

## 2025 SOU International Visiting Scholar Program

### Is Now Open for Application

Shanghai Open University (SOU) is pleased to announce the 2025 International Visiting Scholar Program, aiming to foster global academic exchange and cooperation in open and distance education. This program invites scholars from universities, research institutions, and related fields worldwide to engage in academic discussions, field visits, and collaborative research, with the goal of enhancing teaching and research quality in the field of open education.

#### Size

SOU is offering up to 15 fellowships for the 2025 International Visiting Scholar Program. SOU International Visiting Scholar Program is unique in that we use the same 'blended model' as we do in our courses to combine both face-to-face and mobile distance education to create global communities of scholarship for our Visiting Scholars.

#### Duration of the Program

On-site in Shanghai: 2 weeks from 16 to 29 October 2025.

#### Important Dates

Deadline for application: September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Notification of acceptance: September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### Essential Requirements for Candidates

- Relevant teaching and/or research experience in open & distance learning.
- Possessing a post-graduate degree and have held the position of instructor or above in the home institution.
- Having fluent written and oral English ability (the working language for all official activities is English).
- Being in good health and reasonable fitness to participate in local events.

#### Desirable Requirements

Besides the above requirements, applicants who have the following experience will be given priority for consideration.

- Experience in educational management, senior leadership positions, or having taken senior leadership roles.
- Experience with existing or previous collaborative research projects with SOU.

#### Required Materials for Application (Written in English)

- Curriculum Vitae (candidates should have advanced English skills and hold a M.A degree or above)
- A research proposal for the fellowship program: it could be a study on SOU practices, a comparative study between SOU and the applicant's home institution, a proposal for future

collaboration, etc. Topics may include but are not restricted to:

- (1) Research on the Construction Path and Policies of Learning Cities
- (2) Research on the Lifelong Learning Support Service System
- (3) Research on the Monitoring of Citizens' Digital Learning Capabilities
- (4) Research on Improving the Emergency Response Capabilities of Urban Communities
- (5) Research on Improving the Emergency Legal System
- (6) Generative AI and the Development of TPACK for Teachers in Open Universities
- (7) Research on AI-Enabled Personalized Intelligent Teaching
- (8) Research on the Application of AIGC in Online Teaching Scenarios
- (9) Research on the Curriculum Construction of Home Economics Major
- (10) Research on the Evaluation of International Faculty & Students Exchange Programs
- (11) International Comparative Study on the Transformation of Green Lifestyles

\* You can also choose **other** topics for your research proposal.

- A professional letter of recommendation from the head of the home institution (President, Rector, Chancellor or Vice Chancellor)
- A recent photo (passport size) of the applicant.
- A scanned photo of the passport (for VISA application)

### Financial Information

SOU will provide the following for the fellowship:

- Hotel accommodation
- Workspace with Wi-Fi, telephone and the Internet access
- Transportation for the arranged on-site visit within Shanghai

Visiting scholars or their home institutions will be expected to cover:

- A round-trip air ticket between their home country and Shanghai, China
- Living expense & another related personal expenses in Shanghai

**Please be noticed that all the financial support comes from governmental program funds.**

### Required Health Insurance

All fellows are required to show proof of health insurance for the entire length of their stay. This health insurance must meet specified minimum levels of coverage (Please send us the copy via email when you apply or bring it in person when you attend the program). Fellows who bring health insurance from their home country must bring a copy of the complete policy in English. If these conditions are not met, they must purchase health insurance in China.

### Fellows' Activities and Responsibilities

- The nominated candidates should keep regular electronic contact with SOU to inform the visa application process and travel plans. SOU will provide a formal Invitation Letter for visa purposes, but not responsible for obtaining visas for the selected fellows.

**SOU reserves the right to cancel any fellowship offer if full visa and travel plans have not been successfully completed.**

- The fellows will visit and meet with relevant departments and facilities in Shanghai Open

University.

- The fellows must conduct their proposed research.
- The fellows are to give a presentation based on their research conducted during their stay at SOU. This presentation will also include an introduction of their own institution.
- The fellows will submit a final report (minimum 3000 words) on the outcome of the research to SOU within 30 days at the conclusion of the program.
- The fellows will also be required to complete a feedback form on the quality of the Visiting Scholar Program.

## How to Apply?

You can send the required application documents to the email: [tanghf@sou.edu.cn](mailto:tanghf@sou.edu.cn)

AND refer to the following link: <https://lowcode-0g58tgicc773fde0-1259223015.tcloudbaseapp.com/app-89xew4p5/production/visitor> to complete the online application.

## Contact details:

Ms. Dorothy Tang

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## Introduction of Shanghai Open University

Shanghai Open University (SOU), sponsored by the Shanghai Municipal Government, approved by China's Ministry of Education and subject to the administration of the Shanghai Education Commission, is a new type of higher education institution. It was formerly known as Shanghai TV University, which was founded in 1960. SOU provides open and distance ICT-supported education to adults at undergraduate and junior college level. SOU has had more than 470,000 graduates since its foundation. Adapting to the needs of Shanghai's economic and social developments, SOU carries out large-scale non-academic education and training programs for about half a million people each year. SOU established several schools with appropriate features for those who have special learning needs. SOU has currently the largest number of college students in Shanghai. It also serves as an important lifelong learning platform in Shanghai. In addition, SOU is the coordinating institution of the UNESCO UNITWIN Network in Open and Distance Learning, and received the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Alkhalifa Prize for the use of ICT in education. SOU was awarded an "Excellence Group Work Award" by the International Council of Open and Distance Education (ICDE) and an "Excellent Support Organization Award" by the African Council of Distance Education (ACDE). SOU strategically cooperates with the Open Universities of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and ACDE. SOU

passed ICDE's education quality audit.

In order to promote global cooperation between universities, institutions and interested scholars through academic exchange and to enhance the quality of teaching and research in the field of open and distance learning, SOU has successfully conducted the International Visiting Scholar Program each spring and/or autumn since 2013, with participation by the member universities and institutes of African Council for Distance Education (ACDE), Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU), as well as other universities and institutes that currently provide or are developing open and distance education all over the world.

**Further Information**

Shanghai Open University website: <http://global.sou.edu.cn/>

SOU's Institute of International Exchange's website: <http://iie.sou.edu.cn>