EOI: HDR Exchange Program – Bridging Cultures

(Australia–China Museum and Heritage Program)

Overview

The Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies (CHMS), Australian National University, invites Expressions of Interest from HDR candidates to participate in an international training exchange program in Shanghai.

This initiative forms part of the DFAT-funded "Bridging Cultures: Connecting Cultural Heritage Collecting Institutions in Australia and China" project, which supports collaboration between universities and museums across Australia and China.

The program will bring together 10 HDR candidates from ANU with peers, academics, and museum practitioners in Shanghai. Activities will be hosted primarily by Shanghai University and partner cultural institutions, tentatively scheduled for January 2027.

Program Aims

This exchange aims to:

- Facilitate HDR training and scholarly exchange on museums, heritage, and cultural policy.
- Support early-career academic development through international engagement
- Strengthen Australia–China institutional collaboration in heritage and museum sectors
- Contribute to broader cultural dialogue and institutional collaboration between Australia and China.

Program Details

- Location: Shanghai, China
- Host: Shanghai University (with partner universities and museums)
- Participants: Up to 10 HDR students from ANU (CAP and CASS)

The program is expected to run for approximately 4–5 days and will include:

- Academic presentations by HDR candidates
- Collaborative workshops with Chinese HDR students and academics
- Roundtable discussions with museum and heritage professionals
- Curated visits to key museums and heritage institutions in Shanghai

Participation will be subject to ANU travel approval and standard university travel requirements.

Funding Support

Selected participants will receive travel support of up to AUD 3,000 per person through DFAT grant funding. International flights will be arranged and paid directly by the project team through ANU-approved purchasing processes, up to the approved funding limit.

Local accommodation and in-country program logistics will be provided by the host institution in Shanghai. Participants will be responsible for any additional costs beyond the approved travel support.

Eligibility

Applicants are expected to:

- Be a current HDR candidate at ANU (CASS or CAP) who has completed Confirmation of Candidature
- Have research related to:
  - museums
  - cultural heritage
  - memory, history, or heritage governance
  - or closely aligned fields
- Demonstrate interest in international collaboration and exchange
- Be available to participate in the program, including international travel during the program period

Selection Criteria

Applicants will be assessed based on:

- Relevance of research to program themes
- Academic merit and research progress
- Capacity to contribute to and benefit from international exchange
- Potential to contribute to and benefit from engagement with museum, heritage, and cultural institutions.

Application Requirements

Please submit:

1. Statement of Interest (max. 500 words)
   - research focus

    - relevance to the program
    - expected benefits
2. CV (max. 2 pages)
3. Supervisor endorsement (short email or statement)

Participant Responsibilities

Successful participants will be expected to:

- Attend all scheduled program activities;
- Comply with ANU travel requirements;
- Contribute to a short post-program report, blog post, presentation, or other knowledge-sharing activity.

Timeline

- EOI opens: 22 June 2026
- EOI closes: 20 July 2026
- Shortlisting & interviews: August 2026
- Notification of outcomes: Late August 2026
- Confirmation of participation and travel arrangements: September 2026
- Pre-departure information session: September – October 2026
- Program (Shanghai): January 2027

Contact

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