



LINCOLN INSTITUTE
OF LAND POLICY

Request for Proposals (RFP)
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy's China Program
Annual International Fellowship 2025–26

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy's Program on the People's Republic of China cordially invites proposals for academic and policy research papers addressing land, urban, fiscal, and environmental issues relating to urbanization in China. Preference will be given to policy-oriented empirical studies and international comparative studies. The international fellowship is provided to scholars who are based outside of mainland China. Visit the website of the [Peking University–Lincoln Institute Center for Urban Development and Land Policy](#) (Beijing) to learn about a separate fellowship for scholars based in mainland China.

The focus areas of the international fellowship are:

- **Land Use, Carbon Neutrality, and Spatial Planning and Governance**—the relationship between land use and carbon neutrality nationally or regionally, and ways to use spatial planning and governance to achieve carbon neutrality.
- **Urban Regeneration**—empirical and policy analyses of critical issues it faces in China, such as benefit sharing, spatial inequalities, and their impact on rental housing, and provision of affordable housing.
- **Municipal Finance and Land Value Capture**—their effects on urban economies, quality of life, local public service delivery, and issues relating to municipal fiscal sustainability.
- **New Urbanization**—its effects on population movement, spatial patterns of urban development, municipal fiscal health, shrinking cities, and infrastructure usage.
- **Land Policies**—how recent land policy reforms have affected the efficiency and equity of urban and rural land use, land redevelopment, urban regeneration, municipal finance, and rural-to-urban migration.
- **Housing Policies**—housing market performance, the effectiveness of housing policy (especially affordable housing policy), and housing for migrant workers.

- **Urban Environment and Public Health**—the quality of urban environments, the effectiveness of urban environmental policy and regulations, and impacts of urban land use on the quality of urban life and public health.
- **Land and Water Conservation**—analysis and assessment of its practices, policy, and finance.

Minimum Qualifications:

Applicants for the China Program’s international fellowship must have a PhD at the time of submission. Qualified applicants do not need to be affiliated with a university or research institute.

To support a broader pool of scholars, we will not consider applications from former principal or coprincipal investigators if they were past recipients of awards and held that same positions (principal or coprincipal investigators).

Proposal Requirements:

Proposals must be submitted online via the [web-based application form](#). Proposals sent by email or mail will be rejected. Proposals must be submitted in English.

The following sections must be included in proposals:

- **Project Abstract:** maximum length of 1,500 characters
- **Project Description:** 4 to 6 pages; it should identify the following:
 - o Research objective and specific research questions;
 - o Theoretical or conceptual framework and main hypothesis to be tested;
 - o Methodology, sources of empirical data, and data collection strategy;
 - o Expected results; and
 - o Description of partnerships (if research involves collaboration with academic institutions, government organizations, private sector, etc.).
- **Calendar of Activities:** Attach to the proposal form an estimate of a work plan with a projected schedule of activities to be completed.
- **Detailed Budget:** Please outline the costs for research assistance, equipment, data, fieldwork, travel, etc. Note: No overhead or indirect costs may be charged against funds awarded through this RFP.
- **CV and Publication Records:** 3 pages maximum

Timeline:

Proposals must be submitted by December 11, 2024, 11:59 p.m. (EDT). Proposals received after the deadline will not be accepted. Awards will be announced by the Lincoln

Institute in mid-February 2025. Contracts with selected proposals will be finalized in mid-March 2025, and the final working papers are due on May 15, 2026.

Award Amount:

Three to four winning proposals will be selected. The award amount will be approximately \$35,000 USD for each winning proposal. The funds awarded under this RFP are contracted as work-for-hire and recipients cannot subcontract them to third parties.

Submitting a proposal in response to this RFP does not obligate the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy to fund the proposal.

Proposal Evaluation:

The Lincoln Institute will evaluate the research proposals using the criteria listed below:

Merits of the research and its relevance to the RFP’s theme	40%
Quality of the proposed methodology and design	35%
Feasibility of data	20%
Qualifications of the members of the research team and the writing skill demonstrated by proposal	5%
Total score	100%

Exceptional papers will be considered for inclusion in the Lincoln Institute Working Paper series.

Ownership:

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy will own all work products that result from the fellowship via this RFP. Individuals or institutions who accept a grant shall transfer and assign to the Lincoln Institute all rights, title, and interests in and to such work products, including without limitation, all rights pertaining to copyright and trademark, together with the right to file and/or own applications for copyright registrations and any copyright registrations issuing thereon.

If the work products are accepted for publication in an academic journal or volume, the Lincoln Institute may grant copyright ownership to the publisher in exchange for the Lincoln Institute’s royalty-free use of the article.

About the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy:

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy seeks to improve quality of life through the effective use, taxation, and stewardship of land. A nonprofit private operating foundation whose origins date to 1946, the Lincoln Institute researches and recommends creative approaches to land as a solution to economic, social, and environmental challenges.

Through education, training, publications, and events, we integrate theory and practice to inform public policy decisions worldwide.

Questions regarding proposal guidelines should be sent to Linus Glenhaber, program coordinator, China Program and Asia, at chinaprogram@lincolninst.edu.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PROPOSAL FORMAT

1. **How detailed should the project description be?** Whatever best conveys the objective, methodologies, and data availability of your proposal in clear language.
2. **How flexible is the character count for each section?** Not at all. You must adhere to the specified character count. The part of your proposal exceeding the length limit will not be accepted by the system.
3. **Must all submissions be electronic?** Yes.
4. **Do I need to send a hard copy of the proposal?** No.
5. **What is the format for the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Working Paper?** This format will be sent to authors of selected proposals later.

BUDGET

1. **Can the budget be changed during the research?** No, except in case of reallocation of funds in consultation with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.
2. **Does the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy cover institutional overhead or indirect costs?** No.
3. **What does the award amount cover?** The award covers all direct research expenditures including personnel, research assistance, data, books, research-related travel, and software or other items deemed indispensable for the development of the project.
4. **Is there a maximum budget?** We expect the budget to be less than US\$35,000. You are expected to determine the budget based on the scope of the project.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. **Is it necessary to be a US citizen to apply?** No. Only scholars based outside of mainland China are eligible to apply.
2. **Can the paper be coauthored?** Yes. Contact details for all authors must be mentioned in the proposal and a lead researcher must be designated as the person responsible for the project.
3. **Can I present more than one research proposal?** Yes.