China and International Relations

Joint Programme for Master’s Students

奥尔堡大学和国际关系学院·联合硕士学位
China and International Relations (CIR) is a double degree MA programme offered by Aalborg University, Denmark and the University of International Relations in Beijing, China. It is a two-year programme taught in English. The first year is spent at Aalborg University (AAU) in Denmark and the second year at the University of International Relations (UIR) in Beijing, China. The programme currently admits 24 students in all, twelve from UIR and twelve from AAU.

The CIR programme is jointly run by AAU and UIR under the management and coordination of AAU’s Study Board for International Affairs, School of Culture and Global Studies, and UIR’s International Exchange and Cooperation Division and the Department of Postgraduate Programs under the leadership of the UIR Management Board of the CIR programme.

Upon graduation, the students will be awarded two diplomas, one from each university. The universities share common professional norms and standards on issues such as enrolment requirements, language standards, academic qualifications, semester structure, project work, examinations and assessments, plagiarism control etc. However, daily academic life at the two universities is of course different due to national and cultural differences and traditions.

**INNOVATIVE LEARNING**

The pedagogical approach of the CIR programme is based on central features of AAU’s problem based approach to innovation and learning, i.e. problem-orientation, research-based teaching, an interdisciplinary approach and student project work. This means that the first half of each semester consists mainly of lectures, while the second half is devoted to group projects on topics selected by the students. Even though problem based learning is the point of departure for the programme at both universities, the actual implementation will be influenced by the different educational cultures in China and Denmark. This will ensure a familiarity with different educational cultures and provide a unique environment for engaging in cross-cultural learning processes.

The problem based learning model is highly valued by both students and professors at AAU - but what truly distinguishes the model is the close connection between students and faculty. Students themselves identify real-world problems, which are then analysed in group projects in close cooperation with a supervisor. The students will write projects in student groups during the first three semesters while the MA thesis can be written either individually or in groups during the fourth semester.
THE SECOND YEAR

The second year of the CIR programme at University of International Relations delves deeper into modern Chinese society and foreign policy. While experiencing Chinese society and culture on the spot in a small and quiet campus in suburban Beijing, next to the Summer Palace, students have a chance to converse with a number of distinguished professors in the fields of international relations, politics, economics and culture.

Third semester modules
- Chinese Traditional Culture and Philosophy
- China’s Political System and the Policy-Making Process
- China’s Foreign Policy: Theory and Practices
- International Economic System and China’s Development
- Optional enhancement Course in Intermediate Chinese Language and Culture.

Examples of lectures at UIR:
- Intellectual Property Protection System in China
- China’s Outward Foreign Direct Investment
- Religions: Buddhism, Daoism
- Great Wall and Silk Road
- China’s Judiciary System
- The Electoral System
- China’s Theory of Diplomacy
- China’s Grand Strategy and Foreign Policy-making.

Fourth semester
Thesis writing.

Even though I graduated only a few months ago, I can already see benefits from the fact that I had a chance to study both in Denmark and China. The programme helped me keep up to date with the economic and political situation in China and broadened my horizons about general development processes in the world. In a short period of time, I was challenged to adjust to two completely different environments: the Danish and the Chinese. This unique experience let me constantly improve my skills. Getting to know students from various educational and cultural backgrounds made me realise how important diversity is when studying or working and how it improves your creativity and perspectives. The experiences I had in Denmark and China allowed me to become a valuable employee, and my ability to work in a multicultural environment and communicate easily in English and Chinese was quickly appreciated by the companies I applied to. Only a month after graduation I got a job in a Swiss corporation in my homeland, where I can continue working with colleagues from around the world, using the skills and knowledge I acquired in the CIR programme.

Joanna Lalik

The CIR programme is a perfect combination of Western and Chinese culture. The first year of the programme in Aalborg was essential in order to gain a wide knowledge about International Relations, International Economy and China. The year at AAU not only provided a rich educational experience but also gave me some of my best friends. The year spent at UIR, in a comfortable campus, with professors providing interesting insights into current Chinese issues as well as profound debates based on different opinions, was fundamental in becoming a China specialist. The unforgettable graduation ceremony of the CIR programme at UIR was the perfect ending to my fabulous experience in Beijing.

Melisa Samaruga
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

China and International Relations is an interdisciplinary specialisation. Admission is open to students with a relevant BA degree in either social science or the humanities, for instance political science, sociology, China studies, history, human geography or anthropology. Students will be selected on the basis of eligibility. Qualified applicants who are not among the 12 selected students will be placed on a waiting list and given the option of joining the regular Development and International Relations programme at AAU.

Danish students must have no less than a high school B-level in English while international students are required to pass one of the English proficiency tests accepted by Aalborg University. For more details on the language requirements: www.apply.aau.dk/how-to-apply-postgraduate/entry-admission-requirements/

Chinese language competencies are not an admission requirement, however non-Chinese-speaking students with basic Chinese language skills would be better equipped for the year at UIR.

AALBORG UNIVERSITY

Established in 1974, Aalborg University (AAU) is an internationally recognised institution that offers cutting edge academic programmes. Our 19,000 students choose from over 60 different study programmes within four faculties. AAU has a strong tradition of using innovative methods in cooperating with the world outside the university – locally as well as globally – thereby strengthening the problem based approach to learning.

UNIVERSITY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Founded in 1949, at the same time as the People’s Republic of China, UIR earns its title as one of the “key national universities” with its staff members having spent decades on dedicated involvement in teaching and academic research in international affairs and foreign languages. The university has a strong faculty which is fully committed to exploring and enriching its teaching programmes. The programmes are known for their intensive cultivation of professional elites and small-sized classes in which the needs of each individual student are addressed by experienced and attentive teachers. UIR’s efforts of internationalisation in recent years have provided both its faculty and its 3,000 students with a better understanding of the world in general and the role China is and will be playing in the global village.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CHINA AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CAN BE FOUND HERE:
www.studyguide.aau.dk
duirap108en.uir.cn

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THE MASTER’S PROGRAMME OR ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS PLEASE CONTACT:

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FURTHER INFORMATION