



PhD Positions for Chinese Students in RNA Genomics & Therapeutics

Location: GOLD Lab, University College Dublin (Dublin, Ireland); Start: September 2026

Funding route: UCD–China Scholarship Council (CSC) partnership (4-year PhD)

About us

The Laboratory for Genomics of Long Noncoding RNA and Disease (GOLD Lab) aims to understand how regulatory RNAs drive human disease and how we can target them therapeutically. We combine CRISPR functional genomics, RNA biology, and computational/bioinformatic methods to discover pathogenic lncRNAs, decode their mechanisms, and develop RNA-based interventions. Our lab currently hosts three CSC scholars. For more information see: <https://www.gold-lab.org>.

Projects

We offer wet-lab, computational, and hybrid PhD projects across:

- Genome/RNA engineering: CRISPR-Cas. Prime editing, pooled screening;
- RNA therapeutics: antisense oligonucleotides, target discovery/validation;
- Predictive models / machine learning for gene function;

We are particularly keen on candidates with Python/R and statistics/ML skills interested in computational biology.

Funding & eligibility

Applicants must be Chinese nationals. Living expenses are supported via the UCD–CSC scheme (4 years). Applicants must meet both CSC and UCD entry requirements and be eligible under CSC rules. English proficiency: Minimum levels per UCD regulations, see <https://tinyurl.com/CSCEnglish>.

Timeline

- CSC application deadline: January 2026
- Start: September 2026

What to send (single PDF)

Email rory.johnson@ucd.ie with subject “CSC26 – YourName” attaching a single PDF named YourName_CSC26.pdf containing:

1. CV (include GPA/class rank);
2. Transcripts;
3. Half page motivation statement;
4. Contact details for 2–3 referees.