The Yenching Academy of Peking University aims to build bridges between China and the rest of the world through an interdisciplinary Masters Program in China Studies. This initiative brings together young people who have demonstrated a talent for leadership and innovation. At Yenching, they are immersed in an intensive learning environment where they can explore China and its past, present and future role in the world. The Academy’s goal is to shape new generations of global citizens with a nuanced understanding of China.

The Yenching Academy provides full fellowships to its scholars, and offers them a wide array of interdisciplinary courses on China within broadly defined fields of the humanities and social sciences. Working closely with their academic mentors, the Yenching scholars create their own study paths by choosing courses from six research areas. The also participate in a variety of extracurricular activities, organized by the Yenching Academy, and designed by scholars themselves. Studying at the Academy is an exceptional opportunity to take part in intercultural exchanges and interdisciplinary learning, and to develop personally and professionally.
"In this era of transition and change, I look to students and staff at the Yenching Academy to act as global citizens and contribute to our efforts to promote peace, development, and human rights."

Ban Ki-moon  
Former Secretary-General of the United Nations

"Studying at the Yenching Academy of Peking University is an opportunity to interact not only with the great minds of China, but with the great emergent minds from all around the world."

Elizabeth J. Perry  
Director of the Harvard–Yenching Institute

"There couldn't possibly be a greater opportunity for any of you than the one presented at Yenching."

Mark Schwartz  
Global Vice Chairman and Chairman of Goldman Sachs Asia-Pacific
Since its founding in 1898, Peking University has played a central role in China’s modern history. The country’s first comprehensive institute for higher education during the Guangxu Emperor’s Hundred Days of Reform, it has educated many of China’s leading scientific, literary, and political figures, including famous writers such as Lu Xun and Shen Congwen, as well as Nobel Prize-winning scientists Tsung-Dao Lee and Tu Youyou.

During the tumultuous years that followed the Qing dynasty’s collapse, the university became the leading center for intellectual activity in the newly established republic, and in 1919 its students and faculty were the main participants in the May Fourth Movement – a major intellectual and cultural development that reshaped China’s society and political life. Peking University has continued to play a leading intellectual role in China’s modernization ever since. Widely regarded as China’s leading comprehensive institution of higher learning, Peking University has been ranked number one in each of the Times Higher Education BRICS & Emerging Economies Rankings.

The Yenching Academy’s innovative, interdisciplinary curriculum and rigorously selected cohort of young scholars from around the world exemplify Peking University’s quest for excellence.
LEADERSHIP

Yuan Ming
Dean

Yuan Ming is a Professor in Peking University’s School of International Studies, and serves as Associate Dean of Peking University’s Institute of International and Strategic Studies. She is also Director of its Center for American Studies. She was a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley and the University of Oxford, and conducted research at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the Brookings Institution. Professor Yuan frequently speaks at international fora, such as the World Economic Forum and the Club of Rome. Professor Yuan was a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference from 1998 to 2012, as well as of its Foreign Relations Committee. Professor Yuan has served on the boards of numerous high-profile institutions, such as the Council on Foreign Relations and the United Nations Foundation.

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Glyn Davis
Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne
Chairman of Universitas 21
Queensland’s Former Director-General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet

Meric Gertler
President of the University of Toronto
Founder of the Program on Globalization and Regional Innovation Systems (PRoGRIS)
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Elizabeth J. Perry
Director of the Harvard- Yenching Institute
Henry Rosovsky Professor of Government at Harvard University
American Academy of Arts and Sciences Member

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Former Provost of Yale University
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Henry T. Yang
Chancellor of University of California Santa Barbara
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Fellow
Director of The Kavli Foundation

Zhang Xudong
Professor and Director of the New York University China House
Professor and Director of the International Center for Critical Theory at Peking University
The Yenching Academy offers a highly customizable Master’s program in China Studies for English speakers with varied levels of Chinese language competency. At the core of the program lies its emphasis on interdisciplinarity and the value it assigns to thinking about China – past, present and future – from both Chinese and international perspectives. It also aims to push the study of China beyond the boundaries of traditionally defined Humanities and Social Sciences disciplines, and is designed to incorporate the experiences and intellectual training of its diverse student body.

Scholars are allowed flexibility in the design of their study programs and can choose courses from any of six research areas, one of which they will choose for their theses. A wide range of electives offered by the Academy and other Peking University schools and departments supplements core courses. Our interdisciplinary approach encourages dialogue across academic disciplines, and creates an environment conducive to innovative and fruitful exchanges of ideas.

The Yenching Academy provides a generous fellowship that includes tuition fees, round-trip travel from scholars’ home countries to Beijing, accommodation on campus, and living costs. The Academy’s residential program aims to create a community of enthusiastic, globally oriented young innovators in the heart of Peking University, and encourages them to take full advantage of this unique opportunity by participating and engaging in campus life.

The mandatory residence period for international students and students from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan is 12 months, and 24 months for students from Mainland China. Coursework is completed during the Fall and Spring semesters, with the summer reserved for research and writing. International students in good academic standing may receive support for up to one additional year in residence to complete their theses and defend them. During this second year, students may be eligible for a limited number of teaching, research, or administrative assistantships. The Academy also offers grants to help fund selected China Studies research projects.
Study of the Chinese language is an important component of the Yenching learning experience. All incoming international students will be tested to determine which Chinese language class they need to take. Students with high proficiency may be exempted from language classes, provided that they take courses taught in Chinese.

In addition to language study, students must take two core courses, one of which consists of lectures on various aspects of China Studies by twelve distinguished scholars. The other hallmark course is China in Transition, a multidisciplinary survey of China’s development in the Reform Era. Lectures and discussion classes take place in the Fall semester; in the Spring semester scholars pursue a field study project under the guidance of a faculty advisor. Electives may be selected from any of the Academy’s six research areas.

In order to graduate, scholars must complete at least 30 academic credits, and write and orally defend a Masters thesis. Seventy-five percent of the courses taken by scholars from China must have been taught in English.
RESEARCH AREAS

- **Economics and Management.** These courses explore the current state of China’s economy, management practices, and the governance structures of its businesses. They will lead students to understand the institutional characteristics and practices that define how business is done in China.

- **History and Archaeology.** These courses help students gain insight into the pluralism and richness of Chinese history and civilization, and review China’s relationships with other major civilizations. Students’ training will range from Chinese historiography to methodology and archeological fieldwork practices. Courses include museum and sites visits.

- **Law and Society.** These courses explore Chinese legal and social development issues. Students will gain a better understanding of China’s legal system, its major reforms, and the social issues generated by the country’s fast paced development. They will also become familiar with the major concepts that underpin the Chinese legal system and its historical evolution.

- **Literature and Culture.** These courses focus mainly on a critical and comparative approach to Chinese language and literature, and aim to foster the analytical skills necessary for a competent and independent study of the structures and aesthetics of Chinese language and cultural expressions. They familiarize students with advanced theories and research methods in literature to help them form their own interpretations and understanding of Chinese literary works.

- **Philosophy and Religion.** These courses approach the philosophical and religious traditions of China from a comparative perspective. They will give students the opportunity to acquire knowledge on China’s ethics and values, and assist them in developing a better understanding of China’s rich traditions of philosophical and ideological inquiry.

- **Politics and International Relations.** These courses focus on China’s perspectives on public and foreign policy. They provide students with a structured knowledge of the Chinese political system, governance model, and policy building process. They also equip students with the analytical and theoretical tools to analyze China’s behavior in international relations.
RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Yenching scholars reside in newly renovated single rooms in the Shaoyuan international student complex, located at the heart of the Peking University campus, and less than three minutes’ walk from the Academy’s academic and administrative facilities. In addition to common rooms and a dedicated library, scholars have access to a wide array of amenities in the immediate vicinity.

The collegiate living experience is a defining feature of Yenching scholars’ residential lives, and plays a crucial role in their development by fostering a sense of community and facilitating the exchange of ideas. Scholars benefit from the administrative and pastoral support of residential advisors. In addition, the Academy is committed to enriching the extracurricular lives of its scholars by providing financial support for student-led initiatives.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Throughout their time at the Yenching Academy, scholars have opportunities to explore various interests and identify potential career options. The Career Development Service aims to enhance Yenching scholars’ career prospects and help them improve their academic and professional skills. Aimed at fostering competitive advantage, the Academy’s workshops, one-on-one consultations and seminars assist scholars in planning their careers. Whether scholars have a clear career path in mind or are still in the process of defining one, the Academy offers them guidance through their personal journeys.

Outside of the formal Career Development Service, scholars also receive extensive career development support from the Academy at large. Regardless of their concentration and future plans, the Academy encourages scholars to communicate with their advisors, professors and staff about leadership opportunities that could advance their careers. Occasionally, the Academy supports scholars’ participation in international conferences and fora.
ADMISSIONS

ELIGIBILITY

Each year the Yenching Academy admits approximately 125 new students to study, live, and learn together. Roughly 20% are recruited from Mainland China, while 80% are international students.

Applicants should have:
- A Bachelor's degree in any field, awarded no later than August 31 of the year they wish to enroll;
- An outstanding academic record;
- English proficiency;
- A record of extracurricular achievement, community engagement and social responsibility;
- Leadership potential.

To secure a place at the Yenching Academy, applicants must demonstrate how the program is relevant and valuable for their career plans.

Candidates who are age 25 or younger as of August 31 of the year they wish to enroll (or age 27 or younger, for applicants from countries where military service is mandatory) will receive preference.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

All candidates should apply through the Yenching Academy online application portal. Candidates from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan will need to apply through both the Yenching Academy online application portal and the Peking University Graduate Admissions website.

Applicants should submit the following materials in English:
- Complete online application form;
- Curriculum Vitae;
- Personal statement;
- Most recent official transcript(s);
- Proof of Enrollment/Diploma(s);
- Two letters of recommendation;
- International English proficiency test score (IELTS/TOEFL/Cambridge/CEFR).

Citizens of the People’s Republic of China will be admitted according to rules specified by the Ministry of Education of China, which requires that candidates qualify for exemption from graduate entrance examinations based on their Mainland Chinese universities’ recommendations.
PARTNER AND COOPERATING UNIVERSITIES

The Yenching Academy works with Partner Universities around the globe, which nominate outstanding candidates for consideration. Applicants currently enrolled at Partner Universities must apply through both their universities' internal processes and the Yenching Academy admissions portal. Alumni of Partner Universities should also apply through both their universities and our admissions portal; however, if their alma maters choose not to handle alumni applications, they may apply through our portal alone.

We also work with Cooperating Universities that serve as points of contact and sources of information about the Yenching Academy, but do not take part in the pre-selection process. A complete list of Partner and Cooperating Universities are available on our website:

www.yenchingacademy.org/partners

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Each August, Yenching Academy begins accepting applications from international, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan candidates for the following year’s cohort. Please see our website for specific application deadlines:

www.yenchingacademy.org/application

Semi-finalists and finalists will be interviewed remotely, or, in rare cases, in person. The majority of acceptance decisions will be made in March.

Mainland Chinese recruitment for the following year’s cohort takes place each April-August. Details will be available on our website.

www.yenchingacademy.org/application
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS OF THE YENCHING ACADEMY

Hemant Adlakha, Chair of the Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University
Nabil Alsabah, Research Associate at the Mercator Institute for China Studies
Pieter Bottelier, Senior Adjunct Professor of China Studies at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies
Jaime FlorCruz, former CNN Beijing Bureau Chief
Joan Kaufman, Director of the Columbia Global Centers East Asia
Vivienne Lo, Director of the UCL China Centre for Health and Humanity
Evan Medeiros, Managing Director and Practice Head at Eurasia Group
Elizabeth J. Perry, Director of the Harvard-Yenching Institute
Mark Schwartz, Global Vice Chairman and the Freeman Chairman of Goldman Sachs Asia Pacific
Edward L. Shaughnessy, Lorraine J. and Herrlee G. Creel Professor in Early Chinese Studies at the University of Chicago
Yu Hua, best-selling author of the Chinese novel, Xiongdi (Brothers)

Joy Chen, former Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles
Dr. Vishakha Desai, Emerita President of the Asia Society, Senior Advisor for Global Affairs to the President of Columbia University
Rear Admiral Yang Yi, Professor of National Defense University PLA China
Scott Kennedy, Deputy Director of Freeman Chair in China Studies at Center for Strategic and International Studies
Captain Tian Shichen, staff member at the Chinese Ministry of National Defense
Rinchinnyn Amurjargal, former Prime Minister of Mongolia and former Member of the State Great Khural (Parliament) of Mongolia
Richard Hass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations, United States of America
Li Yanhong, Founder and CEO of Baidu.com
Joseph Nye, Professor of School of Government, Harvard University,
Mark Rowswell (Da Shan), Comedian
Chairul Tanjung, former Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs of Indonesia
EVENTS AT THE YENCHING ACADEMY

- Opening Ceremony of the Yenching Academy
- Yenching Scholars Practicing Calligraphy
- Field Trip to Xi'an, Shaanxi Province
- China-Mexico Business Seminar
- Meeting with David Rank, the Deputy Chief of Mission of U.S. Embassy in China
- Visit to UrWork Headquarters

- Meeting of "The Greedy Tongues" Language Club
- China Studies Lecture Series lecture by Professor Lin Yifu
- Visit to Lenovo Headquarters
- Interaction with Rinchinnyan Amarjargal, Former Mongolian Prime Minister
- Visit to UrWork Headquarters

- Yenching Social Innovation Forum
- Luncheon with Dr. Vishakha Desai
- Spring Field Study to Sichuan
- Interacting with Mark Rowswell (Dashan)
- Baidu Visit

- China in Transition Field Study to Yongchuan
From December 12 to 14, 2016, the Yenching Academy sponsored the symposium “China and the World: Observation, Analysis, Prospect” as a forum for the discussion of issues such as “How do we evaluate the meaning of culture in a current global situation where many humanistic and cultural values have been marginalized?”, and “What future do the humanities and education have?” This conference included some of the most prestigious Chinese scholars from the field of the humanities as well as distinguished scholars from abroad. It served as a platform for an intelligent, free and candid dialogue that drew on the participants’ personal experience, observation and analysis.
The Academy’s flagship event, the Yenching Global Symposium, is one of the most selective conferences held in China and is quickly becoming one of the world’s most competitive and highly anticipated conferences. The 2016 Symposium, with an acceptance rate of 3 percent, received more than 1800 applications from over 130 countries, and included Rhodes Scholars, Marshall Scholars, Gates Cambridge Scholars, Fulbright Scholars and participants from other major fellowships and leading institutions.

This year, the Symposium received more than 2200 applications and selected approximately 75 students and young professionals from 30 countries to participate in the event as delegates. Hosted on the Peking University campus from March 23-26, 2017, the second annual symposium, with the theme “Xinnovation: Identity of Innovation in China”, was a four-day event consisting of multidisciplinary lectures, panel discussions, site visits, interactive sessions, and the XIN World Innovation Fair. It featured prominent Chinese and international scholars as well as leading professionals who have challenged and expanded previously held conceptions about innovation in China. For more information about the 2016 and 2017 Yenching Global Symposia, and future Symposia, please follow us on social media or visit our website: www.yenchingsymposium.org