



HARVARD - YENCHING INSTITUTE

Visiting Scholars Program Office • Vanserg Hall, Suite 20 • 25 Francis Avenue • Cambridge, MA 02138 • USA
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April 2, 2025

Zhang Xiaomeng, Zhang Damiao, Yuan Yilin, and Liu Yao
International Office
Renmin University of China

Dear Prof. Zhang, Ms. Zhang, Ms. Yuan, and Ms. Liu,

The Harvard-Yenching Institute welcomes your continuing participation in its visiting scholars program in the 2026-27 academic year.

For the academic year 2026-27, your institution is invited to nominate up to a total of **four** (4) candidates from among your most promising faculty for application to our program. Reflecting the mission of the Harvard-Yenching Institute, nominated scholars must be working in the humanities and social sciences with an emphasis on culture. We seek outstanding scholars whose work is academic rather than applied. Scholars working on countries other than their own and scholars whose research is transnational, and includes one or more Asian countries, are especially welcome. In addition, we would like to remind you that although there is no age limit for applicants, **preference is given to scholars who are in the early stages of their academic career**. Future promise is prioritized over past achievements. We would greatly appreciate your posting the Harvard-Yenching Institute Visiting Scholars program information on your university website for wide circulation.

The following is a summary of the Visiting Scholars program:

This program offers **faculty members in the humanities and social sciences** (not limited to China Studies or East Asian Studies) the opportunity to undertake 10 months (from August 2026 to May 2027) of study and research at Harvard University and/or other appropriate universities. Approximately 20 applicants are chosen each year as researchers at the Harvard-Yenching Institute, with full access to Harvard University libraries and facilities. Scholars are provided a stipend to cover living expenses while at the Institute. Applicants and university/academy administrators will be notified of selection results by late February 2026. The selection criteria include English proficiency, academic training (including PhD degree in most cases), quality and originality of the research proposal, demonstrated depth of subject knowledge, and feasibility of conducting the research at Harvard University and/or other major universities in the United States. **In cases where qualifications are roughly equal, priority is given to candidates who have not recently spent substantial time at an American university.** Successful applicants will work with faculty at Harvard and/or other appropriate universities, and are required to make at least one public presentation in English on their proposed research project during their stay at the Institute.

The deadline for receipt of applications is **September 15, 2025**.

In the coming months, HYI staff representatives will hold virtual information sessions (via Zoom webinar) for faculty members interested in applying for the program. Please see page 4 of this letter for additional information about these info sessions. We would appreciate your sharing these events with interested faculty.

We will use the HYI online application system, and **nominated Visiting Scholars Program candidates will apply online**. The Institute requires all candidates to be officially nominated by their home institutions. Further instructions about the online application system are included in the attachment [About the online application system.PDF]. Please note: you should feel free to use the attached application form for conducting the internal nomination process within your institution.

The Institute has recently compiled a list of answers to “frequently asked questions” concerning fellowship applications (including information on eligible fields and selection criteria, the research proposal, recommendation letters, interviews, and the application review process). We encourage you to share this link with your applicants:

<https://www.harvard-yenching.org/helpful-information-for-fellowship-applicants/>

Visiting Scholar applicants should keep in mind that not all application reviewers are scholars in their specific field. It is important for candidates to present their research in a clear and coherent way so that scholars outside of their field of specialty will be able to understand.

Please note that the Institute cannot accept the applications of an institution if it nominates more than **four** (4) candidates. The Institute also does not accept individual applications. Scholarship applications sent directly to the Institute without official approval by an authorized nominating institution will not be considered. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter to Lindsay Strogatz via e-mail at hyiprogram@fas.harvard.edu.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter. We appreciate your kind attention and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Robson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James Robson, Director
Harvard-Yenching Institute

APPENDIX

1. Eligibility:

Visiting Scholars Program candidates must have served at their home university for at least three years (before August 1, 2023) as a full-time faculty member. Scholars who received their PhD from an institution outside of Asia within the past five years (after 2021) are not eligible.

Previous recipients of a Visiting Scholar fellowship from HYI are not eligible to reapply for this program. Former HYI Doctoral Scholarship recipients, HYI Visiting Fellow recipients, and HYI training program fellowship recipients are eligible to apply.

2. Coverage of the scholarship:

- Round trip economy class airfare
- A stipend of US \$7,725 per month for 10-month residence
- Health Insurance up to the amount of \$5,500
- Funding (up to \$5,000) for hiring a research Assistant or an editor, and for participating in academic conferences or/and making brief research trips in North America

Fields of Research

Candidates' fields of research in the humanities and social sciences to be considered:

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| • Anthropology | • Literature |
| • Archaeology | • Media and Film Studies |
| • Area and International Studies | • Philosophy |
| • Art and Architectural History | • Politics |
| • History (including economic and legal history) | • Study of Religion |
| • Linguistics | • Sociology |
| | • Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies |

Scholars in the fields of Economics, Education, Geography, Law, Psychology, and Public Administration may be considered, but must check with the Institute before submitting applications. If the research field of any potential candidate falls outside the disciplines mentioned above, and you are not sure if the candidate is eligible for the program, please contact Lindsay Strogatz at hyiprogram@fas.harvard.edu before submitting an application.

HYI Visiting Scholars Program – Online Info Sessions

For potential applicants

May 21 and August 7, 2025

These meetings are for faculty at HYI partner universities who are considering applying for the Visiting Scholars Program.

We will discuss HYI's background, the application and review process, and what to expect if you are selected for the fellowship.

1. Wednesday, May 21, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM ET (US East Coast time)

Registration link/more information:

https://harvard.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MYLDSiNARei903cvPZuxLQ

2. Thursday, August 7, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM ET (US East Coast time)

Registration link/more information:

https://harvard.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dxPT_kBPQi2IK0gCndX04Q