

THE JOINT OYCF – THE 1990 INSTITUTE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM

Information and Application Procedure

Overseas Young Chinese Forum/The 1990 Institute
January, 2010

About the Fellowship Program

The Joint OYCF-The 1990 Institute Research Fellowships Program (the “**Program**”) was created in 2003 by the Overseas Young Chinese Forum (the “**OYCF**”) and The 1990 Institute to support China related research by overseas graduate students, scholars and professionals with the objective of achieving greater understanding of contemporary economic and social policy issues in China. Under the Program, several fellowships were awarded from 2003 to 2008 to support research projects in rural taxation, local governance and income gap, long-term care for the elderly in rural areas, village election and taxation, labor training, rural youth’s perceptions about education, export competition and upgrading and so on.

We are pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications for the Program for academic year 2010 and will sponsor research projects that analyze economic and social issues facing China, with a focus on policy making and implications. As discussed in detail below, preferential consideration will be given to projects that involve fieldwork in China and/or collaboration with researchers in China. Topics of particular interest include (but are not limited to) micro-lending, environmental policy, bio-energy, and rural education.

The Program is a cooperative effort of the two organizations. OYCF and The 1990 Institute will share the responsibility of administering the Program. The major features of the Program will include the following.

- **Funding & Number of Fellowships.** Funding for the Fellowships will continue to be provided by The 1990 Institute, and the total amount of awards for year 2010 will be up to \$5,000. One fellowship will be granted based on the quality of research proposals and budgetary requirements.
- **Application Deadline.** Applications should be submitted by March 20, 2010. Awards will be announced by April 20, 2010.
- **Evaluating Proposals.** Each research proposal will be evaluated by using the following “scoring system”:

Relevance to the Program’s Objective – 25%. The objective of the Program is to attain greater understanding of economic and social policy issues in contemporary China. Thus, the Program prefers national, rather than regional,

issues, and will grant awards to research projects analyzing economic and social issues with a focus on policy implications.

Quality of the Research Plan —25%. This criterion is meant to uphold international standard of scholarship in terms of methodological rigor and empirical verifiability. It will be up to the researchers to determine their own research strategy, but the Program favors fieldwork in China and/or projects involving collaboration with researchers in China.

Qualification of the Applicant(s) – 25%. To be considered for the fellowship, each applicant (a) should have received at least one advanced academic degree (Ph.D, J.D., S.J.D., or similar degrees) from an accredited university in North America or Europe, or (b) is currently an ABD (all but dissertation) student in a doctoral program, or (c) is pursuing post-doctoral research at such institutions. In addition, all applicants must follow the “application procedures” and submit an application with all supporting documents.

Reasonableness of the Itemized Budget – 25%. The fourth criterion looks at the reasonableness of the itemized budget, which must be included as one part of the application. Since we expect that in most cases the Program could only provide partial research funding, we would like to know the sources of other financial support, if any, in order to be reassured of the project’s financial viability.

Review Process. All proposals will be screened by OYCF with respect to qualifications of the applicant(s), completeness of application materials, and compliance with other requirements of the Program. A Review Committee consisting of members of The 1990 Institute and OYCF will review and evaluate all research proposals, select projects and award the fellowship(s). The committee shall operate on the basis of consensus.

Co-Applicants. A research project may be jointly undertaken by up to two applicants. All requirements remain the same, except that the award will be shared by the co-applicants.

Application Procedure

All applicants are required to submit an application package as provided in this section in order to be considered for the award. Each application package must take the form of ONE PDF file except for reference letters and include the following items:

- (1) A Completed **Application Form** – see attachment.
- (2) **Research Proposal** (four pages, single-spaced, maximum) – The proposal shall cover at least the following:
 - Issues to be addressed and its policy implications;
 - A brief survey of the existing literature and statement of the motivations for further research;
 - Research methods;
 - Preliminary research results, if any;

- Projected phasing of progress, including completion date;
 - Product of research and its estimated length;
 - In the case of co-applicants, the proposed division of labor between the applicants.
- (3) **An Itemized Budget** – setting forth the anticipated use of funding. If the amount of Fellowship is not sufficient to support the entire project, please specify whether applicant has other sources of funding to ensure the completion of the project, and explain how the Fellowship will be used in carrying out the research project.
- (4) **A Curriculum Vitae** – detailing the professional and research experience of each applicant.
- (5) **Academic references** -- at least two academic reference letters, from qualified persons, including such persons' affiliation, research expertise, and contact information.

Please send the application materials to oycf.research@gmail.com. For any question, please contact Yan Long as the program officer at longyan@umich.edu.

Terms and Conditions

The grantee must accept and agree to the following terms and conditions, and sign an agreement with The 1990 Institute and OYCF containing such terms and conditions, in substantially the form attached.

Stages of Funding. Funding for each approved research project shall be disbursed in three stages. The 1990 Institute agrees to provide funding at each stage in a reasonable and timely manner, upon its determination of the grantee(s)' successful compliance with the obligations specified herein:

- (1) **Initial funding** – 40% of the grant shall be provided after awarding of the fellowship and signing of the fellowship contract.
- (2) **Mid-term funding** – 20% of the grant shall be furnished within 14 days of receipt of a satisfactory mid-term progress report.
- (3) **Completion funding:** The remaining 40% of the funding shall be furnished upon completion of the project and the submission of the final research product, along with a cover letter detailing research progress and significant findings, to the Review Committee.

Failure to submit the final research along with the cover letter may result in the termination of further funding and the revocation of the fellowship entitlement.

Research Result. Each grantee must submit his or her research result to The 1990 Institute within 30 days of the projected completion date for the research project. The research result should be (a) in the form of a paper written in English, (b) of a quality deemed publishable by The 1990 Institute and by OYCF for its on-line journal *Perspectives*, and (c) no less than fifteen (15)

single-space, typed pages, plus a short summary of research findings and policy recommendations. The OYCF and The 1990 Institute may publish the paper. But, since their publications are not copyrighted, the author is free to submit the paper elsewhere, so long as financial support from the Program is expressly acknowledged.

Contract. Each grantee of the Fellowship will be required to sign an agreement with The 1990 Institute and OYCF, in substantially the form attached.

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About OYCF. *OYCF is a non-profit and tax-exempt organization based in the United States. Established in 1999, OYCF aims at promoting cooperation and exchange of ideas between China and the rest of the world, and it provides a forum for inter-disciplinary discussions among scholars, students and professionals on social, economic, political and cultural issues concerning China. OYCF publishes an online journal titled Perspectives (with English and Chinese editions), which currently has more than 2,000 e-mail subscribers. OYCF also regularly organizes seminars and salon discussions through its local affiliates and sister organizations in Boston, New York, Washington DC, Stanford, Berkeley, Hong Kong, and holds annual conference for members and guests. OYCF is currently sponsoring overseas scholars, professionals and graduate students to teach in China. For more information about OYCF, please visit OYCF's web site at <http://www.oycf.org> or contact info@oycf.org.*

About The 1990 Institute. *The 1990 Institute is a U.S.-based, action-oriented think tank dedicated to the study of major economic and social issues relating to China. It is a non-profit and tax-exempt organization. The 1990 Institute sponsors in-depth studies and organizes conferences to facilitate an ongoing dialogue between research scholars in the United States and those in China. The objective is to enhance understanding of the economic and social problems that are impeding China's modernization and to contribute to the search for their solutions - through independent, objective and policy-oriented research - for the benefit of the people in China, and peace and prosperity of the world. For more information about The 1990 Institute, please visit <http://www.1990institute.org>.*

The Joint OYCF – The 1990 Institute Research Fellowship Program
(2010)

Date of Application _____

Topic of Research Proposal _____

Applicant's Full Name _____ *Gender* _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Numbers (o) _____ (h) _____

E-mail Address _____

Affiliation & Position _____

Prior Contact with OYCF/The 1990 Institute _____

Education Background– College and Graduate School:

School	Degree	Year	Major/Subject
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Reference:

Name	Title	Relation to You	Phone Number
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

FORM OF CONTRACT WITH GRANTEE

(Name)
(Address)

Dear (Name):

The Overseas Young Chinese Forum (hereafter as the “**OYCF**”) and The 1990 Institute (hereafter as the “**Institute**,” and jointly with OYCF, referred to hereafter as the “**Grantor**”), are pleased to offer you our Joint Research Fellowship for the year (year). The terms of the fellowship agreement (hereafter as the “**Agreement**”) are as follows:

Agreement on a Joint OYCF-The 1990 Institute Research Fellowship

1. Title

The title of the project will be (title in bold letters, with capital initials): _____

2. Scope

You are to conduct research and prepare a paper along the lines described in your research proposal (Appendix). Any significant change thereto must be submitted in writing to, and approved by, the Grantor and be made a part of this Agreement. The paper must be of a quality deemed publishable by the Grantor, and be ten to fifteen (10-15) single-space, typed pages, plus one page of summary of research findings and policy recommendations.

3. Progress Reports, Certification and Final Paper

The project is for xx months, starting from (date) till the final approval of the paper by the Grantor.

A written progress report, not to exceed two typed pages, is due (date) to oycf.research@gmail.com. The first draft of the research paper is due (date). These dates are meant to be target dates and may be extended upon written approval by the Grantor. Frequent extensions, however, may result in a penalty of up to five (5) percent of the Fellowship or, in severe cases, in termination of this Agreement.

4. Disbursement of Payments

The Fellowship is for a total of x,xxx dollars (\$x,xxx). A sum of \$x,xxx dollars (\$x,xxx) will be paid upon the signing of this Agreement and your initiation of the approved research project. Upon your submission of a satisfactory mid-term progress report on or before the same date, you will be furnished a second sum in the amount of USD xxxx within two (2) weeks of receipt of your report. After receipt of your final research product and a determination by the Grantor that it is satisfactory, a final sum in the amount of x,xxx dollars (\$x,xxx) will be sent to you.

5. Termination

During the project, if either party materially defaults in the performance of this Agreement or materially breaches any of its provisions, the other party may terminate this Agreement immediately upon written notice to the other party. Should the Grantor be the defaulting or breaching party, the Institute shall pay the unpaid portion of the fellowship. Should you be the defaulting or breaching party, you shall forfeit the unpaid balance of the Fellowship.

6. Independent Contractor Status

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create an employment relationship between you and the Grantor. You shall not be entitled to receive any compensation, medical, dental or other benefits as an employee. You shall be liable for the payment of all federal and state income taxes, social security taxes and all other taxes due on payments made to you hereunder. You acknowledge that the Institute will report such payments to the Internal Revenue Service and state tax authorities as compensation paid to you. You agree to indemnify and hold harmless the OYCF and the Institute, their officers, agents and employees from and against any claims, demands, liabilities, losses, damages and costs and expenses, including without limitation, attorneys' fees, and any taxes, interest or penalties resulting from your failure to pay all taxes due on payments made to you hereunder.

7. General Authority

The Grantor hereby appoints Wei-Tai Kwok, President of The 1990 Institute, or his designee its true and lawful attorney, with full power of substitution, in the name of the Grantor, to the extent permitted by law, to exercise the powers of the Grantor, as set forth in this Agreement.

If you agree with the terms set forth above, please sign all three copies of this Agreement where indicated, retain one copy for your records, and return the other two to us.

Sincerely,

Su Sun
President
The Overseas Young Chinese Forum

Wei-Tai Kwok
President
The 1990 Institute

Agreed and accepted on

_____, 2010

(Name)

Social Security Number