



# Current Status of Research on the Implementation of Scholarship Systems and the Role of Incentives in China

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**How to cite this paper:** Yanyan Chen. (2023). Current Status of Research on the Implementation of Scholarship Systems and the Role of Incentives in China. *The Educational Review, USA*, 7(10), 1541-1545. DOI: 10.26855/er.2023.10.015

**Received:** September 30, 2023

**Accepted:** October 29, 2023

**Published:** November 28, 2023

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## Abstract

China's scholarship system, as a crucial policy for nurturing talent, plays a significant role in the realm of higher education. This paper aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of the actual effects and current issues of China's scholarship system. It discusses the implementation status of the system, the research on its incentive role, existing problems, and potential improvements. The paper also proposes ideas and measures to enhance the scholarship system, with the goal of providing insights for optimizing talent training policies. This paper will discuss the incentive effect of the scholarship system on international students, talent training in domestic universities, and the construction of the national innovation system. These studies can help us evaluate the effectiveness of the scholarship system in promoting talent cultivation and fostering innovation abilities. At the same time, it analyzes the existing problems of the scholarship system and proposes ideas and measures to enhance it. For example, how to improve the fairness and equity of the selection process, strengthen the supervision and management of scholarship usage, and establish a more comprehensive evaluation mechanism to assess the impact of scholarships. I hope this paper can provide inspiration for future research and contribute to the ongoing improvement and refinement of the scholarship system.

## Keywords

Chinese scholarship system, talent training, motivational role, problems and improvements

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## Introduction

The scholarship system in China has been implemented since the 1990s and, after years of development, has become one of the important talent training policies in China's higher education sector. The scholarship system not only provides important financial support for the study and life of international students but also has a positive impact on the cultivation of talents in domestic universities and the construction of the national innovation system. However, there are some problems in the implementation of the scholarship system, such as shortcomings in fairness and efficiency. Therefore, this paper will analyse the current state of research on the implementation of the scholarship system and the role of incentives in China, and discuss the problems of the scholarship system and its improvement ideas and measures.

## 1. Implementation of the scholarship system in China

### 1.1 History and evolution of the scholarship system in China

The history of the scholarship system in China dates back to the early 1950s. At that time, the Chinese government began to offer scholarships to foreign students in order to cultivate talents who would make a difference. As the country's reform and opening up progressed, the Chinese scholarship system was further developed and improved (Zhao Guichen et al., 2022). In 1996, the Chinese government officially issued the Notice on the Implementation of the National Scholarship System, and the scholarship system was thus fully promoted and implemented.

As the scholarship system has continued to improve, its targets and criteria have changed. The Chinese scholarship system has now become one of the most globally recognised and important policies for the training of talent (Zhang Xinchao et al., 2022). In addition to changes in the recipients and criteria, the format and management mechanism of the scholarship system have also been continuously improved. The Chinese scholarship system consists of three main forms: full scholarships, partial scholarships, and special Chinese government scholarships. In terms of the management mechanism, the Chinese government has set up a special scholarship management body, which is responsible for the assessment, funding, supervision, and evaluation of scholarships.

### 1.2 Scholarship recipients and criteria

The Chinese scholarship system mainly covers two categories of people: firstly, international students coming to China, including undergraduate students, master's students, doctoral students, and general advanced students; secondly, scholars and experts from outside China, including visiting scholars, high-level talents and participants of short-term exchange programmes. The funding criteria of the scholarships vary according to the type of scholarship and the target group. Full scholarships, for example, cover tuition fees, accommodation costs, living expenses, and medical insurance, and the level of funding varies according to academic qualifications and disciplines (Zhou Hui, 2021). In addition, the Chinese government has established partial scholarships and special Chinese government scholarships, which are relatively low in terms of funding but can still effectively support the studies and research of international students and scholars from abroad. It is important to note that the funding criteria for scholarships are not static, but are adjusted in line with changes in national policy and the economic situation.

### 1.3 Scholarship funding forms and management mechanisms

The Chinese scholarship system mainly includes full scholarships, partial scholarships, and special Chinese government scholarships. The full scholarship is the highest level of scholarship, covering tuition fees, accommodation, living expenses medical insurance, etc. The standard of funding is relatively high and is suitable for outstanding international students and scholars from abroad. Partial scholarships, which only partially cover tuition fees and living expenses, are available for international students and scholars from abroad who have financial difficulties. Special scholarships from the Chinese Government are available for students from developing countries and high-level talents from African countries.

In terms of management mechanism, the Chinese government has set up a special scholarship administration body, which is responsible for the assessment, funding, supervision, and evaluation of scholarships. Firstly, the scholarship administration body is responsible for the assessment of scholarships. All international students and overseas scholars applying for scholarships have to go through a strict application and assessment process before they can receive the scholarship. The assessment criteria include the applicant's academic performance, research plan, language ability, and personal qualities. Secondly, the scholarship administration is responsible for the funding of the scholarships. Once an applicant has passed the assessment process, he/she is eligible for scholarship funding. The scholarship governing body is responsible for awarding the scholarship to the recipient and monitoring its use.

### 1.4 Evaluation of the effectiveness of scholarship funding

Firstly, the researchers evaluated the study and research outcomes of international students and scholars from abroad. The results showed that international students and scholars from abroad who received scholarships from China performed well in terms of academic achievements, including publications, research results, and patent applications. These achievements not only promote international academic exchanges and cooperation but also make important contributions to China's innovation development. Secondly, the researchers assessed the impact of the scholarship system on the living and employment conditions of international students and scholars from abroad. The results show that the scholarship system

is effective in improving the living conditions, quality of life, and well-being of international students and scholars from abroad. The scholarship system also promotes the career development of international students and foreign scholars and enhances their competitiveness in employment. Finally, the researchers evaluated the impact of the scholarship system on the cultivation of talent in domestic universities and the development of the national innovation system. The results show that the scholarship system can attract more outstanding international students and scholars from abroad to study and research in China, and promote international talent exchange and cooperation.

## **2. Current status of research on the motivational role of scholarship systems in China**

### **2.1 The incentive effect of the scholarship system on international students**

Firstly, the scholarship system can attract more outstanding international students to study and research in China. By providing generous financial support and an excellent study environment, the Chinese scholarship system has attracted a large number of outstanding international students to study in China. These international students not only contribute to the internationalisation of Chinese higher education but also make an important contribution to China's scientific and technological innovation and economic development. Secondly, the scholarship system can motivate international students to study and research. International students who receive scholarships are usually highly motivated to study and research, and they will work harder to achieve better results and outcomes. At the same time, the scholarship system can also enhance the self-confidence and self-worth of international students and promote their personal development and growth. Thirdly, the scholarship system can help international students to solve their financial problems and reduce their financial pressure. International students have to face many financial problems when living and studying abroad, such as tuition fees, living expenses and accommodation costs. The scholarship system can effectively help international students to solve these problems and reduce their financial pressure so that they can better focus on their studies and research.

### **2.2 The incentive effect of the scholarship system on the cultivation of talents in domestic universities**

Firstly, the scholarship system can attract more outstanding students to study and research at universities in China. By providing generous financial support and a superior study environment, the Chinese scholarship system has attracted a large number of outstanding international students to study in China. These international students not only increase the academic atmosphere and international influence of domestic universities but also provide important support for the cultivation of talents and research development of domestic universities. Secondly, the scholarship system can promote the teaching reform and innovation of domestic universities. International students who receive scholarship funding usually have higher motivation to study and research, and they will pay more attention to frontier fields and hot topics, promoting teaching reform and innovation in domestic universities. At the same time, the scholarship system also provides domestic universities with the opportunity to connect with the international advanced level, which promotes the internationalisation of domestic universities. Thirdly, the scholarship system can improve the quality and level of talent cultivation in domestic universities. International students who receive scholarship funding usually have high academic level and research ability, and they can bring advanced academic ideas and research methods to promote the teaching and research level of domestic universities.

### **2.3 The incentive effect of the scholarship system on the development of national innovation systems**

Firstly, the scholarship system can attract more international talents to study and research in China. By providing generous financial support and an excellent study environment, China's scholarship system has attracted a large number of outstanding international talents to study in China. These talents not only add to China's pool of innovative talent, but also make an important contribution to China's scientific and technological innovation and economic development. Secondly, the scholarship system can promote international cooperation in science and technology innovation. International students and scholars from outside China who receive scholarship funding usually have high academic standards and research capabilities, and they are able to collaborate intensively with domestic researchers to jointly promote science and technology innovation. At the same time, the scholarship system also provides important support for international cooperation in science and technology innovation, promoting exchanges and cooperation in science and technology innovation between China and other countries. Thirdly, the scholarship system can promote the transformation of the country's scientific and technological achievements and economic construction. International students and scholars from abroad who receive scholarship funding usually have high innovation ability and practical experience, and they are able to translate their research results into practical applications and promote the industrialisation and commercialisation of scientific and technological achievements (Zhang Qian et al., 2021).

### 3. Problems and improvements in China's scholarship system

#### 3.1 Problems with the scholarship system

Firstly, the criteria for scholarship funding are not transparent and fair enough. Some international students and scholars from abroad have reported that the criteria for awarding scholarships are not transparent and fair enough, and there are some hidden rules and unfairness, resulting in some outstanding international students and scholars from abroad not being able to receive the funding they deserve. Secondly, the scholarship system has the problem of cumbersome application and management processes. A large number of documents and proofs are required to apply for scholarships, and the vetting process is cumbersome and time-consuming, which causes a lot of trouble and inconvenience to international students and scholars from abroad, and increases the workload of the relevant institutions. Thirdly, the scope and areas of funding of the scholarship system are limited. At present, the scope and fields of funding of the scholarship system in China are relatively narrow, mainly concentrated in a few disciplines and professional fields, which cannot meet the needs of different international students and scholars from abroad and is not conducive to the overall development of higher education in China. Fourthly, the management and supervision mechanism of the scholarship system is not sound enough. At present, there are still some problems with the management and supervision mechanism of the scholarship system, such as unclear supervisory responsibilities, irregular funding criteria, and weak penalties for non-compliance, which give some people the opportunity to operate illegally (Gong Yunxian, 2020).

#### 3.2 Ideas and measures to improve the scholarship system

First, strengthen the transparency and fairness of the scholarship funding criteria. Establish scientific, fair, and transparent scholarship funding criteria, and strengthen the supervision and management of the scholarship award process to ensure fair competition and selection of funding recipients. Secondly, optimise the scholarship application and management process. Simplify the scholarship application and vetting process, improve efficiency, and reduce the burden on international students and overseas scholars, while strengthening the tracking and management of scholarship recipients to ensure the legality and regularity of scholarship use. Third, expand the scope and fields of scholarship funding. Increase funding for emerging disciplines and frontier fields to encourage international students and scholars from abroad to carry out research and innovation in these fields, while increasing funding for different countries and regions to promote international talent exchange and cooperation. Fourth, improve the scholarship management and supervision mechanism. Establish a sound scholarship management and supervision mechanism, clarify the responsibilities and rights of management departments at all levels, strengthen the tracking and management of funding recipients, standardize the use of scholarships and the mechanism for pursuing responsibility, and increase the punishment for non-compliance. Fifth, strengthen the interface and cooperation with international scholarship systems. Draw on and learn from the experience of advanced international scholarship systems, strengthen links and cooperation with international scholarship institutions and organisations, and increase the international influence and competitiveness of Chinese scholarships.

### 4. Conclusion

Overall, China's scholarship system has played an important role in promoting international talent exchange and cooperation, internationalisation of higher education, scientific and technological innovation and economic development. However, there are also some problems with the scholarship system, such as non-transparent funding criteria, cumbersome application and management processes, and limited scope and areas of funding. There is a need to further strengthen management and supervision, improve transparency and fairness, and expand the scope and areas of funding in order to better promote international talent exchange and cooperation.

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