International MA Program in Chinese Philosophy
School of Philosophy,
Beijing Normal University

The School of Philosophy at Beijing Normal University (BNU), China's well-renowned center for research and scholarship in the discipline, offers English-speaking students a two-year MA program in Chinese Philosophy.

The program provides a choice of courses unparalleled in depth and breadth, ranging from Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, and Chinese philosophies of history, ethics, and politics. Our courses apply comparative methods and emphasize international perspectives when carrying out academic research, particularly engaging with the Western and other great traditions of world philosophy. Through pursuing our MA program, students can get a solid grounding in the field of Chinese philosophy and access the stimulation and dynamism of China's wider philosophical community.

The MA program, conducted in English, is designed for international students with a passionate interest in Chinese traditional culture and philosophy and would like to go deeper into them. This program is also suitable for students who plan to pursue Ph.D. or other graduate-level degrees in academic fields such as philosophy, comparative philosophical studies, Chinese philosophy, international political studies, and comparative cultural studies. As for students who intend to enter the professional workforce at any international level with relevance to China, this MA program enables students to develop a thorough understanding of Chinese philosophical thoughts.

Our program is fully accredited by BNU and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China.

Aims of the Program

- Allow English-speaking students worldwide to come to a wide understanding of the rich traditions and the underlying logic of Chinese philosophy nurtured over the history of humanity.
- Direct a rigorous graduate-level academic program in which students can develop a solid foundation for delving into both classic and brand-new topics in Chinese philosophy.
- Achieve personal growth through a close engagement with Chinese philosophy as well as gain academic benefit from the acknowledged expertise of BNU's lively, close-knit intellectual community.

Distinguished Faculty

The core faculty of the International MA Program includes internationally acclaimed Chinese and Western scholars with the highest levels of academic training. The School of Philosophy BNU is one of the institutes at the forefront of research and teaching in Chinese philosophy.

Each year the program invites world-renowned scholars to serve as international guest faculty.

The School of Philosophy BNU publishes an English-language academic journal of philosophy from China with world circulation, Frontiers of Philosophy in China.

Achievements in International Education

Students from various countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Malta, Poland, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Nepal, and Mongolia have taken advantage of the School's unique international standing and academic expertise to pursue higher education in Chinese philosophy.

Each year, the School sponsors more than 60 eminent philosophers to deliver lectures in their specialized fields.

Since 2015, the School has successfully conducted its Philosophy Summer School which invited young scholars from around the world to join and provided them with a

profound understanding of traditional Chinese culture and key philosophical analytical skills.

Students in the International MA Program are welcome to attend these sponsored lectures and the Philosophy Summer School.

Course Overview

During the first three semesters, students must complete 36 credits of courses, including core and elective ones. With the permission of the program director, students may also take courses offered by other departments at BNU to be counted as elective course credits.

By the end of the fourth semester, students are required to submit a master's thesis. This requirement offers students the opportunity to conduct independent research in a field of Chinese philosophy of their interest, thereby enriching students' academic experience of studying Chinese philosophy in China.

Modules

Course Category	Course Name	Credits	Hours
Public Compulsory Courses	Introduction to Contemporary Development of China	2	36
	Basic Chinese	2	36
	Chinese Academic Writing	2	36
	Marxian Theory	3	54
Basic Courses	History of Chinese Philosophy I: Pre-Qin to Tang	3	54
	Methodological Issues in the Study of Chinese Philosophy	3	54
	Instruction to MA Thesis	3	54
Professional Courses	History of Chinese Philosophy II: Song to 20th Century	3	54
	Seminar of Issues in Chinese Religious Studies	3	54

	Advanced Course in Chinese Philosophy and Culture	3	54
	Comparative Studies with Chinese Philosophy	3	54
	Chinese History and Culture	3	54
Elective Courses	Advanced Seminar in Studies of Chinese Philosophical Thought	3	54
	Advanced Studies in Confucianism	3	54
	Early Confucianism	3	54
	Seminar of Special Topics on Chinese Philosophy	2	36
	Early Chinese Philosophy in Western Perspective	2	36
	Selected Topics in Confucian philosophy	2	36
	Selected Topics in Daoist Philosophy	2	36
	Selected Topics in Chinese Buddhism	2	36
	Chinese Political Philosophy	2	36
	Chinese Philosophy of History	2	36
	Chinese Ethics	2	36
	Early Daoism	3	54
	Early Daoism	2	36
Compulsory Section	Qualifying Examination	2	36
	Thesis	4	72

Core Faculty

Riccardo Pozzo, Tor Vergata University of Rome
CHEN Xia, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
CUI Xiaojiao, Beijing Normal University
GAO Haibo, Tsinghua University
JIANG Limei, Beijing Normal University
KUANG Zhao, Chinese Academy of Social SciencesLI
Shaomeng, Beijing Normal University
Robin Wang, Loyola Marymount University
SUN Wei, Beijing Academy of Social Sciences
LI Jifen, Renmin University of China
LI Jingxinhong, Beijing Normal University

Thomas Michael, Beijing Normal University
WEN Haiming, Renmin University of China
YUAN Ai, Tsinghua University
(listed in alphabetical order)

Entry Requirements

1. Students seeking admission to the MA program must have earned a BA from an accredited university in any relevant discipline or are expecting to receive one before pursuing our MA program. Previous study in Chinese Philosophy is recommended but not required.
2. Students must possess high proficiency in English. All non-native English speakers must certify that they have passed a recognized English-language proficiency test, preferably TOEFL iBT (90) or IELTS Academic (6/5.5) .
   Applicants who received their academic degrees from an English language program are not required to provide proof of English proficiency, but must submit relevant documents that support it (e.g., a certificate issued by the graduating institution.

Tuition and Scholarship Opportunities

- RMB 60,000 (inclusive for the two-year program).
- Students are encouraged to apply for various scholarships. Note that in most cases scholarship applications are due before the program application deadline. Please refer to: http://iso.bnu.edu.cn.

Got questions? Get in Touch

The School of Philosophy BNU
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For more information about the Program, please visit our official website: machphil.bnu.edu.cn.