

CAS-Fraunhofer joint training program for doctoral students

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is the world's leading applied research organization. With its focus on developing key technologies that are vital for the future and enabling the commercial exploitation of this work by business and industry, Fraunhofer plays a central role in the innovation process. Based in Germany, Fraunhofer is an innovator and catalyst for groundbreaking developments and a model of scientific excellence. By generating inspirational ideas and spearheading sustainable scientific and technological solutions, Fraunhofer provides science and industry with a vital base and helps shape society now and in the future.

At the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, interdisciplinary research teams work together with partners from industry and government in order to transform novel ideas into innovative technologies and to coordinate and realize key research projects with a systematic relevance. International collaboration with outstanding research partners and companies from around the world brings Fraunhofer into direct contact with the key regions that drive scientific progress and economic development.

Founded in 1949, the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft currently operates 75 institutes and research institutions. The majority of our 29,000 staff are qualified scientists and engineers who work with an annual research budget of 2.8 billion euros. Of this sum, 2.4 billion euros are generated through contract research. Around two thirds of Fraunhofer's contract research revenue is derived from contracts with industry and publicly funded research projects. The remaining third comes from the German federal and state governments in the form of base funding. This enables the institutes to work on solutions to problems that are likely to become crucial for industry and society within the not-too-distant future.

Applied research also has a knock-on effect that is felt way beyond the direct benefits experienced by the customer: Our institutes boost industry's performance and efficiency, promote the acceptance of new technologies within society and help train the future generation of scientists and engineers that the economy so urgently requires.

Our highly motivated staff, working at the cutting edge of research, are the key factor in our success as a scientific organization. Fraunhofer offers researchers the opportunity for independent, creative and, at the same time, targeted work. We therefore provide our employees with the chance to develop the professional and personal skills that will enable them to take up positions of responsibility at Fraunhofer, at universities, in industry and within society. Students who work on projects at Fraunhofer Institutes have excellent career prospects in industry by virtue of the practical training they enjoy and the early experience they acquire of dealing with contract partners.

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is a recognized non-profit organization that takes its name from Joseph von Fraunhofer (1787–1826), the illustrious Munich 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 receive a welcome package and 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: <http://www.fraunhofer.cn/index.html>. 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://wwwucas.ac.cn> to download the application documents. They must be submitted to Ms. Li Maoli of UCAS till December 20, 2021.

After UCAS has completed its selection process the Fraunhofer Representative Office in Beijing will invite all the selected candidates for an (online) interview in March/April 2022. Based on this interview the Fraunhofer Representative Office Beijing 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 the application phase at the Fraunhofer institutes will start in May 2022 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: <http://www.fraunhofer.cn/index.html> (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 2020: [https://www.archiv.fraunhofer.de/Fraunhofer Annual Report 2020/#0](https://www.archiv.fraunhofer.de/Fraunhofer%20Annual%20Report%202020/#0) (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 December 13, 2021, 8 am CET. Please send an e-mail to Ms. Lin Zhu (lin.zhu@fraunhofer.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 and will be sent by the Representative Office in Beijing. You are responsible for the visa application process.

8. When can I move to Germany?

The time of departure varies according to your personal schedule. 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. In addition, you might get in touch with the well-organized Chinese students' associations which exist at all German universities.

Contact details:

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