



HARVARD - YENCHING INSTITUTE

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Director, Elizabeth J. Perry

April 18, 2017

Zhang Guangcui and Bai Yin
Division of International Relations
Jilin University

Dear Dr. Zhang and Ms. Bai,

The Harvard-Yenching Institute welcomes your continuing participation in its visiting scholars program!

For the academic year 2017-18, your institution is invited to nominate up to a total of **four** candidates from among your most promising faculty for application to our Visiting Scholars program. In conjunction with the mission of the Harvard-Yenching Institute, nominated scholars must be working in the humanities and social sciences with an emphasis on culture. We seek outstanding scholars whose work is academic rather than applied. Scholars whose research focus is comparative, and includes one or more Asian countries, are especially welcome. After initial review of all the applications, we will continue the centralized interview process that was put in place in 2008. In addition, we would like to remind you that **although there is no age limit for applicants, preference is given to younger scholars who are in the early stages of their academic career.** We would greatly appreciate your posting the Harvard-Yenching Institute Visiting Scholars program information on your university web site for wide circulation.

The following is a summary of the Visiting Scholars program:

This program offers **faculty members in the humanities and social sciences** (not limited to China Studies or East Asian Studies) the opportunity to undertake 10 months of study and research at Harvard University and/or other appropriate universities. Approximately 20 applicants are chosen each year as researchers at the Harvard-Yenching Institute, and have access to the Harvard University libraries and facilities. Scholars are provided with living expenses while at the Institute. Applicants and university/academy administrators will be notified of selection results in mid-February, 2018. The selection criteria include English proficiency, academic training (including PhD degree in most cases), quality and originality of the research proposal, demonstrated depth of subject knowledge, and feasibility of conducting the research at Harvard University and/or other major universities in the United States. **In cases where qualifications are roughly equal, priority is given to those candidates who have not recently spent substantial time at an American university.** Selected scholars work with faculty at Harvard and/or other appropriate universities, and are required to make at least one public presentation in English on their proposed research project during their stay at the Institute.

The deadline for receipt of applications is **September 30, 2017.**

We would also like to take this opportunity to notify you that the Harvard-Yenching Institute's Board of Trustees, after careful consideration and deliberation, has decided to terminate the Visiting Fellows (VF) program, which was primarily for doctoral students, effective this coming year. The termination of the VF program will allow HYI to increase the number of Visiting Scholars (VS). (The VS program has been the signature program of the Harvard-Yenching Institute since 1954, whereas the VF program was introduced more recently in response to a perceived brain drain from Asia that no longer seems applicable.) We understand that some of our partner universities may be disappointed by the termination of the VF program, but we hope you will feel encouraged by the

anticipated increase in the size of the VS program, which has become extremely competitive in recent years.

Thus this year we are accepting nominations from our partner universities only for Visiting Scholars. For doctoral students who are interested in a research stay at the HYI, other opportunities are now available. Thanks to the Field Development Training Program (<https://www.harvard-yenching.org/training-programs>), plus the recently-introduced joint PhD fellowship programs with several Asian partners (<https://www.harvard-yenching.org/joint-scholar>), the Institute will continue to host a substantial number of doctoral students from multiple Asian countries each year.

In the coming months, the HYI Director and staff representatives will make ourselves available to visit our partner universities to provide a comprehensive information session and share HYI program updates. We will be happy to answer any questions and address any concerns you may have about HYI programs. As always, we look forward to further collaboration with our partner universities across Asia.

We continue to use the HYI online application system, and **nominated Visiting Scholars Program candidates will continue to apply online**. The Institute still requires all candidates to be officially nominated by their home institutions. Further instructions about the online application system are included in the attachment [About the online application system.PDF]. Please note: you should feel free to continue using the attached application form for conducting the internal nomination process within your institution.

The Institute has recently compiled a list of helpful information for fellowship applications (including information on eligible fields and selection criteria, the research proposal, recommendation letters, interviews, and the application review process). We encourage you to share this link with your applicants:

<http://www.harvard-yenching.org/helpful-information-fellowship-applicants>

Please note that the Institute cannot accept the applications if there are more than **four** candidates nominated. The Institute does not accept individual applications. Scholarship applications sent directly to the Institute without official approval by an authorized nominating institution will not be considered. Please acknowledge the receipt of this letter with Ms. Lindsay Strogatz via e-mail at programs@harvard-yenching.org.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter. We appreciate your kind attention and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,



Elizabeth J. Perry
Director, Harvard-Yenching Institute

Cc: Dr. Li Yuanyuan, Office of the President, Jilin University

APPENDIX

1. Eligibility:

Visiting Scholars Program candidates should have been serving at their home university for at least three years (before August 1, 2015) as a full time faculty. Scholars who gained their PhD from an institution outside of Asia within the past five years (after 2013) are not eligible. Previous recipients of a Visiting Scholar fellowship from HYI are not eligible to reapply for this program.

2. Coverage of the scholarships:

The following is the detailed information on the fellowship coverage:

- Round trip economy class airfare;
- A stipend of US \$6,000.00 per month (for 2017-18) for the period of residence in Cambridge, Massachusetts (for 10 months);
- Health Insurance up to the amount of \$4,500;
- Funding (up to \$1,000) for hiring a research Assistant or an editor within the 10-month research stay;
- Funding (up to \$1,000) for participation in two academic conferences in North America.

Fields of Research

Candidates' fields of research in the humanities and social sciences to be considered:

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| • Anthropology | • Literature |
| • Archaeology | • Media and Film Studies |
| • Area and International Studies | • Philosophy |
| • Art and Architectural History | • Politics |
| • History (including economic and legal history) | • Study of Religion |
| • Linguistics | • Sociology |
| | • Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies |

Scholars in the fields of Economics, Education, Geography, Law, Psychology, and Public Administration may be considered, but must check with the Institute before submitting applications. If the research field of any of your candidates falls out of the range mentioned above (e.g. economics, law), and you are not sure if the candidate is eligible for the program, please contact Lindsay Strogatz at <programs@harvard-yenching.org> before you submit your application.