

# Program Overview | 2026 Master of Chinese Society and Culture

## About the Program

The Master's Program in Chinese Society and Culture is a flagship academic initiative hosted by the School of Social Research at Renmin University of China. Tailored for international students, the program offers a comprehensive understanding of contemporary Chinese society and culture through a multidisciplinary and globally oriented lens.

Guided by the core vision of being rooted in Chinese society and oriented toward a global perspective, the program aims to cultivate future leaders equipped with academic insight, cross-cultural communication skills, and competencies in global governance. It provides strategic intellectual support for enhancing China's cultural soft power and advancing the development of an inclusive international discourse system.

Leveraging the School's strong academic foundation in sociology, anthropology, folklore studies, social work, and social policy, the curriculum explores critical issues such as China's social transformation, cultural diversity and change, and the modernization of social governance. The program adopts an integrated training model that links theoretical grounding, policy analysis, and discourse innovation. Students engage in both rigorous theoretical study and immersive field research to gain a deep understanding of the social fabric and cultural dynamics of Chinese-style modernization.

By interpreting China's sociocultural experiences through international academic frameworks, students are equipped to become narrators of China and global interlocutors, who are capable of contributing to comparative scholarship and fostering mutual understanding across civilizations.

As RUC's first fully English-taught master's program focusing on Chinese society and culture, this program aligns with China's vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity and supports the national strategy for educational internationalization. It aims to become a hub for cultivating international social science talents and a vital platform for sharing China's experiences in social governance with the world.

## Training Components and Study Progress

### (1) Coursework

During the first and second semesters, students focus primarily on coursework and must complete a minimum of 27 credits for the program.

### (2) Social Practice and Field Research

In the third semester, students are required to engage in at least three months of social practice or field research in China. This component is designed to strengthen their direct understanding of Chinese social realities and to enhance their ability to connect theoretical analysis with empirical observation.

### (3) Thesis Writing and Defense

Under the guidance of academic supervisors, students independently complete a master's thesis and enter the thesis writing and defense stage in the fourth semester. A full-process quality assurance mechanism is implemented, including thesis proposal, anonymous review, and oral defense, to ensure academic rigor and research depth.

### (4) Academic Exchange and Research Capacity Building

The program encourages students to participate in initiatives such as the Overseas Field Classroom, the Frontiers of Social Policy Summer Institute, and international academic conferences. These activities are designed to broaden students' global vision and enhance their cross-cultural communication and research capabilities.

## Curriculum System and Credit Requirements

The program requires a total of 27 credits, distributed as follows:

- Public courses: 7 credits
- Methodology courses: 4 credits
- Specialized (major) courses: 6 credits
- Elective courses: 8 credits
- Social practice: 2 credits

All courses are taught in English. Students may also choose from existing master's and doctoral-level courses offered by the School of Social Research as electives. The curriculum emphasizes interdisciplinary, international comparison, and the integration of theory with local practice. It is designed to help students develop a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of Chinese society and culture.

## Faculty and Academic Platforms

The program is supported by the School of Social Research's internationally recognized faculty, which includes scholars with academic backgrounds from world-class universities such as Harvard University, the University of Cambridge, and the London School of Economics and Political Science, etc. Through international short-term programs and academic exchanges, the School regularly invites distinguished overseas scholars to deliver intensive courses and lectures.

The School of Social Research also hosts multiple national and provincial-level research platforms and leads large-scale social survey projects such as the *China General Social Survey (CGSS)* and the *China Education Panel Survey (CEPS)*. In addition, it also publishes leading academic journals, including *Sociological Review of China and Social Construction*. These resources offer students excellent opportunities for empirical research training, academic publishing, and scholarly exchange.

## Contacts

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