



FELLOWSHIP TERMS OF REFERENCE

I. IDENTIFICATION OF THE POST

Title:	Fellow (SDG Finance)
Organizational unit:	UNDP China
Country and Duty Station:	Beijing, China
Fellowship duration:	12 months

II. CORPORATE BACKGROUND:

UNDP works in about 170 countries and territories, helping to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and exclusion, and build resilience so countries can sustain progress. As the UN's development agency, UNDP plays a critical role in helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

III. FELLOWSHIP OFFICE BACKGROUND:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in China is the China country office of the United Nations Development Programme – the global development network of the United Nations. UNDP has been working in China over the past 40 years, partnering to advance various phases of China's development. UNDP China Office has been assisting the Chinese government and stakeholders across different sectors in developing sustainable solutions to its own ongoing development challenges, including multi-dimensional poverty as well as energy & environment for more than four decades. We provide development advisory services and implement projects through innovation and applying our international experience and network in three pillars: supporting China's transformation to a low-carbon economy for a cleaner, healthier environment for all; facilitating China's shift to using the SDGs as a standard for its inclusive development, economic decisions and investments; and supporting China's international cooperation and south-south engagement for SDG attainment.

The Fellowship Programme, in collaboration with partners, marks the first step in the SDG Fellowships Accelerating Sustainable Transformation Initiative (SDG FAST). It is designed to develop a pipeline of talented young professionals who are engaged and supporting to accelerate the SDGs and national development priorities in China. The fellows will also have the opportunity to gain access to extensive learning resources, including relevant practical knowledge, corporate learning materials, domestic and international working experiences, under the mentorship and supervision of professionals in UNDP China.

The SDGs calls for unprecedented cooperation across all of society – including governments, communities, civil society and the private sector, and achieving them requires overcoming a critical financing gap. As the world's second largest economy, China is increasingly recognized as an important player in global sustainable finance market and financial system reforms. Since 2016, China has established a comprehensive policy framework for greening its financial system. Its efforts in redirecting financial resources for environmental objectives are essential to meet the global sustainable development goals.

Building on China's achievements, UNDP stands to work with partners across the public and private sectors to enhance SDG-alignments in China's financial system by increasing data availability, boosting transparency, harmonising standards, and facilitating international experience sharing.

Fellowship Scope: *The Fellow will have the opportunity to work closely with Strategic Partnership and Policy team to support below projects under the supervision of Team Leader.*

- Research on Strengthening Horizontal Ecological Compensation Mechanisms in China
- Research on Transition Finance for Existing and Potential Projects

IV. DUTIES:

The Fellow will assist in the following duties and responsibilities:

No	Duties and responsibilities	% of time
1	<p>Research on Strengthening Horizontal Ecological Compensation Mechanisms in China</p> <p>This research project aims to strengthen horizontal ecological compensation mechanisms in China by identifying key challenges, generating theoretical and policy-relevant insights, and informing future policymaking. Through an in-depth examination of both domestic practices and international experiences, the study will explore opportunities to enhance these mechanisms, align them with performance-based objectives, and scale up their implementation to support China’s ecological and development goals. Internal policy briefs will also be produced to facilitate stakeholder engagement and policy dialogue.</p> <p>Key Tasks and Responsibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy Research Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct data analysis and literature reviews to support policy research. • Prepare summary notes summarizing key findings and insights. 2. Quality Assurance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in translation efforts as needed. • Draft and polish research reports for clarity, accuracy and coherence. 3. Event Management and Communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and coordinate project-related workshops and launch events. • Draft public-facing materials, including talking points and speech notes, to effectively communicate project outcomes and insights. 	40%
2	<p>Research on Transition Finance for Existing and Potential Projects</p> <p>In light of the significant global financing gap for achieving the SDGs and supporting climate transitions, this research focuses on the role of transition finance in mobilizing private capital. Special attention is given to hard-to-abate sectors and the potential of innovative financial instruments—including private equity, venture capital, insurance, carbon credits, blended finance, and supply chain finance—to facilitate a just and inclusive transition.</p> <p>Key Tasks and Responsibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy Research Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct data analysis and literature reviews to support policy research. • Prepare summary notes summarizing key findings and insights. 2. Quality Assurance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in translation efforts as needed. • Draft and polish research reports for clarity, accuracy and coherence. 3. Event Management and Communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and coordinate project-related workshops and launch events. • Draft public-facing materials, including talking points and speech notes, to effectively communicate project outcomes and insights. 	40%
3	<p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide flexible support other relevant and ad hoc activities in areas of climate/green/transition finance, gender-lens finance, Impact measurement and reporting, debt instrument innovation, and sustainable fiscal policies, as needed. 	20%

V. REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

Candidates must meet one of the following educational requirements:

- Currently enrolled in or recently graduated from a Master's or PhD program, preferably with a major or relevant work experience in economics or finance.

Language skills:

- Advanced command of English.
- Proficiency in understanding Chinese language in formal governmental style.

Desired Experience or Competencies

- Prior research or publications in areas related to transition finance, green and sustainable bonds market, or sustainable fiscal policies.
- Ability to conduct and synthesize literature reviews, policy scans, and data analysis to support evidence-based policy research.
- Proven ability to deliver results under tight deadlines, demonstrate quick learning capacity, adapt effectively to change, and embrace new ways of working.
- Uphold a high standard of integrity, responsibility, and professionalism in all tasks.

Other competencies and attitude:

- Take pride in working with UNDP, passionate to make a difference.