



China Focus | Graduate Assistantship

China Focus at The Carter Center is seeking a qualified graduate assistant (GA) for the 2026-27 academic year to support an array of program and research initiatives.

Series Editor and Contributor to The Monitor blog/newsletter. The Monitor is a forum for sober discussion of the international records of the United States and China. The goal is to promote a better understanding of how the U.S.-China relationship can be improved and the global consequences of a worsening relationship. Working with the senior program associate, the GA is expected to solicit submissions for The Monitor and develop a series of submissions written by the GA and outside contributors on an agreed- upon area of U.S.-China relations. This theme of the series will be agreed upon by the China Focus team, but the graduate assistant should expect to use this as an opportunity to advance their own research and professional network.

Chinese Public Opinion Research. China Focus conducts regular public opinion polling in China. Our current project is the development of methods and tools to measure Chinese public support for military coercion in international relations. Working with the China Focus team and university faculty partners, the GA will help develop questions for our surveys based on contemporary international relations issues in China. The GA is expected to prepare a working paper based on survey findings and may join the China Focus team in presenting this paper at conferences and public events.

The Jimmy Carter Forum on U.S.-China Relations and Emerging Voices for US-China Relations conference. The Jimmy Carter Forum is China Focus's highest- level conference event. Emerging Voices is a platform for next generation policy experts and academics.

Both events alternate their location between the U.S. and China annually. The GA will assist in supporting the planning and implementation of these events to the degree they are able and will be invited as a participant to the Emerging Voices conference. There will be many additional in-person programming opportunities in which the GA is welcome to engage depending on their availability and the priority of other ongoing initiatives.

The graduate assistant will be expected to:

Edit and contribute to a blog or newsletter series on a critical aspect of U.S.-China relations, assist in preparing, conducting, and presenting public opinion research, and provide programmatic support for key conferencing events. Key benchmarks for review include the following tangible deliverables:

- Authored, co-authored, and solicited contributions to The Monitor, inclusive of



interviews, executive summaries of working papers, and articles based on the GA's own research and interests

- Support for public opinion research, including assistance drafting survey questions, IRB documents, and reports on the results. (Basic skills in statistical analysis are a plus.)
- Participation in at least two China Focus events, including, for example, speaking on a conference panel, moderating a Q&A, or participating as a speaker in a webinar.

Qualifications:

- Current enrollment in a graduate studies program and completion of at least 18 credit hours of graduate coursework toward a degree in fields related to the sociology, history, political science, economy, or international relations of modern China.
- A weekly commitment of between 10 and 20 hours for a period of nine to 12 months
- Strong research, writing, communication, and analytical skills
- Selected candidate will need to be a self-starter and should be able to work independently
- Strong quantitative skills (e.g., R and/or Stata or similar) are a plus
- May be called on to train or mentor interns on issues/skills that intersect the GA's expertise and the program's ongoing initiatives
- Demonstrated interest in contemporary China's domestic and international politics
- Familiarity with public debate and scholarship on the major issues in the U.S.-China relationship
- Ideal candidates should have completed at least one graduate course focused exclusively on China
- Editorial experience is a plus