

Luce/ACLS Early Career Fellowships in

Program Description

Luce/ACLS Early Career Fellowships In China Studies – Flexible

The Early Career Fellowship supports research and writing in China studies for recent PhDs. In 2026-27, ACLS is offering two types of Early Career Fellowships: Long-term and Flexible. Applicants may only apply to one of the two.

Early Career—Flexible Fellows devote the equivalent of three months to research and writing toward a significant scholarly product. The Flexible Fellowship is intended for scholars with heavy teaching or service requirements and does not require leave from university responsibilities. Scholars without heavy teaching or service loads are not eligible for the Flexible Fellowship and should apply for the Long-Term Fellowship instead.

For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.acls.org/competitions/luce-acls-early-career-fellowships-in-china-studies-flexible/> (<https://www.acls.org/competitions/luce-acls-early-career-fellowships-in-china-studies-flexible/>).

Continue

Eligibility

Eligibility Check

1. Do you have a PhD degree in the humanities or interpretive social sciences officially conferred between January 1, 2018 and November 5, 2026?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Are you a US or Canadian citizen/permanent resident?

☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Do you have a long-term, regular research or teaching appointment with an institution in the United States or Canada?

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Have you obtained tenure, or will you have submitted tenure materials for review by the application deadline?

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Do you have a working knowledge of Chinese or another language used in China studies (e.g., Tibetan, Uyghur)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Do you have heavy teaching or service loads?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Continue

Instructions

Instructions

Please read through the full form, including the Proposal Upload section. Your application must be complete and in **SUBMITTED** status by **5:00 PM Eastern Time on November 5, 2026**.

1. Do not use your browser's "BACK" or "FORWARD" buttons for navigation. Instead, use the menu on the left to navigate between screens or the "SAVE AND CONTINUE" button at the bottom of each screen.
2. You must **SAVE each time you leave a screen**. If you do not click on SAVE, anything entered since you last hit SAVE on that screen will be lost.
3. Do not use ALL CAPS and check your spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
4. Follow text box limits. Excess text may appear on the screen but will not be visible to reviewers.
5. Dates should always be entered in the format mm/yyyy or mm/dd/yyyy where indicated. Where an entry continues into the present, please simply leave the ending date blank (mm/yyyy - [blank]).
6. In all dollar amount fields, use only digits. Please do not use the dollar sign or commas.
7. **Do not use non-Roman characters in the application form as the system cannot process certain characters.** Our reviewers understand the technical limitations of the system. Within the Proposal Upload, you may use non-Roman characters, but please view your PDF after uploading to be sure these characters convert properly.
8. You may work on your application in multiple sessions. To complete your application, you must go to the SUBMIT APPLICATION screen and select **SUBMIT APPLICATION**. Only applications with a SUBMITTED status by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on November 5, 2026 will be reviewed.
9. If you have questions about the application process, please consult the FAQ. If your question is not answered there, please email chinastudies@acsls.org.

Good luck with your application!

Continue

Contact Information

The information you enter in the Common Profile sections (Contact, Professional Background, Education) will be retained for this application and copied to any other fellowship or grant application you undertake in this competition year. You may edit the information in future applications; however, it will not overwrite data in previously submitted applications.

 Contact Information

Salutation

Ms.

First/Given Name

Sample

Middle Name/Initial

Last/Family Name

Application

Suffix

Legal First Name

Sample

Legal Middle Name/Initial

Legal Last Name

Application

(This is the name that you would use on a tax form or with governmental bodies)

Preferred Pronouns

Primary Email Address

chinastudies@acls.org

(should be valid through September 2027)

By applying to an ACLS fellowship or grant program, you agree to receive future email communications from ACLS. You may update your preferences or opt out at any time.

 Mailing Information

Address

City

US State, if applicable

Select One

▼

Zip/Postal Code

(if using a ZIP-plus-4 code, please include hyphen)

Country

Telephone

() - , ext.

(If not United States)

Which is this address?

Home

▼

Education

 Education

What is your highest level of education? (If you are a current PhD student or candidate, you must select Pursuing PhD to complete the information for your PhD program.)

☒ PhD

☐ Pursuing PhD

☐ Master's

☐ BA/BS

 PhD

Degree received from

NYU

(To ensure proper processing of your application, your institution's name must be displayed correctly. Enter a few letters of your institution's name to search against our database. **Use the full name, not an acronym or abbreviation.**)

Country of PhD institution

United States

PhD department

Awesomeness

PhD major discipline

Awesomeness

Date conferred by university ⓘ

01

/

01

/

2024

(mm/dd/yyyy)

Dissertation title

Awesome Mcawesome

(150 max character limit: *character count* = 17)

Name of dissertation supervisor

Professor

 Master's Degree

Degree received from

(To ensure proper processing of your application, your institution's name must be displayed correctly. Enter a few letters of your institution's name to search against our database. **Use the full name, not an acronym or abbreviation.**)

Select a degree

Select One

Date degree received

/

(mm/yyyy)

Master's degree major discipline

 BA/BS

Degree received from

(To ensure proper processing of your application, your institution's name must be displayed correctly. Enter a few letters of your institution's name to search against our database. **Use the full name, not an acronym or abbreviation.**)

Date received

/

(mm/yyyy)

BA/BS major discipline

 Other Degrees

List any additional degrees

(150 max character limit: *character count* = 0)

 Languages

List up to six non-English languages you can use, indicating proficiency in reading, speaking, and writing. (*Use E=Excellent, G=Good, F=Fair or less, N/A=Not applicable.*) If you are either a Native Speaker or Heritage Speaker of a language, please indicate by checking the appropriate box.

Language	Reading	Speaking	Writing	Native Speaker	Heritage Speaker
	* ▼	* ▼	* ▼	☐	☐
	* ▼	* ▼	* ▼	☐	☐
	* ▼	* ▼	* ▼	☐	☐
	* ▼	* ▼	* ▼	☐	☐
	* ▼	* ▼	* ▼	☐	☐

Professional Background

Current Position

Rank / Title

Select One



(Please choose the most appropriate from the list. If you have no current affiliation, please select "Independent Scholar." If you are a current graduate student, professional background is not required.)

If you do not hold a faculty appointment, what is the exact title of your current position?

(150 max character limit: *character count* = 0)

Discipline

(Please indicate here the discipline in which you primarily publish, research, and/or teach. This may be included in an academic title, if you hold one, for example Assistant Professor of French Literature, Lecturer of Philosophy, etc. Write only the name of your discipline, not your title.)

Specialization

Department

Institution

Centro de Enseñanza Técnica y Superior, Mexico

To ensure proper processing of your application, your institution's name must be displayed correctly. Enter a few letters of your institution's name to search against our database. **Use the full name, not an acronym or abbreviation.**

Country of Institution**Date you began this position** /

(mm/yyyy)

**Second Institution
(if applicable)**

If you are currently affiliated with more than one institution, please list the second institution here.

Date you began this position /

(mm/yyyy)

 Positions Held

List positions held (professional, teaching, administrative, curatorial), beginning with the position immediately preceding the one you currently hold. Give the name of the institution, title, and approximate dates of employment for each.

Please remember:

- use only numbers in the date fields, for example, 09/2015
- use the format mm/yyyy throughout
- where an entry continues into the present, leave the "To" field blank

Institution/Employer

Title

From

 /

Program Questions

Chinese Language Proficiency

If there are other aspects of your language background (including proficiency and training in any Chinese dialects) that you would like reviewers to consider, please note this below.

(250 max character limit: *character count* = 0)

Artificial Intelligence

You may use AI tools such as Claude or ChatGPT to write your application. However, you are responsible for any errors, omissions, hallucinations, or acts of plagiarism in your application. It is the responsibility of the named applicant to ensure that all content in their proposal is factual and that they have properly acknowledged and referenced all sources. We encourage you to indicate in your application where and how you used AI assistance for full transparency.

☐ I acknowledge and understand the above statement.

Save

Save and Continue

Awards

Awards

Beginning with the most recent, list up to eight of the grants, fellowships, scholarships, academic honors, or awards you have received. Include dates, purposes (tuition, travel, expenses, etc.), and, if funded, the approximate amounts. If you are listing only selected awards, choose those that are most significant to the project you are proposing for an ACLS fellowship.

Please remember:

- use only numbers in the date fields, for example, 09/1995
- use the format mm/yyyy throughout
- where an entry continues into the present, leave the "To" field blank
- use only numbers in all dollar amount fields, for example, 1000
- please convert all monetary amounts into United States Dollars

Award

Award Type

Select One 

From

 /

To

 /

Amount

Purpose

Award

Research Project

Research Project

Enter your responses into the text boxes below and ensure your character count does not exceed the limit. If you paste your response, excess text may appear on the screen but will not print and will not be visible to reviewers. Do not use hard returns. Examine your print application to be sure your responses are complete.

Research Proposal Title

(250 max character limit: *character count = 0*)

Research Proposal Abstract

(800 max character limit: *character count = 0*)

If there is a web page associated with your project, please provide the URL here:

(Optional)

Enter your proposed start and end dates for your 12-month fellowship period. The period must start between July 1, 2027, and September 30, 2028. During the 12-month period, you will have the equivalent of three months to work on the project as explained in your work plan:

From:

 / /

To:

 / /

(mm/dd/yyyy)

If your project does not involve research conducted in mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Tibet, and/or Xinjiang, please explain how you will access the sources you need.

(800 max character limit: *character count* = 0)

 Countries or Geographical Areas – Research Focus

List any countries or geographical areas on which your research is focused.

1.

Select One

▼

2.

Select One

▼

3.

Select One

▼

4.

Select One

▼

Other

 Countries or Geographical Areas – Research Completed

List any countries or geographical areas other than the US in which you have done research in the last five years.

1.

Select One



2.

Select One



3.

Select One



Other

 Disciplinary Areas

Please identify up to five disciplinary areas, in order of relevance, that best describe your research project. Do not choose "other" unless none of the options is close to your field. **For your first selection please choose the specific field that most closely corresponds to your fellowship project.**

1.

Select One



Other

2.

Select One



Other

3.

Select One



Other

Administrative Information

Administrative Information

This information is REQUIRED (except as noted). It is for administrative purposes only and will not be shown to reviewers.

Please remember:

- use only numbers in the date fields, for example, 09/1995
- use the format mm/yyyy throughout, except where mm/dd/yyyy is specifically requested
- where an entry continues into the present, leave the "To" field blank
- use only numbers in all dollar amount fields, for example, 1000
- please convert all monetary amounts into United States Dollars

What is your country of citizenship?

Select One



If NOT United States, do you hold US Permanent Resident status?

Select



If NOT Canada, do you hold Canadian Permanent Resident status?

Select



ORCID iD (Optional)

ORCID iD

ACLS encourages all applicants to provide an ORCID iD as part of their application. Learn more (<https://www.acls.org/FAQ/ACLS-Fellowships>).

Current Position

What is the anticipated end date of your current position or work affiliation?

/

(mm/yyyy)

Please enter your total anticipated teaching responsibility for the upcoming academic year (number of classes) as a whole number.

(For example, a course load of 3-3 should be entered as a 6. Please do not include summer courses or overloads. If you taught a reduced course load due to service, medical/family leave, etc., enter the amount you would have taught if not for those releases.)

Please list your current service engagement, separating each commitment with a semicolon.

(800 max character limit: *character count* = 0)

(Please indicate in parentheses whether each commitment is at the departmental, institutional, or disciplinary level. Service engagements need not come with a formal course release to be listed.)

 Sources of Support - Confirmed

List other sources of support (e.g., sabbatical salary, other fellowships and grants) **ALREADY CONFIRMED** in connection with your proposed research project or planned total period of research leave. Also indicate the approximate amount of funding and period of support. Please convert all monetary amounts into United States Dollars.

Source

From

/

To

/

Amount

0.00

Source

From

/

To

/

Amount

0.00

Source

From

/

To

/

Amount

0.00

 Sources of Support - Applying

List other major funding sources, with approximate amount and fellowship period, to which you **ARE APPLYING** for your present research proposal. Please convert all monetary amounts into United States Dollars.

Source

From

/

To

/

Amount

0.00

Source

From

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To

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Amount

0.00

Source

From

/

To

/

Amount

0.00

 Statistical Purposes Only

The following questions are optional and will not be shown to reviewers or used in any fellowship decisions.

Date of birth

/

/

(mm/dd/yyyy)

Gender

With which group or groups do you most identify?

- ☐ Non-Hispanic White
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Latina/o/x or Hispanic
- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ☐ East Asian American
- ☐ South Asian American
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- ☐ Middle Eastern or Arab American

Other:

- ☐ I prefer not to answer this question.

 Informational Purposes Only**1. How did you learn about this program? (Please select all that apply.)**

- ☐ Higher Education publication (e.g., Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed)
- ☐ Dean or other administrator
- ☐ University fellowship/grants office
- ☐ ACLS website
- ☐ Other website (e.g. H-Net)

Please specify:

- ☐ Former fellows/grantees
- ☐ Colleague at my institution
- ☐ Colleague at another institution
- ☐ Social media

Please specify:

- ☐ Online Advertisement

Please specify where:

- ☐ Email from ACLS
- ☐ Other Email newsletter or Listserv

Please specify where:

- ☐ Web Search
- ☐ Academic Conference or Meeting

Please specify:

☐ Other/informal communication

Other:

2. Please identify the ACLS member scholarly societies or ACLS affiliate organizations (if any) of which you are a member or with which you have an affiliation. (Please check all that apply.)

ACLS Constituent Learned Societies

- ☐ African Literature Association
- ☐ African Studies Association
- ☐ American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- ☐ American Academy of Religion
- ☐ American Anthropological Association
- ☐ American Antiquarian Society
- ☐ American Association for Italian Studies
- ☐ American Association for the History of Medicine
- ☐ American Association of Geographers
- ☐ American Dialect Society
- ☐ American Economic Association
- ☐ American Folklore Society
- ☐ American Historical Association
- ☐ American Musicological Society
- ☐ American Numismatic Society
- ☐ American Philosophical Association
- ☐ American Philosophical Society
- ☐ American Political Science Association
- ☐ American Society for Aesthetics
- ☐ American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
- ☐ American Society for Environmental History
- ☐ American Society for Legal History
- ☐ American Society for Theatre Research
- ☐ American Society of Church History
- ☐ American Society of Comparative Law
- ☐ American Society of International Law
- ☐ American Society of Overseas Research
- ☐ American Sociological Association
- ☐ American Studies Association
- ☐ Archaeological Institute of America

- ☐ Association for Asian American Studies
- ☐ Association for Asian Studies
- ☐ Association for Jewish Studies
- ☐ Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
- ☐ Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies
- ☐ Association for the Study of African American Life and History
- ☐ Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
- ☐ Association of American Law Schools
- ☐ Austrian Studies Association
- ☐ Bibliographical Society of America
- ☐ College Art Association
- ☐ Dance Studies Association
- ☐ Dictionary Society of North America
- ☐ Economic History Association
- ☐ German Studies Association
- ☐ History of Science Society
- ☐ International Center of Medieval Art
- ☐ Latin American Studies Association
- ☐ Law and Society Association
- ☐ Linguistic Society of America
- ☐ Medieval Academy of America
- ☐ Metaphysical Society of America
- ☐ Middle East Studies Association
- ☐ Modern Language Association
- ☐ National Communication Association
- ☐ National Council of Teachers of English
- ☐ National Council on Public History
- ☐ National Women's Studies Association
- ☐ North American Conference on British Studies
- ☐ North American Victorian Studies Association
- ☐ Oral History Association
- ☐ Organization of American Historians
- ☐ Philosophy of Science Association
- ☐ Renaissance Society of America
- ☐ Rhetoric Society of America
- ☐ Shakespeare Association of America
- ☐ Sixteenth Century Society
- ☐ Society for American Music
- ☐ Society for Cinema and Media Studies
- ☐ Society for Classical Studies
- ☐ Society for Ethnomusicology
- ☐ Society for French Historical Studies

- ☐ Society for Military History
- ☐ Society for Music Theory
- ☐ Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
- ☐ Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study
- ☐ Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing
- ☐ Society for the History of Technology
- ☐ Society of Architectural Historians
- ☐ Society of Biblical Literature
- ☐ World History Association

ACLS Affiliates

- ☐ Association of American Colleges and Universities
- ☐ Association of Research Libraries
- ☐ Association of University Presses
- ☐ Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences
- ☐ Center for Research Libraries
- ☐ Community College Humanities Association
- ☐ Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes
- ☐ Federation of State Humanities Councils
- ☐ International Society for Third-Sector Research
- ☐ Phi Beta Kappa

3. Please identify all ACLS fellowship programs (if any) to which you have previously applied in the last three years.

- ☐ ACLS Fellowship
- ☐ ACLS Collaborative Research Fellowship
- ☐ ACLS Digital Extension Grant
- ☐ ACLS Digital Innovation Fellowship
- ☐ ACLS Emerging Voices Fellowship
- ☐ ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship
- ☐ ACLS New Faculty Fellows
- ☐ Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship
- ☐ Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship
- ☐ Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellowships in the History of Art
- ☐ Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowship in American Art
- ☐ Luce/ACLS Fellowships in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs
- ☐ Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies
- ☐ Mellon/ACLS Community College Faculty Fellowship
- ☐ Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- ☐ Mellon/ACLS Public Fellows
- ☐ Mellon/ACLS Scholars & Society Fellowship

- ☐ The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies
- ☐ The Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe
- ☐ African Humanities Program
- ☐ CCK Comparative Perspectives on Chinese Culture and Society

4. Have you ever participated, beyond attending, in a scholarly meeting?

Select

▼

If yes, in what capacity?

(Please indicate number of times: 0, 1, 2, etc.)

Delivered a paper

Select

▼

Organized a panel

Select

▼

Participated in roundtable discussion

Select

▼

Participated in poster session

Select

▼

Save

Save and Continue

Proposal Upload

Proposal Upload

In addition to the application form, you must upload the following items.

1A) APPLICATION ESSAY (1300 WORDS MAXIMUM, DOUBLE-SPACED)

This application essay will be the basis of the evaluation of the project. The application essay must include all of the following:

- The aims of the research project – what it is about and what sources are to be examined.
- The significance of the topic and the project's contribution to the field of China studies.
- The intended contribution of the research to existing literature in your discipline.
- The research design.
- An assessment of the project's feasibility.
- The nature of results expected.

Note: If you are proposing a project to convert your dissertation into a book, you must explain how the proposed project will expand on or revise the dissertation.

1B) WORK PLAN (300 WORDS MAXIMUM, DOUBLE-SPACED)

The work plan should include:

- A timeline for the project, including activity during the fellowship period and rationale for the length of time that is being requested (equivalent to three months of work).
- Identification of the individuals (colleagues relevant to project), institutions, and/or sites to be visited, including archives, libraries, geographical sources, as well as proposed institutional affiliation in China (if any).
- Recent PhDs proposing to convert their dissertation into a book must explain how the proposed work will expand or revise the dissertation.

1C) OPTIONAL SUPPORTING MATERIALS (TWO PAGES MAXIMUM)

Images, musical scores, or other similar non-text materials, without annotation.

1D) BIBLIOGRAPHY (1000 WORDS MAXIMUM, DOUBLE-SPACED BETWEEN ENTRIES)

The bibliography should provide an overview of the essential primary and secondary sources that inform this research.

1E) APPLICANT'S STATEMENT (600 WORDS MAXIMUM, DOUBLE-SPACED)

The applicant's statement should describe the intellectual trajectory and experiences that brought you to the current stage of academic career and that motivate plans for the future. If you are not yet employed/affiliated with an institution, you must describe plans for a career in China studies in the United States or Canada. It will strengthen the application to mention applications underway for academic positions, including names of institutions. Applicants in non-tenure-track positions (e.g., postdocs and visiting assistant professors) must indicate when their current positions will end.

1F) PUBLICATIONS LIST (1000 WORDS MAXIMUM, DOUBLE-SPACED BETWEEN ENTRIES)

Publications resulting from your previous research are an important factor in evaluating proposals from applicants. Applicants who have previously conducted research supported by ACLS grants should report all publications resulting from that research.

2) INSTRUCTIONS:

- Margins must be at least one inch on all sides.
- Use Arial or Helvetica 11-point font.
- There is a 10 MB limit on the size of your upload.
- You may only upload these file types: Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), Text only (.txt), or Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf). Your files MUST include the appropriate extension (e.g., ".doc"); if you are on a Mac, you will need to enter the extension as part of the file name.
- Your application will be converted to Portable Document Format (.pdf). Keep formatting simple to avoid problems in the converted document.
- If your proposal includes non-Roman characters, please view it after uploading to be sure these characters convert properly. If not, you may have to convert your document to .pdf and then upload again to resolve formatting problems.
- If you have difficulty with your upload, consult the [FAQ/technical support](https://ofa.acls.org/programs/faq/?sid=OY8CyGQgKt2pkrDXX5ZMmbOFm2cliuSxa9ZfWExfZTNjMkoGHLB5vi3Hei1eiqy93AKwAGLZbDEc8RT4eLoqKnjzescphxVoX81EtHcyk75wZTvXJCvTw2AWIMNcpoN9DdCLf69xxli_vhLn3kNxey8) (https://ofa.acls.org/programs/faq/?sid=OY8CyGQgKt2pkrDXX5ZMmbOFm2cliuSxa9ZfWExfZTNjMkoGHLB5vi3Hei1eiqy93AKwAGLZbDEc8RT4eLoqKnjzescphxVoX81EtHcyk75wZTvXJCvTw2AWIMNcpoN9DdCLf69xxli_vhLn3kNxey8) before contacting us.

Application Essay:



Drag & drop your file here, or click to browse

PDF, Word (.doc / .docx), or .txt

Work Plan:



Drag & drop your file here, or click to browse

PDF, Word (.doc / .docx), or .txt

Optional Supporting Materials [Optional]:**Drag & drop your file here, or click to browse**

PDF, Word (.doc / .docx), or .txt

Bibliography:**Drag & drop your file here, or click to browse**

PDF, Word (.doc / .docx), or .txt

Applicant's Statement:**Drag & drop your file here, or click to browse**

PDF, Word (.doc / .docx), or .txt

Publications List:**Drag & drop your file here, or click to browse**

PDF, Word (.doc / .docx), or .txt

[Continue](#)