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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

June 12, 2025

President Sian Leah Beilock
Office of the President
14 North Main Street
Parkhurst Hall, Suite 207
Dartmouth College
Hanover, NH 03755

Dear President Beilock,

The Committee is undertaking a systematic review of the PRC's China Scholarship Council's infiltration of U.S. colleges and universities. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is developing and acquiring key technologies through both legal and illegal means, including investments in private industries, talent recruitment programs, directing academic and research relationships and collaboration for its military gain, forced technology transfer, intelligence gathering, and outright theft. One of the nefarious mechanisms that the CCP relies on is the China Scholarship Council (CSC). CSC purports to be a joint scholarship program between U.S. and Chinese institutions; however, in reality it is a CCP-managed technology transfer effort that exploits U.S. institutions and directly supports China's military and scientific growth.

As a result, we write to express our concern regarding Dartmouth College's ongoing joint scholarship program with the CSC, which sponsors up to 15 Ph.D. students from the People's Republic of China (PRC) annually to study and conduct research at Dartmouth for up to 60 months.¹ We urge you to assess whether allowing CSC-sponsored PRC graduate students to study and conduct research in cutting-edge technology at Dartmouth aligns with American interests and U.S. national security policies, particularly in light of Presidential Proclamation 10043, issued by President Trump in May 2020 and upheld by the Biden Administration.²

Under the Presidential Proclamation, current and past affiliates of certain PRC academic and research institutions central to the PRC's military-civil fusion strategy would face F and J visa denials or revocations. Notably, a June 2021 survey of visa-denied Chinese students had either completed their studies at China's "Seven Sons of National Defense" (国防七子)

¹ Announcement/Release, China Scholarship Council, 2025 China Scholarship Council Cooperative Scholarship with Dartmouth College, USA (August 20, 2024), <https://www.csc.edu.cn/article/3310>

² Public Release, National Archives, Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Students and Researchers from the People's Republic of China (June 4, 2020), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/06/04/2020-12217/suspension-of-entry-as-nonimmigrants-of-certain-students-and-researchers-from-the-peoples-republic>

universities and Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications or were funded by CSC.³ Following the release of the Presidential Proclamation, University of North Texas ended its partnership with CSC after being briefed by federal and local law enforcement.⁴

According to the CSC website, applicants eligible for the Dartmouth-CSC Joint Scholarship can apply to any Ph.D. program at Dartmouth. Under the Joint Scholarship program, CSC provides sponsored students with a living stipend and covers 50% of tuition for the first four years of their Ph.D. studies, while Dartmouth covers the remaining 50% of tuition and provides a living stipend equivalent to other Dartmouth Ph.D. students. Additionally, Dartmouth fully covers tuition and a living stipend for the fifth and final year of study for CSC-sponsored Ph.D. students.⁵

Unlike other international student programs, the CSC has faced increasing scrutiny and criticism due to concerns over academic freedom, surveillance of students, ideological control, and potential espionage.^{6,7} For example, CSC mandates that sponsored students return to the PRC upon completing their studies and serve the PRC for at least two years.⁸ Additionally, CSC requires these sponsored students to submit a report to PRC embassies or consulates every three months, detailing their academic progress, laboratory work, research outputs, and publications. PRC diplomatic missions are tasked to monitor the “ideological and academic progress” of CSC-sponsored students.^{9,10} Even non-Party students’ ideological guidance is reinforced. Previously, PRC diplomatic missions abroad often organized political education sessions for all CSC-funded students under programs such as the “Safe Study Abroad” (平安留学), where officials discuss

³ News Article, Shaman, Radio France International, Chinese students have been deported to the United States, and Beijing angrily pointed out the U.S. Executive Order 10043 (April 1, 2024), <https://www.rfi.fr/cn/专栏检索/要闻分析/20240104-中国留学生赴美有遭遣返-北京愤指美国 10043 号行政令>

⁴ News Article, Ileana Garnand, North Texas Daily, Visiting Chinese scholars left with unanswered questions after university terminates relationship with Chinese Scholarship Council (September 10, 2024), https://www.ntdaily.com/news/visiting-chinese-scholars-left-with-unanswered-questions-after-university-terminates-relationship-with-chinese-scholarship-council/article_308b04cc-6b0b-5462-944d-983d16e5f0f6.html

⁵ Announcement/Release, China Scholarship Council, 2025 China Scholarship Council Cooperative Scholarship with Dartmouth College, USA (August 20, 2024), <https://www.csc.edu.cn/article/3310>

⁶ Article, Human Rights Foundation, Beyond Borders: China’s Attempts to Censor Global Academia (April 22, 2024), <https://archive.hrf.org/beyond-borders-chinas-attempts-to-censor-global-academia/>

⁷ U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission Report, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission Report, Section 2: Battling for Overseas Hearts and Minds: China’s United Front and Propaganda Work (November 11, 2024), https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/Chapter_2_Section_2--Chinas_United_Front_and_Propaganda_Work.pdf

⁸ Published Report, Center for Security and Emerging Technology, China Scholarship Council Subsidized Study Abroad Agreement 资助出国留学协议书 (May 8, 2020), <https://cset.georgetown.edu/publication/china-scholarship-council-subsidized-study-abroad-agreement/>

⁹ Study Report, Ministry of Education, Study and Research Report by Chinese Students and Scholars, <http://www.moe.gov.cn/publicfiles/business/htmlfiles/moe/cmsmedia/document/2731.doc>

¹⁰ Public Release, Jiaowai Liu, Ministry of Education, Circular of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance on Printing and Distributing the Administrative Regulations on Postgraduate Students Studying Abroad on Public Assignment (for Trial Implementation) (July 16, 2007), http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A20/s7068/201410/t20141021_178464.html

patriotism, Chinese laws (e.g., China's National Security Law), and the importance of representing the country well.^{11,12} This raises further concerns about the program's alignment with U.S. national security interests.

As a major research university, Dartmouth relies on significant federal funding to support its research activities. In Fiscal Year 2023, Dartmouth received \$366.9 million in total research funding, of which over \$168.7 million came from federal sources.¹³ Meanwhile, the PRC has a well-documented history of exploiting the openness of the American higher education and research system to enhance its technological competitiveness and military capabilities. Given these concerns, it is alarming that Dartmouth maintains a joint scholarship program with CSC — explicitly designed to develop PRC talent especially in cutting-edge technology at graduate levels. Even more troubling is the fact that Dartmouth actively subsidizes such a program. It is imperative that Dartmouth reassess whether this joint scholarship program serves U.S. interests.

In light of these concerns, we request that Dartmouth reconsider its participation in the Dartmouth-CSC joint scholarship program and produce documents and information sufficient to respond to the following questions by July 11, 2025:

1. Please produce all documents, including but not limited to any meeting minutes, contracts, correspondence and memoranda of understanding, regarding the contractual relationships between your institution and CSC.
2. Please produce a list—with a numerical breakdown of how many—of which Chinese entities CSC-sponsored students came from between May 2020 and May 2025.
3. Please produce a list—with a numerical breakdown of how many—of which Chinese entities CSC-sponsored students went to post graduation from May 2024 to the present.
4. Please produce a list of how many CSC-sponsored students came to your institution from May 2020 and May 2025 under a non-STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) program and subsequently switched majors to a STEM program.
5. Since May 2020, have any CSC-funded students worked on research funded by any U.S. government entity or funds used from any government entity used to support CSC sponsored students and scholars? If yes, please provide which federally funded grants.
6. Has your institution communicated with the Department of State and Department of Homeland Security for clarity on whether CSC-sponsored graduate students are subject to Presidential Proclamation 10043 visa restrictions?

¹¹ Public release, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Study Abroad Safely 平安留学, <https://international.bfsu.edu.cn/hwx/palx.htm>

¹² Public Release, China Scholarship Council. 国家留学基金资助出国留学人员须知 [Notice for National Scholarship Fund Recipients Studying Abroad] (2012). <https://www.csc.edu.cn/uploads/《国家留学基金资助出国留学人员须知》2012年版.pdf>

¹³ Published Report, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey (November, 2024), <https://nces.nsf.gov/surveys/higher-education-research-development/2023#data>

7. Has your institution provided information about the funding sources of CSC-sponsored students to the Departments of State and Homeland Security for visa vetting since the issuance of Presidential Proclamation 10043?
8. How many CSC-sponsored graduate students, Ph.D., and post-docs in STEM fields have come to study or conduct research at your institution since Presidential Executive Order 10043 was issued in May 2020?
9. How many CSC-sponsored students are currently studying or doing research in STEM fields at your institution?
10. Have any CSC-sponsored students in STEM fields stayed on at your institution for post-doctoral research after completing their Ph.D.? If yes, has federal funding been used to support their post-doctoral research at your institution?
11. Since May 2020, have any professors at your institution specifically sponsored students funded by the CSC?
12. Does the CSC or any Chinese entity provide any additional funding directly or indirectly to your institution through restricted or unrestricted foreign gifts, contracts, and/or endowments for CSC students or related to the CSC agreement?
13. Please justify how supporting PRC talent development in STEM fields through your institution's joint CSC scholarship program, which requires beneficiaries to return to serve the PRC, advances U.S. interests.

The House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party has broad authority to “investigate and submit policy recommendations on the status of the Chinese Communist Party’s economic, technological, and security progress and its competition with the United States” under H. Res. 11. Upon receipt of this letter, please maintain and preserve all hard copy and electronic documents, including electronic communications, related to the subject matter of this letter.

We appreciate your prompt attention to these concerns and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,