

2024 Master of Science in Urban Governance

Website:

<http://en.spap.ruc.edu.cn/>

Programme description

Our world has recently entered into the urban age, with more than half of the world's population now living in cities. This change of the demographic pattern is associated with variegated urban transformations that have been unfolding everywhere, both in the Global South and in the North. In China, for example, the expansion of urban space in its more than 650 cities and 20,000 towns have been fundamentally shaping the ways of social and economic development, the processes of urban and rural governance, as well as the current and prospective ways of life for urban and rural residents. Such great transformation induces a challenge for urban researchers and policymakers: how can we make the urban space more productive, innovative, and inclusive for people? To address questions as such, we need to reflect upon theories and practices of urban governance and seek alternative modes that are in line with local conditions of urban development.

The MSc in Urban Governance (MUG) program at the School of Public Administration and Policy, Renmin University of China, attends particularly to conditions and dynamics of urban development, planning and governance. It responds directly to the above challenges and aims to establish a new platform to further develop conceptual and empirical frameworks and investigate and interrogate related urban governance practices. As the first English program on urban governance established in mainland China, we recruit students globally. We expect that our students will develop critical- analytical skills in examining rationales, processes, and effects of urban governing practices in a comparative way. For this purpose, students will learn how to evaluate urban policies at local, national, and global scales - from societal, economic, political, and cultural perspectives. This will be achieved through an interdisciplinary training, with theories, concepts, and methods ranging from public policy to urban studies, urban planning, geography, and sociology.

We welcome applications from all qualified students (see the eligibility below) and look forward to developing this program into an efficient platform for students with the very best academic merit, potential and motivation. In terms of the size of enrollment, this program has the capacity to recruit thirty students annually, with up to eight from mainland China and the rest from overseas.



Eligibility

You are expected to hold a first or upper second class degree (2:1) or equivalent in related social science subjects, together with a certificate of competence in English and two recommendations letters from scholars in higher education institutions who know your work well and who have been tenured (i.e., Associate Professor / Senior Lecturer or above).

Proof for English Proficiency:

- For non-English native speakers: a proof for English proficiency is required (TOEFL 90 or IELTS 6.0)
- For English native speakers: no proof for English proficiency is required

Deadline

Self-financed applicant:

November 15, 2023 – April 30, 2024

Chinese Government Scholarship (high-level scholarship) Type B applicant:

December 15, 2023-February 29, 2024

Chinese Government Scholarship (silk road scholarship) Type B applicant:

Applicant should apply in the International Students Application System of Renmin University of China first. The silk road scholarship application guide will be further notified.

(For more information, please refer to the website:

<http://iso.ruc.edu.cn/sqlx/MasterinEnglish/index.htm>)

Please Note:

International Students Office (ISO) of RUC will review the application materials during the application period. Applicants who do not pass the online preliminary review shall resubmit the application materials before the deadline.

No submission will be considered after this date.

Application procedure

Note: candidates are evaluated by application package and interviews. The focus of assessment will be research abilities, potential, and language skills.

The application procedure is as follows:

1. **Online application:** Please log onto the application system and complete the application form online: <http://international.ruc.edu.cn/application>.
2. **Pay the application fees online in the system: RMB 800 Yuan.** For more information on how to pay, please see through *2024 Enrollment Guide on Master Program in English for International Students of Renmin University of China* (<http://iso.ruc.edu.cn/sqlx/MasterinEnglish/index.htm>)
3. **Sign the application form:** After paying the application fee, the system will automatically generate the Application Form for International Students of Renmin University of China. Please print a hard copy which should be signed (only the signature shall be handwritten)
4. **Submit the electronic version of the application form for online preliminary review:** All applications are first assessed by the admission committee. Applicants selected for interviews will be notified thereafter. Please also send the electronic version of your completed application form via email to luliao@ruc.edu.cn
5. **Submit the paper version of the application materials:** Please send the paper version of your signed application form, together with other required documents, to the International Students Office of RUC through EMS or SF-Express within one week after passing the online preliminary review.
6. **Interview:** Shortlisted applicants are invited to attend the interview in due course.

Admission notice: The International Students Office of RUC will send the Admission Notice, Visa Application Form for Study in China (JW202) and other related admission documents to you upon acceptance of the offer. [Please note: we will send the above documents to the postal address indicated in the application form by postal mail. You may also come to pick up them at the International Students Office in person.]

Registration: all students who accepted our offers shall register at the time specified

in the Admission Notice, otherwise the offer will be invalidated.



Application materials

Note: for more specific requirements with regard to each item below, please check the document entitled “Eligibility and Application Procedure” issued by the International Students Office of RUC.

1. Application Form (the signature shall be handwritten in the paper version)
2. A Personal Statement and a Study Plan: please specify your personal experience, academic background, study plan and future plan after graduation
3. A copy of Passport (the passport shall be valid on or after 30 September 2024). Please do not change the passport after the online preliminary review.
4. Original Academic Transcript (stamped by the university)
5. A copy of Diploma(s) or Certificate(s) (originals also need to be provided for validation later. If the applicant cannot provide the related final education certificate according to the item 1) above within the first two weeks after registration in September, the enrollment will be turned down.)
6. Two letters of recommendation in English (or Chinese for students from mainland China) by scholars ranked at the Associate Professor / Senior Lecturer level or above
7. Four 2-inch ID photos recently taken
8. Foreigner physical examination form
9. Proof for English Proficiency: Applicants from non-English speaking countries are required to provide English test certificates (TOEFL 90 or IELTS 6.0) or other

proofs acknowledged by the Academic Qualification Committee at RUC.

10. Relevant proof of your financial ability: choose one of the following: 1) Bank deposit certificate of the applicant (time deposit of no less than RMB 30,000 and the maturity date should be after October 2023); or 2) the guarantor's employment certificate (annual income specified) or bank deposit certificate (the employment certificate must be issued on the company's letterhead paper or time deposit of no less than RMB 30,000 and the maturity date should be after October 2023).
11. Application fee: 800 CNY (non-refundable)
12. Sample copies of your published articles, awards, or other research outputs (optional).
13. Other materials required by the International Students Office (ISO) of RUC.

For more information, please refer to the website:

<http://iso.ruc.edu.cn/sqlx/MasterinEnglish/index.htm>

Tuition fees and scholarships

(1) Tuition fees

RMB 82,000 yuan/academic year

(2) Scholarships

Scholarships or tuition waive are available for full time students on Beijing campus.

1. Chinese Government Scholarship Type A: Bilateral Program

The applicant should first apply to the dispatching authorities for overseas study of your home country, such as Chinese embassies and consulates abroad or other organizations. The dispatching authorities will send the application information to the university to decide whether the application can be approved.

2. Chinese Government Scholarship Type B: High-level Program

The applicant should apply for this scholarship to the university when applying for the master program. After receiving and reviewing the application, the university will submit relevant materials to the Chinese Scholarship Council. The final list will be issued by the Chinese Scholarship Council.

3. Chinese Government Scholarship Type B: Silk Road Program

The applicant should apply for this scholarship to the university and the China Scholarship Council when applying for the master program. The application period will be further notified. After receiving and reviewing the application, the university will submit relevant materials to the Chinese Scholarship Council. The final list will be issued by the China Scholarship Council.

4. Beijing Municipal Government Scholarship

The applicant should apply for this scholarship to the university when submitting the application documents at the same time. The scholarship will provide tuition reduction to the students.



Courses and Degree Requirements

Students in our programme are encouraged to study at Renmin University in the first year and to take courses at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands in the second year. Those who fulfil requirements of both universities can get two Master's degrees after graduation in the third year.

At RUC, students shall take 32 credits of courses, selecting from compulsory, core, and optional categories. Below is a list of courses offered by Renmin University, which are to be taken in the first year of the study.

Compulsory courses (6 credits)

UC 5901 Contemporary politics in China UC 5902 Chinese Language (4 credits)

Core courses (12 credits)

AC 6001 Public administration: Theory and practice A

C 6004 The making of modern China: Historical and social perspectives

UG 6001 Research design and methods in urban studies

UG 6002 Urban governance: Global and comparative reflections

UG 6003 Urban and regional development in contemporary China

UG 6004 Planning in urban China

Optional courses (14 credits)

AC 6101 Land tenure, housing policies, and the real estate market in China

AC 6104 The public finance of central and local governments in China

AC 6109 Legal system and environment in China

AC 6201 Investment environment and policies in China

UG 6101 The Chinese history of urban development

UG 6102 Community development and planning in Urban China

UG 6103 Urban transportation Governance

UG 6104 Urban Environmental Planning

UG 6105 GIS analysis in urban studies

SC 6201 Global city-regions and China's city clusters

SC 6202 Sustainable development and contemporary urban management

UG 6106 Urban Development and Policy



Contact

If you have enquiry regarding this program, please contact Prof. Bo Qin (Program Director, qinbo@ruc.edu.cn) or Dr. Lu Liao (Programme Co-ordinator; luliao@ruc.edu.cn).

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