

China and the University of Regina



The University of Regina is one of Canada's leading universities in terms of its international associations and partnerships, with more than 25 years of history working with the international community. Over the past two decades, the University of Regina has signed memoranda of understanding and partnership agreements with 144 institutions in 28 different countries to work together in areas of research, teaching, training, and knowledge exchange.

As the first Canadian university to sign international partnerships with Chinese institutions since China opened its door in the late 1970s, the University of Regina has been a pioneer and leader in Canada's educational, economic and political relations with China. On many occasions, the University of Regina has played a key emissary role on cultural and trade missions to China, helping promote productive political and economic engagement between China and both the City of Regina and the Province of Saskatchewan.

The University of Regina's first international partnership agreement was signed in 1981 with Shandong University in Jinan, and since that time, China has remained the University of Regina's area of greatest international focus. This continuing focus is clearly demonstrated by the fact that the University of Regina currently has 35 formal partnership agreements in place with Chinese institutions - more than with any other country.

These partnerships have left the University in a privileged position to benefit from current and new opportunities that focus on:

- Developing international educational consortia for training and research;
- Working with specific institutions and regional government agencies in education and environmental technology; and
- Providing international learning experiences for University of Regina students, faculty and staff.

These international activities have included: individual and group research projects such as a co-operative research venture with Peking University and the Wuhan University of Hydraulic and Electric Engineering to relieve chronic flooding in the Yangtze River basin; over six joint international programs with student and faculty exchanges with China, such as the Faculty of Education's Canada-China University Linkage Management Training Program; and a range of other projects including work with groups such as Petro-

China and the China National Petroleum Corporation.

The University of Regina provides academic, research and professional development opportunities for Chinese scholars through its Visiting Scholar program. Every year scholars from Chinese universities, the National People's Congress and the State Administration for Foreign Experts Affairs study and undertake research activities as part of the University of Regina's Visiting Scholar program. Notable scholars include, for example, Xu Xiaodong, Director-General, Research Department of Environmental protection and Resources, Conservation Committee of the National Peoples Congress.

The close connection between China and the University of Regina can be seen on campus on a daily basis. The University of Regina has about 800 international students studying subjects as diverse as engineering and public policy, and approximately 600 of these students are from China. In terms of overall student enrolment, Chinese students comprise about 5% of the University of Regina's approximately 12,000. In addition, each year close to 200 other students from China choose to take their English as a Second Language training at the University of Regina.

The awarding of honorary degrees is further evidence of the strong relationship that has existed between University of Regina and Chinese government and industry over the past two decades. Two Chinese government officials and one distinguished executive from private industry in China have been awarded honorary degrees by the University of Regina:

- Spring 1989 - Wan Li, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China;
- Spring 1996 - His Excellency Qiao Shi, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China;
- Fall 2003 - Jing Xinhai, founding chairman and CEO of CVIC Software Engineering Co. Ltd. of Shandong.



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