



# Second round announced of Double First-Class initiative

(Information as at August 2022)

Chinese authorities have recently released the combined list of institutions and disciplines for the second round of the Double First-Class Initiative (DFC)<sup>1</sup>. Along with the new list, a supporting “opinions” document<sup>2</sup> was issued. The new round suggests a heightened focus on international collaboration and exchange, including exploration of new mechanisms for exchange with top foreign institutions.

The DFC, announced in 2015, is China’s largest higher education development scheme to date and is aimed at lifting the quality of China’s higher education system as well as positioning China as an education powerhouse by 2035. The first round<sup>3</sup> of the project, which ran from 2016 to 2020, identified actions such as enhancing international collaboration and exchange and fully embracing global innovation networks as mechanisms to achieve these overarching goals.

## Key changes

The second round, according to the opinions statement, emphasises the need to produce top-tier professionals and serve national strategic objectives, both of which were noted as shortcomings in the first round in the opinion document.

One of the most significant changes in the second round is that the previously separated lists of universities and programs/disciplines<sup>4</sup> have been merged into a single comprehensive list. This aims to shift the emphasis from identifying first-class universities to increase program/discipline strength and produce top professionals in line with China’s strategic needs. While the list has been combined, the project will continue to separately develop universities and programs/disciplines.

The second round added 7 universities<sup>5</sup> to the initial 140, bringing the total number of listed universities to 147. For universities that were in the first round, 49 new disciplines were added, and 13 disciplines were modified. *(See **Appendix A** for the combined list of institutions and disciplines for the second round of DFC, as translated by the Education and Research Section of the Australian Embassy in China)*

A strategy to support "some institutions striving to be among the best in the world" has given Peking University and Tsinghua University the flexibility to conduct their own self-evaluations and publish

their own lists of world-class subjects in the second round. This strategy is expected to expand to other universities in the future.

Along with the list of the second round, warnings were issued to 16 disciplines at 15 institutions from the first round after they fell behind in their overall progress and failed to meet expectations. They will be withdrawn from the project if they fail the evaluation again in 2023.

## Key areas of focus

According to the opinion document, the second round will focus on producing professionals in areas that serve national strategic needs, including cutting-edge technologies and critical research fields, such as *science, engineering, agriculture and medicine*, as well as professionals with inter-disciplinary strengths in *integrated circuits, artificial intelligence, energy storage technology, and digital economy*.

Foundational subjects, such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, history, philosophy and palaeography (study of ancient and medieval handwriting)<sup>6</sup>, will continue to be prioritised under this development round as a means to generate a talent pool for China's development agenda and innovation.

This is reflected in the latest list, which sees 59 disciplines in Foundational subjects, 180 engineering related disciplines/programs and 92 in areas of philosophy and social sciences.<sup>7</sup>

## International Cooperation and Exchange

When compared to State Council views published in 2017<sup>8</sup> on the first round, the second round appears to have a heightened focus on opening up. That 2017 document, for example, included a reference to “*promote international collaboration and exchange*”, whereas the 2022 opinions document elevates that to “*comprehensively lift the level of international collaboration and exchange*” (emphasis added).

The 2022 document specifies institutions should “**Expand international cooperation and exchanges to improve competitiveness**” and “**fully embrace the global innovation network**”, including through developing quality foreign affairs management systems for exchange with top foreign institutions, exploring new mechanisms of two-way exchange, mutual recognition of credits, joint issuance of degrees and establishing platforms for promoting education and culture exchange – none of which were mentioned in the 2017 document.

The 2022 document also calls for lifting the education quality and quantity of inbound foreign students who study full-degree programs. Universities are encouraged to set up international academic organisations and university alliances, and to host high-level forums. The ambitious “Belt and Road” Education Action Plan will continue to be supported.

## Assessment of outcome

The opinions document notes that the DFC project is complex and challenging, requiring a long time to achieve significant results, and will therefore not be assessed purely based on performance on rankings and other quantitative measures.

According to the MoE<sup>9</sup>, the assessment of the DFC initiative is based on the assessment handbook<sup>10</sup> issued in March 2021, which separates assessment into “university development” and “program/discipline development”.

One of the key assessment criteria for university development is its performance on “*Strengthening the overall leadership of the Party*”<sup>11</sup> and the effectiveness of governance system reform”. Other elements include: *Education outcome, performance of teaching force, scientific research achievements, level of social services, conserving and promoting cultural heritage and innovation, and international exchange and cooperation.*

Criteria for assessing programs/disciplines include *achievement on producing top professionals, research outcomes, contribution to society, and performance of teaching force.*

A university's international exchange and cooperation outcomes are assessed based on extent to which they leverage domestic and international educational resources, strengthen education and research capabilities, and support China's outward strategy. Universities are encouraged to expand their global influence by adopting and strengthening multiple channels for international exchange and cooperation.

The assessment handbook says the DFC project will investigate the possibility of establishing an international comparison mechanism for discipline/program development to benchmark DFC projects against top universities around the world in order to assess discipline/program performance, influence, and potential.

## Looking forward

Despite the fact that the DFC is China's largest higher education development scheme to date, the plan's 140+ universities cover only about 11% of China's regular higher education institutions – similar to the coverage of the Project 211<sup>12</sup>.

The DFC is updated every five years and assessed every two and a half years, however, unlike the 211 and 985<sup>13</sup> projects. This allows the authorities to tailor the project to the country's overall development plan, which includes international exchange and cooperation, and potentially expand it in future rounds.

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

## Appendix A

### “Double First-Class” initiative development list (2<sup>nd</sup> round)

(Sorted by province and university)

**Note:** The list was published by the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China in Feb 2022. This literal translation of the list is prepared by the Education and Research Section, Australian Embassy, Beijing. It is provided as a working tool, and is provided "as is". No warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied, is made as to the accuracy, correctness, or reliability of any translations. Only the original official version should prevail as a source of reference.

#### Anhui (13)

##### **Anhui University (1)**

Materials Science and Engineering

##### **Hefei University of Technology (1)**

Management Science and Engineering

##### **University of Science and Technology of China (11)**

Mathematics

Chemistry

Geophysics

History of Science and Technology

Computer Science and Technology

Safety Science and Engineering

Physics

Astronomy

Biology

Materials Science and Engineering

Nuclear Science and Technology

#### Beijing (91)

##### **Beihang University (8)**

Mechanics

Materials Science and Engineering

Computer Science and Technology

Software Engineering

Instrument Science and Technology

Control Science and Engineering

Aeronautical and Astronautic Science and Technology

Traffic and Transport Engineering

##### **Beijing Foreign Studies University (1)**

Foreign Language and literature

##### **Beijing Forestry University (2)**

Landscape Architecture

Forestry Science

##### **Beijing Institute of Technology (4)**

Materials Science and Engineering

Armament Science and Technology

Control Science and Engineering

Physics

##### **Beijing Jiaotong University (1)**

System Science

##### **Beijing Normal University (12)**

Pedagogy

Chinese language and Literature

Mathematics

System Science

Environmental Science and Engineering

Psychology

Chinese History

Geography

Ecology

Drama and Film Studies

Foreign Languages and Literature

Philosophy

***Beijing Sport University (1)***

Sports Science

***Beijing University of Chemical Technology (1)***

Chemical Engineering and Technology

***Beijing University of Chinese Medicine (3)***

Traditional Chinese Medicine

Integrated Chinese and Western Medicines

Science of Chinese Pharmacology

***Beijing University of Post and Telecommunications (2)***

Computer Science and Technology

Information and Communication Engineering

***Beijing University of Technology (1)***

Civil Engineering

***Capital Normal University (1)***

Mathematics

***Central Academy of Fine Arts (2)***

Fine Arts

Design

***Central Conservatory of Music (1)***

Music and Dance Studies

***Central University of Finance and Economics (1)***

Applied Economics

***China Agricultural University (9)***

Biology

Agricultural Engineering

Food Science and Engineering

Crop Science

Agricultural Resources and Environment

Plant Protection

Animal Husbandry

Veterinary Medicine

Agrostology

***China Conservatory of Music (1)***

Music and Dance Studies

***China Foreign Affairs University (1)***

Political Science

***China University of Geosciences (Beijing) (2)***

Geology

Geological Resources and Geological Engineering

***China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing) (2)***

Safety Science and Engineering

Mining Engineering

***China University of Political Science and Law (1)***

Law

**Communication University of China (2)**

Journalism and Communication

Drama and Film Studies

**North China Electric Power University (1)**

Electric Engineering

**Peking Union Medical College (5)**

Biology

Clinical Medicine

Public Health and Preventive Medicine

Biomedical Engineering

Pharmaceutical Sciences

**Peking University***(To be decided and made public by the institution)***People's Public Security University of China (1)**

Public Security Science

**Renmin University of China (14)**

Philosophy

Applied Economics

Political Science

Theory of Marxist

Chinese History

Business Administration

Public Administration

Theoretical Economics

Law

Sociology

Journalism and Communication

Statistics

Agriculture and Forestry Economic Management

Library Information and Archives Management

**The Central Academy of Drama (1)**

Drama and Film Studies

**Tsinghua University***(To be decided and made public by the institution)***University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (2)**

Chemistry

Materials Science and Engineering

**University of International Business and Economics (1)**

Applied Economics

**University of Science & Technology Beijing (4)**

History of Science and Technology

Metallurgical Engineering

Materials Science and Engineering

Mining Engineering

**China University of Petroleum (Beijing) (2)**

Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering

Geological Resources and Geological Engineering

**Minzu University of China (1)**

Ethnology

**Chongqing (5)****Chongqing University (3)**

Mechanical Engineering

Civil Engineering

Electrical Engineering

**Southwest University (2)**

Biology

Pedagogy

**Fujian (7)****Fuzhou University (1)**

Chemistry

**Xiamen University (6)**

Chemistry

Biology

Statistics

Marine Science

Ecology

Pedagogy

**Gansu (4)****Lanzhou University (4)**

Chemistry

Ecology

Atmosphere Science

Agrostology

**Guangdong (21)****Sun Yat-sen University (11)**

Philosophy

Chemistry

Ecology

Electronic Science and Technology

Clinical Medicine

Business Administration

Mathematics

Biology

Materials Science and Engineering

Basic Medical Sciences

Pharmaceutical Sciences

**Jinan University (1)**

Pharmaceutical Sciences

**South China University of Technology (4)**

Chemistry

Light Industry Technology and Engineering

Materials Science and Engineering

Food Science and Engineering

**Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine (1)**

Traditional Chinese Medicine

**South China Normal University (1)**

Physics

**South China Agricultural University (1)**

Crop Science

**Guangzhou Medical University (1)**

Clinical Medicine

**Southern University of Science and Technology (1)**

Mathematics

## Guangxi (1)

### **Guangxi University (1)**

Civil Engineering

## Guizhou (1)

### **Guizhou University (1)**

Plant Protection

## Hainan (1)

### **Hainan University (1)**

Crop Science

## Heilongjiang (12)

### **Harbin Institute of Technology (8)**

Mechanics

Materials Science and Engineering

Computer Science and Technology

Environmental Science and Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

Control Science and Engineering

Civil Engineering

Aerospace science and Technology

### **Harbin Engineering University (1)**

Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering

### **Northeast Agricultural University (1)**

Animal Husbandry

### **Northeast Forestry University (2)**

Forestry Engineering

Forestry Science

## Henan (4)

### **Zhengzhou University (3)**

Clinical Medicine

Chemistry

Materials Science and Engineering

### **Henan University (1)**

Biology

## Hubei (32)

### **Wuhan University (11)**

Theoretical Economics

Theory of Marxist

Geophysics

Surveying and Mapping

Stomatology

Civil Engineering

Law

Chemistry

Biology

Library Information and Archives Management

Hydraulic Engineering



### ***Huazhong University of Science and Technology (9)***

Mechanical Engineering	Optical Engineering
Materials Science and Engineering	Power Engineering and Engineering Thermo-physics
Electrical Engineering	Computer Science and Technology
Basic Medical Sciences	Public Health and Preventive Medicine
Clinical Medicine	

### ***China University of Geosciences (Wuhan) (2)***

Geology	Geological Resources and Geological Engineering
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### ***Wuhan University of Technology (1)***

Materials Science and Engineering

### ***Huazhong Agricultural University (5)***

Biology	Gardening
Animal Husbandry	Veterinary Medicine
Agriculture and Forestry Economic Management	

### ***Central China Normal University (3)***

Political Science	Chinese language and Literature
Pedagogy	

### ***Zhongnan University of Economics and Law (1)***

Law

## **Hunan (15)**

### ***Hunan University (3)***

Chemistry	Mechanical Engineering
Electrical Engineering	

### ***Central South University (5)***

Mathematics	Materials Science and Engineering
Metallurgical Engineering	Mining Engineering
Traffic and Transport Engineering	

### ***Hunan Normal University (1)***

Foreign Language and literature

### ***National University of Defense Technology (5)***

Computer Science and Technology	Information and Communication Engineering
Software Engineering	Aeronautical and Astronautic Science and Technology
Management Science and Engineering	

### ***Xiangtan University (1)***

Mathematics

## **Inner Mongolia (1)**

### ***Inner Mongolia University (1)***

Biology

## Jiangsu (48)

### **Nanjing University (16)**

Philosophy	Chinese Language and Literature
Foreign Language and literature	Physics
Chemistry	Astronomy
Atmosphere Science	Geology
Biology	Materials Science and Engineering
Computer Science and Technology	Chemical Engineering and Technology
Mining Engineering	Environmental Science and Engineering
Library Information and Archives Management	Theoretical Economics

### **Soochow University (1)**

Materials Science and Engineering

### **Southeast University (12)**

Materials Science and Engineering	Electronic Science and Technology
Control Science and Engineering	Information and Communication Engineering
Computer Science and Technology	Architecture
Civil Engineering	Traffic and Transport Engineering
Biomedical Engineering	Landscape Architecture
Artistic Theory	Mechanical Engineering

### **Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (3)**

Mechanics	Control Science and Engineering
Aerospace Science and Technology	

### **Nanjing University of Science and Technology (1)**

Armament Science and Technology

### **China University of Mining and Technology (2)**

Safety Science and Engineering	Mining Engineering
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### **Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications (1)**

Electronic Science and Technology

### **Hohai University (2)**

Hydraulic Engineering	Environmental Science and Engineering
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### **Jiangnan University (2)**

Light Industry Technology and Engineering	Food Science and Engineering
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### **Nanjing Forestry University (1)**

Forestry Engineering

### **Nanjing University of Information Science & Technology (1)**

Atmosphere Science

### **Nanjing Agricultural University (2)**

Crop Science	Agricultural Resources and Environment
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### ***Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (1)***

Science of Chinese Pharmacology

### ***China Pharmaceutical University (1)***

Science of Chinese Pharmacology

### ***Nanjing Normal University (1)***

Geography

### ***Nanjing Medical University (1)***

Public Health and Preventive Medicine

## **Jiangxi (1)**

### ***Nanchang University (1)***

Materials Science and Engineering

## **Jilin (13)**

### ***Jilin University (6)***

Archaeology

Physics

Materials Science and Engineering

Mathematics

Chemistry

Biology

### ***Yanbian University (1)***

Foreign Language and literature

### ***Northeast Normal University (6)***

Theory of Marxist

Pedagogy

Statistics

World History

Chemistry

Materials Science and Engineering

## **Liaoning (7)**

### ***Liaoning University (1)***

Applied Economics

### ***Dalian University of Technology (3)***

Mechanics

Chemical Engineering and Technology

Mechanical Engineering

### ***Northeastern University (2)***

Control Science and Engineering

Metallurgical engineering

### ***Dalian Maritime University (1)***

Traffic and Transport Engineering

## Ningxia (1)

### ***Ningxia University (1)***

Chemical Engineering and Technology

## Qinghai (1)

### ***Qinghai University (1)***

Ecology

## Shaanxi (20)

### ***Northwest University (2)***

Geology

Archaeology

### ***Xi'an Jiaotong University (8)***

Mechanics

Materials Science and Engineering

Electrical Engineering

Management Science and Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

Power Engineering and Engineering Thermo-physics

Control Science and Engineering

Business Administration

### ***Northwestern Polytechnical University (3)***

Mechanical Engineering

Aerospace Science and Technology

Materials Science and Engineering

### ***Xidian University (2)***

Computer Science and Technology

Information and Communication Engineering

### ***Chang'an University (1)***

Traffic and Transport Engineering

### ***Northwest A&F University (2)***

Plant protection

Animal husbandry

### ***Shaanxi Normal University (1)***

Chinese language and Literature

### ***Air Force Medical University (aka The Fourth Military Medical University) (1)***

Clinical Medicine

## Shandong (8)

### ***Shandong University (4)***

Mathematics

Chinese Language and Literature

Chemistry

Clinical Medicine

### ***Ocean University of China (2)***

Marine Science

Aquatic Products

## **China University of Petroleum (East China) (2)**

Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering

Geological Resources and Geological Engineering

## **Shanghai (64)**

### **Fudan University (20)**

Philosophy

Chinese language and Literature

Mathematics

Chemistry

Ecology

Environmental Science and Engineering

Clinical Medicine

Pharmaceutical Sciences

Applied Economics

Public Health and Preventive Medicine

Political Science

Chinese History

Physics

Biology

Materials Science and Engineering

Basic Medical Sciences

Integrated Chinese and Western Medicines

Integrated Circuit Science and Engineering

Marxist Theory

Foreign Languages and Literature

### **Tongji University (8)**

Architecture

Surveying and Mapping

Urban and Rural Planning

Biology

Civil Engineering

Environmental Science and Engineering

Landscape Architecture

Design

### **Shanghai Jiao Tong University (18)**

Mathematics

Biology

Materials Science and Engineering

Control Science and Engineering

Civil Engineering

Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering

Clinical Medicine

Pharmaceutical Sciences

Electronic Science and Technology

Chemistry

Mechanical Engineering

Information and Communication Engineering

Computer Science and Technology

Chemical Engineering and Technology

Basic Medical Sciences

Stomatology

Physics

Business Administration

### **East China University of Science and Technology (3)**

Chemistry

Chemical Engineering and Technology

Materials Science and Engineering

### **Donghua University (2)**

Textile Science and Engineering

Materials Science and Engineering

### **Shanghai Ocean University (1)**

Aquatic Products

### **Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (2)**

Traditional Chinese Medicine

Science of Chinese Pharmacology

### **East China Normal University (3)**

Pedagogy

Statistics

Ecology

### **Shanghai International Studies University (1)**

Foreign Language and literature

### ***Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (1)***

Applied Economics

### ***Shanghai University of Sport (1)***

Sports Science

### ***Shanghai Conservatory of Music (1)***

Music and Dance Studies

### ***Shanghai University (1)***

Mechanical Engineering

### ***Naval Medical University (The Second Military Medical University) (1)***

Basic Medical Sciences

### ***ShanghaiTech University (1)***

Materials Science and Engineering

## **Shanxi (3)**

### ***Taiyuan University of Technology (1)***

Chemical Engineering and Technology

### ***Shanxi University (2)***

Philosophy

Physics

## **Sichuan (14)**

### ***Sichuan University (6)***

Mathematics

Materials Science and Engineering

Stomatology

Chemistry

Basic Medical Sciences

Nursing

### ***Southwest Jiaotong University (1)***

Traffic and Transport Engineering

### ***University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (2)***

Electric Science and Technology

Information and Communication Engineering

### ***Southwest Petroleum University (1)***

Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering

### ***Chengdu University of Technology (1)***

Geological Resources and Geological Engineering

### ***Sichuan Agricultural University (1)***

Crop Science

### ***Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (1)***

Traditional Chinese Medicine

## ***Southwestern University of Finance and Economics (1)***

Applied Economics

## **Tianjin (15)**

### ***Nankai University (6)***

World History

Chemistry

Materials Science and Engineering

Mathematics

Statistics

Applied Economics

### ***Tianjin University (5)***

Chemistry

Chemical Engineering and Technology

Power Engineering and Engineering Thermo-physics

Materials Science and Engineering

Management Science and Engineering

### ***Tianjin Polytechnic University (1)***

Textile Science and Engineering

### ***Tianjin Medical University (1)***

Clinical Medicine

## ***Tianjin University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (1)***

Traditional Chinese Medicine

### ***Hebei University of Technology (1)***

Electric Engineering

## **Tibet (1)**

### ***Tibet University (1)***

Ecology

## **Xinjiang (4)**

### ***Xinjiang University (3)***

Theory of Marxist

Computer Science and Technology

Chemistry

### ***Shihezi University (1)***

Chemical Engineering and Technology

## **Yunnan (2)**

### ***Yunnan University (2)***

Ethnology

Ecology

## **Zhejiang (23)**

### ***Zhejiang University (21)***

Chemistry

Ecology

Biology

Mechanical Engineering

Optical Engineering  
Electrical Engineering  
Computer Science and Technology  
Environmental Science and Engineering  
Gardening  
Basic Medical Sciences  
Management Science and Engineering  
Clinical Medicine  
Power Engineering and Engineering Thermo-  
physics

Materials Science and Engineering  
Control Science and Engineering  
Agricultural Engineering  
Software Engineering  
Plant Protection  
Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Agriculture and Forestry Economic Management  
Civil Engineering

***China Academy of Art (1)***

Fine Arts

***Ningbo University (1)***

Mechanics

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<sup>1</sup> The People's Republic of China, Ministry of Education, “教育部财政部国家发展改革委关于公布第二轮 “双一流” 建设高校及建设学科名单的通知(Notice of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and National Development and Reform Commission on the Announcement of the Second Round of "Double First-Class" Universities and Disciplines)”, 11 Feb 2022.

[http://www.moe.gov.cn/srcsite/A22/s7065/202202/t20220211\\_598710.html](http://www.moe.gov.cn/srcsite/A22/s7065/202202/t20220211_598710.html)

<sup>2</sup> The People's Republic of China, Ministry of Education, “教育部财政部国家发展改革委关于深入推进世界一流大学和一流学科建设的若干意见 (Several Opinions of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and the National Development and Reform Commission on Further Promoting the Construction of World-Class Universities and First-Class Disciplines)”, 29 Jan 2022.

[http://www.moe.gov.cn/srcsite/A22/s7065/202202/t20220211\\_598706.html](http://www.moe.gov.cn/srcsite/A22/s7065/202202/t20220211_598706.html)



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<sup>3</sup> See previous policy updates published by the Education and Research Section of the Australian Embassy in China: [\*Double First-Class university and discipline policy update\*](#) (Dec 2017) and [\*Implementation measures released for China's new world-class university policy\*](#) (Feb 2017).

<sup>4</sup> When the plan refers to a discipline/program, it means a narrow field of study or discipline cluster offered by an individual university. For example, two universities might meet the standard to be considered world class in Earth Sciences. This would count as two disciplines under the “Double First-Class” plan.

<sup>5</sup> The seven newly added universities and their respective disciplines are: **Shanxi University** (philosophy, Mathematics); **Nanjing Medical University** (Public health and preventive medicine); **Xiangtan University** (Mathematics); **South China Agricultural University** (Crop Science); **Guangzhou Medical University** (clinical medicine); **Southern University of Science and Technology** (Mathematics); **ShanghaiTech University** (Material Science and Engineering).

<sup>6</sup> As outlined in the “[\*Strong Foundation Program\*](#)” announced by the Chinese Ministry of Education in January 2020.

<sup>7</sup> “China To Further Promote The Double First-Class Initiative”. Ministry of Education, The People’s Republic of China, February 2022, [http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press\\_releases/202203/t20220301\\_603547.html](http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202203/t20220301_603547.html).

<sup>8</sup> The People’s Republic of China, The State Council, “国务院关于印发统筹推进世界一流大学和一流学科建设总体方案的通知 (*The State Council on the Issuance of the General Plan for the Coordinated Promotion of World-Class Universities and First-class Discipline Construction Overall Plan*)”, 24 Oct 2015. [http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb\\_xgk/moe\\_1777/moe\\_1778/201511/t20151105\\_217823.html](http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xgk/moe_1777/moe_1778/201511/t20151105_217823.html)

<sup>9</sup> The People’s Republic of China, Ministry of Education, “服务创新发展，完善管理机制推动高层次人才培养与高水平科学研究相互促进——教育部有关负责人就第二轮“双一流”建设有关情况答记者问 (*Serving innovation and development, improving management mechanism, promoting the mutual promotion of high-level talent training and high-level scientific research -- Ministry of Education representative answers reporters' questions on the second round of 'Double First-Class'*)”, 13 Feb 2022.

[http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb\\_xwfb/s271/202202/t20220214\\_599080.html](http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xwfb/s271/202202/t20220214_599080.html)

<sup>10</sup> The People’s Republic of China, Ministry of Education, “教育部 财政部 国家发展改革委关于印发《‘双一流’建设成效评价办法（试行）》的通知 (*Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, National Development and Reform Commission on the Issuance of "Evaluation of the Effectiveness of "Double First-class" Construction Measures (for Trial Implementation)*)”, 23 Mar 2021.

[http://www.moe.gov.cn/srcsite/A22/moe\\_843/202103/t20210323\\_521951.html](http://www.moe.gov.cn/srcsite/A22/moe_843/202103/t20210323_521951.html)

<sup>11</sup> Referring to the Communist Party of China’

<sup>12</sup> Project 211, launched in 1996, aims to raise research standards at 112 selected high-level Chinese universities.

<sup>13</sup> The 985 project is a subset of the 211 project universities, involving 39 universities that were given substantial additional funding. These are generally referred to as China’s top 39 universities.