

Agreement between
the German Research Foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany
and
the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China
on the Joint Support of
Sino-German Research Training Groups

With the common aim of strengthening the co-operation of universities in both countries in the field of doctoral training, and in furtherance of the objectives stipulated in their Framework Agreement of 5 November 1981, the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "both Sides") conclude the following agreement:

Article 1

Both Sides will support co-operation between universities in their respective countries through the joint training of doctoral candidates in areas of mutual interest, such as Life Sciences, Energy Technology, Computer Science and Technology, Materials Science, Business, Commerce and Management Studies, International Law, etc.

Article 2

To this purpose, universities in each country will

1. agree on joint research and study programs for doctoral training in the context of Research Training Groups (*Graduiertenkollegs* – □□□□□□□□) or International Research Training Groups. The joint research and study programs are to be based on the excellence of research at the individual research sites as well as the integration of complementary expertise. Two key features are the systematic coordination of bilateral research projects and the joint supervision of dissertations;
2. exchange doctoral students for periods of research and training in the partner country;
3. organize joint conferences and symposia on subjects within the field in which they co-operate;
4. exchange information, literature and research results as well as develop joint research projects;
5. co-operate in other feasible ways to the benefit of doctoral training.

Article 3

Both Sides intend to exchange 20 or more doctoral students per year, in principle, for a period of up to six months. The appropriate duration of stay must be agreed upon by both the home and host universities.

Article 4

The academic doctoral degree is conferred by the participating students' home universities according to their respective regulations. Joint degrees are possible.

Article 5

The participating universities are responsible for the management and implementation of the joint programs.

Both Sides will give each other timely notice of new initiatives. They will consult and co-operate in advising the initiators on the preparation of their proposals. They are prepared to accept joint or parallel proposals and will strive to co-operate in the course of the decision process.

The establishment and funding of a Research Training Group in Germany or the German part of an International Research Training Group are subject to approval by the German Research Foundation on the basis of its peer review process.

The decision on the Chinese side lies with the Ministry of Education.

Article 6

The sending side will assume the international travel costs of the doctoral students and senior researchers participating in the exchange; the cost of living and research in the host country will be funded by the host. Expenses for joint symposia, workshops, and meetings (including those necessary for the preparation of a joint proposal) will be shared appropriately by both sides.

Article 7

Both Sides agree that the working language for this Agreement will be, in principle, English. In case of different interpretations, the English version of this Agreement will constitute the text of reference.

To be signed in Bonn on September 28th, 2003.

The Minister of Education of
The People's Republic of China

The President of the German Research
Foundation (Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft) of
The Federal Republic of Germany