

CAS-Fraunhofer joint training program for doctoral students

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft based in Germany is the world's leading applied research organization. Prioritizing key future-relevant technologies and commercializing its findings in business and industry, it plays a major role in the innovation process. It is a trailblazer and trendsetter in innovative developments and research excellence. The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft supports research and industry with inspiring ideas and sustainable scientific and technological solutions and is helping shape our society and our future.

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft's interdisciplinary research teams turn original ideas into innovations together with contracting industry and public sector partners, coordinate and complete essential key research policy projects and strengthen the German and European economy with ethical value creation. International collaborative partnerships with outstanding research partners and businesses all over the world provide for direct dialogue with the most prominent scientific communities and most dominant economic regions.

Founded in 1949, the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft currently operates 76 institutes and research units throughout Germany. Over 30,000 employees, predominantly scientists and engineers, work with an annual research budget of €2.9 billion. Fraunhofer generates €2.5 billion of this from contract research. Industry contracts and publicly funded research projects account for around two thirds of that. The federal and state governments contribute around another third as base funding, enabling institutes to develop solutions now to problems that will become crucial to industry and society in the near future.

The impact of applied research goes far beyond its direct benefits to clients: Fraunhofer institutes enhance businesses' performance, improve social acceptance of advanced technology and educate and train the urgently needed next generation of research scientists and engineers.

Highly motivated employees up on cutting-edge research constitute the most important success factor for us as a research organization. Fraunhofer consequently provides opportunities for independent, creative and goal-driven work and thus for professional and personal development, qualifying individuals for challenging positions at our institutes, at higher education institutions, in industry and in society. Practical training and early contacts with clients open outstanding opportunities for students to find jobs and experience growth in business and industry.

The prestigious nonprofit Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft's namesake is Munich scholar Joseph von Fraunhofer (1787–1826). He enjoyed equal success as a researcher, inventor and entrepreneur.

Joint Training Program for Chinese Doctoral Students in Germany

The joint training program for doctoral students has been running since 2008. So far over 100 CAS –PhD-students have been invited to conduct research for their PhD-theses at one of the Fraunhofer Institutes. The aim of the joint doctoral program is to promote the scientific exchange between Germany and China.

Initially the duration of the fellowship is limited to 12 months. Yet should the hosting Fraunhofer Institute, the Fraunhofer Executive Board as well as the CAS home institution agree, the stay may be prolonged for the duration of 6 months after the first year. In case of a prolongation the stipend will be provided by Fraunhofer. Students can apply for different institutes depending on their research fields. The participating students will get familiar with the scientific work of the world’s leading applied research organization, and they will experience the different way of life in Germany and German culture.

At the beginning of the research stay all participants will be invited to participate in a welcome workshop in Munich which is organized by the Fraunhofer headquarters. During this workshop they will get acquainted with the other participants as well as the program management of the Fraunhofer headquarters, they will participate in an intercultural training and will be invited to attend social activities. Throughout the research stay the Fraunhofer headquarters offers a counselling service in English and Chinese and will offer a social media channel to stay in touch with the program management of the headquarters and other Chinese scholars. A farewell workshop will be organized at the end of the stay.

Application process

If you are interested in this program, please have a look at the [Chinese homepage of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft](#). Click on the Chinese name of an institute and you will get more information like the research areas, ongoing research projects and contact details. It might be of interest as well to consult the research topics which were handed in by Fraunhofer.

Choose up to **three** institutes, which match exactly your research focus. The Fraunhofer Institutes which might act as a hosting unit has to be selected with care. A good match of your research focus with the research area of the Fraunhofer Institute increases your chances of success.

In the first phase of your application, you should prepare the documents, which are required by UCAS. Please refer to the UCAS website <https://www.ucas.ac.cn> to download the application documents. Kindly add the Fraunhofer Privacy Policy as well a detailed CV which depicts all the colleges/universities attended, your academic degrees and your work history. They must be submitted to Ms. Maoli Li of UCAS till December 23, 2022.

After UCAS has completed its selection process the Fraunhofer Representative Office in Beijing and the Fraunhofer Headquarters will conduct a pre-selection and will invite all the shortlisted candidates for an (online) interview in March/April 2023. Based on this interview the Fraunhofer Representative Office Beijing/Fraunhofer Headquarters will select the candidates who are eligible to apply at the Fraunhofer Institute of their choice. Please do not contact the Fraunhofer Institute before the interview.

After the pre-selection of candidates by the Fraunhofer Representative Office Beijing and the Fraunhofer Headquarters the application phase at the Fraunhofer institutes will start in May 2023 and selected candidates will send their applications to the Fraunhofer Institutes.

Q&A

1. Who will sponsor the students?

CAS is responsible for funding the costs of the first year. In case Fraunhofer agrees to prolong the stay for another 6 months the scholarship will be provided by Fraunhofer.

2. Where can I find more information on Fraunhofer and the research topics of the Fraunhofer institutes:

- Website of Fraunhofer Office Beijing: [德国弗劳恩霍夫应用研究促进协会-北京代表处 \(fraunhofer.cn\)](http://fraunhofer.cn) (in Chinese)
- Website of Fraunhofer Germany: <https://www.fraunhofer.de/en.html> (in English)
- List of institutes and research establishments in Germany: <https://www.fraunhofer.de/en/institutes/institutes-and-research-establishments-in-germany.html> (in English)
- Fraunhofer Magazine: <https://www.fraunhofer.de/en/media-center/publications/fraunhofer-magazine.html> (depicts research topics of Fraunhofer, in English)
- Annual Report 2021: [Annual Report \(fraunhofer.de\)](https://www.fraunhofer.de/en/annual-report) (in English)
- Thematic brochures (e.g., AI; biological transformation): <https://www.fraunhofer.de/en/media-center/publications/brochures.html> (in English)
- Films about current research topics: <https://www.fraunhofer.de/en/media-center/videos/videos-2021.html> (in English)
- Online info session on Fraunhofer and the joint program for doctoral students on November 22, 2022, 8.15 am CET. Please send an E-mail to Ms. Maoli Li (李茂力 limaoli@ucas.edu.cn) to register for the workshop.

3. How many institutes can each student choose?

Each student may apply for up to three institutes.

4. How to choose a suitable contact person?

Find a contact person on the Fraunhofer Institutes' websites (a list of all the institutes is available on the official website: <https://www.fraunhofer.de/en/institutes/institutes-and-research-establishments-in-germany.html>) according to your own research area or ask the Representative Office in Beijing for support. In general, your contact person must be a head of a department.

It might be of interest as well to consult the research topics which were handed in by Fraunhofer.

5. How to prepare for the interview?

You should prepare some brief information about yourself, your academic background, your PhD-project, a study proposal for your stay at Fraunhofer, the reason why you wish to work at a Fraunhofer Institute and your expectations for living and working in Germany. Parts of the interview will be conducted in English.

6. I have not yet received a reply by the Fraunhofer Institute. Should I send another enquiry?

Since your potential hosts are quite busy their response might take up to one months. Please be patient and refrain from frequent enquiries regarding the status of your application.

7. How can I get a visa after receiving offer?

You will get an invitation letter by e-mail, which will be issued by the Fraunhofer Headquarters. You are responsible for the visa application process. Kindly check the current visa guidelines on the homepage of the German embassy. To prove the adequate financial resources for your research stay in Germany a blocked account will be required.

8. When can I move to Germany?

The time of departure varies according to your personal schedule and the waiting time for the granting of the visa. It is recommended to start your research stay not later than the end of September.

9. What is the working language in the institutes?

English and German. A German language test is not required.

10. Which certificates will be accepted as proof of my English language skills?

Fraunhofer accepts the following certificates: GRE, IELTS, TOEFL, CET6.

11. Will I get support to settle in?

The administration as well as the colleagues in the hosting guest institute will support you to get familiar with everyday life in Germany. During the welcome workshop the Fraunhofer headquarters will organize an intercultural training. Moreover, the headquarters will offer counselling in English as well as Chinese in case of any problems.

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