Call for collaborative PhD projects
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences - Wageningen University

Joint PhD Programme
2020

Background Information
To strengthen the collaboration between Wageningen University (WU) and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), WU and the Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GSCAAS) started a collaborative PhD programme. The programme, that runs from 2016 to 2020, provides an opportunity to set up joint research projects. It comprises a total of 100 PhD projects (approximately 20 projects per year). The programme involves a 4-year sandwich PhD where the PhD candidates perform the major part of their research at CAAS and spend at least 18 months in Wageningen, divided over two main periods: 6-8 months at the start of the project and 8-12 months at the end of the 4 years but this can vary depending and the project and supervisor agreements.

Call for collaborative projects
Academic staff of WU and CAAS are invited to submit a joint project. Please note that:
- PhD candidates cannot submit a proposal.
- A cluster of PhD projects around specific theme is also possible. In this situation it is recommended that more than one WU chair group is involved.
- When WU or CAAS scientists would want to collaborate but do not have a point of entry with the other institute then please contact the two programme coordinators:
  - Mingjun Zhang (zhangmingjun@caas.cn)
  - Claudius van de Vijver (claudius.vandevijver@wur.nl)

Deadline for submission: 1 May 2020 (was 31 March 2020)

Please send your submission by 1 May 2020 to:
- Mingjun Zhang (zhangmingjun@caas.cn)
- Claudius van de Vijver (claudius.vandevijver@wur.nl)

The submission should include:
- Title of the proposed project
- A short proposal (max 500 words) of the intended research
- Information of WU and CAAS scientists involved in the project including:
  - Name
  - Affiliation (CAAS Institute or WU Chair Group)
  - Email addresses of involved WU and CAAS scientists
- A statement in which the joint intent of collaboration in this PhD project between a WU group and CAAS institute is described, including the financial arrangements and signed by both parties.
- Optionally¹: Name of the proposed PhD candidate and his/her CV when you have a candidate. The CV must include information of the candidates proficiency in English.

¹ - Once the project has been accepted by CAAS-WU selection committee in May 2020 the candidate must accordingly apply to the programme at the Graduate School of CAAS (GSCAAS)
- When no potential candidate is known you can still submit a proposal. In this situation please send an email to GSCAAS (zhangmingjun@caas.cn) with a highlight of the proposal (max 100 words). GSCAAS will include this highlight in a call for PhD applicants on their website. PhD Applicants will be asked to apply to the supervisors (with a cc to GSCAAS and WU coordinators, zhangmingjun@caas.cn and claudius.vandevijver@wur.nl resp.). Accordingly the supervisors select the preferred candidate and inform the GSCAAS and WU coordinators. Deadline for informing the coordinators is 1 June 2020.
- In case that there has been no contact between CAAS and WU scientists it should be noted that initiation of the contact should not be done via the potential PhD candidate.

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Conditions to participate in the Wageningen-CAAS PhD programme:

1. **The PhD candidate**

   *For PhD candidates to be eligible they must meet the following criteria:*

   - English proficiency according to the demands of Wageningen University (see: [https://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/PhD-Programme/English-language-requirements.htm](https://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/PhD-Programme/English-language-requirements.htm)). Note: This requirement does not need to be fulfilled upon submission of the proposal but must be met upon the start of the programme on the first of September 2020 when the start-up training starts in Beijing
   - Candidates must obtain their MSc degree before 1 September 2020

2. **Financial arrangements**

   - **The CAAS Institute will cover:**
     - A basic allowance for living costs for the duration of the project, including the required living allowance of the PhD candidate in the time that (s)he is in Wageningen*
     - All local research expenses
     - Travel costs of candidates (2 return tickets)
     * According to Dutch Immigration law this allowance should at least be € 1225,-. Note that in the application it should formally be stated by the CAAS supervisor how this allowance will be paid.

   - **The Wageningen University Chair Group will cover:**
     - The standard WU tuition fee of a minimum of €1000 for each month the candidate spends in Wageningen
     - All local facilities required for the candidate at Wageningen University
     - The candidate’s visa costs
     - At least one trip of the Wageningen supervisor to China
     - € 5,000 for PhD training and education activities of which half is covered by the chair (Education back pack) and the other half by the Wageningen Graduate School which the candidate will be member of.