

剑桥大学中国研究欢迎你！

劍橋大學中國研究歡迎你！

Chinese Studies at Cambridge Welcomes You!

'I don't think you can ever really get to the end of everything that is interesting about China!'

Pontus Ljungberg, MPhil student, 2016-17

Please note that our faculty in the process of shifting from the old web format to a new one and during this process many web contents are being moved around, and some contents have been temporarily stored away before we can locate the right places to reinstate them in. Meanwhile, all the original web contents (with some updates) for postgraduate studies in Chinese Studies have been made into this Word document for your reference. Unfortunately many of the links no longer work. We hope in the near future these contents will be back onto the faculty website. We apologise for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience and forbearance.

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Postgraduate opportunities in Chinese Studies

The University of Cambridge has an illustrious history in scholarship on China. Many world-renowned scholars of China have taught here or were trained here. The University also has world-leading research resources in Chinese Studies (e.g. archival and library holdings, collaborations with colleagues and institutions worldwide). Today Chinese Studies at Cambridge encompasses diverse disciplines and expertise, ranging from textual scholarship to fieldwork-based socio-cultural anthropology, from palaeography (the study of ancient manuscripts and inscriptions) to modern literature (even 'internet literature'), from ancient history to modern history, from archaeology to linguistics, from art history to politics. We believe that the training of the next generation of China scholars is one of our most important tasks, as the rise of China and the global recognition of the importance of Chinese civilisation mean that the world will need many more experts on China in diverse disciplines, not only to research and publish on the endlessly fascinating Chinese world but also to introduce the richness of Chinese civilisation to generations of young people all over the world through university-level teaching.

We offer degree courses at both the MPhil and PhD levels. We encourage you to apply to pursue a [PhD in Chinese Studies](#) with us if you already have substantial background training related to your chosen topic and can work relatively independently (but of course with constant guidance from your PhD supervisor).

The [MPhil Programme in Chinese Studies](#) is a specially-designed one-year research course with substantial taught elements, aimed at training budding scholars in theories and

methodologies in various fields in Chinese Studies. We welcome applications from prospective students who have taken Chinese Studies as a major subject in a first degree programme or those who already have substantial Chinese-language abilities, who had undergraduate training in other subjects (e.g. literature, history, anthropology, art history, music, archaeology, classics, politics, etc.), but who wish to consider switching to Chinese Studies for their future career (in the latter case the MPhil in Chinese Studies can serve as a so-called 'conversion course').

Please browse through the Chinese Studies [staff and graduate student profiles](#) and their [current research projects](#) to find out more.

Before applying to our programmes, please email your prospective supervisor for initial consultation. This is essential especially if you are applying to the PhD programme since your proposed project has to be within the range of research expertise and interest of the supervisor.

China Studies Research Group

All [graduate students in Chinese Studies](#) are attached to the China Studies Research Group. Further information about the Group's projects and activities is available on our [Research pages](#).

You are welcome to follow us on [Facebook](#) (with publicity on latest activities in Chinese Studies at Cambridge).

Funding

Further details of funding options available to graduate students in Chinese Studies are available in our '[Fees and Funding](#)' section.

The MPhil in Chinese Studies

Overview

The Chinese Studies MPhil programme is an intense one-year research course with substantial taught elements primarily designed for students who intend to go on to do a PhD in Chinese Studies or related fields at the University of Cambridge or elsewhere. It is designed for highly-motivated future researchers who have a substantial undergraduate background in Chinese Studies or related fields but need more exposure to topic-specific or discipline-based analytical frameworks and more intense training in primary source language(s) and research skills.

All prospective MPhil applicants are advised to peruse the staff profiles on our website to familiarise themselves with the research and teaching interests of staff members. Applicants should contact potential supervisors by email and discuss potential MPhil dissertation topics. Each member of our staff has much wider academic interests, so you should explore potential topics of interest freely. Do not feel obliged to find a topic that caters to the specific interest of potential supervisors.

Before applying to our programmes, please email your prospective supervisor for initial consultation (sometimes a staff member will be on sabbatical or research leave and cannot take on any new research student during that year).

Applicants with a substantial training in the relevant skills and with a very specific research interest are advised to consult with individual staff members to explore the possibility of doing a **MPhil in Chinese Studies 'by dissertation only'**. Those who do 'dissertation only' will write a longer dissertation (up to 25,000 words) and the assessment includes an oral examination of the dissertation (*viva*).

[Testimonies of past and current MPhil students.](#)

Admission requirements

All applications for graduate study at the University are made online via the Graduate Admissions Office (GAO). Applicants should ensure that they are familiar with the admission requirements.

Please note that any applications submitted before the beginning of January, with the exception of those applying for Gates US funding, will be reviewed as a gathered field. You will therefore not receive a decision on your application until the beginning of February. Applications submitted after the beginning of January will be reviewed within the normal guidelines.

Language requirements

Applicants must already have good reading skills in the Chinese language, though a student can choose to enhance his or her skills in reading and interpreting texts specific to a particular topic (more on this below). For those whose interests are in pre-modern, medieval or early China, at least two years of experience of literary Chinese (文言) is essential.

Those applicants who are not native speakers of English must have an excellent command of the English language (evidenced by the appropriate English-language test scores).

- Applying for Graduate Studies: English Language Certificate (for non-native English speakers)

Application and Funding Opportunities

If you have performed exceptionally well in your undergraduate degree (including a high GPA) you should have a decent chance of getting a scholarship to cover the cost of your MPhil studies. A number of our past and current MPhil students have been funded by scholarships. We encourage you to explore widely various funding opportunities, including those that are based in specific countries and are for nationals of those countries (e.g. Gates US for US nationals, China Scholarship Council for Chinese nationals, Cambridge-Taiwan for Taiwanese nationals, etc.). If you are not a native speaker of English your chance of being considered for a scholarship would be greater if you had IELTS scores considerably higher than the minimum that Cambridge requires for postgraduate studies (currently 7.5 average and above 7 in all sections).

Please note that if you are not a native speaker of English your chance of being offered a place in our MPhil programme would be reduced if you did not supply, upon applying, IELTS results that already satisfy the above-mentioned Cambridge postgraduate admissions requirement. So please plan well ahead and make sure that you will get the IELTS results before the particular application deadline by which you plan to apply.

Here is some information on funding opportunities that are specific to the Faculty and are University-wide.

New funding opportunity for studying dynastic China: The **Louis Cha Scholarship**
Also check out The Tunku Abdul Rahman Fund (for Malaysian nationals studying in Cambridge, especially in humanities and social-science fields relating to Southeast Asia and East Asia)

Papers ('courses' are called 'papers' in Cambridge)

Once admitted into the MPhil Programme in Chinese Studies, you will have the option of following one of two streams:

- Modern and contemporary Chinese Studies; **or**
- Pre-modern Chinese Studies

With the consent of your supervisors and the relevant teachers, you may combine papers from both streams.

You are required to choose three papers – courses usually run over two terms – in addition to doing a 15,000-word MPhil dissertation under the supervision of a supervisor. The dissertations are submitted no later than mid-August following the start of the course.

Modern and Contemporary Chinese Studies

For **modern and contemporary Chinese Studies**, you need to choose three of the following papers:

- *Asia in Theory* [team-taught; theoretical and methodological approaches; **required paper** for all MPhil students doing modern and contemporary Chinese Studies]
- *Advanced Readings in Chinese* on a relevant subject [e.g., Qing and Republican historical documents, modern literary texts, etc.]
- *War and Modern China* [Professor Hans van de Ven]
- *Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature* [Dr Heather Inwood]
- *The Anthropology of China* [Dr Adam Yuet Chau]
- *China in the International Order* [Dr Kun-Chin Lin, POLIS]
- *Chinese Linguistics* [Dr Boping Yuan]
- *Alternative exercise* [to be arranged with specific instructors]

Pre-modern Chinese Studies

For **pre-modern Chinese Studies**, you need to choose three of the following papers:

- *Classical and literary Chinese texts* (received and excavated texts, manuscripts) [Dr Imre Galambos, Professor Roel Sterckx]
- *Early China*, specified topic [Professor Roel Sterckx]
- *Medieval China*, specified topic [Dr Imre Galambos]
- *Japanese for sinologists*
- *Alternative exercise* [to be arranged with specific instructors]

An individual student or a group of students sharing similar interests can arrange an 'Alternative Exercise'. Possible topics include:

- *Ritual and religion* [Professor Roel Sterckx and Dr Adam Yuet Chau],
- *Dunhuang & Silk Road Studies* [Dr Imre Galambos]
- *China and Globalisation* [Professor Hans van de Ven and Dr Adam Yuet Chau]
- *Developmental Linguistics* [Dr Boping Yuan]

Most papers are assessed by long essays and research projects; some advanced text papers are assessed through an examination. Please note that not all papers will be available every year.

Subject to approval by the Degree Committee, a student who has special needs in disciplinary or other kinds of training can use a course (paper) outside the Department or Faculty to serve as one of the option papers (called 'alternative exercise').

You can find out about the details of our graduate programmes (including brief course descriptions) in our online Graduate Handbook.

Intensive Further Training in Chinese-Language Skills

If you only have an intermediate-level command of Chinese and wish to improve your Chinese skills in preparation for advanced-level research, our MPhil programme can cater for that specific need. For example, one recent MPhil student who is a non-native speaker of Chinese was working on contemporary Chinese art and elected to work intensively on improving her readings skills in Chinese-language texts relating to her dissertation topic (involving meeting with her supervisor every week to translate and discuss a wide range of texts) and this constituted one of her two option papers (as a specially-arranged 'alternative exercise') (see above for the MPhil course structure and paper options). Students can also audit advanced undergraduate text-reading and literary Chinese classes. Many other venues in Cambridge provide excellent opportunities for improving one's Chinese-language skills, e.g. the Friday text-reading seminars at the Needham Institute (primarily texts in literary Chinese), student-organised readings of Chinese classics, the Cambridge University Language Centre, language-exchange partnerships, etc.

Dissertation

Even though your dissertation (up to 15,000 words) needs to be a piece of original research with fresh insights, it is not supposed to be a *magnum opus*. One should understand the process of researching and writing the MPhil dissertation as part of your training to be a future researcher (in academia or elsewhere). Applicants should consider carefully the formulation of a potential MPhil dissertation topic before applying to the programme. However, the proposed topic is not considered binding. Students work with their supervisors to fine-tune their focus or even find a different, more suitable topic.

For a list of some of the **past MPhil dissertation topics** [click here](#). Please note that these topics reflect not only the personal intellectual interests of the students but also the shifts over time of the research expertise of the staff members.

[Current graduate students and their projects.](#)

A Fantastic Environment for Chinese Studies

Besides the above-mentioned coursework you will have plenty of other opportunities within and beyond the Department of East Asian Studies or the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies to hone your research and other professional skills. You will have the opportunity to meet many well-known scholars who are invited to speak in our DEAS Seminar Series, the China Research Seminar Series as well as other numerous China-related events. Weekly text-reading seminars are held in the [Needham Research Institute](#) (李約瑟研究所) where scholars share their current research and the pleasure of using pre-modern Chinese texts in their work. You can also participate in the popular student-run graduate research presentations in the department. The University of Cambridge has a large number of researchers and scholars who specialise in China or have research interests in China who work in other faculties and departments (e.g. at the Needham Research Institute, the Fitzwilliam Museum, the Judge Business School, in History, Social Anthropology, Politics, History and Philosophy of Science, Architecture, Land Economy, Development Studies, Theoretical and Applied Linguistic, etc.). And every year we also host quite a few visiting scholars and PhD students from many parts of the world. These are all valuable resources for you to draw upon. Cambridge has a vibrant and welcoming Chinese Studies community and we would like to invite you to join us and the world-wide community of Chinese Studies scholars.

Cambridge

And of course if you study with us you will be living and working alongside other intellectually-serious young people in one of the most famous and beautiful university towns in the world.

Chinese Studies at Cambridge

Here is a [webpage](#) that integrates various sections of faculty websites relating to Chinese Studies (including a section on news)

Some Useful Resources Relating to Chinese Studies

Funding Opportunities for Postgraduate Studies at Cambridge [[Link](#)]

The Needham Research Institute [[Link](#)]

Reviews of Doctoral Theses Relating to China [[Link](#)]

Bibliography of Western-Language Works on Chinese Popular Religion (maintained by Prof. Philip Clart of Leipzig University) [[Link](#)]

British Association for Chinese Studies [[Link](#)]

European Association for Chinese Studies [[Link](#)]

Association for Asian Studies [[Link](#)]

Bibliography of Asian Studies [[Link](#)]

Great Britain China Centre [[Link](#)]

Fitzwilliam Museum's Exhibition on Tomb Treasures of the Han Dynasty [[Link](#)]

The British Museum's China-Related Resources [[Link](#)]

China Scholarship Council [[Link](#)]

The Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange [[Link](#)]

Center for Chinese Studies (National Central Library of Taiwan) [[Link](#)]

[Chinese culture through visual materials](#)

Past MPhil Topics

Past MPhil Dissertations

Below is a list of titles of some of the past MPhil dissertations in Chinese Studies (some are from the current year). These include dissertations resulting from the former two-year MPhil programme. A large number of these students continued their research training in doctoral programmes at Cambridge or elsewhere. Many have become academics who teach all over the world, while others have pursued their interests in other equally exciting careers.

Pre-Modern History and Sinology

Prospective applicants interested in pre-modern history should contact [Professor Roel Sterckx](#) or [Dr Imre Galambos](#).

- Perspectives on the Zhouli 周禮
- The spring and autumn period hegemony: Ceremonies of enfeoffment and the second hegemony
- Eloquence or authenticity: The evolution of attitudes toward speech and speaking during the Warring States period
- Virtually in charge: subversive voices in pre-Qin historiography: A study of the subversion of authority in the Zuo Zhuan 左傳
- The polemic on "demons" in Han China
- Ban Gu's use of former Han history
- History and hearsay: The Tang Queshi by Gao Yanxiu
- Zhaoling: the spatial and textual analysis of a seventh century Tang imperial cemetery
- The role of the horse in the economy of the Liao dynasty
- The irony and ambiguity of modernity: A comparative study of the "examination Hells" of late imperial China and modern Japan
- The Yangzishan 揚子山 Tomb in Chengdu: An Expression of Wealth and Status in the Eastern Han Dynasty
- Hidden Music: Shang and Western Zhou Banded Ritual Vessels
- Echoing Rulership: Understanding Musical References in the *Huainanzi* 淮南子

- The Construction of Mythology in Early China

Modern History

Prospective applicants interested in modern history should contact [Professor Hans van de Ven](#).

- The Sino-Franco War (1883–1885) through Memorials to the Qing Court
- Translation, Communication and Power in the Chinese Maritime Service, 1854 – 1895
- The CCP's French connection: How the France-based work-study movement influenced the development of Chinese Communism
- Nurturing Children of the Empire (Development of the Conceptions of the Education and how to Nurture Children in Shanghai during the period from 1925 – 1941)
- Women and the CCP: The Impact and Implementation of the Divorce Law, 1930-1950
- Resistance of Acceptance?: Varying Attitudes toward the Manchurian Crisis 1930-1933
- The Creation of the CCP Government in the Jiangxi period, 1931-1934
- The Cultural Revolution in Hong Kong: The 1967 Riots and the Aftermath
- The Second Revolution: China Went to War in 1913
- The Negotiations of the Treaty of Shimonoseki, 19th March – 17 April, 1895
- Late Qing Policies towards the Diasporic Chinese in British Malaya (supervised by Dr Adam Chau)

Literature

Prospective applicants interested in literature should contact [Dr Heather Inwood](#).

- A study of the political concerns and aesthetic ideals of Tang poets redefining the Yuefu genre (AD 755-820)
- The Guoshibu and Tang anecdotal literature
- A study of some traditional sources in Niehai Hua
- Translation and techniques in the Poetry of Xu Zhimo
- National consciousness and humanitarian modernism in the writing of Lai He (1894-1942)
- Gendered modernism in the work of Lu Yin (1898-1934): The early works 1921 to 1928
- A study of Shen Congwen's aesthetics : Shen Congwen as a countryman
- Style and innovation in the works of Liang Yuchan (1906-1932)
- The representation of the "country person" in the works of Huang Chun-ming (1939-) and Wang Zengqi (1920-1997)
- Feng Jikai (1942-): A contemporary establishment writer
- 'The Politics of Cultural Identity in the Works of Yan Geling (1958 – present)
- Grotesque Rainforests: The Struggle for Subjectivity of Malaysian Chinese in the Works of Zhang Guixing (1956 – present)
- Jia Pinwa and Shaanxi Literary Regionalism
- Reading Wang Anyi's (王安忆) 'Chang hen ge' (长恨歌) as a lyrical novel
- Paternity Overshadows Feminism – Conflicts in Chen Ran's *Private Life* (*Siren Shenghuo*) and Chiu Miao-Chin's *The Crocodile Journal*(*Eyu shouji*)
- Mu Shiyong's Early "Proletarian" Fiction: A Re-Analysis

Film, Theatre, Dance and Art

Prospective applicants interested in film, theatre and dance should contact [Dr Heather Inwood](#).

- Gao Xingjian and China's alternative theatre of the 1980s
- Gender and identity in the films of Tsai Ming-Liang
- The History of the Zhujiang Film Studio 1956 – 1966
- Shoulder-pole, girl: Migrants in contemporary Chinese cinema
- Choreographing Cultural Identities: A Case Study of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan's "Cursive I" and "Cursive II"
- Performing Gender Identities in Edward Lam's Theatrical Re-Interpretation of Classical Chinese Novels
- "Trans-Editing" Chinese Lyricism in Hou Hisao-Hsien's *City of Sadness*
- Concealing and Revealing: Identity in the Chinese Contemporary Self Portrait (supervised by Dr Adam Chau)
- *Ligne Claire*: The Cross-Cultural Transmission and Transformation of Chinese Painting Techniques

Anthropology and Sociology

Prospective applicants interested in anthropology and sociology should contact [Dr Adam Yuet Chau](#).

- Pan Guangdan and the concept of Minzu
- Compulsory Confucianism: Mandating Filial Duty in Modern China
- Quality control: Beijing's rural migrants and the discourse of *renkou sushu* (人口素质)
- Buying the Brand: Consumer Behaviour in the Contemporary Chinese Art Market
- Social and Political Factors Contributing to the Pricing of Calligraphic and Painting Works in Contemporary China
- Language Education Policy towards Ethnic Minorities in China
- Overseas Chinese Students' Luxury Consumption: A Cultural Explanation
- Faith, Fertility, Economy: A Study on the Interaction between Religious Belief and Economic Practice in a Chinese Catholic Village during the Reform Era
- Versatile Vocabulary: Negotiating Identity in the City of Nanjing
- From a National Champion to a Global Giant: The Case of Haier in India
- The Rise of Vegetarian Restaurants in Taiwan
- Community Activities in Beijing: A Contested Space
- How *Naofang* (闹访) Has Threatened the Chinese Judicial Order: A Case Study of the Specialised Violent Petitioners
- *Learning Chinese or Being Chinese*: Chinese Schools in Thailand and the Trend of Resinicisation among the Thai Chinese
- A New Town along the HK-Shenzhen Border
- Temporary Couples amongst Migrant Workers
- The Registration of Zhengyi (正一) Daoist Priests in Contemporary China
- Developing the Self, Developing the Nation: Hui Muslims between China and the Islamic World
- Civil Society on Weibo: An Appreciation of Virtual Civilsocietal Acts through the Lens of Social Media Posts
- Learning to Discern: Wine Culture and Connoisseurship as a Pedagogical Tool in Mainland China

Linguistics

Prospective applicants interested in linguistics should contact [Dr Boping Yuan](#). **Please note that the current Chinese Studies MPhil curriculum does not provide any concentrated training in linguistics.**

- The structure of topic and its representation in non-native grammar of Chinese
- Locative argument structures in English-Chinese interlanguage grammars
- Bilingual acquisition of Chinese and English
- Topicalization and the semantic constraints in English speakers' L2 Chinese grammar
- The Interface of Aspectual Selection and Negation in Chinese Interlanguages
- Behaviours of Definite and Indefinite Nominative Phrases in English Speakers' Non-Native Grammars of Chinese
- Chinese Sentence – Final Particles in English Speakers' L2 Grammars of Chinese

Politics and Economics

Although the Chinese Studies teaching staff in this department does not include economists or political scientists, [Dr Adam Yuet Chau](#) is interested in supervising topics relating to Chinese political and economic life as it relates to broader social transformations. (This excludes topics involving technical research such as econometric or statistical analysis). [The past MPhil dissertations relating to economics reflect the fact that our department used to have an economist on the staff.] Two political scientists at the University of Cambridge are connected to our programme, [Dr Kun-Chin Lin](#) of POLIS and [Dr Robert Weatherley](#), an affiliated lecturer in Chinese politics. Please note that even though Drs. Lin and Weatherley are available for consultation about MPhil research projects in their areas of expertise they will not be able to serve as official MPhil supervisors in FAMES.

- Chinese Communist Party's changing policies on economic reforms in China, 1978-1997: Historical perspectives and contemporary issues The Prospects for Private Equity in China
- The Structure of the Chinese Banking Industry and its Implications for the Monetary Transmission Mechanism and the Problem of Macroeconomic Control in China
- The Clean Development Mechanism and China: A Catalyst for Development and Transitioning China to a Low Carbon Economy
- The Return of HSBC to the Mainland Market in the Reform Period
- The Next Step after Getting Rich: Development of the Chinese Non-Profit Sector
- A Comparative Analysis of Due Diligence Best Practices in Chinese Alternative Investments
- Financial Growth Constraints of Medium and Matured Private Enterprises in China
- Derivative Products in Mainland China
- The Role of Venture Capital in Renewable Energies in China
- Going Global – An Examination of China's Outward Foreign Direct Investment and the Internationalisation of Chinese Enterprises
- China's Massive Foreign Reserves: An Economic and Political Tool
- China's Perception of its Role in the World in the 21st Century
- Politics of control: Foreign media censorship in China
- Power and Diplomacy: The Need for Energy as a Factor in Chinese Foreign Policy
- Chinese Entrepreneurs in the UK
- China's Organic Farming Industry
- The Rise of the China Threat Discourse and its Impact on US China Political Rhetoric and Public Opinion
- The Shanghai Co-Operation Organisation: Insights into Chinese Security Relations

- Local-State Financing through Real Estate Sales in Contemporary China (supervised by Dr Adam Chau)

Testimonies of Past and Current Students

Sarah Parks (MPhil in Chinese Studies, 2016-17)

As an international student, I'm often asked if I've had trouble adjusting to Cambridge and life in the UK more generally. While it was somewhat difficult adapting to a very different educational system, for the most part, I'm actually a bit surprised by how comfortable I've felt here. The university's college system does an excellent job of helping both British and international graduate students to naturally establish a kind of "home base," something which can be a bit more difficult than it would be for undergraduate students. I've found that my college has quickly become the centre of my social network at Cambridge. It's been great to have the opportunity to become close with people who aren't on my course and who are engaged in and passionate about a wide range of disciplines. As I've progressed in my degree, I think this has actually allowed me to bring more depth to my own academic work, broadening my objects of enquiry and modes of thinking. I have found the MPhil in Chinese Studies to be quite a challenging course, best suited for students who are self-motivated and interested in cultivating their research and analytical skills as well as improving their Chinese language abilities. I hadn't had much exposure to anthropological theory and research methodologies during my undergraduate degree so I was quite worried about any gaps in knowledge. After finishing two terms of lectures and seminars (learning from my peers as well as my professors), however, I've begun to feel comfortable using a range of anthropological theories and approaches in my own written work on a variety of research topics. I've also been conducting interviews and doing some short-term fieldwork for the purpose of presenting a more complete ethnographic understanding of China's young, upwardly-mobile urbanites' daily life, habits, customs, rituals and practices.

Alexandra Forrester (MPhil student 2015-16; Current second-year PhD student in Chinese Studies)

Last year I completed my MPhil in Chinese Studies and this year I began my PhD in the anthropology of Chinese religion, both in the Department of East Asian Studies. Having studied Chinese and History at SOAS for my undergraduate degree, I was looking for a course which would be challenging and allow me to develop my research skills. I found the MPhil Programme in Chinese Studies to be flexible and suited to those who want to use their language skills to focus on a specific area of interest, particularly in preparation for a PhD.

During my MPhil, I took courses in 'Anthropology of China' and 'Asia in Theory', which provided me with a theoretical basis for my research and allowed for group discussions of key themes and concepts. As my focus is on Chinese religion, specifically Daoism, my department arranged for me to take a special module in 'Ritual and Religion' to support my dissertation project. In addition to classes with other MPhil students, I had one-on-one teaching for two hours a week with my dissertation supervisor, who is a specialist in the anthropology of Chinese religion, and this really pushed me to develop my ideas and deepen my understanding of the subject. My supervisor also helped me to arrange language exchange with native Chinese speakers on postgraduate programmes in the department. This has fostered a real sense of community and camaraderie in learning which I believe is vital to progress in any degree that requires intensive use of a field language.

The PhD can seem a daunting prospect but with support and input from my supervisor and contemporaries, I am enjoying the process of preparing for my first year report and planning my fieldwork. Postgraduate students have the opportunity to participate in regular seminars in order to practice presenting research and conducting question and answer sessions. These are invaluable as they give us the chance to try out new ideas in a

non-judgemental academic environment, and to discuss and defend our work amongst peers before presenting at external conferences. The department also arranges research seminars throughout the academic year, inviting an impressive range of speakers to present on a broad variety of topics. In this way we can get to know academics in our field, build networks, and discuss our research in both formal and informal settings. I have also had the opportunity to attend several external conferences and workshops, including the '[Shifu Conference](#)' in Paris which focused on Chinese religion and included an array of researchers who presented on their topics and were keen to discuss with and encourage the postgraduate students. Between the MPhil and the start of the PhD I attended a week long [text-reading summer training programme](#) which featured a range of Chinese language materials from Dunhuang manuscripts to Republican period reports. Engaging with these different sources was exceptionally helpful practice for considering material for my own thesis.

The collegiate system at Cambridge also offers many opportunities to broaden one's interests and skills, providing a necessary counter-balance to the intense rigour of academic life. Colleges arrange lots of events for postgraduates both socially and academically, with many hosting their own postgraduate conferences and speaker events, as well as providing pastoral support for students. I sing with a chapel choir a couple of times a week during term-time which not only allows me to develop my musical skills and expand my knowledge of Western sacred music, but also to get to know people outside my subject area and practice discussing and explaining my research to non-specialists. This unique collegiate system creates a rich and diverse academic environment which supports us in our research and gives us opportunities to develop a wide range of supplementary skills.

[Pontus Ljungberg](#) (MPhil Programme in Chinese Studies, 2016-17)

The MPhil programme in Chinese Studies was a rewarding and demanding year of study, and a year that I thoroughly enjoyed.

The students in my MPhil cohort had all spent quite a bit of time in China, and being able to put language skills and experience of living in China to use in furthering our research interests was really intellectually stimulating. I had done a lot of Chinese language in my undergraduate degree, and really valued the opportunity to think more theoretically and structurally about the study of Chinese society.

The course had a good balance between taught components and individual research, and the year is spaced out well with teaching in the first two terms, assessment essays due after Easter, and time to focus on your dissertation research after the beginning of Easter term. Apart from the papers you take, there is also the option to audit other classes. Staff in the department have a range of expertise and experience, and are both knowledgeable and demanding, pushing you to achieve your best: they won't hold your hand and tell you exactly what to do, but they will encourage you to ask good questions, think analytically, and to apply yourself in your studies. There were certainly a few challenges – getting through substantial amounts of reading, engaging with theoretical frameworks and primary sources in Chinese, and narrowing down my research topic to make it something that could be dealt with in a 15,000-word dissertation – but with a strong sense of excitement and enjoyment during the whole course.

Cambridge is an excellent place to be a student. There is a wealth of libraries, archives and electronic resources, and there are plenty of activities (academic and otherwise) going on – the difficulty is just fitting it all in! The collegiate structure is also a great advantage for graduate students. Although teaching happens in the Faculty rather than the College, your College still provides great opportunities to get involved and have a sense of community.

If you have a strong interest in China, a good grounding in understanding Chinese society, and want to develop your research skills for a career either inside or outside academia, doing an MPhil in Chinese Studies at Cambridge will be an enduringly rewarding and memorable year.

The PhD in Chinese Studies

Training to be a Researcher and Scholar

The Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies welcomes aspiring scholars to apply to do research in Chinese Studies for the PhD Degree. Cambridge offers world-class library resources as well as academic staff who are world-recognised in the study of both modern and pre-modern China. Our graduate students meet regularly with their supervisor/advisor and attend lectures and seminars in the Faculty and across the University. There is a weekly China Research Seminar with guest speakers from all over the world, as well as several established distinguished lecture series. These are excellent opportunities for you to meet many well-known scholars and interact with them in seminars as well as in many informal settings.

Doctoral students working on topics relating to the history of science and technology in China also have the unique opportunity to work with the collections held at the Needham Research Institute (李約瑟研究所) (NRI). Students working on pre-modern topics can attend weekly seminars at the NRI, where a constant stream of visiting scholars with exciting projects share their ideas and the pleasure of using pre-modern, textual primary sources in their various fields of research.

You can also participate in the popular student-run graduate research presentations in the department. The University of Cambridge has a large number of researchers and scholars who specialise in China or have research interests in China who work in other faculties and departments (e.g. the Needham Research Institute; the Fitzwilliam Museum; the Judge Business School; History; Social Anthropology; Politics; History and Philosophy of Science; Architecture; Land Economy; Development Studies; Theoretical and Applied Linguistic; etc.). And every year we host quite a few visiting scholars and PhD students from many parts of the world. These are all valuable resources for you to draw upon.

During your time at Cambridge you are also likely to be involved in one or several conferences or workshops. The collegiate environment stimulates exposure to ideas and work by colleagues and fellow graduates in other disciplines. Whenever opportunities arise, we also do our best to engage our advanced doctoral candidates in undergraduate teaching and college supervisions to enable them to gain teaching experience. Our graduate community in Chinese studies is very international and friendly, and nearly all our doctoral graduates have secured postdoctoral and/or continuing academic employment.

Cambridge has a vibrant and welcoming Chinese Studies community and we would like to invite you to join us and the world-wide community of Chinese Studies scholars.

Cambridge

And of course if you study with us you will be living and working alongside other intellectually-serious young people in one of the most famous and beautiful university towns in the world.

Application

The proposed topic of research is the central element in any application, and an application is strengthened if a topic is clearly described. The application is done via the Cambridge online application platform. Amongst other application materials such as past academic transcripts, you will be asked to submit up to two pieces of writing samples. One can be a piece of significant writing from your past degree programmes (e.g. an essay or

chapter from your undergraduate/master's dissertation), while the other can be a detailed PhD project proposal that includes sections on the research question, review of secondary literature, research design (how you plan to gather relevant data and how you will analyse your data) and significance of the proposed research (i.e. in what ways your research will contribute to scholarship). The Teaching Officers in Chinese welcome inquiries. **Before applying to our programmes, please email your prospective supervisor for initial consultation (sometimes a staff member will be on sabbatical or research leave and cannot take on any new research student during that year).**

Please note that under normal circumstances an applicant to our PhD programme must be currently engaged in a master's-level (or MPhil) academic programme or has already obtained a master's-level (or MPhil) degree.

Funding Opportunities

We recognise that doing a PhD is a considerable investment in time, energy and money. While occasionally individual students manage to finish in three years, the more typical scenario is four years. Because all PhD students are required to pay three years of full fees, the financial cost of doing a PhD is considerable (even more so for non-EU students). However, if you have performed exceptionally well in your undergraduate and master's degrees (i.e. high GPA) you should have a decent chance of getting a scholarship to cover most of the cost over the three to four years of PhD studies. Many of our past and current PhD students have been funded by scholarships. We encourage you to explore widely various funding opportunities, including those that are based in specific countries and are for nationals of those countries (e.g. Gates US for US nationals, China Scholarship Council for Chinese nationals, Cambridge-Taiwan for Taiwanese nationals, etc.). Some colleges at the University of Cambridge also offer graduate scholarships, though they require that you put them down as first-choice college when you apply.

For applicants who are not native speakers of English their chance of being considered for a PhD place and a PhD scholarship would be enhanced if they have already met the English-proficiency requirement for postgraduate studies (currently IELTS 7.5 average and above 7 in all sections) when they submit their applications. So please plan well ahead and make sure that you will get the IELTS results before the particular application deadline by which you plan to apply.

Here are some information on funding opportunities that are specific to the Faculty and are University-wide.

Noteworthy:

The Louis Cha Scholarship for Pre-Modern Chinese Studies

The Tunku Abdul Rahman Fund (for Malaysian nationals studying in Cambridge, especially in humanities and social-science fields relating to Southeast Asia and East Asia)

PhD scholarship offered by the Universities' China Committee in London (UCCL)

Requirements

The PhD degree involves writing a thesis which should not exceed 80,000 words exclusive of footnotes and bibliography. The overall word limit is 100,000 words, exclusive of bibliography. PhD students must meet a residence requirement of not less than six terms at Cambridge.

The First Year

A graduate student is allocated a Supervisor, with whom he or she meets regularly to discuss his or her research programme in detail. The first year of research is regarded as

probationary, and at the end of it candidates take a PhD Progress Examination. This usually consists of two submissions, the first an account of the topic of research in the context of secondary scholarship relating to it, and the second an exercise in the sort of research that will ultimately form part of the PhD thesis itself. If the first year's submission is assessed as satisfactory, the Degree Committee will recommend registration for the PhD Degree.

The Second and Third Years

The second and third years are spent in research and writing. Graduate students also participate in the seminars and reading classes organised in the Faculty. If there are opportunities to do so, they may also help in teaching undergraduates, through the supervision system (paid on an hourly basis).

[Testimonies of Past and Current PhD students](#)

The Graduate Handbook

The Graduate Handbook contains detailed information on the PhD programme.

Chinese Studies at Cambridge

Here is a [webpage](#) that integrates various sections of faculty websites relating to Chinese Studies (including a section on news)

Past Dissertation Topics

Some recent Cambridge PhD theses have formed the bases for important books. Examples include:

The Manchurian Myth: Nationalism, Resistance and Collaboration in Modern China, by Rana Mitter (Stanford University Press, 2000).

The Politics of Cultural Capital: China's Quest for a Nobel Prize in Literature, by Julia Lovell (University of Hawai'i Press, 2006).

The Animal and the Daemon in Early China, by Roel Sterckx (State University of New York Press, 2002).

Rituals of Recruitment in Tang China, by Oliver Moore (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2004).

Public Memory in Early China, by Kenneth E. Brashier (Harvard University Asia Center, 2014).

The River, the Plain, and the State: An Environmental Drama in Northern Song China, 1048-1128, by Ling ZHANG (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016).

[A list of past PhD topics completed in Chinese Studies is available.](#)

Current graduate students and their projects.

Some Useful Resources Relating to Chinese Studies

Funding Opportunities for Postgraduate Studies at Cambridge [[Link](#)]

The Needham Research Institute [[Link](#)]

Reviews of Doctoral Theses Relating to China [[Link](#)]

Bibliography of Western-Language Works on Chinese Popular Religion (maintained by Prof. Philip Clart of Leipzig University) [[Link](#)]

British Association for Chinese Studies [[Link](#)]

European Association for Chinese Studies [[Link](#)]

Association for Asian Studies [[Link](#)]

Bibliography of Asian Studies [[Link](#)]

Great Britain China Centre [[Link](#)]

Fitzwilliam Museum's Exhibition on Tomb Treasures of the Han Dynasty [[Link](#)]

The British Museum's China-Related Resources [[Link](#)]

China Scholarship Council [[Link](#)]

The Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange [[Link](#)]

Center for Chinese Studies (National Central Library of Taiwan) [[Link](#)]

[Chinese culture through visual materials](#)

You can follow 'Chinese Studies at Cambridge' on [Facebook](#) (with publicity on latest activities in Chinese Studies at Cambridge).

Past PhD Topics

Have a look at where some of our graduates are teaching now, and what kinds of dissertations have been written in our Faculty over the past several decades (records incomplete and being updated):

2010s-present

Moazzin, Ghassan (2017)

Networks of Capital: German Bankers and the Financial Internationalization of China (1885-1919)

Now at: University of Tokyo (postdoc fellow funded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)

Yang, Fu (2016)

Economic Discourse in Early Chinese Thought: From Antiquity to the Mid-Warring States Era (4th Century BC)

Now at: Department of History, Soochow University, Taiwan

Wellner, Brittany (2015)

Art and Politics in the Work of Huang Zuolin

Now at: Development Office, Clare College, University of Cambridge

Feng, John H. (2014)

A Learned Society in Peking: The Chinese Social and Political Science Association, 1915-1949

Now at: Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen, PRC)

Chen, Li (2013)

From Burma Road to 38th parallel: The Chinese forces' adaptation in war 1942-1953

Now at: Renming University of China (School of International Studies)

Mai, Ziyin (2013)

Properties of the (shi) ... (de) focus construction in adult L2 acquisition and heritage language acquisition of Mandarin Chinese

Now at: The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages)

Pan, Yi (2012)

Rural welfare in China

Tan, Jeffery (2011)

Shaw Brother's exploitation of sex in Hong Kong films of the early 1970s

Yin, Sam Zhiguang (2011)

Politics of art: Creation Society and the making of Marxist individuality

Now at: University of Exeter (College of Humanities)

Mak, George Kam Wah (2011)

Protestant Bible translation and Mandarin as the national language of China

Now at: Department of Religion and Philosophy, Hong Kong Baptist University

D'Haeseleer, Tineke (2011)

North-East Asia during the Tang Dynasty: Relations of the Tang Court with Koguryŏ, Bohai, and Youzhou-Yingzhou

Now at: Department of History, Muhlenberg College, Pennsylvania

Sun, Saiyin (2010)
Beyond the iron house: Lu Xun and the Chinese literary field in the 1920s
Now at: Tsinghua University, China (Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures)

Dugarova, Esuna (2010)
Behaviours of wh-elements in English and Russian learners' L2 Chinese wh-questions
Now at: Inclusive Policy Lab, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Weingarten, Oliver (2010)
Textual Representation of a Sage: Studies of Pre-Qin and Western Han Sources on Confucius (551-479 BCE)
Now at: Oriental Institute, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

2000s

Zhang, Ling (2009)
Environmental and Economic Change in Hebei in the Eleventh Century
Now at: Boston College (History Department)

Chiu, Yu Yun (Vicky) (2009)
A pursuit of freedom: a study of Shen Congwen's aesthetics
Now at: National Taiwan University of Technology (Department of Cultural Vocation Development)

Chen, Song-Chuan (2009)
The British maritime public sphere in Canton, 1827-1839
Now at: Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (School of Humanities and Social Sciences)

Chen, Szu-Chi (2009)
Peasants and morality: intellectual repositioning in relation to the peasants in the post-Mao era in the works of Zhang Wei and Yan Lianke
Now at: Taipei University (Department of Chinese Language and Literature)

Cho, Sungwu (2008)
Death, Disease, and Daoism in the Tang: A Study of Daoist Liturgy in Medieval China

Zhao, Lucy (2008)
The Syntax and Interpretation of Overt and Null Arguments in Chinese and Their Acquisition by Second Language Learners
Now at: University of Sheffield

Boecking, Felix (2008)
Tariffs, Power, Nationalism, and Modernity: Fiscal Policy in Guomindang-controlled China 1927-1941
Now at: University of Edinburgh (School of History, Classics and Archaeology)

Tan, Chee-lay (2008)
Constructing a system of irregularities: the poetry of Bei Dao, Yang Lian and Duoduo
Now at: Nanyang Technological University (Singapore Centre for Chinese Language)

Ning, Lutao (2008)
The role of the state in the rise of China's information and communication technology manufacturing industry from 1949-2004
Now at: Queen Mary University of London (School of Business and Management)

Pollacchi, Elena (2007)
The evolution of the Chinese film industry and new urban heroes in Chinese cinema (1989-2004)
Now at: University of Venice

Shan, Chuan-kuo (2006)
Split intransitivity in Chinese as a second language
Now at: Chinese Culture University, Taiwan

Liang, Yuchang (2006)
Nominal phrases in English and Japanese speakers' L2 Mandarin grammars
Now at: St. John's University, Taiwan

Zhao, Yang (2005)
Causativity in Chinese and its representations in English, Japanese and Korean speakers' L2 Chinese grammars
Now at: Peking University

Hong, Jeeseon (2004)
Gendered modernism of Republican China: Lu Yin, Ling Shuhua and Zhang Ailing
Now at: University of Manchester (Centre for Chinese Studies)

Lovell, Julia (2002)
China's search for a Nobel prize in literature: Literature, and national and cultural identity in twentieth-century China
Now at: Birkbeck College, University of London (Department of History, Classics and Archaeology)

Lim, Song Hwee (2001)
Male homosexuality in films from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong of the 1990s
Now at: Chinese University of Hong Kong (Department of Cultural and Religious Studies)

Zheng, Yangwen (2001)
The social life of opium in Qing China
Now at: University of Manchester (School of Arts, Languages and Cultures)

1990s

Quah, Sy Ren (1999)
The theatre of Gao Xingjian: experimentation within the Chinese context and towards new modes of representation
Now at: Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Janoush, Andreas (1998)
The reform of imperial ritual during the reign of Emperor Wu of the Liang dynasty (502-549)
Now at: Universidad Autónoma, Madrid

Brashier, Ken (1998)
Evoking the ancestor: the stele hymn of the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220 C.E.)
Now at: Reed College, Oregon

Sterckx, Roel (1997)
The animal and the daemon in early China: a study of animal lore in Warring States and Han texts
Now at: Department of East Asian Studies, University of Cambridge

Muir, Jovanna (1997)
Li Deyu (787-850): his life, writing and place in intellectual history

Mitter, Rana (1996)
The Japanese occupation of Manchuria
Now at: University of Oxford (Institute of Chinese Studies)

Chang, Ning (1995)
Sino-British relations during 1910-30: a case study of British business in Hankow
Now at: Academia Sinica, Taiwan (Institute for Modern History)

Neather, Robert (1995)
The fu genre in the Mid-Tang: a study in generic change
Now at: City University of Hong Kong

Moore, Oliver J. (1993)
The literary arena: social and ceremonial aspects of Chinese state examinations in the T'ang chih-yen by Wang Ting-pao (870-940)
Now at: Leiden University (the Sinological Institute)

1960s to 1980s

Dunstan, Helen (1981)
The Ho-tung salt administration in Ming times
Now at: University of Sydney

McDermott, Joe (1978)
Land tenure and rural control in the Liangche region during the Southern Sung
Now at: University of Cambridge (Reader Emeritus in Chinese Studies)

Wang Ch'iu-Kuei (1978)
The transformation of the Meng Chiang-nu' story in Chinese popular literature

Wright, Tim (1977)
Shandong mines in the modern Chinese coal industry up to 1937
Now at: University of Sheffield

Wolpert, Rembrandt (1975)
Lute music and tablatures of the Tang period

Philips, Richard (1975)
Regions of China under Japanese occupation, 1937-1945

Beattie, Hilary (1974)
Land and lineage in China: a study of T'ung-ch'eng County, Anhwei, in the Ming and Ch'ing dynasties

Herbert, Penelope (1974)
The life and works of Chang Chiu-ling

Salt, Michael (1972)
Aspects of noun-formation in Chinese

Hsü, Raymond (1972)
The vocabulary of Lu Hsün: A stylistic study

Sutton, Donald (1971)
The rise and decline of the Yunnan Army, 1909-1925
Now at: Carnegie Mellon University (Department of History; Emeritus Professor)

Wong, Owen (1970)
Kuo Sung-tao's mission to Great Britain

Elvin, Mark (1968)
The Gentry democracy in Shanghai, 1905-1914
Now at: Australian National University (emeritus)

Dolby, Arthur (1968)
Kuan Han-ch'ing and some aspects of his works

McMullen, David (1968)
Yuan Chien and the early Ku-wen movement
Now at: University of Cambridge (emeritus)

Dudbrige, Glen (1966)
The Hsi-yu chi : a study of antecedents and early versions
Now at: University of Oxford (emeritus)

Bernal, Martin (1966)
Chinese Socialism to 1913

Testimonies of Past and Current PhD Students

Alexandra Forrester (Current second-year PhD student in Chinese anthropology)

Last year I completed my MPhil in Chinese Studies and this year I began my PhD in the anthropology of Chinese religion, both in the Department of East Asian Studies. Having studied Chinese and History at SOAS for my undergraduate degree, I was looking for a course which would be challenging and allow me to develop my research skills. I found the MPhil Programme in Chinese Studies to be flexible and suited to those who want to use their language skills to focus on a specific area of interest, particularly in preparation for a PhD.

During my MPhil, I took courses in 'Anthropology of China' and 'Asia in Theory', which provided me with a theoretical basis for my research and allowed for group discussions of key themes and concepts. As my focus is on Chinese religion, specifically Daoism, my department arranged for me to take a special module in 'Ritual and Religion' to support my dissertation project. In addition to classes with other MPhil students, I had one-on-one teaching for two hours a week with my dissertation supervisor, who is a specialist in the anthropology of Chinese religion, and this really pushed me to develop my ideas and deepen my understanding of the subject. My supervisor also helped me to arrange language exchange with native Chinese speakers on postgraduate programmes in the department. This has fostered a real sense of community and camaraderie in learning which I believe is vital to progress in any degree that requires intensive use of a field language.

The PhD can seem a daunting prospect but with support and input from my supervisor and contemporaries, I am enjoying the process of preparing for my first year report and planning my fieldwork. Postgraduate students have the opportunity to participate in regular seminars in order to practice presenting research and conducting question and answer sessions. These are invaluable as they give us the chance to try out new ideas in a non-judgemental academic environment, and to discuss and defend our work amongst peers before presenting at external conferences. The department also arranges research seminars throughout the academic year, inviting an impressive range of speakers to present on a broad variety of topics. In this way we can get to know academics in our field, build networks, and discuss our research in both formal and informal settings. I have also had the opportunity to attend several external conferences and workshops, including the '[Shifu Conference](#)' in Paris which focused on Chinese religion and included an array of researchers who presented on their topics and were keen to discuss with and encourage the postgraduate students. Between the MPhil and the start of the PhD I attended a week long [text-reading summer training programme](#) which featured a range of Chinese language materials from Dunhuang manuscripts to Republican period reports. Engaging with these different sources was exceptionally helpful practice for considering material for my own thesis.

The collegiate system at Cambridge also offers many opportunities to broaden one's interests and skills, providing a necessary counter-balance to the intense rigour of academic life. Colleges arrange lots of events for postgraduates both socially and academically, with many hosting their own postgraduate conferences and speaker events, as well as providing pastoral support for students. I sing with a chapel choir a couple of times a week during term-time which not only allows me to develop my musical skills and expand my knowledge of Western sacred music, but also to get to know people outside my subject area and practice discussing and explaining my research to non-specialists. This unique collegiate system creates a rich and diverse academic environment which supports us in our research and gives us opportunities to develop a wide range of supplementary skills.

Bill Moriarty (Current second-year PhD student in modern Chinese history)

Deciding to return to graduate school mid-career to get my PhD was not easy because it required a great commitment of time and money, as well as long bouts away from home and family. There are so many things to consider when choosing a graduate programme: the reputation of the school, faculty, department and supervisor. Then, of course, there are the considerations of funding, training opportunities, library resources and everyday things like accommodation, meals and the local community. Finding the right place is difficult, but fortunately I have found that here in Chinese Studies at Cambridge.

As a first-year graduate student in our department, the fast pace and intense coursework are challenging. Being a student of modern Chinese history, I participated in three weekly seminars on *Asia in Theory*, *Chinese Historical Documents* and *War in the Making of Modern China*. I capped each week by attending the China Research Seminar, where scholars from around the world come to give talks on a variety of China-related topics and then have dinner with our graduate students. I met my supervisor regularly throughout the year to discuss my own research and went to talks held by the History Faculty to learn more about the field. Most importantly, I found that our department has a very positive vibe, which buoys your spirits when you are trying to grasp new concepts or when reading and translating difficult texts. Apart from my supervisor being very supportive of my research, the other faculty members in our department are also very giving of their time, and there is good camaraderie amongst the graduate students in our Faculty.

Another aspect that is nice about Cambridge is the collegiate system. Your college is more than just a dormitory—it's a small community outside of your daily work in the faculty. Most of my neighbours in college are from other disciplines, but we are all going through a PhD programme. We commune together in the buttery, gym, food hall, staircase kitchen and middle common room, or at formal dinners, club meetings or academic society events. I myself like to get my hands dirty weeding, digging, planting and picking vegetables during our gardening club work sessions. We also like to take weekend excursions to Cambridge's city centre, which is a lovely place, or to its surrounding villages by bicycle, which is the best way to get around town. All in all, I think of my college as a home away from home.

As a PhD candidate (second year onward), the pace is just as fast and the research work is equally as intense as the first year. This academic year, I am working on my dissertation topic, which is about the history of Nationalist radio in Republican China, and spend much of my time going through radio-related primary sources such as memoirs, literature, official documents, radio plays, children's shows, operas, lectures, news, programming schedules, musical recordings, song lyrics and photographs. In addition to doing research in one of the many libraries on campus, I am receiving training as a teaching assistant in a first-year undergraduate East Asian history paper (i.e., a course) and as a supervisor to second-year undergraduates taking a paper on China and globalisation. I also am taking personal and professional development courses offered by the university as well as a Japanese course to further improve my research skills.

If you were to ask me whether I would recommend the graduate programme in Chinese Studies at Cambridge, you probably already know my answer by now: it would be an unequivocal yes. I would also recommend stocking up on strong coffee and tea.

Ghassan Moazzin (who has just completed his thesis in modern Chinese history)

I started my PhD in modern Chinese history (supported by an Arts and Humanities Research Council doctoral scholarship) at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (FAMES) in 2012 after having read Chinese as an undergraduate here before. Making the transition from being an undergraduate to becoming a PhD student was somewhat daunting at first. While I enjoyed the new freedom to follow my interests and delve into my research on foreign banking in late 19th and early 20th century China, in the beginning I was at times not sure how to actually do a PhD. Fortunately, both the guidance of my

supervisor and advisor and the courses at the University's [Researcher Development Programme](#) quickly helped me develop a clear research plan and structure my studies in terms of what classes to attend and audit, what seminars to attend and how to prepare my first-year progress reports. The DEAS [Postgraduate Seminar](#) gave me the opportunity to start presenting my work in a friendly environment and to meet other graduate students in the faculty. Starting from the first year of my PhD, funding from the Faculty and my College also enabled me to spend several Easter and summer breaks collecting archival materials in British and German archives.

During my first year, I also discussed my plans for archival work in China with my supervisor. Not only did he suggest possible sources of funding but through a partnership he had established with East China Normal University (ECNU) in Shanghai I was able to find a Chinese advisor and an affiliation with a Chinese university for the period of my archival work, which made everything much more convenient and easy to organise. Subsequently, research funding from both the German Academic Exchange Service and the partnership programme with ECNU allowed me to spend sixteen months conducting archival work in China. Spending such an extended period of time in China allowed me to visit numerous archives in China from Tianjin and Beijing in North China to Nanjing and Guangzhou in the South and unearth many hitherto unused primary sources crucial for my research. Throughout the period I spent in China, I kept in touch with my supervisor and also benefitted from the guidance of my Chinese advisor and the history faculty at ECNU. Contacts of the Faculty to the Academia Sinica in Taiwan also allowed me to spend a month collecting sources in archives in Taiwan.

After my return to Cambridge, I began writing up my thesis. In the writing-up process, I again benefitted from the guidance of my supervisor and other members of faculty in East Asian Studies. Participating in the weekly China Research Seminar at FAMES, which brings many prominent scholars in Chinese Studies to the Faculty, as well as in the numerous seminars at the Faculty of History provided the ideal intellectual environment for the writing-up process. Moreover, financial support from both the Faculty and my College allowed me to present my work at national and international conferences, where I could receive useful feedback and meet with other researchers in my field. I was able to organise [a panel for the annual Association for Asian Studies conference](#), the biggest and most important conference for Asianists. As my doctoral career is drawing to a close, both my supervisor and other faculty members at FAMES and the University's [Careers Service](#) have provided invaluable help in preparing my job applications. In sum, FAMES has provided me with an ideal environment that proved to be both intellectually stimulating and extremely supportive throughout my PhD career.

Resources for Chinese Studies

The Faculty Library

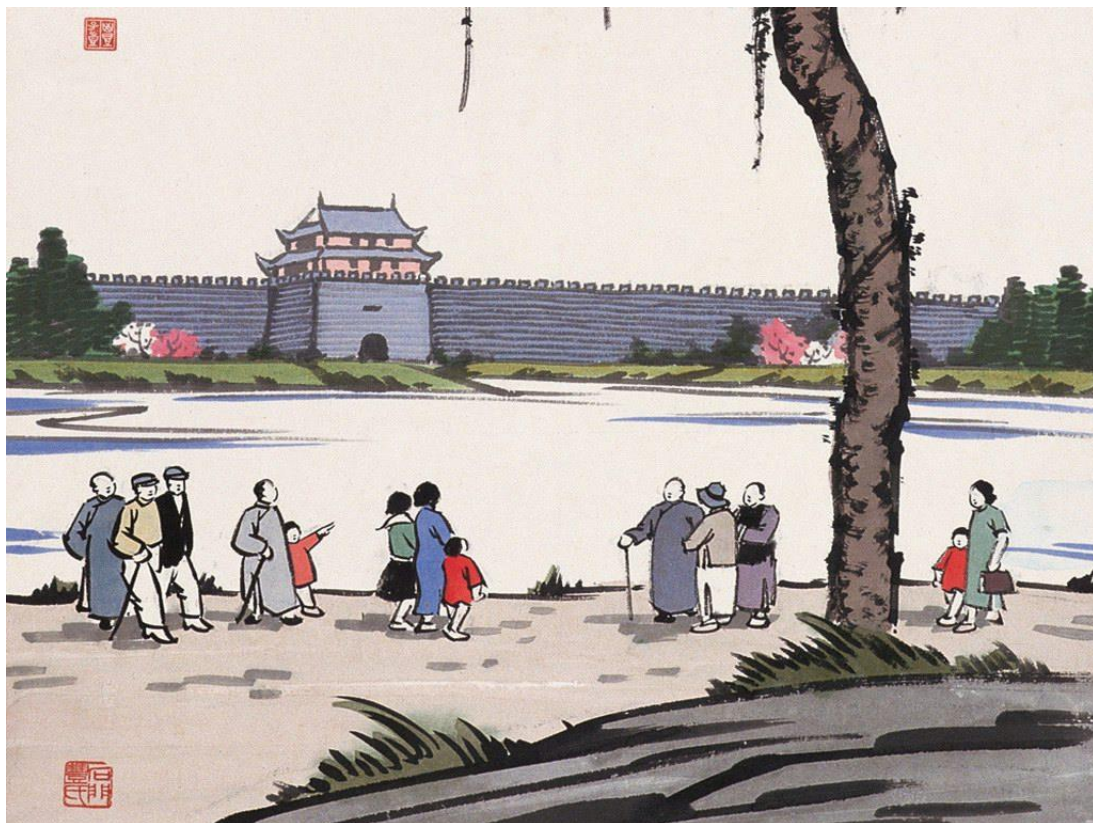
Classes and supervisions are usually conducted in the Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies building, located in the centrally placed Sidgwick site. The Faculty Library and Common Room are natural centres of activity for undergraduates and postgraduates reading Chinese Studies and other AMES subjects. The library site provides some links to [useful Chinese Studies resources](#).

The University Library

Students may also use the University Library's sizeable holdings of Chinese books. The Library's Chinese collection, founded on Sir Thomas Wade's donation of his books in 1888, is recognised as one of the finest in Europe. The Library has extensive holdings in history, local and national; biography; geography; archaeology and epigraphy; law and literature. It is especially strong in holdings relating to early and premodern Chinese history; but twentieth century materials are also being built up. The Library is open-shelf, and easy access to its stacks is one of the great advantages it offers to research students.

The Chinese collections comprise about 120,000 printed volumes (including bound serials) which contain over 150,000 monograph titles and over 250,000 individual titles of other (reprinted) materials such as manuscripts from Dunhuang, Huizhou, etc., archival documents and epigraphical rubbings. Over 300,000 titles are included in some 2,000 *cong shu*. The Chinese collection is complemented by large Japanese holdings.

- [Cambridge University Library: Chinese Collections](#)
- [Cambridge University Library: Japanese Collections](#)



Other Cambridge-based resources

- [The Fitzwilliam Museum](#)
Students interested in Chinese art can make use of the Museum's internationally-renowned collections.
- [The Needham Research Institute](#)
The Institute houses a specialist library of materials relating to the history of Chinese science, medicine and technology.

Students can also have easy access to libraries in the [Department of Archaeology and Anthropology](#), the [Faculty of Economics](#) and [Cambridge Judge Business School](#).

Further afield

Cambridge is within easy reach of London and the British Library and the School of Oriental and African Studies Library.

- [The British Library](#)
- [The School of African and Oriental Studies](#)

The Thomas Wade Society

About Us

The Thomas Wade Society is an alumni organisation for all those who have studied or been involved with Chinese at the University of Cambridge. This involvement can range from having studied the tripos to research and teaching in China-related areas.

The aims of the Society are twofold. Firstly, to promote contact between Cambridge Chinese studies alumni through a combination of events (in the UK and China). Secondly, to encourage contact between alumni and current Chinese studies students, staff and researchers at Cambridge.

Sir Thomas Francis Wade, GCMG, KCB (25 August 1818 to 31 July 1895) was a British diplomat and sinologist. He was the first Professor of Chinese at Cambridge and produced a syllabary in 1859 that was later amended, extended and converted into the Wade-Giles Romanisation for Mandarin Chinese by Herbert Giles in 1892.

The year of the Thomas Wade Society's foundation, 2009, coincides with the University's 800th anniversary year and the 150th anniversary of Sir Thomas Wade's Romanisation system for Mandarin Chinese.

After a brief hiatus following the departure of the outgoing committee, The Wade Society is being rebooted for 2017. Following a short consultation with alumni, we will build a society both faithful to the founding aims and suited to its membership. The *de facto* General Secretary is currently Gregor McMillan (2016), who will hand over to a formal committee later in 2016. We will hold a launch event in London in Late Summer-Early Autumn 2017, and annual events thereafter.

If you would like to get involved with the society, please contact Gregor, the General Secretary at gregorjcmillan@gmail.com

You can follow 'Chinese Studies at Cambridge' on [Facebook](#) (with publicity on latest activities in Chinese Studies at Cambridge).



Some images relating to [Thomas Francis Wade](#) (1818-1895), the first Professor of Chinese (1888-1895) at Cambridge:

