

Research project and supervisory team

Supervisory Team	Joost Herman (School of International Studies) (Joost Herman - University of Nottingham Ningbo China) JeongWon Bourdais Park (School of International Studies) (JeongWon Bourdais Park - University of Nottingham Ningbo China)
Short introduction & description of research project	The School of International Studies at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) invites applications for a fully funded PhD position under the Strategic Scholarship Fund in Global Order and International Relations of China and Europe, commencing in Spring 2026. The successful candidate will join a research team studying the political, economic, and institutional dimensions of historical and contemporary relations between China and Europe, with a focus on foreign policy and strategic interactions in the field of international relations. This position is suited for someone with keen interests in research on international humanitarian and development aid, the way these are incorporated in both Chinese and European foreign politics, and Chinese-European interaction in these issue areas. The candidate should possess strong analytical foundations (qualitative skills), with an eagerness to master advanced methods—whether in policy analysis or experimental research). Beyond technical skills, we seek candidates who thrive in collaboration, relish the challenges of field-building research (from co-authoring papers to mentoring junior researchers), and aspire to influence academia or policy through rigorous scholarship. As the first Sino-foreign university in China, UNNC offers a unique interdisciplinary environment at the crossroads of European and Chinese scholarship. The School of International Studies provides a globally engaged academic community with extensive networks across Asia and Europe, fostering cutting-edge research on transnational governance and diplomacy. PhD applicants should be highly motivated to pursue research-oriented careers in academia, policy, or think tanks. 1. Humanitarian Studies’ Research focus: • International humanitarian and development Aid in foreign policy • Historical and contemporary Sino-European relations (foreign policy, international cooperation) • Foreign policy and strategic competition (EU-China dynamics, multilateral institutional engagement) 2. European Studies’ Research focus: • European Studies, EU and its Common Foreign and Security Policy • Historical and contemporary Sino-European relations (foreign policy, international cooperation) • Foreign policy and strategic competition (EU-China dynamics, multilateral institutional engagement) Requirements: • Passion for international relations, European/Chinese studies, and pursuing a research career

	• Background in qualitative methods (experience with data collection/dataset management preferred) • Outstanding academic background • Proactive, collaborative, and responsible attitude with team leadership potential
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