

# 2020 Australian Studies in China Program (2020 ASP)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What makes a good application for Category 1?

(A) A good research application should demonstrate three attributes:

- 1) The application needs to show that the research is rigorous in contributing to scholarship in Australian Studies.
- 2) The research is built on a sound hypothesis/argument.
- 3) The request for funding, matches its research contribution and stated outcome.

Your application should convince the Committee that you are seeking funds to conduct research that will have academic significance, providing a plausible argument or a hypothesis, that the research location chosen matches the objectives in developing Australian Studies and that the outcome is clearly specified, feasible and noteworthy.

(B) For those seeking funding to support the teaching and curriculum development of Australian Studies in Chinese universities, the specific project should provide evidence to the Committee: 1) why it is needed in terms of the objective of the new course or program in advancing Australian Studies; 2) showing that the funding will have support from the school/department for its implementation and will build Australian Studies capacity.

### 2. What makes a good application for Category 2?

A good application should be evidence-based in demonstrating:

- 1) how its collaborative initiatives between Australian Studies Centers in China will advance Australian Studies in China.
- 2) how exactly the collaboration will advance Australian Studies in China for a general benefit to the National Australian Studies Association network?
- 3) the collaborative commitments of those involved?
- 4) the quantifiable and substantial outcomes that will be produced by the collaboration?

### 3. How do I address the “Expected outcomes” question on the application form?

The outcomes should show how the research will make a substantive contribution to Australian Studies research or teaching. For example, will the research lead to a publication (e.g. article, manuscript)?

For postgraduate students: how essential is the research to the completion of their dissertation and/or publication?

For teaching and curriculum: how will the funding have direct benefit to the students or to the advancement of the curriculum?

In explaining the beneficial outcomes to Australian Studies, make sure they match the funding request in terms of timeframe and whether they can achieve the objective in a timely manner.

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Also, please be aware that what can be achieved in China may not be achievable in Australia due to differing research rules. For example, a request to interview students would in Australia require strict ethics guidelines and may not be achievable in a timely manner.

So please seek advice, if in doubt, on the research projects and its outcomes.

### **4. What type of evidence do you accept to support my applications?**

When applying for grant funding, it is important to make sure your application is evidence based and that it addresses the hypothesis or argument of the research.

Some research will be qualitative, working with and against the current literature, so the application needs to show that the research will make a critical advancement to that field.

Other research will be quantitative, this needs to show how the supporting evidence is being gathered to prove a hypothesis /argument rather than a simple empirical data collection.

It is advisable to look at other projects to make sure that what you are researching is substantial and not a duplication of known knowledge.

### **5. How should I construct the budget plan?**

All applicants are asked to describe how their projects will achieve the grant objectives.

In addition, each project needs to demonstrate the value for money that might be achieved from the requested grant funding. You are required to provide an itemised budget plan that may include but not limited to the items below:

- Books and relevant learning materials for the project or curriculum development
- Travel tickets, accommodation and living cost (if your project requires travel) essential for the project
- Photocopying
- Subscriptions
- Registration fees

Critically, the question the Committee will assess is how the budget meets the objectives of the project?

### **6. Can you provide guidance on selecting a Host Institution?**

If you require assistance in finding a “right fit” of a host institution for your project in Australia, please feel free to contact FASIC on [asp2020@fasic.org.au](mailto:asp2020@fasic.org.au) and opinions of experts can be given upon request.