



# INTERNATIONAL MA PROGRAM IN COMPARATIVE EDUCATION

The International and Comparative Education Research Institute  
Beijing Normal University  
in collaboration with the Institute of International Education, Stockholm University





<b>Welcome to Beijing Normal University</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction to the Program</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The Aims of the Program</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Program Requirements</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Program Curriculum</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Prospective Students and Applications</b>	<b>7</b>
Tuition and Fees	
Scholarships	
Application Documents	
Review Process	
Notification Date	
Contact Information	

# WELCOME TO BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1902, Beijing Normal University (BNU) has a distinguished history of scholarship, research and training in education. The University developed from the Faculty of Education of Capital Metropolitan University, which initiated the first modern teacher training program in China. Since its foundation, BNU has led change and innovation in Chinese education and continues to do so as it moves into the new age of rapid development. BNU is a leader not only in Chinese education but also on the world stage. BNU lays great emphasis on exchange and cooperation with educational institutions nationally and internationally and is building a first-class reputation for scholarship, research and training.

The International and Comparative Education Research Institute, founded in 1962, is the oldest and most influential institute for the study of comparative education in China, and is the only nationally recognized centre for comparative education. The Institute has a strong profile of national and international research and is staffed by senior faculty members. Aiming to train education professionals and carry out international and comparative education research, the International and Comparative Education Research Institute is a stimulating and challenging environment which welcomes ambitious students in the field of comparative education. This program enjoys the support of the Chinese Government and strives to contribute to educational management and leadership worldwide.



# INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAM

The MA in Comparative Education for International Students is a unique program offered by the International and Comparative Education Research Institute at Beijing Normal University with support from the Institute of International Education at Stockholm University. This program, with generous financial support from the Chinese Government, is designed to enhance educational and cultural exchange between China and other countries, and to train talented individuals who can contribute to globalization and internationalization in the fields of educational management, leadership and policy-making worldwide.

The MA Program in Comparative Education for International Students is modeled on the core-course system designed by the Institute of International Education at Stockholm University. This system has a proven track record of effectiveness in training of over 30 years, and the program at BNU is focused on a series of contemporary educational topics that are relevant to all countries, especially developing nations. These include promoting educational equality, high quality education, education for sustainable development and ICT education. Based on the rich international resources of Beijing Normal University, it has a strong team of professors and faculty members, and aims to become a high quality and world-class international program.



# THE AIMS OF THE PROGRAM

The MA in Comparative Education for International Students aims to train talented individuals from all over the world so that they will develop a deep understanding of educational theories and acquire a wide knowledge of fundamental trends in educational reform and development worldwide. The program aims to meet the demands of the international labor market by training individuals who have highly developed international communication and educational management skills, and will go on to work in international organizations, governmental authorities, NGOs and related areas. The objectives of the MA in Comparative Education for International Students include:

**Educational Knowledge:** understanding theories and methodologies of comparative education, major trends in international educational development and educational practices in various nations.

**Educational Abilities:** to possess an international perspective when analyzing issues of educational policy, management, leadership and evaluation, to identify similarities and differences in education in various countries and areas, to summarize the universal characteristics of educational development worldwide, and to learn from international experience in educational practices.

**Educational Attitudes:** developing an approach to analyzing international experience consciously and critically, maintaining an open mind to rich and diverse educational practices worldwide and respecting the unique characteristics of educational practices in various countries and regions.



# PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The MA in Comparative Education for International Students requires the completion of a number of credit modules and a MA thesis. As a unique feature of the program, it allows students to use knowledge and abilities developed through their taught modules to examine an issue relevant to their own professional lives or interests. In this way, the program aims to develop effective managers and leaders in education.

**Credits:** At least 34 credits are required (1 credit equals 18 class hours), including 8 core courses (2 credits for Chinese History and Culture and for an Internship respectively; 3 credits for others. 22 credits in total), and at least 3-4 elective courses (1-2 credits for each course. 6 credits in total). In addition, 1 MA thesis is required, for 6 credits. No fees will be charged for additional credits.

**Mid-Course Examination:** Master's degree candidates must first pass the mid-course examination at the beginning of the third semester, and may then proceed to the MA thesis-writing period. Candidates should complete at least 18 credits in the first academic year and submit a thesis proposal, to be examined and approved by their supervisors. An examining group is responsible for the examination of the thesis proposals. Those who fail to pass the examination will have the opportunity to apply for a second-round examination if they have the support of the examining group and their supervisors. If the proposal fails to pass the second-round examination, the candidate will not be permitted to continue the program.



**MA Thesis:** After enrollment in the MA in Comparative Education for International Students, the candidate should select a theme for thesis study under the direction of his/her supervisor. We encourage candidates to pursue topics relevant to their own professional backgrounds and interests. The final MA thesis should be written in English and the length of the thesis should be 60-80 pages (Times New Roman 12 point font and 1.5 line spacing). A final thesis defense is required.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that his/her proposal passes the thesis proposal examination in the third semester, to submit a complete version of the thesis to the supervisor at the beginning of the fourth semester, and to submit a final version of the thesis for assessment and attend the oral defense in May of the fourth semester. The oral defense committee will assess the theses and grade them on a scale from A to F according to their qualities. The University's Degree Evaluation Committee will finally decide whether to bestow Master's degrees upon the students.

**Duration:** The MA in Comparative Education for International Students is a 2-year program and students should complete their courses within 2 years. Graduation cannot be postponed or deferred and scholarships cannot be extended or increased. Suspension of study (and of the scholarship) will be offered according to relevant regulations, only if a candidate has exceptional circumstances which prevent continuation of study, such as health problems. The suspension shall not be longer than 1 year.

# PROGRAM CURRICULUM

semester	Curriculum	Type	credits	Minimum credits
I	Chinese History and Culture	core course	2	8
	Comparative Education	core course	3	
	Introduction to Educational Research Methods	core course	3	
	Education and Rural Development	elective course	2	
	Chinese Language	elective course	2	
II	Educational Planning: Theory and Practice	core course	3	10
	Educational Management and Leadership	core course	3	
	Quantitative Research Methods or Qualitative Research Methods (choose one)	elective course	2	
			2	
	Education and Development	elective course	2	
	Education Systems, Policy and Management in China	elective course	2	
	Education Statistics, Evaluation and Measurement	elective course	2	
III	Educational Policy Analysis	core course	3	10
	Independent Study (related to future research thesis)	core course	3	
	Internship	core course	2	
	SPSS and Quantitative Data Analysis	elective course	2	
	N-Vivo and Qualitative Data Analysis	elective course	2	
	SWOT Analysis	elective course	1	
	Educational Reforms: International Perspectives	elective course	2	
	Contemporary Issues and Institutions in International Education Development	elective course	2	
IV	Master's Thesis		6	6

# PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND APPLICATIONS

Candidates undertaking the MA Program in Comparative Education for International Students should meet the following entry requirements:

- A recognized bachelor's degree;
- Since the program is offered in English, a good mastery of English is required for program admission. Foreign students with English as a second language are suggested to verify their English proficiency with relative certificates.
- Work experience in the educational field is preferable but not essential.

## Tuition and Fees

- Tuition: RMB 50,600 (for 2 years)
- Living expenses in Beijing:
  - On-campus lodging: RMB 1,800-2,700 per month
  - Other expenses: RMB 1,700 per month on average
- Health Insurance: RMB 600 per year

## Scholarships

The MA Program in Comparative Education for International Students is a priority for the Government of the People's Republic of China and enjoys strong financial support for international students.

The program enrolls 25 international students per year, and around the top 40% of international students will be awarded a full Chinese Government Scholarship based on academic excellence covering tuition fees and living expenses for two years. For details on applying for Chinese Government



Scholarship, please visit:

[http://www.bnulxsh.com/jieshao/2011CSC\\_Postgraduate\\_en.html](http://www.bnulxsh.com/jieshao/2011CSC_Postgraduate_en.html)

**Applicants' materials should arrive at Office of International Students & Scholars Affairs, Beijing Normal University before Mar. 1, 2011.**

Other students still have the opportunity to get Beijing Government Scholarships covering tuition fees for at least one year. For details on applying for a Beijing Government Scholarship, please visit: <http://www.bnulxsh.com>

## Application Documents

All students should apply online first and then submit the following application documents by mail. For detailed application procedure and documents, please visit <http://www.bnulxsh.com/english/index.htm>

- Application Form
- Application Fee: RMB 600 (non-refundable)
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Personal Statement (800 words or less)
- Two personal recommendation letters from university, college or research institute academic staff (e.g. professor, associate professor, etc.)
- Admission Approval Form
- An original or notarized copy of academic transcripts and degree certificates (college-level and above)
- Notarized proof of English proficiency for students with English as a second language
- Two 2-inch photos taken within the last 6 months (no hats, glasses or other obstructions to a full head shot allowed)
- A copy of the photo page of a valid personal passport
- Any published academic papers, patents or other academic achievements (originals or copies)

The documents above should all be provided in English and mailed to the address below before **JUNE 15, 2011:**

Office of International Students & Scholars Affairs

Beijing Normal University

19 Xijiekou Wai St. Beijing, China 100875

## Review Process

All applications will first go through the screening process at the Office of International Students & Scholars Affairs, and will be further assessed by

the International and Comparative Education Research Institute. Each member of the Institute's Committee of International Degree Programs will review and rank all the applications. The final decision is based on the rankings by all committee members.

## Notification Date

As we review applications on a rolling basis, we will notify applicants of our decision as soon as the review process is complete. Thus, although applications are accepted until June 15, 2011, we encourage prospective students to submit their applications as early as possible. Candidates will be notified whether they have been admitted or not within 45 days after the arrival of their materials; please check the status of your account at the International Student Online Application System, BNU. (<http://www.bnulxsh.com/graduate/include/login.php>)

## Contact Information

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For more information about the International and Comparative Education Research Institute, Beijing Normal University, please visit: [www.compe.cn](http://www.compe.cn)

For more information about the Institute of International Education, Stockholm University, please visit: [www.interped.su.se](http://www.interped.su.se)

