About the program

Since 2006, the Contemporary China Studies Program (CCSP) has offered overseas students not yet proficient in Chinese language the opportunity to study Chinese governance and foreign relations while living in China's capital city. CCSP draws students from all over the world, fostering a unique multidisciplinary and multinational environment in which diverse backgrounds and experiences enhance rigorous academic study.

The two-year master's program provides a comprehensive introduction to the economy, politics, law, society, and foreign policy of contemporary China. In the second year, the program supports students as they conduct independent research on a topic of their choosing. Upon completion of the program, graduates will earn a Master of law degree, as recognized by the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China.

The language of instruction and administration for CCSP is English.

CCSP resides within the School of International Studies at Renmin University (Renda), China's premier institution of higher learning in the humanities and social sciences. Renda's tradition of research and teaching excellence provides an unmatched foundation for educating top foreign students in the fundamentals of Chinese politics, society, and foreign relations. The university's vibrant academic community enriches students' experiences well beyond the classroom.
Degree Requirements

CCSP is comprised of three components:
I. Courses – students must complete 12 courses. In general, courses are arranged such that students complete all 12 in their first three terms, leaving the final term open for thesis research and writing.
II. Visits
III. Thesis

Courses

CCSP’s courses vary year to year. Each semester, students will enroll in all substantive courses offered. First year students will also attend a weekly lecture series each term. Finally, although no Chinese language proficiency is required to enter the program; all students must take at least one semester of Chinese language.

Courses Offered in CCSP:

**Spring Semester:**
- Contemporary Chinese Politics 3 Credits
- Contemporary Chinese History & Culture 3 Credits
- China and Conflict Country and Region 2 Credits
- Sino-US Relations 2 Credits
- China’s Reform (Series Lectures) 3 Credits
- Intermediate/Advanced Chinese Language Course 2 Credits

**Fall Semester:**
- Contemporary Chinese Foreign Policy 3 Credits
- Contemporary Chinese Society 3 Credits
- China’s Grand Strategy (Series Lectures) 3 Credits
- Investing in China
- Contemporary Chinese Finance & Economy 2 Credits
- Methodology in Social Science Studies
- Methodology in China Studies 3 Credits
- Basic/Intermediate/Advanced Chinese Language Course 2 Credits

Sample Course Offerings Contemporary China Studies Program

**THESE COURSES ARE ALL TAUGHT IN ENGLISH. THEY ARE ALL PART OF THE MASTERS PROGRAM IN CONTEMPORARY CHINA STUDIES AND ARE THEREFORE TAUGHT AT AN ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE/GRADUATE LEVEL.**
In addition to the courses listed below, each term the Program offers a thematic seminar series. Once per week a member of the Renmin University faculty, a visiting scholar, or a government or business leader from around Beijing gives a seminar and facilitates discussion related to that term’s theme. Recent themes have included China’s Reform (Spring 2011) and China’s Grand Strategy (Fall 2011).

1. **Contemporary Chinese Politics** (offered Spring 2011)
   Professor Wang Zhengxu (Senior Research Fellow, China Policy Institute, School of Contemporary Chinese Studies, University of Nottingham)
   Contact hours: 36 (over four weeks)
   Course description:
   This course provides an intensive survey of Chinese politics. By engaging students in various issues and topics in Chinese politics, such as the state-society relationship, urban life, peasant protests, village governance, and the politics of reforming China’s economy, the course offers students a solid foundation in understanding political and governance issues in China and the necessary skills to conduct research on topics related to contemporary Chinese politics.
   Students will develop: 1) a solid body of knowledge about Chinese politics; 2) a strong capacity in consuming large amount of information related to Chinese politics; 3) the ability to develop arguments and present them in a rigorous way.

2. **Sino-American Relations** (offered Spring 2010)
   Professor Jin Canrong (Associate Dean, School of International Studies, Renmin University)
   Professor Hua Shiping (Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Louisville)
   Contact hours: 27.5 (over 3 weeks)
   Course description:
   International affairs in the 21st Century will largely be defined by the relationship between the world’s most powerful and most populous countries. With growing economic interdependence, expanded strategic cooperation, and lingering tensions, the Sino-American relationship is increasingly dominant in each country’s foreign policy. This course will thoroughly examine that relationship from both Chinese (Prof. Jin) and American (Prof. Hua) perspectives.

3. **The Politics of Transitional Economy** (offered Spring 2009)
   Professor Guo Sujian (Director, Center for US-China Policy Studies, San Francisco State University)
   Contact hours: 27 (over 4 weeks)
   Course description:
   This course compares and evaluates the evolution of Asian communist and post-communist economies, examine what
has changed and what has not, in degree or in kind, and address the century-old question: Who will be the winner in the grand failure of communism: market capitalism or market socialism? In other words, has socialism been entirely exhausted? Can the traditional goals and values of communists be recast under the rubric of markets? Have these Asian countries offered an alternative to the socialist planned economy and the capitalist market economy during the demise of communism at the “End of History?” Can market socialism, a market-based form of socialism within the political context of one-party communist rule, find a way out of the difficulties or crises of communism and compete successfully with market capitalism? A rethinking of socialism will not only help to address these questions but also provide a better understanding of the practical and theoretical implications of market socialism for the future of these East and Southeast Asian countries.

4. Chinese Foreign Policy (offered fall 2011)
Professor Di Dongsheng (Assistant Professor, School of International Studies, Renmin University)
Contact hours: 36 (over 7 weeks)
Course description:
The intent of this course is to give a broad understanding of the course of Chinese foreign policy since the establishment of the People’s Republic in 1949 as well as to take a more intensive look at some of the major problems in Chinese foreign policy in the contemporary period. Our aim is to understand the international problems that China has faced, how it has conceptualized those problems, and how it has tried to deal with them.
In looking at Chinese foreign policy, we will attempt to assess how "rational" it has been. Has China based its foreign policy on a stable and well-defined sense of China’s national interest or has it viewed the world through Marxist-Leninist ideological lenses? Most of the second half of the course is devoted to understanding China’s international behavior in the contemporary period, including its emergence as a major economic power, its situation as an Asian and global actor, and its difficult and complex relationship with other big powers.
Thus, one question we will raise is that of continuity and change in China’s foreign policy. How have the aims of China's foreign policy changed since the inauguration of reform in 1978? Has China become a status quo power? Will a wealthier and more powerful China challenge the institutions of the world? How does China's domestic political situation affect its foreign policy? Is China's succession bringing about a new foreign policy?
5. **Methodologies in Social Science Studies** (offered fall 2009)
   Professor Lu Chunlong (Assistant Professor of Political Science, Chinese University of Political Science and Law)
   Contact hours: 39 (over 13 weeks)
   Course description:
   This graduate seminar is literature-review oriented and is designed to introduce students to: (a) the style of analytic thinking required for research in the social sciences; (b) the concepts and procedures used in the conduct of empirical research in political science. The objective is to give students a foundation in research design and empirical methods; therefore, they can become a more analytical student of political affairs, and a skilled user of political science methods for original empirical political inquiry of their own. Specifically, this course covers the principles of the scientific method applied to the study of politics, and then emphasizes an approach to understanding politics that uses generalizing theory and testable hypotheses. The remainder of the course focuses on a variety of techniques for qualitative (case study) and quantitative (simple descriptive statistics and graphs, tests of vicariate correlation, multivariate regression) analysis.

6. **Methodologies in China Studies** (offered Fall 2010)
   Professor Cheng Xiaohe (Assistant Professor, School of International Studies, Renmin University)
   Contact hours: 29 (over 10 weeks)
   Course description:
   This course is designed to examine a variety of models (approaches) developed by American scholars in the field of China studies. The course does not pretend to cover every aspect of China studies; rather, it will mainly focus on the studies of China’s domestic politics and foreign policies. The selection of reading materials is not intended to deny the importance of the similar academic works written and/or published in countries other than the United States. The high reputation that the selected books and articles does not necessarily warrant accuracy: some reading materials are biased, some distorted. Students are required to do their reading assignments with caution and make aggressive critiques of the established models during their studies.

7. **Chinese Economy and Finance** (offered Fall 2009)
   Professor Xu Rong (Assistant Professor, School of Finance, Renmin University)
   Contact hours: 27 (over 9 weeks)
   Course description:
   This course gives an overview of Chinese financial markets. It focuses on the financial instruments available in China: stocks, bonds and asset backed securities etc. For each type of instruments we will consider how it could be valued. We will look at how to calculate crucial details for each instrument. Our emphasis will be on a basic understanding on the methodologies involved and on applying these methodologies rather than rigorous proofs or derivations. The course begins with a general look at modern financial system in the world. We then analyze each of the main types of financial instruments in turn, starting with stocks and bonds moving on to derivatives. Finally we will talk about some investment strategies. Upon completion of the course a student will have a good grasp of the practical uses of financial instruments as well as being able to do some investments in China. (Of course, the investments could not be guaranteed to be successful. You could earn a lot and could lose a lot. Who knows?)
Visits

Each spring semester first-year students visit approximately ten government organizations, research institutions, enterprises, and sites in the Chinese countryside to gain a greater appreciation for contemporary Chinese life. Previous destinations have included the China Institute of International Studies, the Shougang Group, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, SINA Corporation, and Zhongguancun.

Master’s Thesis

In the second year each student conducts independent research and defends a dissertation of roughly 10,000 words in length before a faculty committee. Students work closely with their faculty mentors to define a focused topic and research process.

Application Process

CCSP has no academic prerequisites other than that all matriculating students must already hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. Although a background in the humanities or social sciences is useful, CCSP welcomes applicants from all disciplines.

For students seeking to enter the program, we will begin accepting applications since November. All application materials must be received no later than April 30, 2012. All application materials should be mailed to the following address. Please include both the English and Chinese addresses to ensure timely delivery.

Contemporary China Studies Program
School of International Studies
Renmin University of China
59 Zhongguancun Dajie
Beijing 100872 CHINA

Notification letters will be sent to all applicants in mid-late June. Admitted students must respond to the offer of admission by June 15. Students who respond after that date cannot be guaranteed a place in the program.

Application Requirements

1. Completed application form, including personal statements and photo
   Hard copy, including photo and signature, must be sent no later than April 30th every year.

2. Academic credentials (official transcripts)
   Applicants are required to hold a B.A. or B.S. degree (or equivalent) from an accredited college or university and a strong undergraduate record. Transcripts must be sent to CCSP in sealed envelopes and must bear the granting institution’s official seal. CCSP requires one (1) transcript from each post-secondary institution attended.

3. Copy of undergraduate diploma (if available)
   For applicants who have not yet finished their undergraduate program, the offer of admission will be contingent on successful completion of their degree prior to entry.

4. Two (2) letters of recommendation
   Recommenders should mail their letters directly to CCSP.
5. Proof of English language proficiency
   Students for whom English is not their native language and who have not received an undergraduate degree from an institution in an English speaking country must submit scores from an internationally recognized standardized test of English language proficiency (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS, etc.).

6. Non-refundable application fee of 600 CNY
   Please contact the program administrator (chinastudies@ruc.edu.cn) for instructions on how to submit payment. DO NOT send cash or check with your application materials.

7. Scholarship form (optional)
   Applicants who want to be considered for a scholarship must submit the Scholarship Application Form with their application materials. See the ‘Finances & Aid’ section for more information.

Fees
Tuition for the Contemporary China Studies Program is 60,000 CNY per academic year. Students must pay their tuition prior to the start of classes each term. In addition to tuition, students are responsible for paying for their course materials (~300 CNY per term), accommodations, and living expenses.

Scholarships
Every year CCSP offers a limited number of scholarships to help cover a portion of students’ tuition expenses. For first-year students, scholarships are awarded based on demonstrated financial need. In the second year, the School of International Studies (SIS) Academic Committee will also consider academic performance when allocating financial awards. Scholarship recipients may be asked to assist SIS faculty with academic research and English composition. Please note that under no circumstances will the value of a scholarship exceed the cost of tuition. All students are responsible for covering the costs of accommodations, course materials, and other living expenses.
Applicants who want to be considered for a scholarship must submit the Scholarship Application Form with their application materials. Applicants selected for scholarship will be informed in their admission notifications.

Contact Information
Address:
Contemporary China Studies Program
School of International Studies
Renmin University of China
59 Zhongguancun Street
Beijing 100872
CHINA
Tel/Fax: +86-10-6251-1128
Email: chinastudies@ruc.edu.cn
Website: chinastudies.ruc.edu.cn