



US-China Education Trust
F. Y. Chang Foundation

China Opportunity Scholarships 2017 Report



Scholarship Programs

- Greenberg-Starr Scholarships at Yunnan and Shandong Universities
- Kuo & How Memorial Fund Scholarships at Yunnan University
- Advisory Council Fund Scholarships at Sichuan Normal University
- Lee Peiyan Memorial Scholarship at Binchuan County Education Authority

By the Numbers

- 160 plus underprivileged Chinese students awarded scholarships
- 4 ongoing scholarship programs with one more launching soon
- Hundreds of dollars' worth of individual scholarships given to students in need every year

Scholarships to Break the Cycle of Poverty

A college education opens the door to success, and China is no exception to this rule. Running parallel to China's rapid development, the number of college graduates in China has quadrupled in the past decade. However, this rise has not been spread evenly across regions, and millions of students are still left without hope for a college education. There is a huge gap in educational opportunities between students from rural areas and those from cities. Urbanization has driven parents away from their children to faraway cities to become migrant workers. More than 60 million students—about one-fifth of children in China—grow up without parents at home. They study in decrepit village schools without books, qualified teachers, or proper facilities. Shut out of the top universities, they lose their best opportunity for advancement. Due to gender-based prejudices, female students face intensified difficulties. USCET is dedicated to helping these students, and at the same time promoting educational equity in China. It is with this sentiment that for ten years, USCET has cooperated with top Chinese universities to establish the **China Opportunity Scholarships (COS)**.

By offering rural students the opportunity to attain a university education, the COS program provides low-income, disadvantaged students from rural China the means to break the cycle of poverty. Since 2007, USCET has supported more than 160 low-income university students from rural China. USCET currently employs four scholarship programs: **the Maurice "Hank" Greenberg/C.V. Starr Scholarship**, the **USCET Advisory Council Scholarship Fund**, the **Ruth H. Kuo and Rhoda How Memorial Scholarship Fund**, and the **Lee Peiyan Memorial Scholarship**.

Additionally, USCET is in the process of launching the Samuel R. "Sandy" Berger Memorial Fellowship program at Sichuan University, which will endow annual scholarships to graduate students, doctoral candidates, post-doctoral candidates and junior faculty members involved with the study and research of international relations and American studies.

About The Scholarships

The USCET Advisory Council Scholarship Fund

USCET launched the Advisory Council Scholarship Fund at Sichuan Normal University (SNU) on December 12, 2014, under the leadership of USCET Advisory Council Chairman Nicholas Platt. The Fund was created to increase the access of poor, rural students to higher education in China and help them achieve a better future. The Fund provides four-year scholarships to five outstanding female students. SNU and USCET both recognize that gender disparity in educational access is particularly widespread in rural areas. These scholarships, therefore, focus on female applicants from rural areas to help promote educational equity by giving them a chance to compete and attain university degrees. USCET is grateful that many members of the Advisory Council contributed and made this scholarship fund possible. This scholarship fund will end in May 2018 as the recipients graduate this spring.

At A Glance

Sichuan Normal University
Chengdu, Sichuan province



- Launched in 2014
- Supported 5 female students
- Four-year scholarships
- Fully funded by 100% of USCET Advisory Council members

Recipients

- Shuwen Tan
- Huang Yue
- Li Feng
- Yue Huan
- Liao Yi

At A Glance

Yunnan University

Kunming, Yunnan province

Shandong University

Jinan, Shandong province

- Launched in 2007
- Supported 110 plus students to date
- Two-year scholarships
- Emphasis on social sciences and humanities majors

2017 Recipients

Yunnan University

- Wu Dongying
- Cui Die
- Kang Ning
- Zhao Jia
- Guan Chao
- Xu Ling

Shandong University

- Chang Shengjie
- Cui Yuting
- Qin Yixin
- Tan Jinxin
- Zhang Xue
- Wu Chen

The Maurice “Hank” Greenberg/C.V. Starr Scholarship

The Maurice “Hank” Greenberg/C.V. Starr Scholarship (GSS) program, USCET’s first COS program, celebrated its **10th Anniversary this year**. It has supported more than 110 students since it began in 2007. The endowed GSS scholarships serve ten new freshman students each year at two universities: Yunnan University since 2007, and Shandong University, added in 2013.

USCET chose to endow Yunnan University because we believed that Hank’s generous gift should be to “send charcoal in snowy weather” (雪中送炭) instead of “add[ing] flowers to the brocade” (锦上添花). GSS has helped more than 85 students from poor backgrounds attend Yunnan University on a two-year scholarship. The amount of funding for one year is sometimes worth a family’s income for three years. Without GSS, these families would be in heavy debt, and the recipients would be unable to complete their education.

A new partnership with Shandong University was created in 2013. To this day, the GSS has supported twenty five students, half of which come from underdeveloped provinces.

Ruth H. Kuo and Rhoda How Memorial Scholarship

The Ruth H. Kuo and Rhoda How Memorial Scholarship program was established in 2011 in partnership with Pauline Tsui and the Ruth Kuo and Rhoda How Memorial Foundation. The scholarships, patterned after the Greenberg/Starr program, supported five female first-year students at the Agriculture University of Hubei, followed by an additional cohort of five students each year until 2014, when the scholarships were transferred to Yunnan University.

This scholarship, designed to honor Pauline Tsui’s aunts, Ruth H. Kuo and Rhoda How, also focuses on female students from rural areas. USCET remains committed to working towards raising college graduation numbers for all students in rural areas, but notes that gender inequality in education, while improving, continues to be a serious problem, particularly the uneven disadvantages for female students in rural areas, and the traditional role that gender has played in China in dictating that boys take precedence to girls in attending college.

At A Glance

Yunnan University

Kunming, Yunnan province

- Launched in 2011
- Supported 35 plus students to date
- Two year scholarships
- Awards five students per year
- Female students only



At A Glance

Binchuan County

Education Authority

Yunnan province

- Launched in 2015
- 9 students awarded to date
- One-year award
- Awards four students per year (awarded five in 2017)

2017 Recipients

- Zhang Yingying
- Chen Renxiong
- Zhou Ziming
- Yang Lanlin
- Li Kaiqing

Lee Peiyan Memorial Scholarship

In fall 2015, USCET established a series of scholarships sponsored by Lee Paolan for top students with the highest scores on the National Higher Education Entrance Exam (known as the “Gaokao”) from Binchuan County, Yunnan province. The first scholarship in the series honors Lee’s late father, Mr. Lee Peiyan, for his extraordinary contributions to the development of industry, education, and civil society in Yunnan province, China.

In 2016, a second scholarship was established to honor her late mother, Ms. Yang Menglian. Each year, the Binchuan County Department of Education in Yunnan will select top students in the areas of science and the humanities for these scholarships.

In 2017, five students were awarded scholarships since two students received the exact same score for second place in the sciences category. Usually scholarships are awarded to four students per year.