

Wuhan University

The Confucius-Institute Metropolis Ruhr was able to win one of the oldest and most renowned universities of the People's Republic of China as a cooperation partner: Wuhan University. The history of this university dates back to the year 1893, when Zhang Zidong (1837-1909), then governor of the provinces Hunan and Hubei, founded the Ziqian-Institute in Wuhan and thus lay down the cornerstone for Wuhan University. The name of this institution was changed several times, before in 1949 it finally assumed the name Wuhan University (Wǔdà). At this time, it had already established itself as a modern university, by setting-up six faculties as the foundation pillars of the university's academic teachings: the colleges of the liberal arts, sciences, law, engineering, agriculture and medicine. In August 2000 the university merged with three of Wuhan's other academies, the Wuhan University of Hydraulic and Electrical Engineering, Wuhan Technical University of Surveying and Mapping and Hubei Medical University, and now takes into account the demands of the modern knowledge-based society by uniting education and research of all major scientific disciplines on the highest academic level in one institution.

Wuhan University ranks among the best institutions of higher education in China and provides, besides the high academic skills, an ideal learning environment for scientists of all disciplines. The university library includes a collection of some 5,4 million books, among them a number of old and rare copies. Moreover, it currently subscribes to around 10,000 newspapers and magazines. The newest technical equipment in all areas provides all the framework conditions necessary for successful studies and future-oriented research. Generally, the university is considered to be the most beautiful one in the country. Situated among wooded hills, the campus with its unique combination of colonial and modern architecture borders the East Lake (Dōng Hú), the largest inner-city lake in China. The almost 200-hectares ground is home to an abundance of more than 800 plant species. Well known are the orchards and especially the more than 1,000 cherry trees, which during spring blossom attract many visitors.

Currently, there are some 54,000 enrolled at Wuhan University and some 3000 professors teach there.

Wuhan University's reputation is not only excellent in China, but also internationally: The university sustains partnerships and exchange programmes with some 200 higher education institutions in more than 60 countries. During the last years it has carried out numerous national and international research projects; on average, every year around 40 of those projects receive awards.