Freie Universität Berlin

September 2026

Call for applications for the interdisciplinary Master's degree in China Studies at the Yenching Academy of Beijing University

The Yenching Academy of Beijing University (PKU) is once again open for applicants to an exclusive one-year interdisciplinary Master's program in China Studies for English speakers. Select foreign partner universities (Harvard, Princeton, Cambridge and Freie Universität Berlin) can nominate candidates and the final selection is made by Beijing University. The Chinese participants are recruited from China's leading universities, with the overall group consisting of about 60 international and 40 Chinese participants.

The program, which starts in August 2027, is fully funded by PKU. It includes a return flight from Berlin to Beijing, accommodation on the PKU campus throughout the course of study, and a monthly stipend. In addition, if students in the program receive support for an additional year of study, they have the opportunity to apply for administrative, teaching or research assistant positions.

The curriculum of the Chinese Studies program allows students to attend courses in the following six research areas:

- Literature and Culture
- History and Archaeology
- Philosophy and Religion
- Politics and International Relations
- Economy and Management
- Law and Society

Furthermore, Chinese language courses are offered to all international students.
Further details on the program can be found at https://yenchingacademy.pku.edu.cn/ADMISSIONS.htm

Application qualifications:

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in any field, awarded no later than August 31st, 2027
- An outstanding academic record
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary study of China
- A record of extracurricular achievement, community engagement and social responsibility
- Leadership potential
- English proficiency

Note from PKU: There isn't a strict age cut-off for applicants, but to date, no person over the age of 28 has been admitted to the program. The average age of students entering the program is 23.

Required application documents:

- Application form (Please download the corresponding form here or via the admission portal of the Yenching Academy)
- Personal statement (max. 750 words)

- Curriculum vitae
- Diploma(s) and or/certificate of enrollment
- Official transcript(s)
- Two letters of recommendation from lecturers teaching at Freie Universität (please download the corresponding form here or via the admission portal of the Yenching Academy). Please make sure that the recommender sends us your letter of recommendation via email.
- Proof of English language skills demonstrated through one of the following scores*:
    - IELTS (Academic): Overall 7.0
    - TOEFL (iBT): Overall 100
    - Cambridge English Scale (Advanced): Overall 185
    - CEFR: C1 level
    - CET 6: Overall 600
    - TEM 4: Pass level of "良好"or above
    - Submission of English scores: For IELTS, TOEFL, and Cambridge tests, PKU will only accept scores sent directly from these organizations. Make sure you choose "Yenching Academy of Peking University" as the designated recipient of your scores when you book the exam time. For TOEFL, use the institution code: C488.

*Native English speakers and those enrolled in or graduated from a primarily English-taught degree program are not required to provide this documentation.

All students and alumni of Freie Universität Berlin must apply through both the internal process of the FUB and the admission portal of the Yenching Academy.

Please write your application in English only. The application deadline is **December 7th, 2026 (09:00 noon Beijing time).**

Please send your application documents by email to stefan.rummel@fu-berlin.de.

For further questions please contact Stefan Rummel as well ((030) 838-73402).