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Doç. Dr. Yeşer Yeşim ÖZER YÜRÜR  
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3 August 2016

Dear Colleagues at Partner and Cooperating Universities:

I am writing to provide a brief update on the incoming cohort of Yenching Scholars— our second – and to inform you of some changes we are making in the recruitment schedule for our third cohort, which will enroll in September of 2017.

Our second class consists of 125 individuals from 41 countries and territories. If you would like to read about them, please visit <http://yenchingacademy.org/incoming>. I think you will agree that they are a most talented and diverse group well positioned to benefit from their Yenching Academy studies – and to learn a great deal from one another. We look forward to welcoming them to campus early next month.

Because we are anticipating that the number of applicants will continue to grow apace, we have decided to establish three application deadlines to give us more time to evaluate applications and conduct interviews. Students from universities that follow the southern hemisphere calendars will have to apply by October 15, 2016.

Students from universities in the United States and Canada will have until December 15, 2016. The last deadline, January 31, 2017 applies to applicants from universities in all other countries.

Please note that the application deadline is associated with the applicant's current university, not his/her nationality. An Australian student applying from the University of Copenhagen, for example, would have until January 31 to apply. The deadline for applicants not currently affiliated with a particular university would normally be that associated with their nationality (applicants who are uncertain about which deadline applies to them are invited to contact us for clarification).

As in the past, we will be looking to recruit bright, accomplished young people who are determined to change the world for the better, and who have a well-articulated rationale for why the Yenching Academy makes sense for them. Another important consideration for the selection committee is diversity, which we believe has added immeasurably to the program's success.

This naturally implies that we look for people with a wide array of academic and life backgrounds, and that we must be sensitive to differences in each candidate's educational and social environment. As to geographic diversity, our rough guidelines are 15-20% China; 25-30% Europe; 20-25% U.S. and Canada; and 20-25% from other countries. Our target size for the third cohort is 125, the same as for the second.

A large percentage of the acceptance decisions will be made once we have evaluated all applicants after the final, January 31, 2017 deadline. However, we do anticipate making some acceptance offers before then.

Our online portal for the next round of applications will go live August 15, 2016. Kindly note that all applicants must complete the online application, including nominees from Partner Universities, since the automated part of our admissions process relies on its data.

You may have noticed that our website has a new look, and that we are now more active on Facebook and Twitter, not to mention WeChat, which is omnipresent in China. We will be sending soft and hard copies of a new brochure to you soon, as well as a soft version of a Yenching Academy recruitment flyer.

In the past, we indicated that you could expect a certain number of places for your students. In some cases, that number was exceeded, and in a few cases was not met. In coming years we expect competition to become more intense, and I therefore want to reiterate that, while we cannot guarantee places to any Partner or Cooperating University, we will continue to give extra consideration to your applicants.

Should you have any questions or suggestions, please do let us know. We look forward very much to working with you again this year.

Warm regards,

*John*

John L. Holden  
Associate Dean

P.S. Our admissions team has evolved from last year, and now includes Admissions Manager Miranda Zuo from the United States and Admissions Specialist HE Jiachen from the PRC, along with Admissions Assistants LIN Mengjie from Taiwan and Sarah Finn from Ireland. Miranda will be the main point of contact with Partner and Cooperating Universities throughout the admissions process.

P.P. S. Students from Chinese universities apply through a different process. As in past years, students with PRC passports (who are not from Hong Kong or Macau) may only apply if they are currently enrolled as undergraduates in a Mainland Chinese university. A Chinese national studying at, for example, Oxford or Harvard, would not be eligible to apply.