



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

*Office of the Assistant Attorney General
Washington, D.C. 20530*

July 20, 2026

VIA email to: jennifer_oconnor@harvard.edu

Harvard University
677 Huntington Ave.
Boston, MA 02115

c/o
Jennifer O'Connor, Esq.
Vice President and General Counsel
617-495-1280

Dear Ms. O'Connor:

This is to inform you that the United States Department of Justice is commencing a compliance review investigation of Harvard University ("Harvard") pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VI"), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.* Title VI prohibits a recipient of federal financial assistance from discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin. 42 U.S.C. § 2000d. As you know, Harvard currently receives federal financial assistance from the Department of Justice and other federal government sources and accordingly must abide by Title VI's anti-discrimination requirements.

At this time, our investigation will focus on possible national origin discrimination by Harvard in student aid and benefits based on restrictions in grants and gifts received by Harvard from foreign funding sources. Section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) requires institutions of higher education, such as Harvard, to disclose gifts and contracts of \$250,000 or more. 20 U.S.C. § 1011f. The Department of Education then makes that information available for public inspection (www.foreignfundinghighered.gov). Harvard's disclosures indicate that it is the American university that receives the highest amount of funding from foreign sources, having disclosed almost \$4.5 billion in foreign funding. Harvard's disclosures also confirm that its highest source of foreign funding comes from sources based in China, including more than \$630 million.

Upon auditing Harvard's foreign funding sources from China, we noted that Harvard has disclosed multiple gifts/contracts that contain restrictions on Harvard's use of the foreign funds, including restrictions to support or establish "financial aid funds with preference given to students from particular countries." Harvard appears to be accepting these funds with restrictions and conditions from China-based sources and then providing this student financial aid with preference to foreign students based on their national origin, presumably Chinese, to the potential detriment of persons of other national origins including citizens of the United States. These disclosures indicate that Harvard may be violating Title VI by providing financial aid to students on the basis of their national origin.

In conducting the compliance investigation, we will seek to determine whether Harvard is violating Title VI. We have not reached any conclusions about the subject matter of the investigation. If we conclude that Harvard is not violating Title VI, we will notify you that we are closing the investigation. 28 C.F.R. § 42.107. If we conclude that Harvard is violating Title VI, we will inform you and work with you to secure compliance by informal voluntary means. 28 C.F.R. §§ 42.107 & 42.108. If we cannot secure compliance by voluntary means, we may take formal action to secure compliance, which could include suspending, terminating, or refusing to grant or continue your federal financial assistance, as well as commencing a civil action. 28 C.F.R. § 42.108.

We expect Harvard to cooperate fully with this compliance investigation. The Department's Title VI implementing regulations require, among other obligations, that recipients of federal financial assistance permit access by the Department to sources of information and facilities as may be pertinent to ascertain compliance with Title VI and the implementing regulations. 28 C.F.R. §§ 42.106 & 42.108. These Title VI implementing regulations also require that every application for federal financial assistance be accompanied by an assurance that the program will be conducted in compliance with all requirements that Title VI and the implementing regulations impose. 28 C.F.R. § 42.105(a)(1). Pursuant to this requirement, Harvard signed contractual assurances agreeing to permit the Department to examine records and access other sources of information and facilities.

Pursuant to this authority, we request any and all documents regarding contributions received from the People's Republic of China or other foreign sources affiliated with China-based individuals or entities that contain restrictions on the funds' use by Harvard to support or establish financial aid funds with any preference given to students from particular countries. We request documents specifically making these gifts or grants, describing the nature and scope of the restrictions placed on Harvard's use of the funds, and describing Harvard's methods, policies, and procedures for handling foreign gifts with restrictions based on race or national origin of the potential recipients of the aid, gifts or grants. Additional details regarding these document requests are found in the attached Request for Information.

Please provide all responsive documents in an accessible electronic format (such as searchable PDF, Microsoft Word, or Excel) that preserves metadata and allows for efficient review. If electronic versions are available, we prefer these over paper copies to expedite the review process. If certain documents are only available in physical form, please indicate this in your response.

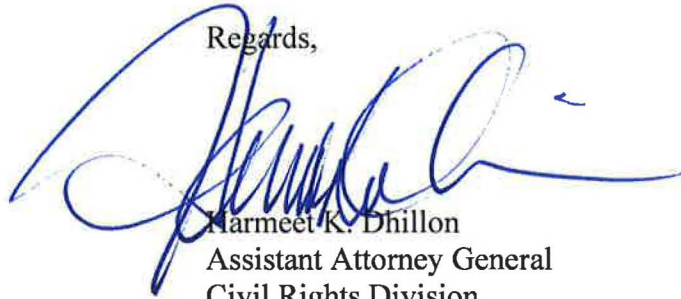
Please send the requested information by July 31, 2026. If you anticipate challenges meeting this deadline, contact us by July 24, 2026, to discuss a reasonable extension. If you have any questions as to formatting or concerns with the deadline, please contact us.

We recognize that some of the requested materials may contain student information protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g. Please be advised that the Department of Justice is authorized under 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(3)(ii) to obtain such information without prior consent for the purpose of enforcing federal legal requirements, including Title VI. Any information disclosed pursuant to this request will be used

solely for compliance review purposes and maintained in accordance with applicable federal confidentiality requirements.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Deputy Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey Morrison at jeffrey.morrison@usdoj.gov or (202) 353-1845. Thank you in advance for your attention and cooperation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Harmeet K. Dhillon', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Harmeet K. Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

TITLE VI REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Harvard University (Harvard) has disclosed funding received from foreign sources affiliated with the People's Republic of China or other China-based individuals and entities. In Harvard's disclosures, Harvard has identified that certain of these foreign individuals and entities have imposed restrictions on the use of those funds by Harvard, including restricting the funds to support or establish financial aid funds with preference given to students from particular countries.

The United States requests any and all documents regarding contributions with restricted uses received from entities affiliated with the Peoples' Republic of China or other China-based foreign sources (Chinese Restricted Funds). The United States requests these documents in a searchable electronic format. The United States also requests electronic correspondences including emails, text messages, and chat communications, in a searchable electronic format. These documents and correspondences include:

1. All documents and correspondences referring or relating to Chinese Restricted Funds.
2. All documents and correspondences referring or relating to Harvard's policies, practices or procedures on handling, managing, and spending Chinese Restricted Funds.
3. All documents and correspondences referring or relating any contributions, gifts or grants from individuals or entities listed in the attached Appendix of Identified China-Based Harvard Contributors.
4. All documents and correspondences referring or relating to the transferring of Chinese Restricted Funds to students or other entities.
5. All documents and correspondences referring or relating to the countries of origin or nationalities preferenced in financial aid programs funded by the Chinese Restricted Funds.
6. All documents and correspondences referring or relating to any use of the Chinese Restricted Funds.

7. Data regarding student beneficiaries of financial aid programs funded by the Chinese Restricted Funds, including for each student:

- a. Name.
- b. Date of Birth.
- c. Social Security Number.
- d. Individual Taxpayer Identification Number.
- e. Passport number.
- f. Green Card number.
- g. State ID number.
- h. Matriculating class.
- i. Country of origin.
- j. Nationality.
- k. Citizenship status.
- l. Amount of financial aid received.
- m. School of enrollment.
- n. Date financial aid was received.
- o. Date student left Harvard
- p. Graduation status

Appendix of China-Based Harvard Restricted Contributors

- 1. Evergrande Real Estate Group / China Evergrande Group**
- 2. Melanie Pong Salata & Jean Salata**
- 3. Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute (JITRI)**
- 4. Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology (NUIST)**
- 5. Beijing SOHO China Urban Cultural Foundation**
- 6. Dundee Greentech Limited**
- 7. Chow Tai Fook Enterprises Limited**
- 8. Dr. Victor Kwok-King Fung**
- 9. Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust**
- 10. The University of Hong Kong**
- 11. New World Group Charity Foundation Co., Ltd**
- 12. Xu and Huang Family Charitable Foundation**
- 13. Mr. Peter V. Kwok**