The Richard Rockefeller Fellowship (RRF) supports young Chinese leaders to learn about strategic philanthropy for a sustainable future, and to strengthen collaborative ties between the U.S. and Chinese philanthropic sectors. Established in 2016 by both Chinese and American institutions, it honors the legacy of Dr. Richard Rockefeller, former board chair of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and esteemed philanthropist.

This fellowship supports two Chinese citizens between the ages of 25 and 35 to work and conduct research at the Rockefeller Brother’s Fund’s (RBF) office in New York for up to four months. During this time, fellows learn about the U.S. philanthropy while sharing experiences and insights from China’s philanthropic sector.

Background

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) is a private, family foundation helping to advance social change that contributes to a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world. It was created in 1940 by the sons of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. as a vehicle by which they could share advice and research on charitable activities and coordinate their philanthropic efforts to better effect. The RBF is a grantmaking institution, with an annual budget of around $40 million.

Dr. Richard G. Rockefeller served as a trustee of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund from 1989 to 1999 and from 2000 to 2013 and as chair from 2006 to 2013. Richard was a gifted, caring, and joyful leader who touched all those he met with his genuine respect and curiosity about them and their work. In the years before his tragic death, Richard was greatly inspired by the growth of Chinese philanthropy and the increasingly strategic work of many Chinese foundations and individual philanthropists. He often spoke of his interactions with Chinese philanthropic families as among the most rewarding of his own philanthropic experience. Richard became a passionate advocate for strategic philanthropy as a bridge and platform to strengthen U.S.-China partnerships to meet the global challenges of our time.

The Richard Rockefeller Fellowship aims to commemorate Richard Rockefeller’s life by assisting emerging Chinese leaders who are actively engaged in advancing China’s philanthropic sector to develop the skills, knowledge, and networks needed to complement and strengthen their professional experiences in China. The Richard Rockefeller Fellowship also strives to promote mutual learning and exchange among the fellows, RBF staff, and other colleagues in the Chinese and U.S. philanthropic sectors.

The fellowship is supported by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Lao Niu Brother & Sister Foundation, and members of the Rockefeller family. Additionally, the RBF works in partnership with the Institute of International Education (IIE) to establish and implement this fellowship, and is supported by an advisory committee which helps guide the strategic direction of the program.
Founding Institutions

**About the Rockefeller Brothers Fund:**

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund is a private, family foundation helping to advance social change that contributes to a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world. It was created in 1940 by the sons of John D. Rockefeller, Jr.—John 3rd, Nelson, Winthrop, Laurance, and David—as a vehicle by which they could share advice and research on charitable activities and coordinate their philanthropic efforts to better effect. In March 2004, the Fund decided to concentrate its Asian grantmaking in southern China, one of the fastest growing and most dynamic regions of the world. This focus builds on the Fund’s history of philanthropy in East and Southeast Asia and continues over a century of Rockefeller family philanthropy in China that includes the founding of the Peking Union Medical College in 1917.

Through its grantmaking, the Fund supports efforts to expand knowledge, clarify values and critical choices, nurture creative expression, and shape public policy. The Fund’s programs are intended to develop leaders, strengthen institutions, engage citizens, build community, and foster partnerships that include government, business, and civil society. Respect for cultural diversity and ecological integrity pervades the Fund’s activities.

As an institutional citizen of an interdependent world, the Fund is active globally, nationally, and locally in its home city of New York. Grant programs are organized around three themes: Sustainable Development, Peacebuilding, and Democratic Practice. Two pivotal place programs address these themes in specific contexts: Southern China and the Western Balkans. The Charles E. Culpeper Arts & Culture program, focused on New York, nurtures a vibrant and inclusive arts community in the Fund’s home city.

**About the Lao Niu Brother & Sister Foundation:**

The Lao Niu Brother & Sister Foundation is a private family foundation engaged in charitable social welfare activities, based in Beijing and an office in Hohhot. It was established on March 19, 2015, by Mr. Niu Ben and Ms. Niu Qiong, the son and daughter of Mr. Niu Gensheng, the founder and former chairman and president of Mengniu Dairy Company, Ltd. The Niu family also supports another philanthropic organization, the Lao Niu Foundation, which was established in 2004.

The Foundation’s mission is “Committed to the growth and development of future generations.” It puts this mission into practice through support for child welfare and youth entrepreneurship projects and through applying innovative ideas of charity to guide social progress.

The Foundation’s board consists of nine directors and one supervisor. Mr. Niu Ben and Ms. Niu Qiong serve as director-general and vice director-general, respectively; Ms. Chen Xiaopeng is the secretary-general and the supervisor is Ms. Chen Huitian.
Program Description

Richard Rockefeller Fellowship
Fellowship Period: April – August 2020
Location: New York City, NY

Fellowships will be awarded to two individuals on an annual basis.

The RRF is an intensive, full-time fellowship which lasts approximately four months. Fellows should not undertake external work during their fellowships and should obtain a formal leave of absence from their current work for the duration of the fellowship. Both fellows live in New York and are affiliated with, and based out of the RBF office. Fellows also participate in short-term travel for research and study-related purposes, which is arranged and overseen by the RBF. A significant amount of the fellowship is self-directed, but fellows should keep regular work hours at the RBF office unless attending a program-related activity.

Through the fellowship, participants learn about the U.S. philanthropic sector, and specifically, foundations and grantmaking practices. The program also provides a platform for fellows to share emerging trends and innovations from Chinese philanthropy. Candidates should have a demonstrated interest in foundations and philanthropic giving, with preference given to those whose prior experiences include environmental or climate-related work.

The Fellowship consists of three main components:

1. Overview of the U.S. philanthropic sectors:
   - RBF-arranged lectures by sector experts
   - Short academic study on philanthropy at a U.S. university
   - Site visits and meetings with leading sector infrastructure organizations and academic programs.

2. Foundation Governance, Management, and Grantmaking:
   - Individual meetings with RBF trustees, leadership, and all departments
   - Practical grantmaking and grant processing experience at the RBF
   - Study of specific grantmaking case studies
   - Discussion and research on program development and evaluation process

3. Independent Project:
   - Independent project designed in collaboration with the fellow, and tailored to directly aid his/her respective career focus

Requirements:

Fellows will be responsible for completing a set of activities and research objectives. Responsibilities include active participation in meeting and lectures, research, writing, and logistical and administrative coordination. Fellows will be asked to submit regular progress reports during the length of their stay.

Required outputs:

1) A mid-term and final English-language report summarizing key insights from their experience, research, and their thoughts about how these insights can contribute to the development of strategic philanthropy in China;
2) An internal presentation to RBF staff and leadership on fellowship findings;
3) A minimum of one external presentation during the fellowship on a topic related to Chinese philanthropy;
4) A minimum of two presentations on their fellowship experience upon return to China at the conclusion of the program.

Covered Accommodations and Expenses

The Fellowship will provide a modest stipend and cover costs for housing, food, China-U.S. international airfare, training program tuition, insurance, program materials, local meetings and travel costs, as well as other relevant program-related costs.

Fellows will have room and board consisting of single-room dorm accommodations with shared bath facilities.

Selected applicants must participate in the fellowship as individuals. At this time, we are unable to invite and/or cover expenses for significant others and/or family members to join the fellows in New York. *Friends and family are encouraged to come for brief visits but not to stay during the fellowship term.*

Selection Criteria

*Candidates should have a demonstrated interest in foundations and philanthropic giving, with preference given to those whose prior experiences include environmental or climate-related work.*

**Baseline Qualifications:** A Chinese citizen (including Hong Kong and Macau) between the ages of 25 to 35, holding a bachelor’s degree or above.

**Personal Attitude:** An optimistic and independent thinker, who is inquisitive, innovative, open-minded, and a team-player.

**Self-Directed:** Has the ability to work independently to achieve program goals.

**Problem-Solver:** In approaching societal problems and philanthropic interests, the candidate should display the potential ability to transcend boundaries; to think and listen deeply and critically; and to use cross-sector, cross-disciplinary approaches.

**Skills & Experience:** Displays strong communication, research, and writing ability. Priority given to those with education and/or work experience in charitable program design and implementation, grantmaking, foundation management or philanthropic training initiatives.

**English Language:** A strong speaker of and writer in the English language. Scores from TOEFL/IELTS/comparative English-language tests (or other demonstrated ability using English as the primary language for work, study, or living) are highly encouraged.

**Mission Alignment:** Has significant vision and potential to become a leader in China’s philanthropic sector and to drive international sustainable development goals.
Application Package

The following application elements must be completed in their entirety and submitted on or before December 9th, 2019 to be eligible for review:

1. Completed Application Form
2. Completed Personal Statement (see Application Form)
3. A one to two-minute video of yourself answering the following question:
   - Your name, current work/study status.
   - What motivates you about your current work and what would you love to spend more time doing?

Submit materials to Ms. Zhang Zhe at zzhang@iie.org. All application materials and the email subtitle should read: 2020RRFApp + your name in pinyin (e.g. Zhang Sansi).

If the size of the video is too big to send via email, you can send as baidu disk or QQ large file.

Additional Information

For additional information regarding fellowship specifics, please contact Ms. Zhang Zhe, zzhang@iie.org.