

Guidelines for Award of MWS Travel Grants for China

(Last revised: July 2020)

The Max Weber Foundation – German Humanities Institutes Abroad (MWS) has been represented in Peking since the beginning of 2017. There, it cooperates with the Institute for the History of Natural Sciences (IHNS) at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), as well as the École Française d'Extrême Orient (EFEO), with which it also forms a joint office.

I. Programme objectives

The Max Weber Foundation offers sinologists, as well as others doing relevant work in humanities and social sciences, the opportunity to conduct short-term research projects in China. The objective of the programme, which is supported by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, is to support early stage academics whose professional qualification phase is concerned with Chinese history, language or culture in the broadest sense and for whose research a stay in China is indispensable.

Two travel grants will be awarded each year for a period of research of up to three months, for the purposes of fieldwork, archive and/or library research in China, preferably in Peking. The persons chosen to receive the grants can receive organisational/administrative and academic support in Peking, within the scope of the resources available.

The purpose of the residence is research, especially in libraries or archives. The target group includes sinologists, as well as humanities and social sciences scholars, in their qualification phase (doctoral and post-doctoral).

Rights and obligations

The travel grants are intended to make possible short-term research work in China. The voluntarily chosen research project can be changed or the time schedule amended, with the prior agreement of the China office and the central office of MWS.

There is no legal entitlement to the support. It can only be provided within the scope of the available funds.

Declaration of acceptance

The informal declaration of acceptance should contain the following information:

- Confirmation of receipt of the guidelines sent, as well as acceptance of these guidelines.

Award becomes effective with receipt of the signed declaration of acceptance.

Support payments

The support payments are based on the rates of the Fritz Thyssen Foundation and cover:

- The monthly rate for China amounting to 1,588 Euro and
- A lump sum for flight expenses amounting to 700 Euro.

Visa

Visas are applied for and obtained by the persons chosen to receive the grant. The China office of MWS can provide support in the form of advice for obtaining a visa.

When planning the travel, the continuously updated information from the authorities, in particular from the [Robert Koch Institute](#), and the relevant travel information from the [Federal Foreign Office](#) must be observed. The travels are at the recipients of China travel grants own responsibility. Depending on the situation, the start of the travel can be postponed.

Payment of the travel grant

The funds awarded by the Foundation are transferred on written request. The request should be made in good time. It may only be used for immediate award purposes.

Support period

The travel grant is awarded for a maximum period of three months in total, taking into consideration the duration applied for by the applicant. The period of research must be completed within 12 months. The travel grant ends after the end of the term specified in the letter of award. The letter of award specifies the date from which the travel grant can be used (as a rule the 1st January of the year following the application). If, contrary to expectations, the travel grant cannot be taken up at this point in time, a new date for the start of the support can be agreed by arrangement with the MWS office in Peking and after notifying the central office of MWS. The travel grant will otherwise expire six months after the date of the award letter.

Important note: Due to the current pandemic situation, research placements can be postponed – subject to financial resources and in consultation with the Max Weber Foundation.

Non-fulfilment of guidelines / early termination of the travel grant

In the event that the recipient of the support does not fulfil the conditions specified in these guidelines, provides incorrect information or has concealed facts that conflict with the support, MWS reserves the right to terminate the grant early and to reclaim payments that have already been made.

Report on the periods abroad

MWS requires a final report (see form at www.maxweberstiftung.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Abschlussbericht_ChinaReisestip_ungesichtet_final_ENG.pdf) within three months of the end of the support. Recipients of support have the opportunity to start a blog accompanying their research project, on the blog portal de.hypotheses.org (de.hypotheses.org/blog-eroffnen).

II. Supplementary provisions

Recipients of the China travel grant are required to adhere to the principles of the Foundation that have been drawn up following the rules of good scientific practice of the German Research Foundation.

www.maxweberstiftung.de/fileadmin/user_upload/upload/MWS/MWS-Regeln_Sicherung_guter_wiss._Praxis_6.1.2014.pdf

The letter of award and the guidelines are an essential part of the award. These are considered to have been bindingly accepted when the travel grant is accepted. MWS reserves the right to amend the guidelines and information, if the amendments are reasonable for the recipients of the support, taking into consideration the interests of the Foundation. The recipients of the support must be informed of changes in good time. The changes are considered to have been approved if the recipient of the support has not objected to them in writing within four weeks.

Place of jurisdiction

The place of jurisdiction is Bonn. German law applies, unless this is precluded by compelling rules on the conflict of laws.

Insurance

MWS expressly points out that recipients are responsible for taking out adequate health insurance for trips and periods of research for which it makes funding available; travellers are required to do so by law. MWS will not provide any financial assistance in the event of illness or accident.

Publications

Max Weber Foundation requests two offprints and/or author's copies of publications in connection with your project. MWS requests that the publications make reference to the support from MWS and the Fritz Thyssen Foundation.