

**FOREIGN ACADEMICIANS OF THE  
CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES:  
AN OVERVIEW OF NEW  
ACADEMICIANS FROM 2000 TO 2019**

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*EAI Background Brief No. 1747*

## Executive Summary

1. The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) is one of the most important science agencies in the People's Republic of China tasked with carrying out research and development, supporting scientific research nationwide, advising policymakers on scientific questions and honouring the nation's leading scientists.
2. The most important scientific figures within CAS are the academicians. While most academicians are Chinese nationals, CAS also designates a smaller number of scientists who hold other citizenship as "foreign members" of CAS. From 2000 to 2019, 104 scientists were named as foreign academicians.
3. During these years, most new foreign academicians of CAS held US citizenship. Nevertheless, a large share of these scientists were born in China or had returned to work in China at the time of their selection as "foreign" CAS members.
4. Four of the 104 foreign academicians named in this time are women, three of whom are based in the United States.
5. Other foreign scientists named to CAS have tended to lead prominent institutions in "Global South" or Belt and Road Initiative countries; have had a record of close collaborations with Chinese scientists and institutions; have had a record of making positive public comments about China or supporting political goals of China's leadership; and/or, have led major Western research agencies or scientific societies or received prominent international scientific prizes such as the Nobel Prize.
6. From 2000 to 2019, CAS did not name any scientists from Africa, the Korean peninsula, or Southeast Asia excluding Singapore as foreign academicians. Further, in these years, CAS named almost no ethnic Chinese scientists who were born or raised outside of mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, or Taiwan.