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'Prospective PhD Applicants'
Health Sciences Center
Peking University
38 Xueyuan Road
Beijing 100191, China

Dear Tianou Zhang, Yan Liu, Xiaoyu Cheng, Yu Baoqi, Wisdom Yong and Wang Jichuan,

Re: PhD Opportunities in Health Schools at King's College London

It was a pleasure meeting you during my recent visit to Peking University, where we discussed potential PhD funding schemes for Peking health science and medical students interested in pursuing their PhD studies at King's College London. I met Prof Xian Wang at the recent IUPS Programme Committee Meeting in Oxford and explained why I had delayed writing until now. I was awaiting further news from Unilever about their proposed support for Chinese PhD students studying at King's College London and Unilever are still in the process of finalizing their scheme.

I would appreciate you ensure that I have your up-to-date complete c.v. with academic transcripts and two academic references. Perhaps you could also liaise with Dr Zhang and Dr Du if you have further queries.

As Dean of Graduate Studies in the School of Biomedical Sciences, I am keen to recruit academically qualified students with a good knowledge of spoken and written English for PhD positions in the following disciplines at King's College London: cardiovascular diseases and nutritional interventions; diabetes; and traditional Chinese medicines as treatments for cardiovascular and neurological diseases. Further information for postgraduate study at our institution as well as an overview of the history and international standing of our institution is available from: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/index.aspx>

All potential Chinese PhD applicants will have been pre-interviewed by me in China during my visits to Peking, Tsinghua, Capital, Fudan and Shanghai Jiao Tong universities. Those applicants whose c.v. is competitive and are interested in specific research projects/supervisors at our institution would need to be interviewed further using Skype by two academics from King's College London. On acceptance prospective applicants will receive a formal letter of acceptance for a full-time 3-year PhD degree starting 1 October 2012.

As PhD students registered at King's College London, you would be engaged in full-time bench-based research on a focused project, offered transferable skills in teaching by demonstrating on undergraduate courses and also attend specialist workshops in for example fluorescence imaging, miRNA, proteomics and statistics aimed to enhance their PhD training. Unlike the American PhD programmes, our PhDs are not required to take courses and pass written examinations. However, all our PhDs are required to undergo a MPhil-PhD transfer viva and are monitored at 6 month intervals to ensure completion/submission of their PhD in English within 3 years.

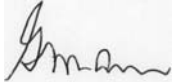
All PhDs are assigned a principal supervisor, 2nd supervisor and have the opportunity to interact with a designated Postgraduate Coordinator. During the course of the PhD, students meet regularly with their supervisors, both in the lab and in weekly meetings with us to discuss research progress. In addition, PhDs play an active role in (i) weekly 'lab group' meetings, where our postdoctoral and other PhD researchers present their work and/or discuss relevant journal papers and (ii) attend Cardiovascular Division (or equivalent) research seminars usually held every 2-4 weeks.

We discussed the options for supporting Chinese PhD students with funding from the China Scholarship Council (see attached information). There will be such 5 awards available on a competitive basis for Chinese students to pursue their PhD research at King's College London. These awards would be available starting in October 2012. There are also King's Overseas Research Studentships (KORS, see attached information). In addition, we aim to offer 2 fully-funded PhD awards (overseas tuition fees, annual stipend for subsistence, research fees) associated with Unilever in the UK. These special awards also provide the opportunity of initially a 1-year postdoctoral position with Unilever research laboratories based in Shanghai. I am currently awaiting final confirmation of details for the Unilever awards.

I have sent Dr Zhang and Dr Du further information on the funding opportunities for overseas PhD students and relevant information for Postgraduate Studies at King's College London. The information should hopefully arrive in Peking within the next 2 weeks.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact them or me.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Mann', is placed over a light grey rectangular background.

Giovanni E. Mann, PhD
Professor of Vascular Physiology
Dean of Graduate Studies

cc/ Prof Xian Wang

Kings-China Scholarship Council PhD Scholarship Programme (K-CSC)

King's College London and the China Scholarship Council (CSC) signed an agreement in April 2009 to jointly fund PhD students to pursue research degrees at King's. The agreement was signed by Professor Rick Trainor, Principal of King's, and Li Jianmin, Deputy Secretary-General, China Scholarship Council, in Beijing. As part of the agreement, successful applicants will receive a scholarship that covers the tuition fee and an annual living allowance that includes overseas student health cover, a return airfare to London and visa application fees.

Value of award

The award will cover full tuition fees and an annual living allowance that includes overseas student health cover, a return airfare to London and visa application fees.

Application procedure

A Postgraduate Research Funding guidance document for 2012 is currently being discussed and should be available online for download in October 2011 from: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/graduate/funding/database/index.php?action=view&id=308>

Please note that the information online currently is for the academic year 2011 and will be updated in October 2011.

King's Overseas Research Studentships (KORS)

About the funding

King's Overseas Research Studentships (KORS) were designed by King's College London in 2009 to replace the Overseas Research Student Award Scheme (ORSAS) which was originally set up in 1979 by the Secretary of State for Education and Science. These awards offer international postgraduate students the opportunity to carry out a broad range of research at King's College London.

The College will offer **up to 15** fully funded awards to exceptional international students from any non-EU country to commence a full-time postgraduate research degree programme at King's College London for the academic year 2012.

Information about the application

SELECTION:

Marks will be given for the quality of applicants based on:

- i) Evidence and strength of academic qualifications gained (minimum entry qualification is a 2i and/or a higher degree), and where applicable, professional qualifications and/or relevant experience;
- ii) Strength of the research proposal;
- iii) Matching of the applicant's interests with his/her supervisor or the potential supervisor if the degree programme has not yet commenced. In view of the limited number of awards and the high standard of applications received, it is expected that the possession or likely attainment of a first class or very good upper second class honours undergraduate degree (or equivalent) will be the minimum requirement.

Specified use

KORS awards provide funding to cover tuition fees at the full international/overseas fee rate and will also offer an annual stipend. The awards do not cover travel expenses, conference expenses, bench fees or thesis expenses. The award will be valid for the length of the postgraduate research programme, subject to satisfactory progress. Please note, however, that the funds do not cover students for the writing-up period.

Application procedure

A Postgraduate Research Funding guidance document for 2012 is being discussed and will be available for download from:

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/graduate/funding/database/index.php?action=view&id=246>

Please note the current information is for PhDs starting in October 2011.