



China updates list of terminated joint projects and extends support to students impacted by the pandemic through Chinese-Foreign joint ventures (Information as at 17 September 2021)

Latest list of terminated projects released

On 23 August 2021, the Chinese Ministry of Education (MoE) confirmed that as of 2019, China had approved the termination of 286 Chinese-Foreign Cooperation in Running School (CFCRS) joint institutes and programs at bachelors and above degree level, including 48 between Chinese and Australian higher education institutions.

This list reflects the cumulative closure of projects since the early 2000s. The list released in July 2018 saw 234 cumulative closures including 45 projects with Australian providers. In the period between 2018 and 2019, three additional Chinese-Australian joint programs were approved for termination.

The MoE's announcement¹ on the terminated projects made on 23 August (*see unofficial translation in Appendix A*) followed reports in the Chinese media on 15 August which implied the list was the latest release by the MoE. The MoE announcement confirmed the list of projects, but noted that the information reported by the media was a summary of previously published information from 2018 and 2019 and was not a new release.

The MoE further explained that the majority of projects approved for termination were the result of voluntary applications made to the MoE following negotiation between partnering institutions, while a small number of projects were terminated due to concerns about program quality. Voluntary applications for termination would include such reasons as projects reaching their end date or the completion of final student intakes.

¹ People's Republic of China, Ministry of Education ‘“教育部批准终止 286 个中外合作办学机构和项目”非最新发布’ (Unofficial Translation: “Chinese Ministry of Education Approves Termination of 286 Chinese-Foreign Cooperation in Running School Joint Institutes and Programs” – is not the latest release), August 2021. http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xxgk/s5743/s5746/202108/t20210823_553575.html

It should be noted, based on information on the JSJ website², that in 2019 and 2020 the MoE approved five new Chinese-Australian joint projects and six new joint institutes at bachelor and above degree level. Meanwhile, more than a dozen such joint projects that were running towards the end of their approved period in 2020 and 2021 had their validity period successfully extended. The 2021 rounds of approved projects are expected to be published later this year and early next year.

The regular publication of the terminated projects list is part of China's effort to promote quality and systematic development of CFCRS. In May 2016, China released a directive outlining the international education strategy going forward, which calls for "improvement on entry system, reform on approval system, conduct evaluation and strengthen the exit mechanism" on CFCRS. That said, the main purpose of the publication is to inform the public and protect the rights and interests of all participants in the operation.

China continues support for Chinese students impacted by the pandemic to enroll in CFCRS

On 25 August 2021, the MoE announced³ it would continue to allow certain MoE-approved Chinese-Foreign joint institutes and programs (including some with Australian providers) to take in Chinese students that are enrolled in overseas institutions or have plans to study abroad but cannot travel abroad due to the pandemic. This is a continuation of the temporary measures issued by the MoE on 26 September 2020. According to the MoE, 94 CFCRS joint institutes and programs were handpicked to participate in the special intake and enrolled 3,031 Chinese international students last year (see our [policy update](#) on the temporary measures).

This year, 72 CFCRS joint institutes and programs from 15 provincial level regions have been listed to recruit Chinese students. The list includes:

- six independently run joint venture universities
- 11 dependently run joint venture institutes, including two in partnership with Australia:
 - SILC Business School, Shanghai University (Shanghai University - University of Technology Sydney)
 - International Engineering College of Xi'an University of Technology (Xi'an University of Technology - James Cook University)
- 55 joint degree programs
 - eight at the undergraduate level, including one Australian program:

² **The JSJ website**, which translates to "foreign related education regulatory website" and abbreviated as "JSJ" in Chinese, is an official site managed by the Chinese Ministry of Education. It contains information on foreign education institutions and Chinese-foreign education joint ventures that have been officially recognised/approved by the Chinese Government. It also contains laws, policies and announcements on international education that are of interest to Chinese students studying abroad.

³ People's Republic of China, Ministry of Education, JSJ '教育部继续支持以中外合作办学等方式缓解疫情影响下我学生出国学习困难' (Unofficial Translation: *The Ministry Of Education Continues To Support Chinese Students Who Are Unable To Travel Overseas For Studies Through Various Means Including Chinese-Foreign Cooperation In Running Schools*), August 2021. <http://jsj.moe.gov.cn/n2/7001/7001/1637.shtml>

- Bachelor of Business Program (Central University of Finance and Economics - Victoria University)
- 45 master programs, including one Australian program:
 - Master of Educational Leadership and Management Program (Hangzhou Normal University - University of Canberra)
- two doctoral programs

Students enrolled under this temporary policy would only get degrees from the foreign universities (and not the Chinese partner) but are guaranteed that the qualification could be accepted for verification with the MoE's affiliated organization - Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE).

The Education and Research Section at the Australian Embassy is working closely with the MoE and the CSCSE to protect the rights and interests of graduates from Australian institutions, especially during this challenging period.

For further enquiries, please contact the [Education and Research Section](#) of the Australian Embassy in Beijing.

Appendix A – Unofficial translation of announcement by the MoE on 23 August 2021

“Chinese Ministry of Education Approves Termination of 286 Chinese-Foreign Cooperation in Running School Joint Institutes and Programs” – is not the latest release

Source: Chinese Ministry of Education

(link to document:

http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xgk/s5743/s5746/202108/t20210823_553575.html)

Date: 23 August 2021

Recently, information related to “Latest announcement! Chinese Ministry of Education (MoE) Approves Termination of 286 Chinese-Foreign Cooperation in Running School (CFCRS) Joint Institutes and Programs” has been circulating online, which attracted wide attention of the public. Some media have released information that the MoE had published in 2018 and 2019 in the form of “Latest announcement” without verification, which misled the public.

According to the “Regulations of the People’s Republic of China on Chinese-Foreign Cooperation in Running Schools” and its supporting implementation measures, the MoE has continuously worked to improve the exit mechanism for CFCRS. The MoE approved termination of 286 CFCRS joint institutes and programs in 2018 and 2019 in accordance with the law, and has released relevant information to the public. Among the joint institutes and projects approved for termination, the majority applied for termination voluntarily after negotiation between partnering institutions, while some have had the issue of insufficient introduction of quality foreign education resources and/or poor teaching quality, and have been terminated after failing to meet the standards in the evaluation work on CFCRS conducted by the MoE.

The MoE has continuously strengthened supervision on CFCRS during and after the project period, and adopted various measures such as regular evaluation, annual report and targeted inspection to improve the level of operation and promote quality development of CFCRS. The exit mechanism is an important part of the supervision of CFCRS, and the establishment of a supervision system from entry to exit is conducive to improving the quality and efficiency of CFCRS, protecting students’ rights and interests, and enhancing public satisfaction.