

Memorandum of Understanding

between Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences concerning a joint program for graduate student training by DFG and GSCAS

For a bid to investigate and communicate the feasibility of jointly fostering graduate students by DFG and GSCAS, Dr. Reinhard Grunwald, General Secretary and delegation of DFG visited GSCAS on April 24, 2002, and got a very good response from the side of GSCAS. After a deepening and friendly discussion, a framework for the cooperation of jointly fostering graduate students between DFG and GSCAS is established.

This cooperative framework will be based on the principle of reciprocity by combining the mutual complementary efforts, capabilities and talents of the both institutions with a view to contribute to the higher education development and reinforce the academic exchange and friendship between the two countries.

It is to be seen as an extension of the Common Declaration of Intent between the Max Planck Society and the GSCAS of 28th May 2002 in the framework of the agreements the Chinese Academy of Sciences concluded with the Max Planck Society (acting also in the interest of the DFG) on 29th September 1981 and 19th April 1993 respectively.

DFG and GSCAS, both sides came to the following understanding:

1. Both signatories agree to cooperate in the promotion of international research training at centers of excellence at German universities and the Graduate School (including the connected Institutes) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences through the support of Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkollegs). Research Training Groups operate within the framework of a jointly established research program implemented by researchers in both countries and offer doctoral students in both countries excellent opportunities to develop their talents in the context of a joint doctoral training program. Given a common interest in a research subject or an overlapping research program or complementary technical development activities, and the willingness to carry out them cooperatively, a specific agreement on the scientific and doctoral training cooperation program should be concluded between the involved professors/PhD supervisors in the name of the directors of the two partner institutions. This agreement should contain detailed guidelines of the program and procedures for the cooperation including eligibility of students, selection procedures, schedules, programs contents, allocation of funds, IPR regulations and so on. It can be extended to long-term programmatic cooperation as an International Research Training Group.

2. The establishment and funding of a Research Training Group in Germany or the German part of an International Research Training Group is subject to a decision of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft on the basis of a peer review process.
3. The graduate students, in general PhD candidates under the specific agreement mentioned in # 1 will be completely involved in the cooperative program (the exact number of the students can be fixed through discussion between the professors involved).
4. Every graduate student should have two instructing professors, one from the GSCAS (including the connected Institutes of CAS) and the other from the corresponding Research Training Group.
5. It is mutually understood that the respective host institution takes the responsibility for funding the accommodation of instructing/teaching professors from the partner institution for short-term visits, lectures or workshops in the partner country, whereas the international travel costs are covered by the sending institution – given the availability of funds on both sides.
6. It is also mutually understood that each host institution takes the responsibility for providing fellowships for the graduate students of the partner institution-in order to enable them to conduct the research work for the cooperative program in the host country, whereas the international travel costs are covered by the sending institution - given the availability of funds on both sides
7. The duration of graduate studies in the partner country lasts maximally two years (the concrete duration can be decided by discussion between the partners involved).
8. Before being sent to the partner institution, graduate students should have achieved an appropriate standard of performance and experience – e.g. necessary doctoral or Master fundamental curriculum, good grades and innovative subject of thesis.
9. The supervising professor(s) of the host institution should periodically evaluate the graduate student's research work – e.g. after each step of the research aim has been reached. The graduate student should report on his/her work results at regular intervals to the supervising professor(s) of his/her own country (the concrete interval time can be decided between the student and his/her instructing professors of both sides).
10. The graduate student should return to his home institute where he/she was enrolled to defend his/her thesis and be conferred the academic Degree (in general PhD) by his/her home institution. Double graduation is not excluded.
11. The academic papers published as well as inventions made/patents filed during the stay in the host country will be subject to the specific agreement (see #1) between GSCAS (including the connected Institutes of CAS) and the corresponding Research Training Group.

This Memorandum is regarded as the starting point for future developments and further detailed agreements and may be amended or completely renewed with the mutual written consent of GSCAS and DFG. In particular, the Memorandum is subject to the review and further advice of possible teaching/instructing professors and further members and experts of both partner

organizations. Any amendment or entire change may take the form of an exchange of letters or by E-mail.

Accepted on behalf of the GSCAS:
Prof. Dr. ZHAO Zhensheng
Vice President of GSCAS

Accepted on behalf of the DFG:
Dr. Reinhard Grunwald
General Secretary of DFG

Date: 26th November 2002