

## FAQ | Creativity + Innovation Fellowship

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### What qualities or experiences make a strong candidate for this fellowship?

We look for students who are curious, self-directed, and excited to engage deeply with China's innovation landscape. Strong candidates demonstrate initiative, an ability to work independently, and a genuine interest in exploring a question, theme, or problem through fieldwork and creative inquiry. Prior experience in research, design, or innovation is welcome but not required.

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### Are you looking for applicants with a specific academic background?

No. The fellowship is intentionally interdisciplinary and open to students from all majors. What matters most is your ability to articulate why your idea matters to you and how you hope to explore it while in China.

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### How much time per week do fellows typically commit to the fellowship?

The fellowship is designed to be flexible, but most fellows spend **1-3 hours per week** on their independent project, in addition to attending scheduled cohort activities. Time will vary depending on the nature of your project (trips, interviews, field research, etc).

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### Is there faculty mentorship for the fellowship project?

Yes. Fellows receive ongoing guidance from the lead faculty throughout the semester. Mentorship includes feedback on project design, connections to relevant experts or organizations, and support in preparing for the final showcase.

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### What is the general timeline for the fellowship? What are the major milestones and time commitments?

The fellowship includes a mix of cohort gatherings, immersive experiences, and independent project work.

#### Semester Structure:

- **Three in-person cohort sessions** (90 minutes each)
  - Welcome Dinner (Sunday before first day of semester)
  - Fellowship Overview & China Primer (1st Friday of semester)

- Innovation Primer (Friday prior to Innovation Immersion Trip)
- **Two weekend trips** — depart Friday, return Sunday
  - Week 2 Opening Retreat
  - Week 7/8 Innovation Immersion
- **One optional local company visit**
- **Ongoing independent project work** along with required office hours with the faculty lead
- **Final showcase** at the end of the semester

The **primary time commitment** is your independent project, which will ebb and flow based on project design and research needs.

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## Do I need to create a physical prototype for my project?

Not necessarily. Fellows may choose the format that best serves their topic. Some projects involve prototyping; others focus on field research, storytelling, interviews, or observational study. **Every fellow will share their work in a creative format**—such as a video, artifact, exhibit, mini-publication, or other medium—during the final showcase.

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## Can I collaborate with another fellow if we have similar project ideas?

Most fellows conduct their own project, though collaboration is allowed if it strengthens the project concept. You may work together or in parallel, as long as each fellow has clear ownership over their contribution and learning outcomes.

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## How should I approach the question about what I want to explore during the fellowship?

We encourage you to be as specific and intentional as possible. Describe the topic you hope to explore, why it matters to you, and how it connects to your past experiences or future aspirations. Strong responses also articulate **why your question or idea is uniquely suited to being explored in China**—whether because of the local context, ecosystem, history, or innovation landscape.

You are absolutely allowed to refine or change your project once the fellowship begins, but this question helps us understand your curiosity, your motivation, and how thoughtfully you plan to use your time in Shanghai.

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## How should study away students submit their application?

Study away students should submit their materials **through** the study away portal under the “Checklist” tab. Please refer to the screenshot below:

### John’s Spring 2026 Study Away Portal

ARRIVAL DATE

January 14, 2026

DEPARTURE DATE

May 17, 2026

STATUS

Admitted CONFIRMED

You are required to arrive to NYU Shanghai on the scheduled arrival date and depart on the scheduled departure date

Announcements

Checklist

Academics

Immigration

Travel

Directory

Resources

Update or Cancel

▶ Important note about checklists

#### Additional Opportunities Checklist

| Status   | Details                                                             | Date |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Optional | <a href="#">NYU Shanghai Creativity &amp; Innovation Fellowship</a> |      |

#### Immediate Action Checklist

## When is the application deadline?

Applications for fall 2026 are due **April 6 at 11:59 p.m. EST**. Late submissions cannot be accepted, so please plan ahead.

## Who can I contact if I have more questions?

If you have additional questions about the fellowship, please feel free to reach out to us at [shanghai.ci.fellowship@nyu.edu](mailto:shanghai.ci.fellowship@nyu.edu).