

application exercise

To be considered for an intern position with one of our teams, please complete the following three exercises in English in a separate document titled '*your name* application exercise', save it as a PDF and submit it with your CV, cover letter and any other documents via our portal.

Following our [style guide](#) on page 5 will demonstrate your ability to follow style and, where necessary, formatting instructions. This is essential when working on time-sensitive texts for publication.

Before submitting your exercise, check again that it conforms to our short style guide.

on AI use

You may use AI tools to help research or draft your answers. If you do, add a short note (three or four sentences) at the end of your submission naming the tools you used and how. Exercise 2 asks you to show your own editorial judgement over an AI-drafted ticker directly.

1. analysis skills

From the list below, browse websites relevant to your chosen portfolio and select three to five texts (published in the four weeks before you submit) that we would potentially add to our commentary database.

You are looking for texts that detail policy shifts or new and important information written by authoritative policy commentators. We are focused on policy rather than data analysis and look for articles that illuminate the thinking and direction of central agencies.

Please read Exercise 3 (analytical drafting) before completing this task. The texts you select here will be used for your analytical note.

财新 Caixin: www.caixin.com (please skip this one if you don't have an account)

界面 Jiemian: <https://www.jiemian.com/>

21世纪经济报 21st Century Business Herald: <http://www.21jingji.com/>

经济参考报 Economic Information Daily: <http://jjckb.xinhuanet.com/>

每经网 National Business Daily: <http://www.nbd.com.cn/>

科技日报 Science and Technology Daily: <http://www.stdaily.com/>

第一财经 China Business Network: <https://www.yicai.com/news/>

南方周末 Southern Weekly: <https://www.infzm.com/wap/#/>

新京报 The Beijing News: <https://www.bjnews.com.cn/>

人民日报 People's Daily: <http://www.people.com.cn/>

观察者 Guancha: <https://www.guancha.cn/>

证券时报 Securities Times: <https://www.stcn.com/>

能源杂志 Energy Magazine: <https://www.inengyuan.com/>

中国能源报 China Energy News: <https://www.cnenergynews.cn/>

全国性电力行业门户网站 China Power: <http://www.chinapower.com.cn/>

新浪专栏 Finance Sina: <https://finance.sina.com.cn/zl/>

澎湃 自贸区连线 Thepaper.cn: https://www.thepaper.cn/list_25432

国际网 Cfisnet <http://comment.cfisnet.com/RE/WorldEconomy/>

求是网 Qiushi: <http://www.qstheory.cn/>

爱思想 Aisixiang: <https://www.aisixiang.com/>

中国纪检监察杂志 China Discipline Inspection Magazine: <https://zgjjjc.ccdi.gov.cn/>

中国组织人事报 China Organisation and Personnel Affairs News: <https://www.zuzhirenshi.com/>

党建网 Dangjian.cn: <http://www.dangjian.cn/>

法治网 Legal Daily: <http://www.legaldaily.com.cn/>

中国法学网 CASS Institute of Law: <http://iolaw.cssn.cn/>

旗帜网 Qizhi: <http://www.qizhiwang.org.cn/>

中国纪检监察杂志 China Discipline Inspection Magazine: <https://zgjjjc.ccdi.gov.cn/>

中国组织人事报 China Organisation and Personnel Affairs News: <https://www.zuzhirenshi.com/>

Please enter links to the chosen texts (three to five) within the given dates. For each, explain briefly why you picked it, and note which outlet or commentator carries more institutional weight relative to the others on your list

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. (optional)
5. (optional)

2. drafting skills

In your chosen portfolio below, for ONE of the texts, please write what we call a policy 'ticker'. You may use an AI tool to produce a first draft, but your submission must be your own edited version

- write a concise paragraph or two that conveys the writer's main points and perspective
- add a short title that will attract the reader and that reflects the content of the text
- select a quote (up to three sentences) that is distinctive in conveying the message of the text, and translate it into idiomatic English
- find two texts from mainland Chinese sources on similar issues; copy the texts or the URLs and justify your choices in a few sentences
- note, in three or four sentences, what an AI-generated first draft got wrong, missed, or oversimplified, if you used one

macroeconomy

finance minister signals policy reserve after Q2 slowdown

蓝佛安：以更大力度落实财政金融协同促内需一揽子政策

https://www.mof.gov.cn/zhengwuxinxi/caizhengxinwen/202607/t20260723_3994034.htm

or

the biggest issue of China's current economy is not K-shaped divergence

李稻葵：当前中国经济最大的问题，不是K型分化

<https://www.aisixiang.com/data/179284.html>

trade

the PRC is entering a 'born global' production era

江小涓：中国正进入一个“生而为全球”的创新生产过程

<https://www.bjnews.com.cn/detail/1783559382129797.html>

or

limitations of 'autonomous and unilateral opening'

屠新泉：从中国入世25周年探究开放的本质与未来选择

<https://www.163.com/dy/article/KRNAU2IU0519R8II.html>

scitech

local governments set up dedicated AI bureaus (科技新观察 | “人工智能局”相继挂牌，在下一盘什么棋？)

https://www.stdaily.com/web/2026-08/07/content_560381.html

or

first substantive overhaul of integrated circuit layout design regulation since 2001 (司法部、国家知识产权局负责人就《集成电路布图设计保护条例》修订答记者问)

<https://www.news.cn/politics/20260803/147d8ed988c341bf9e624df21a020aaa/c.html>

agriculture and fisheries

PRC pilots grain compensation scheme

吃粮大省补偿种粮大省:补多少?怎么补?

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/2Gtvob8il8eqoHsymwAarg>

or

regional coordination fix needed for the marine economy

“十五五”时期我国海洋经济高质量发展的区域协同联动机制探索

https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/J9vBEIx-bTTDX7FvVR6_bw

energy and environment

electricity plan tackles the absorption problem (中国工程院院士刘吉臻解读《新型电力系统建设“十五五”规划》)

https://www.cpnnews.com.cn/news/xwtt/202608/t20260805_1906405.html

coordinating legal norms in the Ecological and Environmental Code (焦艳鹏:《生态环境法典》适用中如何调适法律规范)

<https://www.aisixiang.com/data/176313.html>

social policy

Shanghai hospitals allow patients to access imported drugs [Chinese headline TBC – WeChat source, please add]

https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/U_b2Eh6vdqEYf47cDfyBJA

or

guidelines on learn-by-doing science education for mandatory education (热点回应 | 中小学生的科学课开学要变样)

https://www.stdaily.com/web/gdxw/2026-08/05/content_559474.html

or

mutual-aid aged care model to address rural ageing crisis (2030年全国互助养老覆盖率达70% 对农村纾困几何)

<https://www.caixin.com/2026-05-07/102441198.html>

governance and law

Beijing sets clearer rules on hidden corruption (期权腐败、“雅贿”等怎么定罪量刑?治理贪污贿赂出新规)

<https://china.caixin.com/2026-04-11/102433117.html>

or

Beijing sets new 5-year plan for legal publicity and education (莫纪宏:以法治规范引领新时代全民普法)

<https://www.aisixiang.com/data/180662.html>

global impact

Beijing sets out the Global Governance Initiative in a new white paper (重磅白皮书展现改革完善全球治理的大国担当)

<https://www.news.cn/world/20260618/22829f78f91e44cc8280e173299574c2/c.html>

or

power shift drives EU's harder PRC line (张超:欧洲“焦虑”的根源:不是因为中国太强,而是自己不再被当作榜样)

<https://www.aisixiang.com/data/179038.html>

3. analytical drafting

Using the three to five texts you selected in Exercise 1, please write a 400-500-word analytical note in English.

Your note must be a piece of original analysis that synthesises the information from your chosen articles. It should not merely summarise each article. Instead, it must explain what these texts, taken together, reveal about a specific policy trend.

Your analytical note should clearly answer the following

- what is the core policy shift, debate, or development you have identified?
- what does this trend reveal about the 'thinking and direction of central agencies'?
- what are the key implications (the 'so what')? (e.g., What might be the impact on international businesses, a specific industry, or international relations?)
- where do your chosen texts disagree, or what do they leave unsaid, and why might that matter?

Shortlisted candidates will be asked to talk through their source choices and analysis in a short follow-up conversation.

Before submitting your application, check again that it conforms to our style.

first aid for every CHINA POLICY text

CHINA POLICY style is designed for clean and simple online presentation. We aim to minimise the number of marks on the page. We drop some established rules, particularly punctuation and capitalisation. And, like all systems, we have a few exceptions.

- 1 **titles and subtitles:** lowercase, unless a proper noun
- 2 **dates:** number before month: 12 Dec 2020 or 12 December 2020; never December 12, 2020; never add -st, -th, or -rd
- 3 **numbers and currency:** write out up to and including ten, but numerals for 11 and up, same for ordinal numbers; C¥5,000 not RMB or CNY
- 4 **spaces:** always single, no double spaces after full stop or colon
- 5 **bullet points:** not preceded by colon or followed by semicolon or full stop
- 6 **quotes:** single ('like this') double quotes inside single quotes ('like "this"')
- 7 **Chinese names:** should be written like this Yi Gang 易纲 PBoC governor, figures familiar to a general readership (Chairman Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang, Chairman Mao Zedong) may be introduced with their title but without Chinese characters
- 8 **affiliations:** largest to smallest with no comma in-between, e.g. SAMR Anti-monopoly Bureau deputy director
- 9 **15th 5-year plan:** never 15th five year plan, or 15th five-year plan, or 15th 5 year plan, or 15th FYP
- 10 **exceptions:** percent (one word) not %; 'and' not &, except R&D and M&A

we use **Australian spelling**, similar to the UK, with a few exceptions

Australian spellings listed on the right

-ize = -ise	programme = program
-ization = -isation	license (v) licence (n)
-er = -re	defense = defence
-or = -our	judgment = judgement
-og = -ogue	sulfur = sulphur

do not submit your exercise without **checking** this page