



Academic Education Programs Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce of PRC



Tongji University

2026 International Master's Degree Program in Environmental Management and Sustainable Development

Catalog

1. Overview
 - 1.1 Program Introduction
 - 1.2 About Tongji and IESD
 - 1.3 Arrangements
2. How to Apply
 - 2.1 Qualification
 - 2.2 Application Procedures
 - 2.3 Deadline
3. Important Notices
 - 3.1 Contact
 - 3.2 Others

Feb, 2026

1. Overview

1.1 Program Introduction

1) Introduction

Since 2015, Tongji University has undertaken the International Master's Degree Program in Environmental Management and Sustainable Development with the support of the Ministry of Commerce of People's Republic of China. The Program is designed to foster policy makers and practitioners for developing countries with integrated environment management vision and leadership ability at the local, national and regional levels on sustainable development. Due to the short academic system, students are required to obtain a bachelor's degree in advance and have certain work experience in the corresponding field in order to timely and fully understand the teaching and learning content, and students are required to have good health in order to adapt to high-intensity learning and eventually obtain a degree.



Academic Education Programs Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce of PRC

Over the past 10 years, 347 government and enterprise officials from 59 recipient countries have joined the Program. The Program provides a variety of courses including 16 core courses and 2 sets of public courses about Chinese language and culture. Senior experts of UN agencies, professors from world-renowned universities and diplomats are invited to give lectures and speeches, and more than 200 lectures are held throughout the year.

As for the positive effects and good results brought by the Program in strengthening economic ties and friendship between China and the recipient countries, the Ministry of Commerce will continuously intensify its efforts in enlarging the enrollment scale and improving the quality of education. By attending the Program and achieving the Degree, applicants will embrace a successful career and brighter future.



The alumni from this Program are now working in their specialties back in home, undertaking an increasingly significant role in the environment and economic development cooperation between China and

Academic Education Programs Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce of PRC
their home countries. They are currently active in international organizations (e.g. the World Bank, UNDP, ESCAP), national government agencies (e.g. the Turkish Environment and Urban Planning Ministry, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security of Zambia, Egypt Ministry of Agriculture, Serbian Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine, Ministry of Environment of Romania, Ministry of Economy and Trade of Indonesia, Ministry of Agriculture of Zimbabwe, Ministry of Energy of Liberia, Ministry of Environment of Ethiopia, Ministry of Environment of Mongolia), NGOs (e.g. WWF), academic institutions (e.g. Chinese Academy of Sciences, University of Wisconsin, University of Missouri, Tongji University), private sectors (e.g. PricewaterhouseCoopers, Michelin) and other industries.

2) Target Students

Employees of environment-related government departments and enterprises in developing countries, such as ministries of environment and resources.

3) Objective

To foster policy makers and practitioners for developing countries with integrated environment management vision and leadership ability at the local, national and regional levels on sustainable development.

4) Enrollment Plan

• Program: International Master's Degree Program in Environmental Management and Sustainable Development

- Enrollment quota: 30
- Teaching language: English
- Duration: 2 years (1 year for courses and 1 year for research)
- Research topics: water treatment, environment management, solid

Academic Education Programs Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce of PRC
waste management, environmental policy, biodiversity, climate change, SDG-related topics, etc.

5) Scholarship Coverage

- Students are exempt from tuition fee.
- Free on-campus accommodation.
- Living Stipend: 36,000 RMB/person/year for Master's Degree, to be paid monthly according to the actual time of their stay in China.
- One-off resettlement fee: 3,000RMB per person.
- Free medical insurance for international students (800RMB per person).
- One time round-trip international airfare for all the students (first time fly to China after enrollment, and fly back to home country upon graduation), and one time home-visit international airfare during the term of study.
- The annual review is compulsory for all students. Those who pass the review may continue to enjoy full scholarships in the next year.
- After coming to China, students are required to take the Physical Examination again, and the cost is not included in the scholarship.
- Since stipend remittance takes some time, we strongly recommend you to prepare a certain amount of cash (500 US dollars or equivalent RMB) before coming to China.
- Other fees will be managed and used by MOFCOM or the school and will not be paid to students. MOFCOM provides financial assistance only within the academic period. Students who delay graduation for some reason will not receive continued funding.

1.2 About Tongji and IESD

1) About Tongji

Tongji University ranks A+ in the discipline of Environment according to the recent evaluation by the Chinese Ministry of Education. Among the 155 universities that were evaluated only 2 other universities ranked A+. According to 2021 Global Ranking of Academic Subjects, Environmental Science and Engineering at Tongji University ranks 32nd in the world. Tongji University is one of the leading universities in China under direct administration of Ministry of Education, listed on “Project 985” and “Project 211”. With a history of over a century, Tongji has valued the balanced development of four functions, namely education, research, outreach, and culture inheritance and innovation.

The history of Tongji can be traced back to 1907 when German Medical School was founded by Erich Paulun, a German doctor in Shanghai. After being renamed Tongji German Medical School in the following year, it was formally established as a university in 1923. It became National Tongji University in 1927, one of the seven earliest national universities of China. Around 1949, Tongji already boasted five colleges of natural sciences, engineering, medical science, liberal arts and law, and enjoyed a fine reputation as a comprehensive university both home and abroad. Following a nationwide campaign of restructuring universities in 1952, Tongji became an engineering-intensive university with top-notch strength in civil engineering and architecture, which is second to none in terms of scale and number of disciplines. Since 1978, “two transforms” were launched, namely, the transforming to an international university by restoring links to Germany, and the transforming from a university focusing mainly on civil engineering to multi-disciplinary engineering university. In 1995, Tongji declared to be

Academic Education Programs Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce of PRC jointly built by the Ministry of Education and the Shanghai Municipal Government. By 2007 when it was celebrating its centennial, Tongji had become a comprehensive, international, research-oriented university with distinct features and global influence. In 2013, the university proposed its vision of “a sustainability-oriented, world-class university”.



Aiming to grow with China and serve the world with science and technology, the University has long focused on unleashing the spillover effect of its flagship disciplines for the greater public good, and actively contributing to the economic and social development at the national and regional level. The University has always taken an active role in expanding international cooperation. With close historical ties with Germany, it partners mainly with European universities but is also actively expanding its influence to North America, Asia, and Africa. So far, it has established 12 international cooperation platforms in partnership with Germany, France, Italy, Finland, Spain, and United Nations agencies. The University has also signed a memorandum of understanding with over 200 international universities and co-founded research centers with Volkswagen, Siemens, Bayer, IBM, and many other multinational enterprises. The University initiated the “China Green

Academic Education Programs Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce of PRC University Network (CGUN)” and the “International Green Campus Alliance (IGCA)”, and acted as the first President. It was also elected as the League President of Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability (GUPES) under the United Nations Environment Programme and became the first Asian university to win the “Excellence in Campus Award” at the meeting organized by International Sustainable Campus Network.

2) About CESE and IESD

The College of Environmental Science and Engineering (CESE) at Tongji University was one of the earliest established colleges dedicated to environmental education and research in China. Its predecessor was the Department of Health Engineering established in 1952 and later the Department of Environmental Engineering established in 1978. Currently, CESE comprises three specialty branches: Environmental Engineering, Municipal Engineering (Water Supply and Sewerage Engineering), and Environmental Science, all with undergraduate, master, doctoral, and postdoctoral programs.

UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (IESD) was jointly established by UNEP and Tongji University on May 9, 2002 upon the signing of the Letter of Agreement between Dr. Klaus Töpfer, then UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director, and Prof. Qidi Wu, then President of Tongji University, in the College of Environmental Science and Engineering. At the 2014 IESD Board Meeting, the Board decided to elevate IESD to its next level, as a global think-tank for UNEP in promoting sustainable development education and capacity building, research on the environmental and urban development issues.

IESD’s achievements are based on the guidance and support of UNEP, Chinese relevant Ministries, Shanghai municipal government,

Academic Education Programs Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce of PRC international and domestic organizations. IESD mobilizes resources from its stakeholders and is leading efforts for a sustainability-oriented university at Tongji University, with a green campus, inter-disciplinary education and integrating sustainable development into higher education and social service. From 2004 to 2025, IESD has organized around 50 international and domestic training programs, seminars and training, attracting 5,000+ participants from all over the world. IESD have recruited 917 students from 118 countries and regions (including China) since 2006.



In 2012, the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) was launched by IESD in the lead-up to the Rio+20 Summit. Professor WU Jiang, Vice President of Tongji University and Dean of IESD, was elected as the Chair of GUPES. GUPES provides a global platform for Universities to mainstream environment and sustainable development into higher education, to incorporate sustainable development concepts and best practices in higher education, and to train technical and management personnel, particularly for developing countries. It also provides Universities the opportunity to benefit for

Academic Education Programs Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce of PRC
UNEP's knowledge base on environmental and sustainable issues. Over 560 Universities are currently part of the growing GUPES network.

IESD also conducts interdisciplinary research and promotes know-how transfer to developing countries through technology cooperation. Working together with UNEP, IESD implemented the Chongming Eco-island Evaluation Report and assisted UNEP's assessment of Shanghai's efforts to organize an environmentally friendly Expo 2010.

IESD also launched the Chinese version of UNEP's Green Economy Report. Since 2012, IESD translated a series of UNEP's flagship publications into Chinese. In collaboration with UN-Habitat, Tongji launched the publication of Net Zero Carbon Village Planning Guidelines for the Yangtze River Delta Region in China in the first UN-Habitat Assembly and Making Cities Sustainable through Rehabilitating through Polluted Urban Rivers during the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4). IESD also participated in drafting the UNEP flagship report Global Environmental Outlook for Youth, Asia and Pacific.

The China Meteorological Administration (CMA) and Tongji University signed an agreement to initiate overall collaboration on capacity building, disciplinary development, research, talent cultivation on climate change, technology transfer and resources sharing. Key Laboratory of Cities' Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change in Shanghai, China Meteorological Administration was launched by the end of 2014 with the support of CMA and Shanghai Meteorological Bureau.

3) Life on Campus

1. Facilities and Weather

Tongji University has established 34 schools/colleges, 12 affiliated hospitals, and 13 affiliated primary and secondary schools. Tongji's four campuses of Siping, Jiading, Huxi, and Hubei cover a total area of 2.75



square kilometers, with a floor area of about 2.25 million square meters. The University Library houses 4.79 million books in its collection. The Program would be mainly conducted at Siping Campus. The students can easily access to swimming pool, tennis ground, gym, shops, etc.

The University offers single rooms for the candidates either at Siping Campus or other campus.

Shanghai has a typical climate of subtropical monsoon, with four

distinct seasons, full sunshine and abundant rainfall. The climate is mild and humid, with short spring (April-May) and autumn (October-November), long winter (December-March) and summer (June-September). Shanghai's rain season is from May to September.

From July to August, it is humid and hot. On average, there are 8.7 days when the highest temperature exceeds 35 degrees Celsius. The coldest season of the year is from mid-January to early February.

2. Food

In terms of food and drinks, the University proudly enjoys the reputation for gastronomy, with canteens serving a whole range of tasty and healthy foods at minimal prices. There is even a Muslim canteen right beside the international student dormitory buildings serving authentic Halal food.

3. Price Level

Overall, the price level on campus of Tongji University is lower than off-campus, a Chinese food costs about 10-20 RMB. Besides, there are Starbucks, Manner Coffee and so on for students to choose. The average monthly living expenses are around 1500-2000 RMB.

1.3 Arrangements

1) Study Plan

Each student will make a study plan before starting all the courses. Students can customize their study plan according to their interests and research topics.

According to the credit standard of Tongji University, academic degree graduates are required to get at least 31 credits: 6 credits for public degree courses, no less than 12 credits for professional degree courses, no

Academic Education Programs Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce of PRC
 less than 8 credits for non-degree courses, 5 credits for compulsory
 courses.

Public Degree Courses (6 Credits)

Course name	Semester	Credits	Compulsory
First Foreign Language (Chinese Language)	Spring/Autumn	3	√
A general view of China	Spring/Autumn	3	√

**Degree Courses (16 credits, 2 credits per course, with at least 6
 electives from the following courses)**

Course name	Semester	Credits	Compulsory
Environmental Science	Autumn	2	√
Environmental Management and Policy	Autumn	2	
Wastewater Treatment: Principles and Technology	Autumn	2	
Environmental System and Sustainable Development	Spring	2	√
Ecological Economics	Spring	2	√
Intergrated Solid Waste Management and Reuse	Spring	2	
Water Supply: Principles and Technology	Spring	2	
Atmospheric Science and Climate Change	Spring	2	

**Non-degree Courses (16 credits, 2 credits per course, with at least 4
 electives from the following courses)**

Course name	Semester	Credits	Compulsory
Environmental Ethics	Autumn	2	√
Literature Search and Scientific Writing	Autumn	2	√
Water resource management	Autumn	2	
Ecosystem Management	Autumn	2	
Common Experiment Principles and Step-by-Step Data Processing	Autumn	2	√
Environment System Analysis	Autumn	2	

Academic Education Programs Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce of PRC

Aquatic Environmental Chemistry	Spring	2	
Environmental Molecular Microbiology	Spring	2	

Cross-Departmental Courses (4 Credits)

Course name	Semester	Credits	Compulsory
Sustainable Development and the Future	Spring	2	√
Sustainable Design	Autumn	2	

Compulsories (5 Credits)

Course name	Semester	Credits	Compulsory
Research writing and ethical norm	First Year	2	√
Thesis Proposal	By the third semester	1	√
Tongji University Advanced Lectures for Graduate Students	First Year	2	√
Interim Assessment	By the third semester	0	√

2) Timetable

Time	Arrangement
September, 2026	Registration and start of semester 1
September, 2026 - January, 2027	Semester 1 - Completion of courses
February - March, 2027	Winter vacation
March, 2027 - July, 2027	Semester 2 - Completion of courses
July-august, 2027	Summer vacation
September, 2027 - January, 2028	Semester 3 - Research
January - February, 2028	Winter vacation
February, 2028 - June, 2028	Semester 4 - Research and dissertation
July, 2028	Defense and graduation

3) Dissertation, Defense and Publication

Students are required to finish all the academic and non-academic courses within the first year, complete the master degree dissertation independently and pass the dissertation defence in the second academic year before applying for the certificate of graduation of Tongji University.

For detailed dissertation and defence requirements, please check Tongji relevant regulations at

<https://unep-iesd.tongji.edu.cn/iesden/www/list.htm>.

Certificate	Requirements for certificate application
Certificate of Graduation Certificate of Degree	Complete all the courses as required
	Finish the final dissertation
	Pass the final defense
	As the first author, signature unit of the first author is Tongji University, publish one paper in academic journal and make one report/post at academic conference

Academic Education Programs Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce of PRC



2. How to Apply

2.1 Qualification

To be eligible, applicants must:

(1) be a citizen of a developing country other than the People's Republic of China, and under the age of 45. (Born after 1st September, 1981)

(2) be healthy physically and mentally, not having any disease or situation listed below:

- Diseases prohibited by Chinese Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Laws and Regulations
- Other severe chronic diseases like high blood pressure, cardio-cerebrovascular disease, diabetes; psychological diseases; or other infectious diseases which may harm public health
- In recovery period after major surgery
- Severe physically challenged
- Pregnancy
- Female students who become pregnant during their period of study in China shall be subject to withdrawal from the program in accordance with the relevant regulations

(3) Have a bachelor's degree or above, three years or more work experience, professional study or work background related to the applied project;

(4) Those who have study or working background in majors related to the project under application and are in employment are preferred;

(5) Those who are public officials of the governmental departments of the host country at the division level or above (or the corresponding level), senior managers of various institutions and

Academic Education Programs Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce of PRC enterprises, and academic backbones of colleges and universities and scientific research institutes are preferred;

(6) Good English proficiency, able to use English proficiently to engage in professional courses (reference standard: IELTS 6.0 or above, or TOEFL score of 80 or above);

(7) Possess the potential for career development in this field, and are interested in promoting friendly exchanges and cooperation between the host country and China.

(8) Students who have studied in China or have been admitted to other Chinese government scholarship programs are not eligible to apply.

2.2 Application Procedures

1) Online Application

Note: Please make sure that all the information you fill in the Tongji online application system is accurate, especially your name, passport and home address, otherwise it will affect your admission and visa.

1. Register in Tongji online application system at <http://study-info.tongji.edu.cn/>, then start the application by clicking on "Online application".

2. The specific procedure is shown below.

Fill in the application form online and upload all the scanned copies of application documents.

Academic Education Programs Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce of PRC

The screenshot shows the 'International Student Service System' interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Application', 'Application Status', and 'Messages'. Below this, a section titled 'Please choose your program:' contains four radio button options: 'The Chinese government scholarship', 'Shanghai government scholarship', 'Self-sponsored', and 'Chinese Government Scholarships for Ministries'. The 'Chinese Government Scholarships for Ministries' option is highlighted with a red box. A 'Next' button is located to the right of the options.

Below the selection section, there is a 'Query Option' section with search filters for Department, Major, Area of Research, and Language of Instruction. Below this is a 'Study Plan List' table with 4 items. The table has columns for Study Plan Name, Department, Major, Area of Research, Duration From To, Years, Language of Instruction, Application Period, Notes, and Operation. The 'Environmental Science' and 'Environmental Engineering' rows are highlighted with red boxes.

Study Plan Name	Department	Major	Area of Research	Duration From To	Years	Language of Instruction	Application Period	Notes	Operation
Master Student	College of Environmental Science and Engineering	Environmental Science	Environmental Science	2024-09-01~2026-07-31	2	English	2023-11-20~2024-01-20		Apply
Master Student	School of Ocean and Earth Science	Geophysics	Geophysics	2024-09-01~2027-01-31	2.5	Chinese	2023-11-20~2024-01-20		Apply
Master Student	School of Ocean and Earth Science	Marine Sciences	Marine Sciences	2024-09-01~2027-01-31	2.5	Chinese	2023-11-20~2024-01-20		Apply
Master Student	College of Environmental Science and Engineering	Environmental Engineering	Environmental Engineering	2024-09-01~2026-07-31	2	English	2023-11-20~2024-01-20		Apply

2) Materials

For application, the applicant needs to prepare:

1. A recommendation letter from current employer
2. Two academic recommendation letters by 2 professors
3. Scanned copy of Bachelor's degree diploma
4. Scanned copy of undergraduate academic transcripts
5. Research plan
6. Personal resume
7. Scanned copy of passport (do not use diplomatic or service passport)
8. Scanned copy of English proficiency certificate (e.g. IELTS or TOEFL IBT Score, Certificate of English Courses, Certificate of English Scores or any other certificate that presents applicant's language level)

9. Scanned copy of profile photo

10. Copy of the Foreigner Physical Examination Form within 6 months

3) Agreements

Before submission, the applicants need to note that:

1. The applicants shall obtain the recommendation from the employer or relevant department of local government of host country before applying for this scholarship.

2. If the local government allows the applicant to submit the individual application directly to the Chinese Embassy, the applicant shall submit the relevant documents to the Economic and Commercial Counsellor's Office (ECCO) of Chinese Embassy in host country. The scanned copies of documents are required as well.

3. The competent department of the government of the host country requests ECCO in writing to issue a recommendation letter for the recommended students in the country, and indicates in the written request whether it will accept the transfer to another school for the same or similar major if the number of places in the target school has been taken. If there are any other special instructions, they should be submitted together.

4) Tips

1. All submitted documents should be in Chinese or English. Otherwise, a notarized copy in Chinese or English is required.

2. The original document of your degrees, transcripts and language certificates must be presented for ECCO's on-site verification. Once verification is done, you should send all scanned copies to Tongji

Academic Education Programs Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce of PRC
University at unep_tongji@tongji.edu.cn.

3. You can get back all the hard-copy materials, both original materials and copies after verification. If admitted, you should bring the documents to Tongji University for registration.

2.3 Deadline

June 6, 2026

3. Important Notices

3.1 Contact

Name: Hao LYU

Tel: +86-021-65982119

Email: lvhao96@tongji.edu.cn / unep_tongji@tongji.edu.cn

Website: <http://unep-iesd.tongji.edu.cn/>

Address: Room 903 Zonghe Building, Tongji University, No.1239
Siping Road, Shanghai, China

3.2 Others

1. Application materials will not be returned regardless of the result of application.

2. Chinese government will not comment on the result of application.

3. Spouses and children are not allowed to come to China. The scholarship does not cover any expenses for spouses and children's visits to China.

4. The procedures for coming to China and related requirements will be stated in the admission documents.

5. The cities visited may be adjusted according to the actual situation.

