

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS – THE CASE OF THE CHINA LIASON OFFICE FOR THE PROMOTION OF A CANADIAN UNIVERSITY AND CANADIAN STUDIES IN CHINA

Fudan University in Shanghai, China is opening this Spring its new Canadian Studies Centre (CSC), thanks to the financial support of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) and the joined efforts of Professor Liu Jianjun of the university's School of International Relations and Public affairs (SIRPA) and Queen's University China Liaison Office.

Queen's University was the first Canadian university to open an office in China. Located in Shanghai, on the campus of Fudan University—a leading Chinese university and Queen's strategic partner since 2000—the China Liaison Office (CLO) acts as Queen's University's storefront with Fudan University and other Chinese universities and organizations in China. CLO is instrumental in developing new contacts and relationships with other Chinese institutions. According to its Director, Dr. Zhang Zhiyao, CLO's reputation is growing among universities and government departments in China, as well as with students and parents. Dr. Zhang acts as Queen's University ambassador, supporting exchange programs and visits of both students and faculty (Canadian and Chinese) to ensure smooth transitions between countries.

The CLO seeks out and supports opportunities to foster collaborative research and academic initiatives. It also researches secondary schools, hoping to recruit students to study in degree programs at Queen's. The CLO is far from being the only entity of its kind that Queen's University helped to create. Queen's program of international exchange involves bi-lateral agreements with about 130 universities in 35 countries and consortial exchanges with 30 other universities. These exchange programs may be faculty specific or include multiple faculties under one agreement. They enable Queen's students to study at partner institutions while paying standard tuition fees to Queen's.

Other major links in the Queen's-China chain are the School of Urban and Regional Planning's (SURP) long-standing and extensive research and training projects, managed by its own China Projects Office. Beyond academic links, Queen's office for commercializing new technology, PARTEQ Innovations, has signed a unique collaborative agreement with China's Innofund—a non-profit Ministry of Science and Technology fund to support innovation at small, tech-based Chinese firms. The partners' common goal is to bring discoveries to market.

These international exchange programs prove to be quite beneficial. For instance, during the launch of Fudan University new Canadian Studies Center, many foundational activities included the participation of guest speakers from Queen's University.

To learn more about the China Liaison Office, visit website <http://www.queensu.ca/vpac/International/ChinaLiaison.html>.

To learn more about Queen's University Program of international exchange, visit website <http://www.queensu.ca/international/students/outgoing/academic/exchangepartners/>.