

23 October 2015

Yuan Guiren
Minister of Education
People's Republic of China

Dear Minister

I refer to the signing on 7 April 2008 at Beijing of the New Zealand – China Free Trade Agreement and to the establishment on that date, by Exchange of Letters between our Trade and Commerce Ministers, of the reciprocal New Zealand – China/China – New Zealand Doctoral Research Scholarships Programme (“the Scholarships Programme”). I refer, too, to discussions carried out between our two sides both at and following the 8th Joint Working Group on Education and Training, held at Wellington on 20 November 2014. These discussions considered the operation and uptake of the Scholarships Programme to date, and improvements that could be made to ensure full uptake of available opportunities.

I wish to propose that:

New Zealand will fund Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) scholarships for up to ten new students from China per annum over two selection rounds to be carried out in 2016 and 2017 for up to four years of PhD study (up to twenty scholarships in total). These scholarships will be open to university administration staff as well as to other categories of applicants.

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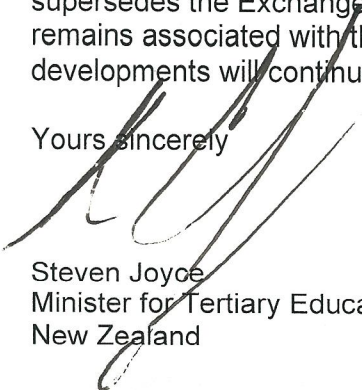
Both sides will also commit to publicising through available means and avenues details of the Scholarships Programme.

I also wish to propose that we each task our respective officials to complete discussions and mutually decide on terms and conditions for the Scholarships Programme by 30 November 2015, in order to ensure full operability of the Scholarships Programme by 1 January 2016.

Finally, I propose that discussions on the future of the Scholarships Programme beyond the awarding of up to twenty scholarships on each side over the two selection rounds in 2016 and 2017 takes place ahead of and at the 9th Joint Working Group on Education and Training, scheduled to be held in 2016.

If this proposal is acceptable to China, then I propose that this Letter, and your Letter of confirmation in reply, exchanged in both the English and Chinese languages and both being of equal validity, will constitute an Arrangement between our two Governments that supersedes the Exchange of Letters effected on 7 April 2008. The Scholarships Programme remains associated with the New Zealand – China Free Trade Agreement and updates and developments will continue to be reported to the Committee on Trade in Services.

Yours sincerely



Steven Joyce
Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment
New Zealand