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## **APFNet Scholarship Program Booklet [2017]**

Launched in 2010, APFNet Scholarship Program aims to support capable forestry officials or researchers in the Asia-Pacific region to pursue higher academic degrees in the field of sustainable forest management and rehabilitation, in cooperation with universities and institutions in China and other potential universities in the region.

Advanced managerial knowledge, techniques and skills, as well as opportunities for field practice are provided, to improve the ability of those who will drive sustainable forest management and rehabilitation forward for the region. All the courses of this program will be provided in English.

Host universities are designated to recruit the awarded students in accordance with this Manual and specific policies of each host university for international students. By now 4 host universities have become the host universities to provide 2-year' Master degree courses in China:

- *Beijing Forestry University (BJFU), Beijing, China*
- *Nanjing Forestry University (NJFU), Nanjing, Jiangsu province, China*
- *Inner Mongolia Agriculture University, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China*
- *Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University, Yangling, Shaanxi province, China*

Application for Inner Mongolia Agriculture University and Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University are only available for students from the Great Central Asia Region, which includes Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan.

### **What are the benefits of the program?**

(1) Sponsorship of the tuition and expenses

The program covers the following items for an awarded student, but different price levels will be considered according to the cities' living costs:

- One round-trip economy class flight tickets from the home economy of the awarded student to and fro the city of the admitted university
- Registration and tuition fees
- Accommodation on campus or alternative monthly allowance
- Monthly stipends to cover miscellaneous expenses
- Medical insurance during the enrollment period
- Comprehensive Medical Insurance and Benefit Plan for International Students in China in case of hospitalization for serious diseases and accidental injuries.

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## (2) Field trip

The program will provide at least two field trips in China for students during 2 years, one provided by the university and the other by APFNet. The field trip will give students an access to practical experience of knowledge on forestry resources status and management in China, as well as some China's unique experience in forest management, such as collective forest reform, forestry and rural community development. Extra field practices will be provided by the host universities according to their resources and academic schedule.

## (3) Opportunity to be invited to APFNet events

APFNet holds workshops, trainings and other activities on capacity building, forestry education and research and policy dialogue, etc. in collaboration with regional partners regularly. Both graduated and current students will have the chance to be invited and sponsored to join these events and connect with policy makers, academics, practitioners and international organizations, etc. in the Asia-Pacific region.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

### **Am I eligible?**

To be eligible for a scholarship, all applicants must meet the following requirements:

- For BJFU and NJFU, applicants must be non-Chinese residents of APFNet's member economies (Australia, Hong Kong China, Bangladesh, India, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Canada, Malaysia, P.R. China, Mexico, Fiji Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Singapore, Nepal, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Peru, United States, the Philippines and Viet Nam)
- For Inner Mongolia Agriculture University and Northwest Agriculture University, as they specialize in arid and semi-arid forest management, applicants must be non-Chinese residents from Greater Central Asia, specifically .....
- Age: 18- 40 , and in good health condition (a completed Foreigner Physical Examination Form)
- Have obtained a Bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree from an accredited higher education institute in forestry or related field
- At least 2 years of work experience are prioritized
- Proficiency in English
- Female applicants encouraged

### **How many awards does the program expect to give?**

APFNet plans to select and support about 30 qualified students in 2017, 8 of BJFU, 10 of NJFU, 6 of Inner Mongolia Agriculture University and 6 of Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University.

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## **SELECTION FACTORS AND FUNDING PRIORITIES**

### **How does the program determine who will receive scholarship support?**

Among eligible applicants, the program determines scholarship awardees using various selection factors and funding priorities.

- Endorsement by the supervisors will be prioritized, so the students should prepare to contact your prospective supervisors
- Endorsement by our Council representative/contact person is preferred, for the list please visit

[http://www.apfnet.cn/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=911&Itemid=325](http://www.apfnet.cn/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=911&Itemid=325)

- English language proficiency

The final selection of students will be based on the qualifications of each applicant, taking account of the regional balance, gender balance and appropriate proportion between forest personnel at central and local levels.

## **Application**

### **When is the deadline of the application?**

Recruitment usually opens in February and closes in May each year.

### **What are the channels for application?**

Applicants should apply from the host universities directly. As application procedures and materials may vary, applicants should visit the specific host university websites and submit materials accordingly.

*Beijing Forestry University (BJFU)* <http://www.studybeijing.com.cn/English/>

*Nanjing Forestry University (NJFU)* <http://eng.njfu.edu.cn/>

*Inner Mongolia Agriculture University* [to be updated soon](#)

*Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University* [to be updated soon](#)

## **Admission**

### (1) Review and admission

Shortlisting will be made by host universities and the recommendation lists to be passed to APFNet for final sponsorship.

The applicants whose materials have been approved would be informed of online interview in early June. The host university will send the Visa Application Form for Study in China with an Admission Notice to each successful applicant by June/July each year.

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The list of awarded students will be posted on APFNet website by each June/July, and the host university will be responsible for specific admission procedures.

(2) Travel to China

The scholarship students shall apply to the Chinese Embassy or Consulate General for the Visa for Studying in China, by providing a valid passport, Visa Application Form for Studying in China, and Admission Notice.

The international tickets from applications' home economy to China will be booked and purchased by host universities.

(3) Campus registration

Scholarship students shall follow the instructions from their accepted universities to arrive on campus on time for registration and orientation. All required documents will be specified on the admission notice from the host universities.

**Academic performance review and termination / suspension of scholarship**

The Host Universities are responsible for daily management through providing student guidance and conducting academic performance review. Poor academic performances and severe violation of the school's management policies would result in disqualification or termination of the scholarship.

(1) Academic performance review of the scholarship students

An awarded student's academic performance will be reviewed by the host university at the end of the first academic year to determine whether they are qualified to conduct their dissertation for defense.

(2) Disqualification/termination of scholarship

- Late registration or absence without written notice in advance to the host university.
- Unapproved change of majors, academic extension, suspension and re-entry.
- Drop-out (for any reason).
- Other severe violation of management policy by the host university

(3) Suspension

- Scholarship students who have to suspend their study for health reasons are required to submit a written application to the host university and enclose relevant medical documents such as examination and diagnosis certificates issued by the hospital.
- Scholarship students who are obliged to suspend their studies for health reasons

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are required to return to their home economy for treatment as soon as possible and are required to cover the cost of resulting travel expenses. Those who wish to keep their scholarship status are required to apply to the host university and APFNet. With approval of the host university, this status may be reserved for up to one year and the scholarship and living allowances shall be suspended during the period of leave. Otherwise, the students shall continue their studies at their own expenses upon their return to campus.

- Those who suspend their study for non-health reasons shall lose their scholarship status.

#### (4) Drop-out

- Scholarship students who voluntarily plan to terminate their studies are required to apply for approval in written with a letter signed by the host university and APFNet. The scholarship will be ceased upon the approval.
- Upon the approval/notice of the drop-out by the host university, monthly stipends /allowances will be stopped and amount granted in advance must be returned. The host university will decide if the travel expenses back home will be borne by the Scholarship Program.