

**The National Bureau of Asian Research  
Chinese Language Fellowship Program, 2022-2023 Application Guidelines**

The NBR Chinese Language Fellowship Program (CLFP), funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, awards two types of fellowships to American graduate students for one academic year of full-time intensive Chinese language training, generally in Taiwan or China.

**1) PhD Track (up to \$50,000)**

The PhD track of the Chinese Language Fellowship allows currently enrolled PhD students to participate in a language program of their choice in Taiwan or China for ten months, followed by a summer language program during which fellows will take one-on-one classes in which they may choose to read primary sources directly related to their dissertation research.

**2) Prospective PhD Track (up to \$40,000)**

The Prospective PhD track of the Chinese Language Fellowship allows current or recent master's degree students planning to pursue a PhD to participate in a language program of their choice in Taiwan or China for ten months. Applicants to the Prospective PhD track must be currently enrolled in a master's program or recently graduated from a master's program.

**3) Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for a fellowship, an applicant will:

- Demonstrate, through transcripts from classes taken and/or the results of language assessment tests, an intermediate Chinese language ability. The fellowship is NOT intended to help beginner students of Chinese.
- Be able to devote themselves to full-time intensive Chinese-language study for one academic year. The fellowship is NOT intended to support substantive doctoral research.
- Desire to advance U.S. public policy toward China through improved expertise and understanding, or to contribute to scholarly research and teaching on China in order to develop future generations of China specialists.
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the United States.

**4) Application Requirements**

To be considered for a fellowship, an applicant must submit:

- A two-page letter that addresses how their proposed Chinese language program will contribute to their language training, doctoral studies, and future plans.
- A two-page summary resume, inclusive of academic and professional honors received (full academic CVs will not be reviewed).
- A letter of recommendation from their academic supervisor (sent directly to Dylan Plung at **dplung@nbr.org**)
- A letter of recommendation from a Chinese-language teacher (sent directly to Dylan Plung at **dplung@nbr.org**).

- Official (electronic) transcripts from all educational institutions they are currently attending or from which they have received a degree.

***If you are applying to the Prospective PhD track...***

- *Please explain your plans to pursue a PhD program in your cover letter.*
- *Please ask your academic supervisor to explicitly address your aptitude for a PhD program in his/her letter of recommendation.*

**5) Language Program Selection**

Applicants will select their own preferred institution for the intensive language program as part of their fellowship application, although the Advisory Council and program team have developed a recommended list of Chinese-language programs (available on the CLFP website). Applicants should also consult with their academic supervisors about programs that are considered acceptable by their home university. Preference will be given to programs in Taiwan and China so that fellows are able to take full advantage of Chinese language immersion opportunities.

**6) One-Year Fellowship Award**

The amount of the fellowship award will be based on the tuition (and related registration) costs for a one-year intensive language program (as defined above), in addition to a generous stipend to help cover living and travel costs. The fellowship award can be used for the following types of expenses:

- Round-trip economy-class airfare from the United States to China or Taiwan
- Tuition and related program costs (e.g., registration, visa fees, etc.)
- Books, equipment, and materials related to language studies
- Food and ordinary daily living expenses
- Housing/utilities/phone and internet
- Health and emergency medical insurance
- Recreational, educational, or cultural activities

Fellowship awards will be disbursed via electronic funds transfer in six installments (for Prospective PhD track fellows) or seven installments (for PhD track fellows) every two months of the fellowship year.

**7) Application Deadline and Selection Process**

Applications are due by 11:59 PM (PT) on February 22, 2022. The Fellowship Program team will review all applications in February and make recommendations to an independent selection committee that will meet and make final decisions in March. Awards will be conferred and announced by mid-April 2022.

## **FELLOW REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Start Date for Study and Contingency Plans**

Fellowship awards will be made contingent upon the fellow's unconditional acceptance by the language program for which the fellowship is awarded. Fellows must start their chosen language program no later than September 30, 2022. Should the COVID-19 situation affect the fellow's proposed language studies, NBR will work closely with the fellow on potential contingency plans. Deferrals will only be granted under exceptional circumstances.

### **Pre-departure Orientation**

Fellows are required to attend a virtual pre-departure orientation, which will be held via WebEx in July 2022.

### **Language Testing**

Fellows must take a Chinese proficiency exam through the ALTA language testing service prior to and following their study abroad. NBR will help schedule these tests.

### **Residency Requirement**

During their study abroad, fellows are expected to remain primarily resident in the city in which they are studying. For safety reasons, all fellows must register with the U.S. Embassy/local U.S. Consulate, and should consult U.S. State Department travel guidance when considering local and regional travel. Fellows should inform NBR (and, if required, their home university) in advance whenever they plan to travel to other cities in the greater China region (mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao). For travel outside the greater China region, fellows must request permission to travel in advance.

### **Conflicting Activities**

Fellows are expected to devote themselves to full-time language study during their time abroad, and must not undertake part-time employment, teach English, pursue significant doctoral research, or participate in other projects that could hamper full-time language study.

### **Required Reports**

Fellows are required to submit reports on August 15, 2022, October 15, 2022, February 15, 2023, and May 15, 2023 using the template provided by NBR. Fellows are required to participate in a post-fellowship interview June/July 2023 for Prospective PhD fellows and August/September 2023 for PhD fellows.

### **U.S. Income Tax Liability**

Fellows are responsible for any personal income tax liability resulting from their receipt of the fellowship award. Fellows are encouraged to consult "IRS Publication 970: Tax Benefits for Education," for further information.

### **Insurance**

Fellows must purchase international medical insurance that at a minimum covers medical expenses of up to \$500,000, medical evacuation, and repatriation. Insurance policies offered through United Healthcare Global and Cultural Insurance Service International, among others, meet these standards.

### **Affiliation**

Fellows will remain affiliated solely with their home university while undertaking study abroad and should register for their chosen language program and any visa applications on that basis. No employment or independent contractor relationship with NBR is in effect or implied as a result of the fellowship award.

**About NBR**

NBR is an independent nonpartisan research institution based in Seattle and Washington, D.C. We bring world-class scholarship to bear on the evolving strategic environment in Asia through original, policy-relevant research, and we invest in our future by training the next generation of Asia specialists.

With power, risk, and opportunity concentrating in Asia, the National Bureau of Asian Research tackles those critical issues that America's leaders need to understand - because the decisions they make matter and the stakes are high. As the nation's Asia policy think tank, we envision a future that is free, open, secure, and prosperous for all.