

Call for 2016 Master's Programs in Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) for Kasetsart University Students

1. Introduction

Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG), one of the institutes of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), is a modern and international institution committed to provide a quality learning environment for its students and the community. It has a vibrant research culture and has gained an excellent reputation for research in ecology and biodiversity conservation. It has an outstanding team of academics from Both China and oversea dedicated to advancing knowledge to benefit society and tropical Asian area. To date, XTBG has agstudent enrolment of around 200, of which 24 are from south-east Asian counties.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding on International Exchange between Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Kasetsart University (KU) for joint research scheme, students from KU will be sponsored to travel to China for Master studies for up to three years.

2. Fields / Direction of Study

- Climate change and Dendroclimatology/Ecosystem ecology (Supervisor: Dr. Zexin Fan, E-mail: fanzexin@xtbg.org.cn)
- Liana community and physiological ecology/Plant ecology (Supervisor: Dr. Jiaolin Zhang, E-mail: zjl@xtbg.org.cn)
- Soil zoology and microbe community ecology/Soil ecology (Supervisor: Dr. Xiaodong Yang, E-mail: yangxd@xtbg.ac.cn)
- Community assembly and species coexistence/Tropical Forest ecology (Supervisor: Dr. Luxiang Lin, E-mail: linluxa@xtbg.ac.cn)
- Genetic diversity of tropical tree species/Molecular ecology (Supervisor: Dr. Qiaoming Li, E-mail: lqm@xtbg.ac.cn)

3. Application Guidance

3.1 Qualifications of Applicants

- (1) KU Student holding a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent(Those who have not graduated yet shall offer a proof of education and expected graduation time in their current academic institution);
- (2) Healthy and willing to abide by the Chinese laws and decrees;
- (3) Requirement of English proficiency for Non- English speaking applicants OR shall pass the new Chinese Proficiency Test (New HSK) band 5—scoring over 180;

3.2 Documents Submission

- (1) ADMISSION APPLICATION FORM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: find the form in the attachment and fill in the form with a 2-inch photo and applicant's signature. The supervisor's comment page should be filled in by the applicant's supervisor and institute/school. The applicant cannot apply to more than one supervisor and institute/school. For those who are applying scholarship programs to UCAS, please attach separate scholarship application form. Please find scholarship application in the following parts.
- (2) Photocopy of passport (at least 2 years' validity) personal information page.
- (3) Original notarized photocopy of Bachelor's degree certificate. (Those who have not graduated yet shall offer a proof of education and expected graduation time in their current academic institution).
- (4) Original transcripts or original notarized photocopy of undergraduate study transcripts.
- (5) Two academic recommendation letters from scholars or professors who work in the relevant research field with the applicant (must be on the letterhead paper, with the referee's signature and date, and be sealed). The referee should not be the expected supervisor.
- (6) CV and research proposal.
- (7) Photocopies of all the title pages and abstracts of maximum 5 representative published

academic papers. Do not submit the photocopies of unpublished papers.

(8) Bank Receipt of Application Processing Fee: RMB 600 or USD, EUR equivalent.

For applicants outside mainland China, payments shall be made in US dollars or Euros in the form of a personal check or money order or travelers check attached to the application form, payable to UCAS. For applicants currently in mainland China, payments shall be made in Chinese currency by remitting money directly to the following bank account (Please specify that the remittance is for the application fee):

Beneficiary: University of Chinese Academy of Sciences

Account number: 11001059200053002790

Bank: Construction Bank of China

Beijing Municipal Dongfang Guangchang Branch

SWIFT CODE: PCBCCNBJBJX

Or

Applicants may also submit the admission fee to UCAS Financial Department.

3.3 Admission Process

(1) Find an Eligible Host Supervisor

Find an Eligible Host Supervisor from part **2Fields / Direction of Study** and send her/him the hard/soft copy of their application documents.

(2) Get a Host Supervisor's Acceptance.

The supervisor checks and evaluates the applicant's academic ability according to the admission regulations of XTBG. Two or three experts might be invited to conduct a video/telephone interview with the applicant. Written examination can be taken if necessary. The supervisor then makes a decision as whether to accept the student by making comments and signing on the supervisor's comment page in the admission application form and submit all the necessary documents to the institute/faculty (The supervisor's comment is also needed on the scholarship application form).

(3) Faculty/Institute Approval

The application will be reviewed by XTBG to decide whether to accept the applicants. If approved, XTBG completes the comment page of the admission application form and sends the stamped application form along with all the application documents to UCAS International Students Office.

(4) UCAS Makes the Final Review and Prepares Admission Documents

UCAS prepares the admission and visa application documents for eligible applicants after final review. The final result of evaluation meetings on scholarship applications will be announced once the expert panel makes the decision.

(5) Application Time:

December 1, 2015 – May 30, 2016;

4. Visa Application and Admission Registration

UCAS will send Admission Notices and Visa Application forms to the admitted students. The admitted students should bring their personal passport, Admission Notice, Visa Application Form (JW202/ JW201), and original Form of Physical Examination Record for Foreigners as well as other original documents of physical examination to the Embassy or Consulate of the People's Republic of China, and apply for a student visa (X1/X2 visa). Please keep the original Admission Notice and Visa Application Form (JW202/ JW201) which are needed for registration and residence permit application. Please do not enter China visa-free or with other types of visas other than X visa. After entry to China, students should register at the place indicated on the Admission Notice within the required registration period.

5. Fees and Scholarships

5.1 Application Fee, Tuition, and Costs:

- (1) RMB 600 or USD, EUR equivalent (Non-refundable);
- (2) Tuition: RMB 30,000/year;
- (3) Accidental Injury and Hospitalization Insurance: RMB 800/year, RMB 400/half year;

(4) Accommodation (shared rooms): RMB 900/month for one student

(5) Outpatient service fee is paid according to the insurance scheme from insurance company. Board expenses, travel expenses and other costs of experiments, meetings or trainings beyond the program curriculum is at the student's own expense.

5.2 Scholarship

• Chinese Government Scholarship

The Chinese Government Scholarship covers many programs to sponsor international students and scholars to study and research in Chinese universities. The scholarship offers a fee waiver of registration, tuition, health insurance, on-campus dormitory accommodation, etc. Please refer to the attachment files or the website of the China Scholarship Council (<http://www.csc.edu.cn/Laihua/>) for detailed introduction, qualifications of applicants and admission process.

UCAS is one of the Chinese Government Scholarship universities. Eligible applicants may apply to the China Scholarship Council by recommendation of the related national official departments and Embassy or Consulate of the People's Republic of China. The scholarship usually starts in November and finishes the following April. Due to the different deadlines of countries, please check relevant information in time. The International Students Office of UCAS will offer pre-admission notice if needed.

Applicants may also apply by UCAS recommendation (see <http://english.ucas.ac.cn/>). But this is only for a small number of excellent international students who are not currently studying in China.

• UCAS Scholarship for International Students

The UCAS Scholarship for International Students offers full scholarship for international students to pursue master degree at UCAS. It provides tuition fee waiver, health insurance, living allowance and on-campus dormitory accommodation.

Please refer to the attachment files or UCAS website (<http://english.ucas.ac.cn/>) for more information.

Beside, UCAS offers a special scholarship provided separately by Southeast Asia Biological Diversity Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Science since 2016.XTBG has a quota of 12 of 20 this year. Please find the detailed information in the attachment.

6. Very Important Note

- (1) The applicant cannot apply to more than one institute/college and supervisor;
- (2) Please choose the discipline and research field cautiously and submit your application after careful discussion with the expected supervisor. Once admitted, UCAS will not accept any application for the change of discipline or supervisor due to the previous lack of consideration;
- (3) All the above supporting documentation should be in English or Chinese, otherwise notarial translations in English or Chinese are required;
- (4) Lacking of application documents or unsatisfactory documents will not be accepted and none of the documents will be returned;
- (5) Please DO NOT send any of your supporting documentation directly to the International Students Office of UCAS;
- (6) Please be noticed the deadlines for scholarship programs and admission application are different. The former is usually earlier than the later one;
- (7) One can apply for more than one scholarship programs but once awarded by one of the programs, he/she will lose the qualification for other programs in turn according to the evaluation time;
- (8) Chinese Government Scholarship does not require application fee; UCAS Scholarship for International Students Programs requires application fee. Application fee is non-refundable;
- (9) Once admitted, students must register on the assigned date on the admission notice. Otherwise, students should apply to UCAS for early or late registration.

7. Contact information

Office of Human Resources and Education, Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden,
Chinese Academy of Sciences

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