

2025 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:

December 3, 2024- May 31, 2025

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

December 3, 2024-February 15, 2025

Please note: International Students Office (ISO) of RUC will review the application materials during the application period. Applicants who do not pass the preliminary online review shall resubmit the application materials before the deadline. Late application will not be accepted after the deadline.

Duration and Tuition Fees

The basic duration of the program is two years. The tuition of this program is 82000yuan per academic year.

Application procedure

1. Online Application

Applicants must log in to the International Students Application System of Renmin University of China (<http://international.ruc.edu.cn/application>) within the application time, fill in the application information authentically, upload the application materials and pay the application fee online in the system. The application fee is RMB 800. The application fee will not be refunded.

2. Qualification Review

RUC will review the applicants' information and materials in the application system within the application time. Applicants who do not pass the online preliminary review should re-upload the related information or documents in time within the application period.

3. Mail Documents

Applicants should mail the hard copies of the application materials to the university through EMS or SF-Express within one week after passing the Qualification Review.

4. School Review

After the qualification review, the school will review the application documents. Applicants will get the interview notice if the check of the application documents is approved.

5. Admission and Enrollment

The university will publish the results of enrollments from March to July, 2025. Students should bring the admission documents including admission notice for onsite registration in September, 2025 to the university. The university will re-check the applicant's information and documents after onsite registration. If there were any violations or fraudulent situation found, the university will turn down the admission.



Application Documents

1. Application Form for International Students of Renmin University of China (Original)

After online application, the system will automatically generate an application form. The form should be printed and signed.

2. Final Education Certificate

1) Applicants who have graduated should submit the copy of their final education certificate, with the notarization or verification of the final education certificate by the institutions entrusted by the Education Ministries.

2) If the applicant is currently a student at school, please submit the original Certificate of Expected Graduation issued by the current university. The copy of their final education certificate, with the notarization or verification of the final education certificate by the institutions entrusted by the Education Ministries must be provided to the university before registration.

3. Transcript (Original)

Transcript must include a list of all completed courses up to graduating year. If the score is not in centesimal system, an explanation of the grading scale is needed.

4. Copies of the Information Page of the Passport

The applicant must hold an ordinary passport. The validity of the passport must be later than March 31, 2026. If the applicant is currently in China, please provide the copy of the visa page (if any).

Notes:

1) The university does not accept applicants who hold the following documents

to apply as international students: "Travel Permit of the People's Republic of China", "Exit Entry Permit of the People's Republic of China", "Mainland Travel Permit for Hong Kong and Macao Residents", "Mainland Travel Permit for Taiwan Residents", "Residence Permit for Hong Kong, Macao/Taiwan Residents of the People's Republic of China", etc.

- 2) Applicant is not allowed to change the passport or personal information from the date of application until 3 months after onsite registration. The personal information includes name, gender, date of birth, nationality, passport number, and etc. If it was unavoidable to change your passport or personal information due to extremely special circumstances or force majeure, a written application should be submitted to the University for the Consent from the university. If the identity documents and personal information submitted by the applicant did not match the personal information provided during the application and admission process, the university will turn down the enrollment procedures.

5. Two Recommendation Letters

Two recommendation letters from two professors or associate professors written in Chinese or English are mandatory. The recommendation letters must contain the signature, name, position, work unit, and other information of the recommender of the referee.

6. Personal Statement and Study Plan

The personal statement and the study plan shall be written in English. It provides an opportunity for you to present yourself including personal study and work experience, academic research achievements, research plans, career planning after graduation, etc.

7. Foreigner Physical Examination Form (Original)

The Foreigner Physical Examination Form should be the original document in English or Chinese. The template of Foreigner Physical Examination Form can be downloaded on the website of International Students Office (<http://iso.ruc.edu.cn/ENGLISH/Download/ApplicationDocuments/index.htm>). The applicant should go to local authentic hospital for physical examination in strict accordance with the items specified in the Foreigner Physical Examination Form. A physical examination form missing items, photo, cross-page seal, signature of the doctor, and the seal of the hospital is considered invalid. The validity of The Foreigner Physical Examination Form is 6 months.

8. English Proficiency Certificate

The overall score of IELTS must be 6.0 or above, and TOEFL score must be 90 or above. Applicants who have obtained an English-taught degree should provide a certificate of language instruction issued by their previous universities. Applicants who are native English speakers (including those of Chinese descent born in foreign countries) are not required to submit English proficiency certificate.

9. Proof of Economic Capability (choose one of the following)

- 1) The Employment & Income Certificate of the applicant or the guarantor
- 2) The Bank deposit of applicant or the guarantor should be no less than RMB 30,000.

10. Statement of Guarantee (Original)

The template of the State of Guarantee can be downloaded from the website of the International Students Office (<http://iso.ruc.edu.cn/ENGLISH/Download/ApplicationDocuments/index.htm>). The Statement of Guarantee should be signed by the economic guarantor.

11. Certificate of No Criminal Record (original or notarized copy).

1) Applicants who are currently not reside in Chinese mainland should offer the certificate issued by the local public security department.

2) Applicants who are currently reside in Chinese mainland should offer the certificate issued by entry and exit administration departments of China.

The Renmin University of China Commitment Letter for Non-Criminal Record on International Students Office website is not for the Master Programs in English, and it cannot be used as the Certificate of No Criminal Record.

12. Nationality Proof

According to the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China and the Letter No.12 [2020] of the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, some applicants shall provide additional materials as National Proof Documents.

13. Other Supportive Documents

Copies of published academic papers, awards or other research results may be attached if necessary.

Matters needing attention: All application documents shall be in Chinese / English. And all application materials will not be returned once submitted.

According to the university charter, our institution operates across the Zhongguancun Campus and the Tongzhou Campus.

Scholarships Application

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. Applicant should log in to the Chinese Government Scholarship Information System (<https://studyinchina.csc.edu.cn>), and fill out the application form and choose Type A. The first choice of the university should be Renmin University of China.

The dispatching authorities will send the application information to the university to decide whether the application can be approved by qualification and interview.

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

The applicant should apply to the university and the Chinese Scholarship Council at the same time while applying for the master program. Applicant should log in the Chinese Government Scholarship Information System (<https://studyinchina.csc.edu.cn>) and fill out the application form by choosing Type B, High-level Program or Silk Road Program. Agency number of Renmin University of China is 10002. The final name list will be issued by the China Scholarship Council. The application period and enrollment guide will be further notified.

3. Beijing Municipal Government Scholarship

The scholarship will provide tuition reduction to the students for the first academic year accordingly. The full scholarship is the reduction of 30000 yuan, half scholarship is the reduction of 15000 yuan. If the basic tuition is lower than the amount of the reduction, the reduction will be considered the factual situation. The application requirements and procedure will be further notified.



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).

Address: 109 Qiushi Bldg, Renmin University of China, 59 Zhongguancun Street, Beijing, 100872 Tel: +86-10-62511027

Fax: +86-10-62516240

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