

# PKU-UChicago International Policy Action Lab Program



北京大学  
PEKING UNIVERSITY



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO





“Bringing rigorous analysis to bear on pressing policy questions is more vital now than ever. The exceptional scholarship and academic programs of Harris have positioned it as a leader in this crucial work.”

**KATHERINE BAICKER**

Dean and Emmett Dedmon Professor, Harris Public Policy, The University of Chicago

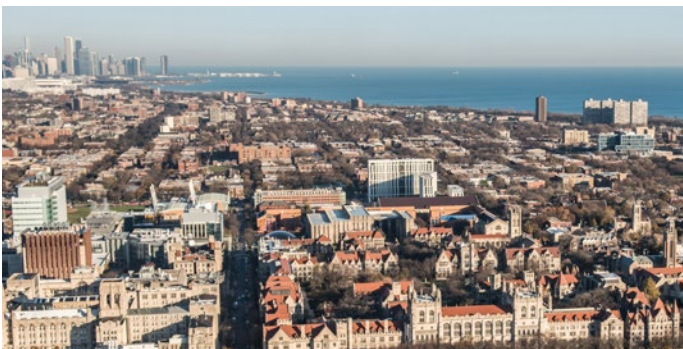
### Key Program Highlights

Learn from the top minds at Peking University and the University of Chicago. Engage in an intensive academic training experience to tackle real social issues using an evidence-based approach.



### Peking University School of Economics

In 1912, the first department of Economics in China was founded at Peking University, the origin of which can be traced back to the disciplinary program of economics and business established in 1902 at the Imperial University of Peking.



### University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy

For more than 30 years, the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy has been a driving force for rigorous thinking and evidence-based approaches to address our world's most important problems.



## Why This Program

The **PKU-UChicago International Policy Action Lab (IPAL)** program offers top global students and young professionals an unforgettable two-week experience. Participants will gain rigorous, interdisciplinary training on data analysis and international policy research, work with top faculty members from Peking University and the University of Chicago, complete an individual policy research capstone project, and explore the rich culture of the city of Beijing.



“The economic theories and methods can be a powerful toolkit serving the analysis of social phenomena and public policy.”

**PROFESSOR DONG ZHIYONG**

Dean of School of Economics, Peking University

# How It Works

## Prerequisites and Program Contents

The IPAL program has three essential components.

- 1** In order to participate in the IPAL program, participants must have basic knowledge of statistics and complete a self-paced online course of R programming before the program begins.
- 2** In week one, participants will learn econometrics methodology and skills led by Peking University.
- 3** In week two, participants will analyze real datasets and research on an international policy topic led by the University of Chicago.

**Introduction to Programming in R**  
Online Module

WEEK ONE

**Applied Econometrics and Big Data**  
30 hours

WEEK TWO

**Capstone Project**  
30 hours



### Introduction to Programming in R

Online Module

Designed for students with little or no coding experience, this course introduces you to the tools required to write and share code; translate self-contained questions into R programs; and learn how to retrieve, clean, visualize, and analyze data.



### Applied Econometrics and Big Data

This course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the econometric modeling tools that are frequently used in empirical economic research.



### Faculty-led Capstone Project

Students will work in small groups led by a faculty member on a capstone project, conducting a comprehensive policy analysis using real datasets. The project enables students to work through real world problems and collaborate with peers and faculty to design a solution.

# Program Faculty



**AUSTIN L. WRIGHT** is an assistant professor at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. His research leverages microlevel data to study the political economy of conflict and crime in Afghanistan, Colombia, Indonesia, and Iraq. His work is supported by the National Science Foundation, Niehaus Center for Global Governance, The Asia Foundation, and World Bank.



**XUEZHENG QIN** is a professor and deputy dean in the School of Economics at Peking University, and the director of the Peking University Research Center for Market Economy. Dr. Qin's primary research interests include health economics, economics of human capital, and applied econometrics.



**JUNJIAN YI** is an assistant professor at the National University of Singapore. His research focuses on medical and health economics, labor and demographic economics, economics of human capital, and applied econometrics.



# Capstone Project

As a way to apply program learnings, participants will join a faculty-led research project in the last week of the program to conduct a comprehensive policy analysis using real datasets. Through the process of writing a policy memo, participants will leverage the skills of research design, policy recommendation, and collaboration.



## Past capstone projects include:

### Conflict and Insurgent Learning

How do insurgents learn and adapt to their enemies?

### Cyber Attacks and Stock Market Prices

Do companies strategically decide when to release news about hacks?

### Hate Crimes in the United States

What are the trends and implications of hate crime reporting?



**“The capstone project is an opportunity for students to take the skills that they have acquired from the program and start to think about: ‘How do I ask and answer a really important research question rigorously?’”**

**AUSTIN WRIGHT**

Assistant Professor, Harris Public Policy, The University of Chicago

# Student Experience and Resources



## Global Connections

Hear from UChicago faculty, staff, and teaching fellows on how to apply data analysis within a range of topics, with a focus on international policy and development.



## Exploration of Beijing and Peking University

Beijing is one of the largest and most dynamic cities in Asia, providing a fascinating base to learn more about China's economy, politics, and social policies. Peking University's campus includes traditional style Chinese buildings, a scenic lake, and several former residences and buildings from Imperial China, standing near the Yuan Ming Gardens and the Summer Palace.



## Field Trips

Have fun with program peers at world-famous places such as the Great Wall and other site visits throughout Beijing.





## PROGRAM DATES

July 13, 2020—July 24, 2020

## LOCATION

Peking University, Beijing, China

## ELIGIBILITY

All applicants are required to complete an online application and will be notified electronically. We encourage you to apply as early as possible. To enroll in the program, you must be in good medical standing, between 18 to 40 years old, and have finished at least one year of full-time study at an undergraduate institution by the time you attend the program. Students should have taken at least one course in statistics and/or econometrics and be familiar with hypothesis testing, randomized controlled trials, multivariate regression analysis, difference-in-difference, and panel data regressions.

## APPLICATION MATERIALS

- » Motivation statement in English (word limit: 300)
- » Academic transcript
- » One-page résumé
- » TOEFL, IELTS, or AEPA score report
  - » If you cannot provide the TOEFL or IELTS report, you will need to complete the Academic English Proficiency Assessment (AEPA) test.

## PROGRAM FEE

\$2,300

## EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTED PROGRAM FEE

\$2,100\* See deadlines below

The program fee only includes program materials and organized required group activities. Participant's lodging, meal, travel and health insurance, transportation, visa application fee, etc. are not covered in the program fee. There is no scholarship provided for the program.

## QUESTIONS?

Email UChicago at [ipal@uchicago.edu](mailto:ipal@uchicago.edu) for application needs.

Email Peking University at [summerpku@pku.edu.cn](mailto:summerpku@pku.edu.cn) for all local support (housing, visa application, etc.).

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

Apply online at [harris.uchicago.edu/IPAL](https://harris.uchicago.edu/IPAL)

### EARLY ACTION\*

MARCH 1, 2020

### ROUND ONE

APRIL 1, 2020

### ROUND TWO

MAY 1, 2020

### NOTIFICATION

Students will receive notification from UChicago within two weeks of the application deadline.

\*Discounted program fee for Early Action round applicants only.





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