Theory and Practice of Curriculum and Instruction

International PhD Program

Faculty of Education, Beijing Normal University

Welcome to Beijing Normal University

Founded in 1902, Beijing Normal University (BNU) enjoys a distinguished reputation for educational scholarship, talent cultivation and academic innovation. Evolving from the Faculty of Education of the Imperial University of Peking, BNU launched China's earliest-established modern teacher-training initiative. As a key "Double First-Class" university, BNU has long been a pacesetter of educational reform in China and maintains extensive academic exchanges and partnerships with educational institutions worldwide. Committed to advancing global educational governance, BNU strives to enhance China's international academic influence in education and cultivate high-caliber talents with global vision and cross-cultural research competencies.

The Faculty of Education hosts national key disciplines including Curriculum and Instruction Theory as well as Teacher Education, alongside multiple key humanities and social science research bases under the Ministry of Education. Boasting well-established English-taught master's programs such as Comparative Education and Educational Leadership and Management, the faculty has accumulated solid experience in English-medium instruction, academic writing supervision and cross-cultural international student administration. Drawing on our strong disciplinary foundation and mature operational mechanisms, we launch the **International PhD Program in Theory and Practice of Curriculum and Instruction**, aiming to respond to shared global challenges in curriculum reform, instructional assessment and teacher professional development. We warmly welcome outstanding scholars and educational administrators from the Belt and Road partner countries and other developing regions across the globe to apply.

Program Introduction

The International PhD Program in *Theory and Practice of Curriculum and Instruction* (Discipline Code: 040102 Curriculum and Instruction Theory) is a full-time English-taught doctoral program run by the Faculty of Education at Beijing Normal University. Supported by institutional resources and relevant scholarship schemes, this program targets non-Chinese citizens holding valid foreign ordinary passports.

Against the backdrop of global educational transformation, the program focuses on universal research topics in curriculum studies and instructional practice. It is designed to nurture high-level interdisciplinary researchers equipped with international

perspectives and cross-cultural research capacities. Graduates are prepared for professional roles in universities, international organizations, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and research institutes worldwide, contributing to curriculum innovation and instructional improvement across diverse national contexts.

Duration, Curriculum and Credit Requirements

Program Duration

This is a **3-year full-time doctoral program**. Students shall finish coursework within the regular study period. Extension of study and scholarship are not granted in general. Study suspension (together with scholarship suspension) may be approved under exceptional circumstances in accordance with university regulations, and the suspension period shall not exceed one year.

Total Credit Requirement

Candidates must earn **22 credits** in total, consisting of course credits and credits for mandatory academic components. The curriculum comprises four course modules: general compulsory courses, degree foundational courses, degree specialized courses and professional elective courses.

Module	**Minimum Credits**	**Courses**
General Compulsory Courses (Core)	6	*Chinese Culture (Chinese Education System, Policy and Management)* (Students who have completed this Course at master's level may apply for exemption; equivalent alternative courses shall be taken to make up required credits.) *Basic Chinese I* *Basic Chinese II*
Degree Foundational Courses (Core)	4	*Academic Writing and Publishing* *Advanced Quantitative Research Methods* *Advanced Qualitative Research Methods*
Degree Specialized Courses (Core)	4	*Frontier Studies in Curriculum and Instruction Policy* *International Comparative Studies of Curriculum and Instruction*
Professional Elective Courses	1	Credits can be obtained from designated program courses, university-wide public electives or other cross-departmental courses.
Required Tasks	6	Including mid-term examination and relevant practical requirements

Course materials mainly adopt internationally-recognized original English textbooks in education, supplemented by comparative Sino-foreign research literature to guarantee

cutting-edge and globally-compatible teaching content. All teaching materials will be filed and reviewed by university administrative departments as required.

Mid-term Examination

PhD candidates must pass the mid-term examination by the end of the third semester to qualify for dissertation writing. Before assessment, students shall complete all required coursework and credits and submit a formal dissertation proposal for review under their supervisor's guidance. An examination panel will evaluate the research proposal. Candidates who fail the first assessment may apply for a second-round examination with endorsement from their supervisor and the examination panel. Those who do not pass the second-round assessment will not be permitted to continue in the doctoral program.

PhD Dissertation & Graduation Requirements

Under supervisor guidance, each candidate identifies a dissertation topic aligned with personal academic background and research interests and conducts independent scholarly research. The full dissertation must be composed in English and shall demonstrate solid theoretical grounding and independent research competence in curriculum and instruction studies.

Candidates shall submit the complete first draft of their doctoral dissertation to their supervisor at the beginning of the sixth semester, and hand in the final version in May of the sixth semester for peer review and oral defense. A formal dissertation defense is compulsory. Upon successful defense, the University Degree Evaluation Committee makes the final decision on degree conferral.

Successful graduates are awarded the **Doctor of Philosophy in Education**.

Faculty

The core teaching team consists of faculty members from the Faculty of Education with rich international publication experience and proven capacity for supervising English-language doctoral dissertations. Core instructors and proposed courses are listed below:

Instructor	**Affiliation**	**Proposed Course**
Zhang Chunli	Faculty of Education	Frontiers in Curriculum Theory
Sang Guoyuan	Faculty of Education	Academic Writing and Publishing
Gao Xiaoyi	Faculty of Education	Instructional Design and Assessment
Qi Chunxia	Faculty of Education	International Comparative Curriculum and Instruction
Deng Linyuan	Faculty of Education	Quantitative Research Methods
Kan Wei	Faculty of Education	Qualitative Research Methods

Wang Naiyi	Faculty of Education	International Comparative Curriculum and Instruction

Entry Requirements

1. Hold a recognized master's degree or equivalent academic qualification.
2. **English proficiency**: For applicants whose mother tongue is not English, acceptable proof includes: IELTS Academic overall score 6.0 with no sub-score below 5.5; or TOEFL iBT overall score ≥100. Applicants who have obtained a prior degree from an accredited English-medium higher-education institution can be exempted from submitting English test scores, but must submit relevant supporting documents (e.g. a certificate issued by the graduating institution to prove that you were taught fully in English).
3. Submit a research proposal outlining your intended doctoral project. Your proposed research direction should match the program's scope; you are expected to indicate potential supervisor(s) in your application.
4. Prior English-language academic publication experience is highly desirable.
5. Meet official health requirements: provide a health certificate issued by local public hospitals. Applicants shall be free from diseases prohibited for entry into China, severe chronic illnesses, mental disorders or epidemic diseases that may threaten public health. Candidates in major-post-operation recovery or suffering from acute illness are not eligible.
6. Practical working experience in education-related fields is preferred.
7. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a video-conference-based admission interview.

Tuition and Living-Related Expenses

- **Tuition Fee**: RMB 98,000 for the full three-year study period (please cross-check with the Office of International Students & Scholars Affairs for official updates).
- On-campus accommodation: RMB 60-80 per day
- Mandatory medical insurance: RMB 800 per year

Campus Location

Haidian Campus, Beijing Normal University, P.R. China

Contact Information

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