



**Yenching Academy
of Peking University**

北 京 大 学 燕 京 学 堂



北京大学

PEKING UNIVERSITY

Information for Partner University Internal Nomination Process

Guidelines for International Applicants, and Applicants from China's Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Regions

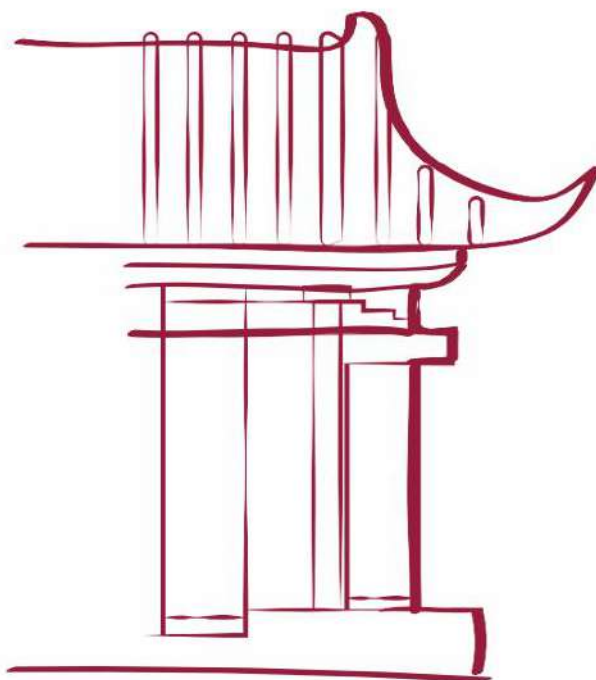
September 2027 Intake

Contents:

Section 1: Applicant Qualifications for September 2027 Intake

Section 2: Yenching Fellowship Funding Sources

Section 3: Partner University FAQs



Updated August 2026



Applicant Qualifications for September 2027 Intake

The Yenching Academy of Peking University is now accepting applications for the 2027 intake, starting **September 1**. The general application deadline is November 30, 2026. Nominees from our Partner Universities will benefit from an extended deadline until **9:00 am on December 7, 2026** (Beijing time). All application materials, including letters of recommendation, must be received no later than this deadline.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be non-Chinese citizens with a valid passport. Residents of the Chinese Mainland, and China's Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan (HMT) Regions, who have emigrated to another country and are applying to Peking University as international students must present valid passport or citizenship documents dating from before April 30, 2021, along with proof of cancellation of Chinese nationality;
 - The National Immigration Administration of the Public Security Bureau in the P.R.C. is responsible for determining whether foreign nationals applying as Chinese citizens still has Chinese nationality or not. This determination can be made during the application process, after admission has been offered, or even after enrollment. In circumstances where the Chinese citizenship has been identified by the relevant authorities, the candidate's application, admission offer, registration and/or enrollment status will be nullified by Peking University.
- Minimum of a Bachelor's degree in any field, or be currently enrolled in a Bachelor's program with the expectation of receiving their diploma in August of the intended enrollment year;
- An outstanding academic record;
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary study of China;
- A record of extracurricular achievement, community engagement, social responsibility, and leadership potential;
- English proficiency.

We do not have a strict age cut-off for applicants, but, excluding recipients of the *Zhuoyue Scholarship* discussed below, no person over the age of 29 has been admitted to the program. The average age of students entering the program is 23.



Application Components

- Yenching Academy [online application](#) (note that *all* students and alumni of [Partner Universities](#) are required to apply through their universities before submitting our online application as a nominee);
- Personal statement (750 words or less);
- Statement of Research Interest (maximum 1500 words, excluding citations):
 - Should include key research question(s), background to study and/or summary of literature, and study design that could reflect the applicant's academic training. Please note that applicants are not committed to making this proposed project their Master's thesis topic. The Admissions Committee wants to judge how they formulate and write about academic topics.
- Curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages);
- Official transcript(s)¹:
 - Yenching Academy only accepts official transcripts. All pre-admitted candidates must either arrange for their university to send official transcripts directly to the Yenching Academy (yca-submissions@pku.edu.cn), or provide university certified transcripts.
- Diploma(s) or Certificate(s) of Enrollment¹:
 - Candidates must present the physical copy of their undergraduate diploma, along with a Credential Evaluation Report (see below), on the Peking University registration day.
- An Overseas Credential Evaluation is required only for offer holders, and is only required for undergraduate degree programs.
 - Candidates who have graduated from a degree program outside of the Chinese Mainland need to provide a Credential Evaluation issued by the [CSCSE \(中国教育部留学服务中心\)](#). Candidates who have graduated from a degree program within the Chinese Mainland need to provide a Credential Evaluation issued by the [CSSD \(中国高等教育学生信息网\)](#).
 - Candidates who have already graduated from an undergraduate degree should submit the Credential Evaluation during the Peking University Office of International Relations (OIR) registration stage in April of the year in which they wish to enroll.
 - Candidates who have not yet graduated from an undergraduate degree need to submit the Credential Evaluation, as well as the original copy of the diploma(s), on the Peking University registration day.
- Two academic letters of recommendation (English or Chinese):
 - Peking University will only accept recommendation letters written by **full professors or associate professors** (or equivalent titles).
 - Letters of recommendation must be submitted by professors in the applicant's intended field of study.
 - Recommendation letters should be written with official/institutional letterhead, signed, and uploaded in PDF format. Candidates from the HMT Regions should download the “专家推荐信” letter template available [here](#).



- English proficiency demonstrated through one of the following scores^{2,3}:
 - IELTS (Academic): Overall 7.0
 - TOEFL (iBT): Overall 100
 - Cambridge English Scale (Advanced): Overall 185
 - Submission of English scores: For IELTS, TOEFL, and Cambridge tests, we will only accept scores sent directly to us from these organizations. Please choose “Yenching Academy of Peking University” as the designated recipient of the scores. For TOEFL, use the institution code: C488.
 - TOEFL and IELTS English proficiency tests must be taken after **September 1, 2025**. Currently, we do not accept TOEFL MyBest Scores, TOEFL iBT Home Edition, IELTS Indicator test, IELTS Online, or IELTS One Skill Retake.

¹ Candidates whose official university documents are in languages other than English or Chinese must submit copies of both the original documents and certified English translations. This requirement also applies to diplomas issued in Latin. Please ensure that the translation indicates the degree type (e.g. Bachelor’s or Master’s degree).

² International applicants whose native language is English, or have graduated from an English-taught degree program (undergraduate or above), are not required to provide an English proficiency test report. However, for those who wish to apply for an English test report waiver, evidence from the university (such as a letter issued by the Registrar indicating the language of instruction) should be provided.

³ Applicants from the HMT regions are **required** to provide an English proficiency test report, even if they have attended or graduated from an English-taught degree program. Without providing an English proficiency test report, candidates from these regions will need to take English as a Second Language after enrollment at Peking University.

Applicants from China’s Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Regions (HMT)

Applicants holding the below identity documents issued to residence from these regions **must** apply as an HMT applicant:

- For residents from the HKSAR and Macao SAR: ①香港或澳门永久性居民身份证 和 ②《港澳居民来往内地通行证》或《港澳居民居住证》

Note: Applicants with a Mainland Travel Permit for Hong Kong and Macao Residents (issued to non-Chinese citizens) are not eligible to apply as an HMT applicant.



- For residents from the Taiwan region: ①在台湾居住的有效身份证明 和 ②《台湾居民来往大陆通行证》或《台湾居民居住证》

Applicants from these regions are required to submit **two** online applications, and send the application materials in hardcopy to the admissions office. Specific deadlines can be found below:

- [Yenching Academy admissions portal](#): **September 1** to **9:00 am on December 7**, 2026 (Beijing time);
- [Peking University Graduate Admissions Application](#): Specific application timeline will become available around October on this [website](#);
- In addition, applicants from the HMT regions are also required to mail hardcopies of the application material to the Yenching Academy admissions office before **January 10**, 2027.

Failure to complete the online Peking University Graduate Admissions Application, as well as submission of hardcopies of the application materials, will result in incomplete and unsuccessful application to the Yenching Academy.

Applicants Born in the Chinese Mainland or the HMT Regions Who Intend to Apply as International Candidates

Applicants who wish to apply as international candidates must be non-Chinese citizens holding a valid passport. Former citizens of the Chinese Mainland or the HMT regions who have emigrated to other countries and are applying to Peking University as international students must present a valid passport or citizenship document issued before **April 30, 2021**, along with proof of the renunciation of their Chinese nationality.

Whether an individual continues to hold Chinese citizenship is determined by the National Immigration Administration of the Public Security Bureau of the P.R.C. If the relevant authorities confirm that an applicant retains Chinese citizenship, Peking University will nullify the individual's application, admission offer, registration, and/or enrollment status.

In the past, some applicants with Chinese heritage were found to still hold Chinese citizenship, which rendered them ineligible for enrollment as international students at Peking University. We therefore strongly advise students who fall into any of the following categories to contact the YCA Admissions Office (yca-submissions@pku.edu.cn) for further information:



1. Former citizens of the Chinese Mainland and China's Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan Regions;
2. Individuals with one or both parents of Chinese descent who were formerly citizens of the above regions;
3. Current holders of the Mainland Travel Permit for Hong Kong and Macao Residents (港澳居民来往内地通行证), the Mainland Travel Permit for Taiwan Residents (台湾居民来往大陆通行证), or the Travel Document of the P.R.C. (中华人民共和国旅行证).
4. Individuals who previously held (especially before the age of 18) a Travel Document of the P.R.C. (中华人民共和国旅行证).

Chinese Language Proficiency

Chinese language proficiency is not a requirement but is highly valued for the Master's program in China Studies. Applicants who meet the following conditions can be eligible to take China-related courses taught in Chinese offered in other departments at Peking University for academic credit:

- HSK 6 test taken after **September 1, 2025** and with a test report of: 1) a total score of 210 or higher; and 2) a score no less than 65 for writing;
- Completed a full-time degree program of which the Chinese language was the only language of instruction. Note that applicants will need to provide documentation from the university to certify the language of instruction.

Yenching Fellowship Funding Sources

The Yenching Academy Master's program in China Studies is two years in duration. All admitted students receive the Yenching Fellowship for the first academic year, which covers tuition, accommodation in the Yenching Academy House, a travel stipend for one round-trip journey between your base city and Beijing (the base city must be a city within the country of your nationality; cost of this round-trip will be estimated and calculated by the Yenching Academy), basic medical insurance, a monthly stipend, and expenses related to research.

Students who maintained a good academic standing, and plan to stay in Beijing during their second academic year can apply for the second-year Yenching Fellowship.



This will cover the tuition, accommodation support (on-campus housing or off-campus housing stipend), basic medical insurance and a monthly stipend.

Yenching Fellowships are funded by Yenching Academy's endowment, as well as donations from both governmental and non-governmental sources. At present, our major sponsors include the Peking University and Peking University Education Foundation, China Scholarship Council, the Beijing Municipal Education Commission, the Bai Xian Asia Institute, and the International Confucian Association. Students admitted into the program are strongly encouraged to consider applying for one of these external fellowships discussed below.

Peking University Education Foundation

The Peking University Education Foundation, established in 1995, is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing higher education. As one of the earliest and most mature university foundations in China, its mission is to strengthen Peking University's ties with communities both at home and abroad, raise donations from alumni and friends across all sectors of society, and mobilize educational support to help the university achieve excellence in talent cultivation, scientific research, and social service. Working in close alignment with Peking University's development strategy, the foundation provides vital financial support to the university through the creation of scholarships and grants, endowed professorship funds, research funding, and infrastructure funds. A portion of the scholarship funding for the Yenching Academy is managed by the foundation.

China Scholarship Council (CSC)

The CSC is entrusted by the P.R.C. Ministry of Education, which provides funding for international students and scholars to study and conduct research at universities within the Chinese Mainland. Two major types of scholarships provided by the CSC are available for Yenching Scholars to apply, namely the [Chinese Government Scholarship](#) (CGS), and the "Youth of Excellence Scheme of China Program Chinese Government Scholarship" (thereafter regarded as the [Zhuoyue Scholarship](#) program), both awarded on a competitive basis.

Award procedures for the CGS and the *Zhuoyue Scholarship* program are slightly different: application for the CGS should only be submitted by admitted Yenching Scholars around April in the enrollment year, whereas candidacy for the Yenching Academy for applicants of the *Zhuoyue Scholarship* will remain conditional



until they receive acceptance from the CSC and the Office of International Relations (OIR) of Peking University around July in the enrollment year.

In regards to the *Zhuoyue Scholarship* program, Yenching Academy is among a handful of high-ranking university programs in China offering this scholarship. The *Zhuoyue Scholarship* is unique in two ways: it seeks applicants with more professional experience before applying to the Master's program and it only funds one year in Beijing. Like other Yenching Scholars, the *Zhuoyue Scholarship* recipients must complete all required credits during the first academic year on campus. Upon completing the preparation work of a Master's thesis, they are obliged to fulfil the requirements of a Master's thesis and thesis defense outside of the Chinese Mainland during the second academic year. It is worth noting that although all Yenching Scholars receive the same amount of scholarship during their entire course of study, due to the nature of its design, the *Zhuoyue Scholarship* recipients will receive the full amount of scholarship within one year.

Application for the *Zhuoyue Scholarship* is open until March each year, which is unfortunately, not aligned with the typical Yenching Academy application timeline. Interested candidates should first submit their online application via the [Yenching Academy admissions portal](#) before the designated application deadlines, and eligible candidates will be contacted directly by the Yenching Academy to proceed with their *Zhuoyue Scholarship* application later in time. For more information, please refer to the [2026 Zhuoyue Scholarship instructions webpage](#). Details and guidelines for the *Zhuoyue Scholarship* (September 2027 intake) will become available on our official website around late October this year.

Beijing Municipal Education Commission

The Beijing Municipal Scholarship (BMS), administered by the Beijing Municipal Education Commission, is a prestigious award program established to support outstanding international students at universities across Beijing that attracts and develops high-level international talents who understand and have goodwill toward China.

Bai Xian Asia Institute (BXAI)

[BXAI](#) believes that cross-cultural education is the key to a harmonious world built on mutual understanding, respect, and equality. The “**Asian Future Leaders Scholarship Program**” (AFLSP) provides scholarships for students from Asia to study away from their home country or region at any of [BXAI's Partner Universities](#). Bai Xian Scholars are invited to participate in various activities, including a three-week



summer enrichment program (mandatory with full attendance), as well as other activities exclusively designed for Bai Xian Scholars studying at Peking University.

International Confucian Association (ICA)

The [ICA](#) scholarship program provides funding for international students enrolled in Master's programs in China, specifically supporting research in the fields of history, archaeology, philosophy, or religious studies. ICA advocates for the practical application of Confucianism for self-cultivation and the improvement of morality and spirituality, for fostering sound family and social virtues, for building stronger state governance, for promoting national and social harmony, and for building a strong platform of exchanges in international affairs for the common development of all countries. ICA Scholars are offered opportunities for site visits, as well as events exclusively designed for the scholarship awardees.

Partner University FAQs

1. What is the role of Partner Universities?

Partner Universities play an important role, helping to make the Yenching Academy known to potential applicants on their campuses. Each Partner University conducts an internal application process and nominates top candidates to us.

*Please note that **all** students and alumni of Partner Universities are required to apply through their universities. We will not consider those who bypass the university process (with exceptions based on prior arrangements with the Yenching Academy).*

While no university can be guaranteed places, we do give extra consideration to nominees.

2. What are the nomination deadlines?

Application deadline for non-Partner University candidates is November 30, 2026. Partner University nominees are granted an extended deadline until **9:00 am on December 7, 2026** (Beijing time). To ensure smooth processing, we would appreciate submitting nomination materials (detailed below) as early as possible.



3. What is the process for nominating candidates?

Contact person of our Partner University should email the following materials to yca-partnerships@pku.edu.cn:

- ① Nominee's full name;
- ② *Institutional Nomination Form*:
 - a) Please include short comments for each nominee, and your rankings of all nominee from the same application cycle (if applicable).
- ③ Each nominee's two academic letters of recommendation:
 - a) Written by **full professors** or **associate professors** (or equivalent titles) in the applicant's intended field of study;
 - b) Recommendation letters should be written with official/institutional letterhead, signed, and submitted in PDF format.

4. How should nominees complete the “Recommenders” section of the online application?

Since you will have already submitted each candidate's two academic letters of recommendation by email, nominees only need to enter their recommenders' information (name, title, and contact details) in the system. However, please input our email addresses: yca-submissions@pku.edu.cn and/or noreply-ycadmissions@pku.edu.cn, instead of the recommenders' to avoid unnecessary follow-up requests. Before proceeding to the next page, ensure the applicant clicks “Send Request.”

5. What forms should Partner Universities use?

For your internal application process, we recommend that you use the provided *Application Form* and *Form for Recommenders*. After you have a list of nominees, please use our *Institutional Nomination Form* to comment on candidate's qualifications. Forms and other resources for Partner Universities are available [here](#).

6. How many candidates should Partner Universities nominate?

It is helpful for you to nominate only the most highly qualified applicants; engaged students who have the skills to flourish both academically and socially, and are strongly motivated to attend our program. The specific number may vary based on each University's unique situation.

7. What steps will Yenching Academy take after receiving nominations?



Once nominees' applications are complete, we will consider them for finalist interviews. We will contact candidates directly to schedule a live video interview from December to March. All Chinese candidates, including those from the HMT regions, must attend interviews in person at Peking University. Candidates selected as finalists will receive an invitation email approximately one week before the interview date.

Please note that Peking University will be on winter vacation from January 18 to February 16, 2027. During this period of time, no interviews will be scheduled.

8. When can applicants expect decisions?

We will make some acceptance offers on a rolling basis for those we are certain fit our requirements and geographic diversity guidelines for international students (approximately 30-35% Europe, 25-30% U.S. and Canada, and 30-35% rest of the world). Most decisions will be made around April.

9. What qualities should a Yenching Scholar possess?

We seek talented, high potential individuals whose collective diversity will create a rich learning and living environment. The best way to understand what we look for in candidates is to review the bios of previous scholars, available on our [website](#). Note that candidates should have a strong interest in China, but we do not require that they have Chinese language study experience. Please review our *Applicant Qualifications* for more information.

10. What are the supplemental procedures for candidates from China's Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan (HMT) Regions?

In addition to applying on the Yenching Academy admissions portal, candidates from the HMT regions are also required to submit a parallel application through the Peking University Graduate Admissions website (application deadline to be announced). As part of the university application requirement, they should also mail hardcopies of corresponding application materials to the Yenching Academy (Office 116, Jingyuan Courtyard 3, Peking University, No. 5 Yiheyuan Road, Beijing, China, 100871) before **January 10**, 2027.

Please note that applicants holding identity documents issued to residents of these regions **must** apply as an HMT applicant. *Failure to complete the online Peking*



University Graduate Admissions Application, as well as submission of hardcopies of the application materials, will result in incomplete and unsuccessful application to the Yenching Academy.

Detailed instructions for applicants from the HMT regions is available [here](#).

11. Are Chinese passport holders eligible to apply?

Mainland Chinese applicants apply through a different process. We are currently only able to accept application from Mainland Chinese students (P.R.C. passport holders) who are enrolled as an undergraduate in a Mainland Chinese university. This requirement does not apply to students from the HMT regions.

For more information, please refer to the [Peking University Graduate Admissions website](#).

In circumstances where Peking University has amended the policies on admissions and/or enrollment for the 2027 cohort, the Yenching Academy will ensure these are announced in a timely manner.

Please note: Failure to secure your Bachelor's diploma and the Credential Evaluation Report by the date of registration (generally, the end August of the year of intended enrollment) will result in ineligibility for enrollment at Peking University.



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yca-admissions@pku.edu.cn (for prospective students)

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