

Higher Education Cooperation between China and Finland: Winds of Change

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What has changed? And what may change again?



- **China's rise** as a global political and economic super power – now China is looking increasingly inwards.
- **Superpower competition with the US** continues and becomes increasingly complicated: impact on academic cooperation, especially in the field of critical technologies – yet China continues to rely on international academic cooperation.
- China is a partner, a competitor and a **systemic rival** – how will China continue to shape the international system?
- China's domestic development: **strong leader, strong party** - implications of the strength of economy?
- **Ideological unity** – but has COVID-time challenged unity?
- **Strong national identity** - have strict COVID-policies affected the sentiment?

AND

- **Finland and China have good bilateral relations:** the bases of all well-functioning cooperation – but the world is changing (Russia's attack on Ukraine, Finland's upcoming NATO-membership).
- **COVID-pandemic** has made all cooperation more difficult, but existing, long-term partnerships have functioned well – will the current mood affect establishing new partnerships?
- **Post-COVID-time in China is but a distant dream** – partnerships built elsewhere?



China "discovered" – everyone
wants to work with China

Early
~2005s-

Concerns about
cooperation with China

~2018-

~20XX?-

Better and more aware
partnerships with China

Recommendations for Academic Cooperation with China (OKM 12/2021)



- China has converged closer with western academic culture at many fronts
- Challenges relate to different connotations on some key **values** (academic freedom, institutional autonomy) and difficulties in understanding China's emphasis on political education, control of access to information and compromises to freedom of speech.
- The **goal is to have better and more aware cooperation**, especially related to:
 - 1) Academic freedom, institutional autonomy and the practice of scientific peer review and research integrity
 - 2) Security
 - 3) Competitiveness

Why do we need recommendations for academic cooperation?



- Initiative by higher education institutions (HEIs)
- Process from 2019 until today
- Based on observations in changes in conduct with Chinese partners, international papers on the topic, references from other like-minded countries
- Do we dare to cooperate with China on anything?
- Recommendations written in cooperation with HEIs and research institutes
- Ministry of Education and Culture: China Round Table
- Finland's Governmental Action Plan on China (062021)
- Recommendations for Academic Cooperation with China (122021)
 - Public document +
 - Code of conduct -> guide lines -> **recommendations**

For better and more sustainable cooperation

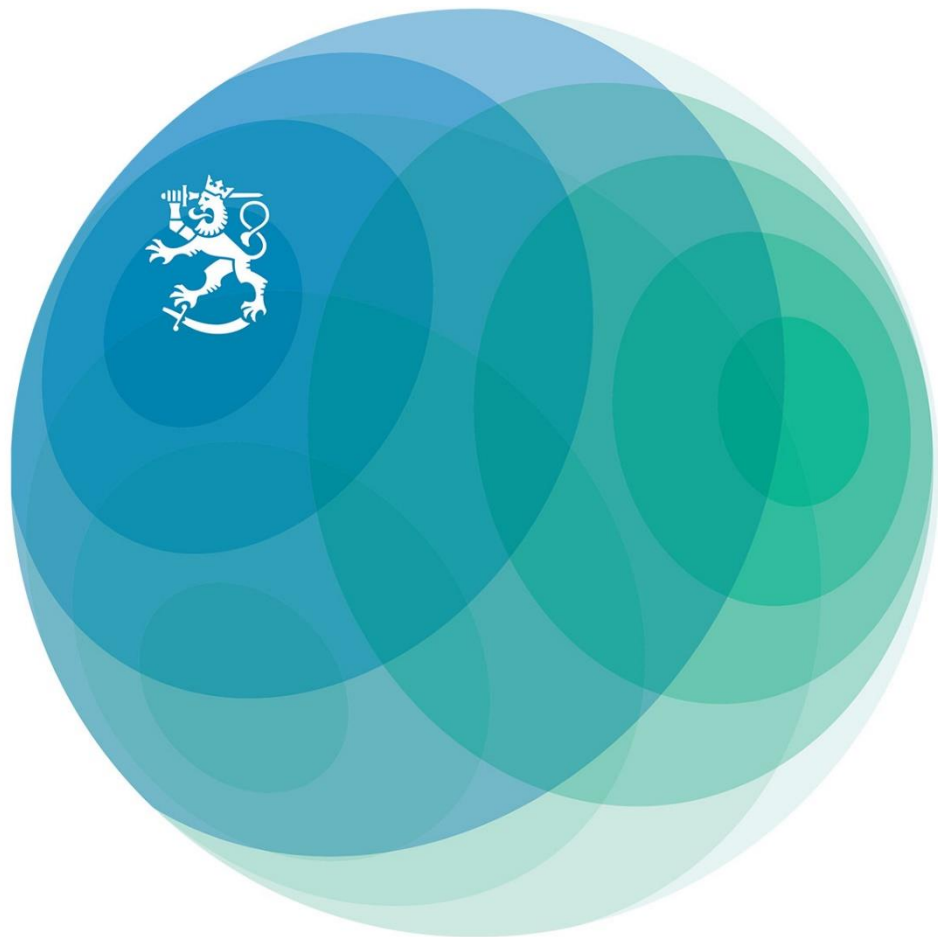


- The starting point is to have **better and more aware cooperation** with Chinese higher education and research institutions.
- Working name *Code of Conduct* refers to the actions the **institutions themselves** can and should take.
- **Goal:** *"a short and clear document to assist higher education institutions and other actors in making more secure and ethical decisions"*.
- Many of the issues are relevant to all international cooperation, but China poses some specific challenges due to its state-centered approach, political ambitions and the super power competition between US and China.
- Understanding China better.

Higher Education Cooperation between Finland and China



- Student and staff exchange
- Joint programs
- Training modules (especially teacher education)
- Research (especially engineering and science)
- Finland – China Global Networks
 - Global Innovation Network for Teaching and Learning, GINTL China
 - Finland – China Network in Food and Health Sciences
 - China Network of Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences
- + Student recruitment
- + Education export



Thank you! Kiitos! 谢谢你

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