



LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE



LMU – China Academic Network

Visit to China 2026
13–23 September 2026 (tentative)

Call for Applications

China has become one of the world's largest innovation hubs. The Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025 cluster ranks three hubs in the People's Republic of China in the top 10. Knowledge and technology transfer has also become a central pillar of China's higher education reform. Universities are increasingly expected to contribute not only to teaching and research but also to economic development through innovation, industry collaboration, and entrepreneurship. National policy frameworks encourage universities to commercialize research outcomes and establish closer ties with high-tech industries. Beyond technology-oriented fields, transfer activities increasingly emphasize interdisciplinary approaches, linking the natural sciences with the social sciences and humanities.

Chinese universities have built a highly dynamic science and innovation ecosystem, making them attractive partners for LMU researchers across disciplines. However, many LMU scholars have had limited exposure to the Chinese higher education system. Some may not be familiar with its structures, policy priorities, or institutional cultures. To support interested researchers, the LMU-China Academic Network (ChAN) will organize a delegation trip to China in September 2026. The program will provide first-hand insights into China's academic and innovation landscape, facilitate exchange with key partners, and open up pathways for future cooperation. Planned activities include visits to ChAN network universities, meetings with LMU alumni, and discussions with German organizations such as the DAAD. The final itinerary will be tailored to the selected group's research profiles and interests.

The trip will be joined by LMU's Vice President Prof. Dr. Francesca Biagini and organized by the Team International Networks of the LMU International Office.



Program

June/July 2026

Preparation workshop (1 full day, participation required)

- Overview of China's research and innovation landscape
- Presentation of the draft travel itinerary and discussion of further needs and wishes
- Opportunity to get to know the group

13–23 September 2026 (tentative)

Delegation trip to Mainland China and Hong Kong (2–4 cities)

- Visits to ChAN partner universities
- Opportunities to meet researchers in your field, including lab visits and bilateral meetings (matchmaking by the partner institution as well as on your own initiative)
- Exchanges with German institutions (e.g., DAAD) and LMU alumni.
- Visits to further relevant sites (e.g. companies, cultural and scientific organizations) may be included depending on group interest

Early October 2026

Follow-up workshop (1 day, participation required)

- Evaluation of the trip and sharing of individual outcomes
- Identification of next steps and key contact points at LMU
- Information session on data protection and legal matters

Target group

The program is open to LMU researchers from all disciplines who fulfill at least one of the following criteria:

- You can demonstrate an academic interest in the topic of the delegation trip.
- You have existing connections to China (e.g. supervision of doctoral candidates from China, joint publications, conference contacts) and a general interest in deepening cooperation, but have not yet had the opportunity to visit the country.

The main target group is LMU researchers who have not previously been to China. However, if you have already been in China, you are still welcome to apply. In this case, please clearly explain in your motivation statement how participating in the trip would further strengthen your research and be of added value for LMU Munich.



Eligibility

- Professors and postdoctoral researchers employed at LMU on a fixed-hours basis
- LMU doctoral candidates at an advanced stage either have to be employed at LMU or need to testify that their first supervisor is an LMU scholar. Doctoral candidates who hold a degree from China are not eligible.
- Participants must be available for the full 11-day trip in September 2026 as well as for the preparation and follow-up workshops.
- LMU Supervisor and a young researcher from the team may apply as tandem. Please submit two individual applications referring to another.

Application material

- Online application form incl. short motivation statements, outlining your academic interest and expected outcomes of participation
- If applicable: overview of previous stays in China
- Curriculum vitae (up to two pages, top five relevant publications only)
- If you are not a professor: Letter of support from your LMU supervisor or from a professor in your department/unit.

Funding

- Economy class flights from Munich to China and return (up to €1,425). Flights may possibly be booked centrally as a group. Any upgrade (e.g. to business class) must be financed from other sources.
- Hotel accommodation incl. breakfast and 1–2 meals a day, depending on the program
- Transportation within China between different cities (high-speed train, domestic flight)

Please note: Daily allowances are not part of the funding by the International Office. Additional costs (e.g. some meals, local transportation like subway and taxi, SIM cards) have to be covered individually by a separate source.

Submission of applications

Applications must be submitted exclusively via the online portal:

<https://lmu.moveon4.de/form/64194c74fbc62b33ea3ebdda/eng>

Application deadline

Monday, 2 February 2026, 11.59 PM



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Reporting

Successful applicants are expected to fill out an online survey on their program experience and outcome by the end of 2026. The respected link will be provided in due time.