROUTES
Who funds what, and how generous each one actually is

THE DOCUMENTS
Where applications die — and how early to start each one

THE GRID
Every application on one page: deadline, documents, status, result

Free to print and share with credit

THE LANDSCAPE

Four routes, and they stack

ROUTE	WHO FUNDS IT	TYPICAL COVERAGE	COMPETITION
CSC Scholarship	China Scholarship Council, national	Full — tuition, housing, stipend, insurance	High, but far below most national schemes
Provincial / municipal	Provincial and city authorities	Partial — usually tuition, sometimes a stipend	Moderate — much smaller pools
University	Individual universities	20% tuition waiver up to a full award	Varies widely by institution
Confucius Institute	Hanban / CLEC	Full funding for language study	Moderate, language-focused

If you know where you want to study, start with that university's own page. Their awards are usually the easiest to win and stack on top of everything else. If you are flexible, the CSC route gives the most money and the most choice.

THE HEADLINE AWARD

What the CSC actually pays

ELEMENT	PUBLISHED STANDARD
Tuition	Full, for the duration of the degree
Monthly stipend Undergraduate ¥2,500 · Master's ¥3,000 · Doctoral ¥3,500	Paid monthly by your host university
Housing Or a subsidy: ¥700 undergrad and master's, ¥1,000 doctoral	On-campus housing or an allowance
Medical insurance	Comprehensive cover, meets the enrolment requirement
Not covered	**Flights, visa fees, and your first month before the stipend lands**

Budget ¥5,000–10,000 of your own money for month one. Deposits, insurance top-ups and a flight all arrive before the first stipend does.

BEFORE YOU APPLY

Do you qualify, in six lines

- [ ] **Nationality:** non-Chinese citizen, in good health
- [ ] **Age limits, and these are enforced:** under 25 undergraduate, under 35 master's, under 40 PhD
- [ ] **Academic record:** a recognised prior degree with transcripts and a minimum GPA
- [ ] **Language:** HSK 4 or 5 for Chinese-taught, IELTS 6.0+ or TOEFL 80+ for English-taught
- [ ] **Study or research plan:** usually 800–1,500 words
- [ ] **Two recommendation letters** on letterhead, signed

The Foreigner Physical Examination Form expires after six months. It must be valid on the day you submit — too early is also wrong.

WHERE APPLICATIONS DIE

Documents, and how early to start

DOCUMENT	START THIS FAR AHEAD	THE TRAP
Recommendation letters	8–10 weeks	Professors are slow; ask with your CV in hand
Transcripts and translations	6–8 weeks	Notarised translations take longer than you think
Physical Examination Form	2–4 weeks	Expires in six months — too early is also wrong
Study or research plan	6–8 weeks	Generic plans read as low effort; name the lab
Passport, photos, certificates	2 weeks	Check passport validity well beyond your stay

Scan everything to PDF in one folder, named consistently — you will upload the same files to several portals.

BEFORE YOU SUBMIT

The renewal question

- [ ] Asked what renews the award, and at what GPA
- [ ] Asked what happens if you miss the threshold
- [ ] Confirmed whether it stacks with a university award
- [ ] Counted the months the stipend does not cover

A scholarship that requires a 3.5 GPA every year is not a three-year award. It is a one-year award with two hurdles — read the renewal condition as carefully as the amount.

THE GRID

Every application on one page

SCHOLARSHIP / UNIVERSITY	ROUTE	DEADLINE	DOCUMENTS READY	SUBMITTED	RESULT

Apply to more than one. Applications are free or cheap, and outcomes vary far more than university rankings would suggest. The students who win are rarely the most brilliant — they are the ones who applied to several places.

THE TWO LEVERS

What moves an application

Contact a supervisor first

- [ ] Essential for research degrees — a professor who wants you will help you through
- [ ] A pre-acceptance letter transforms a direct application

Apply through a university

- [ ] The university track is widely reported to succeed more often
- [ ] You can run it and the embassy route at the same time

WORK BACKWARDS

The funding year

WHEN	WHAT TO DO
9–12 months before	Research programmes, start Chinese if you need HSK, book language tests
6–9 months before	Email supervisors, request transcripts and references, draft your study plan
Oct – Dec	CSC embassy track usually opens; university routes open on rolling bases
Jan – Mar	Most deadlines cluster here — submit early, portals slow on the final day
Apr – Jun	Results, and interviews for some programmes
Jun – Sep	Admission letter, JW201/JW202, visa, arrival and registration

Deadlines are firm. CSC and university portals close precisely, and late applications are not considered.

NOTES — SUPERVISOR NAMES, PORTAL LOGINS, DEADLINE DATES, AGENCY NUMBERS

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Funding is only half the process

Scan for the rest of the free downloads, or read the full guides behind every figure here.

Chinese Scholarships Guide — *all four routes in full*

How to Apply to Chinese Universities — *admissions and how funding interacts with the offer*

China Student Visa Guide — *what you need once the award lands*

Cost of Living in China — *what a stipend actually buys*

About these figures: the stipend, insurance and housing amounts are the published CSC standards; provincial and university awards set their own. The ¥5,000–10,000 set-up estimate is commonly reported spending in month one, not an official figure.
Official sources: the China Scholarship Council, the Study in China portal, and your target university's international office.
Disclaimer: funding rules, deadlines and award standards change from year to year and differ by programme, province and institution. Confirm with the relevant authority before you rely on it.
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