

## I.D.E.A. - Inspire, Debate, Engage and Accelerate Action

### CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME ON CHINA IDEA/AD/2023/FELLOW

[IDEA](#) – Inspire, Debate, Engage and Accelerate Action reports directly to the President of the European Commission and operates under her authority. The mandate of IDEA – Inspire, Debate, Engage and Accelerate Action is to:

a. Provide Ideas and Inspiration for the core priorities of the President, helping to provide the compass that should inform the new Commission’s policies (e.g., strategic analysis and foresight, bold ideas but also specific policy advice on ongoing and future priorities).

b. Debate and Engage around new evidence-based policy alternatives in the community of think tanks, research, and other institutions through active outreach.

c. Accelerate the conversion of these ideas and engagements into concrete and bold Action to help the EU Commission deliver to its citizens in a fast-changing context (e.g., provide options, best practices).

The **Fellowship Programme on China**<sup>1</sup> established by the European Commission aims to foster strategic cooperation with think tanks and universities on China-related issues. The goal is to tap into deep expertise on China, from Europe and beyond, and expand the knowledge basis on China within the Commission.

The Fellowships will be established in IDEA, and should group policy-oriented academics from world-class think tanks and universities who are specialised in political, social, economic, digital, environmental and climate, security or historical issues related to China. The Fellowships will have a dynamic structure, with Fellows joining over a period ranging from 6 to maximum 12 months, with the aim of bringing a specific expertise as per the domains defined below.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision of the President of the Commission amending the Communication from the President to the Commission P(2019) 5 as regards I.D.E.A. - Inspire, Debate, Engage and Accelerate Action

## **1. DOMAINS OF EXPERTISE AND TASKS**

The main tasks of the Fellow will be to provide policy-oriented expertise on one of the following domains related to China:

1: POLITICS, GEOPOLITICS, SECURITY AND/OR HISTORY

2: HUMAN AND/OR SOCIAL SCIENCES

3: ECONOMICS AND/OR FINANCE

4: DIGITAL AND/OR INNOVATION

5: ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND/OR LIFE SCIENCES

The tasks of the Fellow will include, among others, to perform research; participate and contribute to exchanges and consultations within the European Commission and with think tanks and universities, research and academic organisations, associations, societies or fora; and contribute to the drafting and updating of relevant notes, briefs, communications, guidelines and tools. The successful candidates should have good oral and written communication and drafting skills in general, be able to work in a proactive, autonomous and organised manner and to prioritise activities in a fast-paced environment. The Fellow should have the ability to work in a team, have an eye for detail, accuracy and numeracy together with the ability to analyse and structure data and information, to conceptualise problems and to identify and implement solutions.

## **2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

You must meet the following eligibility criteria at the time of validating your application:

- Can justify extensive experience, competence and expertise on China;
- Are available for fulltime employment during the Fellowship in Brussels;
- Enjoy full rights as a citizen;
- Have already met any obligations under national laws on military service;
- Meet the character requirements for the duties concerned;
- Have no personal interest (financial, family/relationship or; other) which could be in conflict with disinterested discharge of your duties in IDEA.

### **SPECIFIC CONDITIONS**

#### **A. EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

A level of education corresponding to at least post graduate university studies (recognised or proof of equivalent in the EU) attested by a diploma, followed by extensive professional experience directly related to the nature of the duties. The academic excellence/competence in the area should be justified documenting the specific job(s)/position(s) held and the eventual list of publications in renowned international information sources.

## B. KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES

The language requirements for statutory staff in the European Commission apply. The main working languages are English, French and German. Language ability in at least two official EU languages<sup>2</sup> is required and it would be an advantage to be able to communicate and understand the main working languages. Having Chinese language abilities would be considered an advantage.

Please note that the minimum levels required above must apply to each linguistic ability (speaking, writing, reading and listening). These abilities reflect those of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: <https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/resources/european-language-levels-cefr>.

## 3. CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

A total maximum of 15 Fellows will be selected for all the different domains, who may contribute simultaneously for periods ranging, in principle, from 6 to 12 months. Fellows will be recruited as statutory staff of the European Commission with the related rights and obligations.

Fellows will be recruited on a contract in IDEA as temporary agents engaged pursuant to Article 2(c) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union, applying *mutatis mutandis* the Rules governing the composition of the Cabinets of the Members of the Commission and of the Spokesperson's Service.

The duration and the end-date of the Fellowship assignment will be communicated and agreed before the starting date. Fellows will be notified about the end of the contract 3 or 4 months before the end of the Fellowship assignment, in line with the Decision of the President of 24 January 2023 on the establishment of the Fellowship Programme on China in IDEA.

Fellows will have to comply with the Staff Regulations of Officials and Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union. This means that Fellows cannot have other paid jobs or assignments or receive instructions or remuneration from organisations of former employers during the duration of the Fellowship. Fellows can only be recruited after an assessment indicates that there is or will not be any conflict of interest. Any external activity while being a Fellow will have to be assessed and eventually authorised before its commencement, based on the rules in place within the European Commission.

IDEA applies a policy of equal opportunities, and accepts applications without distinction on the grounds of gender, race, ethnic or social origin, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation.

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<sup>2</sup> The EU has 24 official languages: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish.

Fellows might need to deal with sensitive information. In this case, the European Commission could decide to ask for a security clearance or take mitigating security measures when needed.

Fellows will work in IDEA in a full-time basis, and their place of employment is Brussels.

Fellows will be informed on their grading and salary levels before recruitment, based on the Commission Decision of 16 December 2013 on the policies for the engagement and use of temporary agents. The grading depends on the proven experience and qualifications. The minimum grade is AD5 and the maximum grade is AD11 (see also on benefits <https://epso.europa.eu/en/eu-careers/benefits#tab-Salary>)

#### 4. SELECTION PROCESS

##### A. Application process – how to declare your interest in the Fellowship?

You may declare your interest applying online, following the instructions on the **EU CV online application**<sup>3</sup> platform: [https://ec.europa.eu/dgs/personnel\\_administration/open\\_applications/](https://ec.europa.eu/dgs/personnel_administration/open_applications/)

By submitting your application, you express your interest in a Fellowship on China in **one of the domains detailed in point 1**. Expressing your interest does not guarantee an interview or an offer of employment with the European Commission.

Practicalities:

Enter the webpage [https://ec.europa.eu/dgs/personnel\\_administration/open\\_applications/](https://ec.europa.eu/dgs/personnel_administration/open_applications/) and click on “Login”. Login with your EU account (or create a new account). If you do not have an EU CV Online account, click on the button “Create a new account”. Enter your personal details and a welcome message will appear confirming your registration.

Click on “e-CV” on the top menu and complete all the required parts. Once completed, each section will appear as ticked. Click on “Applications” > “Create a new application” from the top menu Choose the call on the Fellowship programme on China and click on “Apply”.

In order to be able to apply, you must have a valid e-mail address. You are responsible to keep your email address and personal details updated in your application submitted in EU CV online. By submitting your application, you declare on your honour that you meet all the conditions mentioned under sections 2 and 3 of this call for expressions of interest.

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<sup>3</sup> All technical questions concerning EU CV online must be sent via the Contact page of EU CV online

## **B. Eligibility checks**

The eligibility requirements will be checked against the data and eventual supporting documents provided by the candidates. If the information and/or supporting documents are considered incomplete by the selection committee, IDEA may request additional information or your application will be disregarded.

## **C. Selection**

There are no formal selection procedures for the engagement of temporary agents in the Fellowship programme on China, but a selection committee will propose, for each domain detailed under point 1, a shortlist of those eligible and best qualified candidates. Inclusion in this shortlist does not guarantee recruitment as a Fellow. The selection committee will subsequently make a selection of maximum 15 candidates who may contribute simultaneously for periods ranging, in principle, from 6 to 12 months.

The selection committee considers the following criteria in their decisions:

- 1) Higher education diploma(s) in relation with one or more area(s) mentioned in the profile chosen.
- 2) Professional experience in one or more areas mentioned in the profile chosen.
- 3) Professional experience in a world-class think tank and/or University in the profiles defined in the call for expression of interest.
- 4) Level and number of renowned academic publications on China.
- 5) Knowledge of standard Chinese and/or any other China's official languages will be an asset.

## **D. Contracting**

After the selection, applicants are invited to provide copies of supporting documents. A Fellowship/job offer is made with a proposed starting date. Once accepted, the contract will be concluded between the Fellow and the Authority Authorised to conclude contracts for IDEA in the European Commission.

## **5. CONTACTS AND INFORMATION**

For any request for information or question on the content of this call for expression of interest candidates should send an e-mail to the functional mailbox at the following address:

[IDEA-FELLOWSHIP@ec.europa.eu](mailto:IDEA-FELLOWSHIP@ec.europa.eu).