



Universitätsklinikum Tübingen

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Division of General and Molecular Pathology
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Advice to PhD Applicants with CSC Scholarship

Congratulations on considering a PhD in the Schürch lab! Please note, I receive many generic and lengthy applications from Chinese Scholarship Council candidates every week, which I do not consider. Even strong candidates often introduce themselves poorly. To be considered, present yourself effectively by following the advice below.

- 1) Clearly explain why you want to join my lab. To be considered, your reasons must align with my research, and a relevant project idea is essential. This is crucial for gaining my attention.
- 2) Prepare thoroughly for your interview by reading all of my publications from the past five years. Your understanding of my lab's work will be a key factor in determining whether you are a good fit.
- 3) I value self-critical, knowledgeable colleagues who challenge me intellectually. You should be well-prepared and eager to teach me as much as I teach you. Impress me, and I'll ensure a productive and enjoyable collaboration. I cannot work with those who see themselves as mere executors of my ideas. I expect sparring partners who think critically and contribute to our shared goal of advancing science.
- 4) Finally, very hard work is necessary but not sufficient for success. Achieving top publications relies more on your intelligence, commitment, ability to ask the right questions, and sometimes luck. Working tirelessly without critical thinking won't guarantee success. It's crucial to be self-critical, thoroughly evaluate your project's logic, and master the relevant literature. A flawed idea cannot be saved by effort alone, so think carefully before you act.

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