

FAQs about Duke Kunshan University

1. **When did DKU open?** DKU was established in 2013 under a Cooperative Education Agreement (CEA) between Duke and Wuhan University. DKU opened its doors to the first class of entering graduate students in Fall 2014.
2. **What academic programs are at DKU?** DKU currently has four Masters programs and an undergraduate interdisciplinary study-away program called the Global Learning Semester (GLS). The masters programs are in Global Health, Management Studies, Medical Physics, and Environmental Policy. Collectively these graduate programs enroll about 100 students per year. The largest program at DKU will be the four-year undergraduate college that will open in August 2018. This program was approved by the Academic Council and Duke Board of Trustees in December 2016 and will enroll 500 students per year in steady state. With the launch of the undergraduate program in 2018, the GLS undergraduate study-away program will transition to a traditional study-away program.
3. **What is the undergraduate curriculum like and what majors will be available?** The undergraduate curriculum was developed by a committee of Duke faculty from across many disciplines. The innovative curriculum they developed is distinctly different from that which one might find at a traditional Chinese university, and embodies principles from the liberal arts tradition coupled with elements of the “DNA” of Duke. Each major includes a broad interdisciplinary theme and an in-depth disciplinary component. Unique aspects of the curriculum include: a common core course in each of years 1, 2 and 3; a signature project as culmination of studies; and foundational courses in natural sciences taught as “integrated science” that includes perspectives from chemistry, physics, and biology. There are currently 15 approved majors¹ across the NS, SS and AH thematic areas, with three more planned for next year.
4. **Will DKU students spend any time on the Duke campus?** Yes. All of the graduate programs at DKU currently include time on the Duke campus as part of their instructional framework. Undergraduate students at DKU will be permitted to spend up to one semester and one summer at Duke. This study-away semester at Duke will most often occur during a student’s junior

¹ The approved majors as of March 2018 are: Applied Mathematics and Computational Sciences/Math; Environmental Science/Chemistry; Global Health/Biology; Material Sciences/Physics; Environmental Science/Public Policy; Global Health/Public Policy; Global China Studies/History; Political Economy/Political Science; Data Science; Global Culture Studies/Literature; Cultures and Movements/Sociology and Cultures and Movements/Cultural Anthropology; Ethics and Leadership/Philosophy and Ethics and Leadership/Religious Studies; US Studies/History and US Studies/Literature; Media and Arts/History and Media and Arts/Creative Practice; and Political Economy/Economics and Institutions and Governance/Economics.

- year. It is anticipated that some DKU students will come in the fall semester and some in the spring semester.
5. **What degree(s) do the students receive?** Students in the graduate programs receive Duke degrees. Students in the upcoming undergraduate program will receive a DKU degree and, separately, a Duke degree.
 6. **What research centers and institutes are at DKU?** In addition to the undergraduate and graduate education programs, there are also several research centers and institutes at DKU.² These research enterprises provide for targeted research expertise in areas that are of particular interest to faculty at Duke and DKU, and enhance the growing knowledge economy of the Kunshan area.
 7. **How is DKU accredited?** For purposes of accreditation, the Ministry of Education (MOE) in China oversees DKU. The Duke degrees offered at DKU are part of Duke's accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the same body accrediting Duke degrees in Durham. However, SACSCOC does not accredit DKU as an institution.
 8. **What provisions are there to ensure academic freedom and unfettered access to online materials at DKU?** Two of the foundational principles that Duke wrote into the CEA were the requirements of academic freedom and unrestricted access to online information. These principles are essential to the values we hold as an institution. To date, we have experienced no incursions of these requirements.
 9. **How will Duke ensure the quality of the educational programs at DKU?** It is important that the quality of educational programs at DKU reflects expectations for Duke degrees; several steps have been taken to ensure that Duke quality is maintained. First, the curriculum for the DKU undergraduate program was developed by a committee of Duke faculty (the Liberal Arts in China Committee). Second, the hiring process for DKU faculty is being led by committees of Duke faculty. Third, the admissions standards for students are being set by committees comprised of Duke administrators and admissions staff. Fourth, periodic review of the academic programs is undertaken jointly by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at DKU and the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at Duke to ensure that performance meets Duke standards. Fifth, there are several offices at Duke, including the Office of DKU Programs and the DKU Support Unit, that ensure Duke quality in the academic, financial, and management functions of the programs at DKU. And finally, there are numerous senior administrators at Duke who provide advice and recommendations to colleagues at DKU to ensure best practices are followed

² Current research centers and institutes include: Global Health Research Center, Environmental Research Center, Language and Cultural Center, Regional Ozone Sino-US Research Center, Center for the Study of Contemporary Global China, Research Center for the Humanities, US-China Innovation Research and Training Center, Institute of Applied Physical Sciences and Engineering, Data Science Research Center, Ultra-High-Definition Camera Research Center, and WHU-Duke Research Institute.

in student services, library, information technology, legal, financial, and HR management.

10. **What is the leadership structure of DKU?** DKU has its own independent Board of Trustees, comprised of 7 members (3 from Duke, 2 from Wuhan University, and 2 from the city of Kunshan). The senior leadership of DKU includes a Chancellor, who must be from China and is nominated by Wuhan University; an Executive Vice Chancellor, nominated by Duke; various Vice Chancellors, including Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (a position currently held by Professor Haiyan Gao, a Duke faculty member and former chair of physics at Duke); and various deans. DKU also has its own academic and support staff.
11. **Is there tenure for faculty at DKU?** Yes. The majority of faculty in the undergraduate college at DKU will be tenured or tenure-track. The tenure offered is at DKU, not Duke. Tenure considerations will balance teaching and research in a way that reflects the greater emphasis on teaching in the liberal arts environment at DKU. Tenure decisions will be made by the APT committee at DKU. The DKU APT committee includes membership by Duke faculty in order to ensure calibration between tenure standards at DKU and Duke.