

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 School of Public Policy, The University of Chicago

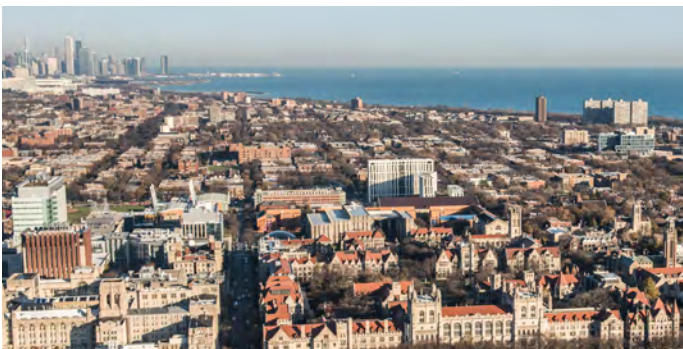
Key Program Highlights

Learn from the top minds at Peking University and the University of Chicago. Engage in an intensive academic training experience and apply what you learn in a group research project.



**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 working professionals a five-week interdisciplinary academic experience through seamless virtual learning and community building. Participants will gain rigorous training on data analytics and social science research methodology, work with top faculty members from Peking University and the University of Chicago, and complete a group research capstone project supervised by UChicago faculty.



“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

WEEK 1	Orientation Week + Programming in R
WEEK 2	Programming in R
WEEK 3	Policy Analysis and Causal Inferences + Programming in R
WEEK 4	Faculty-led Capstone Project
WEEK 5	Capstone Project Continues + Field Experience <i>(optional)</i>



Introduction to Programming in R

Designed for students with little to 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. You will watch pre-recorded lectures and join weekly live TA sessions via Zoom.



Policy Analysis and Causal Inferences

This course, taught by Peking University faculty, focuses on econometrics methodology and its applications. It will provide you 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 you 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.

Capstone Project

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



2020 CAPSTONE PROJECT

Mask Mandates in the US during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read more online on the [Harris Admissions Blog](#).



“The virtual format enables more students to take the course, and that made the classroom more diverse and also helped students connect with each other across borders.”

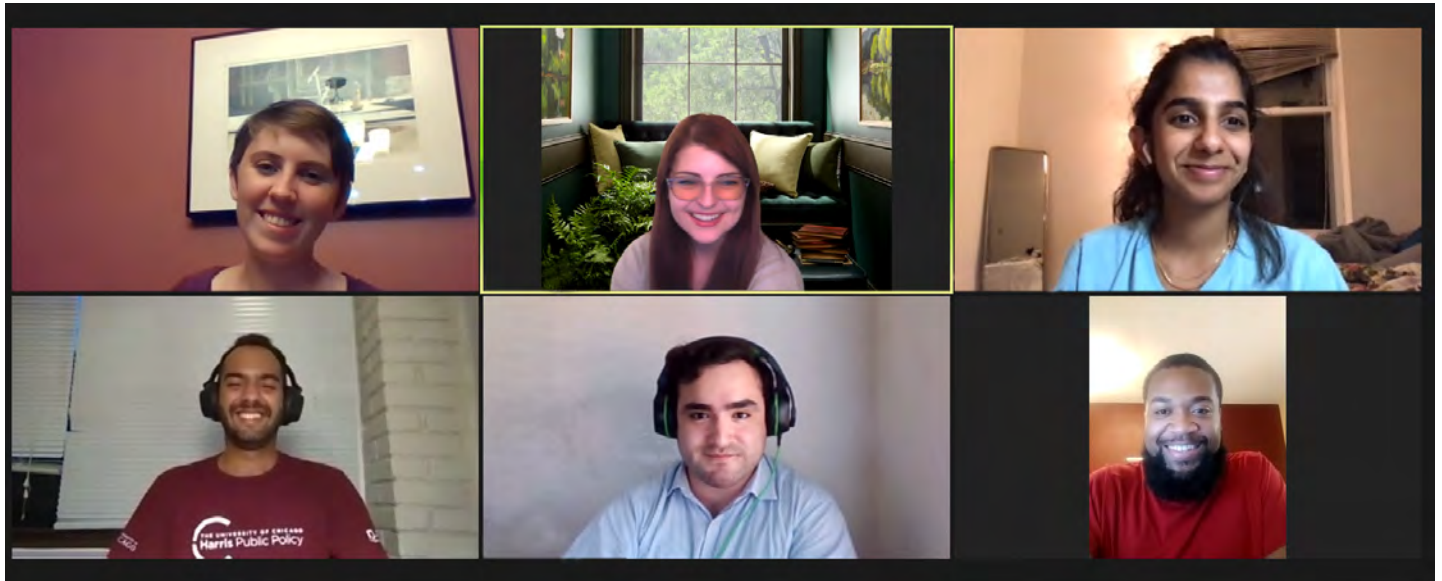
GEET CHAWLA
IPAL Teaching Fellow
MPP Class of 2021



“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?’*”

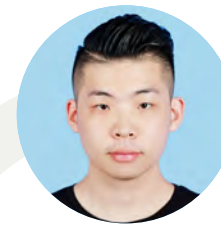
AUSTIN WRIGHT
Assistant Professor, Harris School of Public Policy,
The University of Chicago

Engaged Community Experience



“The IPAL program was truly a unique learning opportunity that enhanced my research skills and deepened my understanding of critical international policy issues. Because of IPAL, I now have a clearer idea of what master’s program I would like to pursue.”

JAZMIN JUAREZ, IPAL’20
Incoming MPP student



“This experience gave me a precious opportunity to find the beauty of data analysis. The rigorous course setting equipped me with knowledge before applying for graduate schools.”

AN XIN, IPAL’20
Incoming MPP student



Global Connections

Join a global virtual community from diverse countries, academic, and professional backgrounds. The program provides weekly live community-building activities in career exploration and networking.



Field Trips (Optional)

The program plans to organize one to two field trips for participants who are based in Beijing, China. Additional fees will be charged and planning contingency is based upon the local COVID-19 situation and policy.



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & DEADLINES

PROGRAM DATES

July 19 — August 20, 2021

MODALITY

Virtual; optional field trip in 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 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. Participants in the optional Beijing field trip must be in good medical standing.

QUESTIONS?

Email UChicago at harriscredential@uchicago.edu for application needs.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

- » Motivation statement in English (word limit: 300)
- » Academic transcript
- » One-page résumé
- » TOEFL, IELTS, or other equivalent English language report
[Please contact the Harris admissions team to learn more.](#)

PROGRAM FEE

\$2,300*

*The program fee does not include the optional field trip fees, or associated travel expenses. There are no scholarships provided for the program.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTED PROGRAM FEE

\$2,000*

*See deadlines below

Email Peking University at ipal@pku.edu.cn for all local support.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Apply online at harris.uchicago.edu/IPAL

EARLY ACTION*

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021

FINAL ROUND

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021

NOTIFICATION

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

Admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis every month. We encourage all applicants to apply early.

*Discounted program fee for Early Action round applicants only.



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for local China support