



# GCA Fellowship

## Guidance for Nominators

Updated March 2026

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We welcome nominations for the Fellowship of Global China Academy (GCA).

Fellows of the GCA are entitled to use the post-nominal letters 'FGCA'. Fellowship confers numerous benefits and carries some obligations, a full outline of which can be viewed [HERE](#).

Nominations for GCA Fellowship must be made by current Fellows. A successful Nominee will have demonstrated his or her contributions to the understanding or promotion of studies on China with global and comparative perspectives in the social sciences and humanities.

To ensure that the highest standards of excellence and representation are maintained, and that nominations for Fellowship are processed smoothly and efficiently, please comply with the following guidance.

Please let us know if you have any questions or issues by emailing [info@globalchinaacademy.org](mailto:info@globalchinaacademy.org).

**The deadline for receipt of nominations is 30 September each year.**

## 1. Types of fellowship

- Founding Fellows and Life Fellows were granted Fellowships by Global China Academy's founding Honorary Presidents (UK and China), Presidents (UK and China) and Board of Trustees during the founding of the Global China Academy in 2021.
- Full Fellows are distinguished scholars, academics and professionals whose expertise and knowledge provide GCA with access to the best possible advice and guidance. They also contribute to the publications of Global Century Press and the Global China Dialogue series of forums.
- Associate Fellows are typically early to mid-career scholars, academics and professionals who have demonstrated potential in their field but may not yet have the extensive accomplishments or tenure of a Full Fellow. They often collaborate on research projects, contribute to publications and may participate in dialogues or forums.
- Institutional Fellows are organizations that share our social and academic missions and support the work of Global China Academy, Global Century Press and the Global China Dialogue forums.

## 2. Eligibility criteria

2.1. Nominees for Full Fellowship must have:

- Made a significant contribution to advancing the understanding or promotion of studies on China and the Chinese with global or comparative perspectives in the social sciences and humanities.
- An established track record of participating in transcultural initiatives, fostering dialogue and engaging with the governance of global society.
- Shown leadership, innovation and influence in the above-named fields.
- Clearly demonstrated ethical and moral integrity that aligns with the values of the GCA. The objects of the GCA are set out in the GCA Constitution, which can be downloaded [HERE](#).

2.2. Nominees for Associate Fellowship must:

- Be aged 21 or over.
- Have demonstrated an interest in the understanding or promotion of studies on China and the Chinese with global or comparative perspectives in the social sciences and humanities through research, teaching, training, professional work, publications or other similar work.
- Have demonstrated potential in their field although they may not yet have attained extensive accomplishments and hence are not ready for Full Fellowship.

2.3. Nominees for Institutional Fellowship should meet the following criteria:

- The institution shares our social and academic missions.
- The institution supports the work of Global China Academy, Global Century Press and the Global China Dialogue forums.

### **3. Making a nomination**

3.1 Individual Fellows

- Nominators of Individual or Institutional Fellows must be GCA Fellows, including Founding Fellows, Life Fellows and Full Fellows.
- The Nominator must belong to a different institution or organization from the Nominee. All nominations put forward by an Individual Fellow must be seconded by another Fellow.
- Nominators must have a substantial understanding of the Nominee's achievements, contributions and impact in the area of global or comparative studies on China.
- Nominators should not have worked closely with the Nominee (e.g. on a joint research project from which publications arose) in the three years prior to nomination. If a Nominator does not meet these criteria, they may still nominate, but should declare a conflict of interest and, in a covering note of no more than 500 words, explain why the conflict is not material for the nomination process.
- Seconders must not belong to the same institution as the Nominator.

3.2 Institutional Fellows

- Nominators of Institutional Fellows may be GCA Fellows, including Founding Fellows, Life Fellows and Full Fellows.
- One person within the institution should act as Nominator of the institution, representing the whole institution and with the consent and/or ratification of the institution.
- No seconder is required for a nomination from an institution.

### 3.3 Nomination form

The nomination form for nominating Individual Fellows or Institutional Fellows can be downloaded [HERE](#).

Please use a separate form for each nomination.

## 4. Reasons for nomination

The reasons for nomination must be completed by the Nominator.

Please refer to the eligibility criteria of this Guidance. The reasons for nomination should be presented as a short series of evidenced bullet points (500 words). Please ensure you:

- Indicate why the Nominee is eminent in his/her field.
- Outline the main impact of the Nominee's work, citing significant relevant publications, if appropriate.
- Clearly explain how the Nominee meets the GCA Fellowship criteria.

Please do not refer to information elsewhere, for example on a website. All relevant information must be included in this submission, either in the reasons for nomination or in the accompanying CV.

## 5. Accompanying CV (Individual Fellowships) or Profile (Institutional Fellowship)

The nomination form for an Individual Fellow must be accompanied by a short CV of the Nominee, which may be produced by the Nominee him/herself.

The CV should be written in English, no more than four A4 pages long and in a readable font of 12 points. Please also use a reasonable border for the text – do not try to squeeze more text onto the page by shrinking margins, headers and footers. The preferred file formats are Word or PDF. Please ensure that the Nominee's name is included in the CV's file name.

The CV should not include 'testimonial' statements.

### 5.1 Academic Nominees

- 5.1.1 Include details of research funding (awarding body, title and date of the award, award sum and whether the Nominee is the principal or co-investigator).
- 5.1.2 Include details of the impact of the Nominee's work, any well-evidenced knowledge exchange activity or funding received, and any independent evaluations.
- 5.1.3 When including selected relevant publications, it can be helpful to state the total number of peer-reviewed publications. Publications may include:
  - Scholarly books. Please indicate the publisher and date, and whether authored, co-authored, edited or co-edited.
  - Refereed journal articles. Please indicate the name of the journal, the issue number and date, and whether authored or co-authored.

- Book chapters. Please indicate the title of the book in which the chapter appears, the publisher and date, and whether authored or co-authored.
- Other relevant publications, including encyclopaedia entries, conference proceedings, newspaper articles, and blogs or other social media activity.
- Reports and contributions to government publications.

## 5.2 Nominees from professional sectors

- 5.2.1 Include details that demonstrate how, as a professional, the Nominee has met the criteria to become a FGCA.
- 5.2.2 Include details and evidence of research or policy engagement.
- 5.2.3 Include details of major reports on which the Nominee was the lead or a contributing author.
- 5.2.4 Provide evidence of the impact of the Nominee’s work, if available, and any independent evaluations.
- 5.2.5 Examples of additional ways through which professional practitioner Nominees may demonstrate an impact beyond their designated role include holding senior positions in professional bodies, serving in advisory roles, contributing to government policy and mentoring.

## 5.3 Nominees from both academic and professional sectors

In the case of Nominees who have both academic and professional roles, please use the provisions set out in both 5.1 and 5.2 but avoid any duplication of information.

## 5.4 Institutional Nominees

The nomination of an institution for Institutional Fellowship should be accompanied by a Profile of the institution. This Profile should be no more than four pages long. Please ensure that the institution’s name is included in the file name and at the head of the document.

# 6. Benefits and obligations

## Fellowship Benefits

### 6.1 Academic promotion and publishing

- 6.1.1 Promote Fellows’ academic outputs and activities globally through the Global China Academy [News and Blog](#).
- 6.1.2 Complimentary access, upon request, to the [electronic version of any journal](#) published by Global Century Press, including both Open Access and restricted content.
- 6.1.3 Complimentary access, on request, to two [e-books](#) published by Global Century Press.

- 6.1.4 A discount on APCs and BPCs when publishing with Global Century Press (see [Open Access Policy](#) for details).
  - 6.1.5 Editorial advice and support towards the development of a high-quality academic book, based on selected scholarly outputs such as journal articles, book chapters, essays, reviews and conference papers.
  - 6.1.6 A 30% discount on print and digital editions of all Global Century Press publications.
- 6.2 Academic exchange and recognition.
- 6.2.1 Free registration as an attendee at the Global China Dialogue (GCD) forum series.
  - 6.2.2 Support, on request, in facilitating access to fieldwork sites in China or the UK.
  - 6.2.3 Support, on request, in arranging academic presentations or events during research visits.
  - 6.2.4 Fellows may use the post-nominal letters FGCA (Fellow of the Global China Academy).
  - 6.2.5 Opportunity to be considered for inclusion in the book series The Top 50 World Social Scientists on China, developed by the Global China Academy and published by Global Century Press.
- 6.3 The GCA Fellows' Home (London). For Full Fellows, Associate Fellows and one nominated member of an Institutional Fellow, accommodation is available for up to one week at the [GCA Fellows' Home](#). Full Fellows may be accompanied by family members. This provision is intended to support short-term academic visits and scholarly exchange, and is not conditional upon service obligations or contribution requirements.
- 6.3.1 Accommodation in self-contained studios or en-suite rooms.
  - 6.3.2 Pick-up and drop-off arrangements from airports or stations where appropriate.
  - 6.3.3 Advice on travel to central London and surrounding areas, with local support where needed.
  - 6.3.4 Access to the GCA Library, which includes over 6,000 volumes in China studies, comparative studies, global studies, and the social sciences and humanities.
  - 6.3.5 Opportunities for informal academic exchange, local visits and leisure activities during the stay at Fellows' Home (see the seven 'walk-talk-drink-eat' routes [HERE](#)).
  - 6.3.6 Opportunities for leisure and informal interaction, including a round of golf and a meal at the nearby clubhouse, followed by access to facilities such as a jacuzzi, massage chair, and infrared sauna.

## Fellowship Obligations

- 6.4 Fellows of the Global China Academy are expected to
- 6.4.1 Support and promote the mission and values of the Academy.
  - 6.4.2 Participate in the [Global China Dialogue](#) (GCD) in appropriate forms.

- 6.4.3 Contribute, where possible, to [Global Century Press](#) publications.
- 6.4.4 Recommend or nominate potential Fellows.
- 6.4.5 Fulfil the requirement of the annual Fellowship fee or an equivalent contribution.

## 6.5 Notes and further information

- 6.5.1 Publications purchased or subscribed to by Institutional Fellows may be shared within their institutions.
- 6.5.2 Requests may be submitted via the 'Contact Us' form on the [GCA homepage](#).
- 6.5.3 Further information about the [Fellows' Home](#) in northwest London and how to [visit us](#) is available on the website.
- 6.5.4 Customised itineraries for visiting delegations can be arranged on a fee-paying basis, with the support of GCA Fellows. A sample 7-day programme and registration form are available [HERE](#). An example of a one-week visit programme in 2024 is also available [HERE](#), including activities in [London](#) and [Oxford](#).
- 6.5.5 Individual academic and field visits can also be arranged on a fee-paying basis; an example of a 2024 visit related to British modernisation and global development experience can be found [HERE](#).

## 7. Application process and timetable

- 7.1 Nomination forms should be returned, with a covering email from the Nominator stating their support for the nomination, to [info@globalchinaacademy.org](mailto:info@globalchinaacademy.org).
- 7.2 The closing date for receipt of nominations is **15 September** each year.
- 7.3 For the purposes of decision making, the GCA Fellowship Executive Group refers to five senior officers: the Council Chairs (Global and China), the Presidents (Global and China), and the Vice-President for Fellowship. The Group may act collectively, or its members may exercise responsibilities separately where appropriate. **By 15 October**, the Council Chairs and Presidents of the GCA will write to all successful Nominees with information on joining. There are other possible outcomes:
  - 7.3.1 The Executive Group asks for the nomination to be revised and resubmitted to demonstrate more fully how the Nominee meets the criteria.
  - 7.3.2 The Executive Group determines that the Nominee does not yet have sufficient reputation or distinction to warrant Fellowship; in such cases, a resubmission would not normally be expected for two years.

All decisions are communicated to the Nominator and if appropriate to the Nominee also.

- 7.4 In **early November**, A list of new Fellows is published and a press release is issued.

New Fellows are welcomed and awarded their certificates by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Council Chair or President of the GCA at the annual Global China Dialogue, held on the **last Friday of December** each year, where they have the opportunity to meet other Fellows.

## 8. Contributions and subscriptions

### 8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 The Global China Academy Fellowship is supported through a combination of annual subscriptions and voluntary contributions. This dual structure reflects both the institutional framework of the Academy and the diverse contexts of its global Fellowship.
- 8.1.2 For UK-based Fellows, these contributions are treated as professional subscriptions for tax purposes, as the GCA is listed on HMRC's List 3 of approved learned societies and professional organisations.
- 8.1.2 Sustained support from Fellows enables the Academy to maintain and develop its core academic activities, including academic publications, Global China Dialogues, and international collaboration.

### 8.2 Fellowship Contribution Levels

- UK Full Fellow: £268 (£230 by direct debit)
- UK Retired, UK Associate and Overseas Full Fellow: £136 (£118 by Direct Debit)
- Overseas Associate Fellow: £118 (£98 by direct debit)
- Academic or Professional Institutional Fellowship: £360 (£320 by direct debit)

### 8.3. Payment Methods. Fellowship contributions can be made using the following methods:

#### 8.3.1 Direct Debit (recommended for UK Fellows).

- We encourage UK-based Fellows to use Direct Debit for annual Fellowship contributions.
- A sample [Direct Debit \(GoCardless\) form](#) is provided for reference only, to illustrate the information required. It should not be completed or submitted.
- Please [set up a Direct Debit](#) online for your annual Fellowship contribution, see [How Direct Debit Works](#).
- A QR code is available at the bottom of this page for mobile access.
- Direct Debit offers convenience, continuity, and reduced administrative costs.

#### 8.3.2 Bank Transfer (alternative).

- If you prefer to pay by bank transfer, please download the [GCA Subscription receipt template](#), which includes the Academy's bank details.
- After making the payment, please complete the form and return it to the Academy. A signed receipt will then be issued.

#### 8.3.3 PayPal (Alternative Method)

- For Fellows who do not wish to use the subscription (Direct Debit) system, payments may also be made via PayPal using the button below.
- Fellows are also encouraged to visit the [Support us](#) page to learn more about how donations support the Academy's wider activities.
- This option is similar in function to the donation methods available on the [Support us](#) page, but is provided here for convenience in making Fellowship-related payments.
- Fellowship contributions and donations are treated differently in terms of purpose and tax status.

- An automatically generated receipt is available when using the Donorbox option on the [Support us](#) page.
- Before making a payment, please see [How the PayPal Donation Button Works](#).



#### 8.4. Gift Aid

- 8.4.1 The Global China Academy is registered for [Gift Aid](#). UK taxpayers may choose to support the Academy through donations under the Gift Aid scheme.
- 8.4.2 The Charity Gift Aid Declaration form can be downloaded [Charity GAD Multiple Donations](#), or directly from the [HMRC website](#).

#### 8.5. UK Tax Relief (Subscription Status)

- 8.5.1 You may be entitled to claim tax relief on your Fellowship subscription (for UK tax purposes) if it is relevant to your professional activities.
- 8.5.2 The Global China Academy is on the HMRC (His Majesty's Revenue and Customs) list of [Approved learned societies and professional organisations \(List 3\)](#). These societies are approved for tax relief under Section 344 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003.
- 8.5.3 An individual Fellow paying an annual subscription to the GCA whose employment duties, to some extent, involve or contribute to aspects of the GCA's Academic Mission, may qualify for tax relief, see [How to Claim Tax Relief](#).
- 8.5.4 The process for making a claim can be followed [HERE](#):

#### 8.6. Notes

- 8.6.1 All UK-based Fellows are required to complete their payments by 6 April 2026 in order to be counted within the 2025/2026 tax year. From 2027 onwards, they are required to make their annual Fellowship contributions in January each year.
- 8.6.2 The GCA Fellowship contribution is not a charitable donation and is therefore not eligible for [Gift Aid](#).
- 8.6.3 The Academy is currently transitioning from PayPal and card-based payments to a more streamlined Direct Debit and bank transfer system.
- 8.6.4 For bank transfer payments, including those made by international Fellows, a formal receipt will be issued by the Global China Academy.
- 8.6.5 A QR code is provided for convenience. It may be scanned using a phone or from a screen, or printed for display. Guidance on how to use the QR code is available [HERE](#): set up in 3 easy steps — Scan, Enter, Confirm. The process takes under 2 minutes.

